

Reporting checklist

The checklist below provides useful tips and things for you to remember when reporting on migration. It all comes from the report, *Reporting on Migration in South Africa, A Journalist's Guide* https://scalabrini.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Scalabrini_Centre_Cape_Town_Reporting_on_Migration_in_South_Africa_Journalists_Guide_2019-1.pdf

- **DO** ask yourself: Is it xenophobic? It is important to understand whether xenophobia is actually the key issue to the story you are reporting on.
- **DO** ask yourself if “foreignness” the issue. When reporting on a non-national, ask yourself if their nationality is key to the article.

For example: “Congolese man arrested on suspicion of Wynberg heist.” Is it vital that readers know he is Congolese – or is this about the Wynberg heist?

- **DO** ensure that those directly affected are included and given the space to speak on the issue.
- **DO** speak to a diversity of sources. Don't focus solely on police, legal or perpetrators' voices.
- **DO** include up to date, reliable statistics and interrogate the validity of these within your article. You may want to use popular statistics that add shock value, but these are often incorrect.
- **DO** provide context. Position your article and interview within the broader context of migration, highlighting the complexities and nuances thereof.
- **DO** provide information on local support services in your article for the reader to access.
- **DO** take into account and reflect on your own position as interviewer and journalist relative to the identity of the people whose stories you are telling.

For example: A white cis-gendered South African writing about black LGBTQIA asylum seekers.

- **DO** use trigger warnings appropriately. Only use these if the content of your article is explicit in nature and may potentially trigger secondary traumatising in another.
- **DO** cross-check your facts and information in research and other documents.

