

MIGRATION PHOTOJOURNALISM GUIDE

Like the choice of terminology, images used alongside news stories have a powerful impact on the tone and the framing of the reporting. Frequently migration is expressed through the frame of crime and security concerns. The following is a guideline on ethical photojournalism on migration:

- Utilize appropriate iconography when expressing stories about migrants and migration and think of the implications of the people portrayed. This includes images that remain respectful of migrants' right to privacy, and do not perpetuate harmful stereotypes about their work, lives or character.
- Operate in an ethically sound manner – seek informed consent for use of images covering migrants, protect identities and remain respectful of the right to privacy, anonymity and confidentiality.
- Always take particular care when interviewing or reporting on stories that concern children. Ensure that when interviewing or photographing a child, a parent or guardian is present and informed consent is granted.
- To protect identity, images can be broadcast out of focus; alternatively, visual illustrations other than photo and film footage of migrant workers can be used, such as data visualization or animation
- Be aware of images that inspire pity, rather than empowerment and agency of migrants.
- Make sure that the photo is not a distortion of reality, but reflects the true situation accurately. The research of the story behind the images is as important as the picture itself. Support your story with well-sourced data and strong evidences.
- Do not cross the line between editing and manipulation. Cropping and photo editing could distort the picture, and these techniques should not exceed what is technically necessary.
- Make sure to frame your photojournalistic work in a structural manner rather than in an episodic or sensational one, by further contextualizing the photo and helping the readers to understand the complexities behind migration. Providing context helps the recipient to interpret what they see in the picture. A same picture could generate different reactions depending on its contextual framing.