



PRESS RELEASE

**UNESCO launches Handbook on Journalism, Fake News and Disinformation on International Day for Universal Access to Information**

On International Day for Universal Access to Information, UNESCO in Tanzania has launched a handbook on Journalism, Fake News and Disinformation.

Developments in the last few years have placed journalism under fire. A range of factors are transforming the communications landscape, raising questions about the quality, impact and credibility of journalism. At the same time, orchestrated campaigns are spreading untruths - disinformation, mal-information and misinformation - that are often unwittingly shared on social media.

Written by experts in the fight against disinformation, this handbook explores the very nature of journalism with modules on why trust matters; thinking critically about how digital technology and social platforms are conduits of information disorder; fighting back against disinformation and misinformation through media and information literacy; fact-checking 101; social media verification and combatting online abuse. This model curriculum is an essential addition to teaching syllabi for all journalism educators, as well as practising journalists and editors who are interested in information, how we share it and how we use it. It is mission critical that those who practice journalism understand and report on the new threats to trusted information.

Information is the engine of development in the 20th and 21st centuries. This is fuelled by independent news media that can act as trusted guardians of public interest, and as essential part of society's checks and balances on power. However, political, technological, economic and social transformations are inexorably reshaping the communications landscape and raising many questions about the quality, impact and credibility of journalism. In addition, the information ecology is being contaminated by orchestrated campaigns to spread untruths via disinformation. This disruption is accompanied by manipulation of half-truths via mal-information, and by the unwitting sharing of misinformation:

*Journalism "Fake News" and Disinformation: A Handbook for Journalism Education and Training* will be valuable for journalism educators, trainers, students, practicing journalists and others interested in the quality of information. Political parties, health professionals, business people, scientists, election monitors and others will also find it useful.

The handbook can be easily accessed online at: [en.unesco.org/fightfakenews](https://en.unesco.org/fightfakenews)

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