

Code of Ethics of Journalists, 1993

The Portuguese journalists are governed by a Code of Ethics they have adopted in May, 1993, after a consultation covering all professional card holders journalists. The draft had been discussed and preliminarily approved by the General Meeting held on March 22, 1993.

1. The journalist should report the facts accurately and to interpret them accurately and honestly. The facts must be proven by listening to the parties with interests in the case worthy of consideration. The distinction between news and opinion must be clear in the public eye.
2. The journalist has to fight censorship and sensationalism and consider accusations without evidence and plagiarism as serious professional misconduct.
3. The journalists must fight the restrictions on access to information sources and attempts to limit freedom of expression and the right to inform. It is the duty of the journalist to disclose the offenses of those rights.
4. The journalist has to use fair means to obtain information, images or documents and to prohibit the abuse of the good faith of anyone. The identification as a journalist is the rule and other processes can only be justified for reasons of undeniable public interest.
5. The journalist should take responsibility for all their work and professional acts, as well as promote the prompt correction of information that may prove inaccurate or false. The journalist has to refuse acts that violate their conscience.
6. The journalist should use as a fundamental criterion to identify the sources. The journalists should not reveal, even in court, their confidential sources of information, or to disregard the commitments, unless the channel to try to use false information. The reviews should always be attributed.
7. The journalist must safeguard the presumption of innocence of the defendants until the final sentence. The journalist should not identify, directly or indirectly, victims of sex crimes and child offenders, and should be prohibited to humiliate people or disturb their pain.
8. The journalist should reject discriminatory treatment of people depending on color, race, creed, nationality or sex.
9. The journalist should respect the privacy of citizens except when considering the public interest or the conduct of the individual contradicts clearly, values and principles that publicly advocates. The journalist is obliged, before collecting statements and images to meet the conditions of serenity, freedom and responsibility of those involved.
10. The journalist should refuse functions and benefits that could compromise their independent status and their professional integrity. The journalist should not avail himself of his professional status to report matters in which an interest.