

Know Your Rights, Protect Our Rights

Glossary of Important Freedom of the Press Terms

Alternative Facts: “Call them what you will – whoppers, untruths, lies – but casual falsehoods have been the hallmark of President Donald Trump’s young political career... Whereas every president for the past century has attempted to mold public opinion by spinning information, taking messages directly to voters, and selectively curtailing press access, Trump obstructs a fact-based debate like none of his predecessors. With seemingly shameless fibs—big and small—the president and his aides have served to cast doubt on the very notion of objective truth.” ([Columbia Journalism Review](#))

Fact checking: “A modern, identifiable category of journalism. Its goal is to provide accurate, unbiased analysis of statements made in public in order to correct public misperceptions and increase knowledge of important issues. Modern fact-checking analyzes claims and rates them as true or false. Fact checkers may clarify their assessment of a claim by providing context and background information.” ([Ballotpedia](#))

Fake News: “Fake news is made-up stuff, masterfully manipulated to look like credible journalistic reports that are easily spread online to large audiences willing to believe the fictions and spread the word. In 2016, the prevalence of political fact abuse – promulgated by the words of two polarizing presidential candidates and their passionate supporters – gave rise to a spreading of fake news with unprecedented impunity.” ([PolitiFact](#))

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. ([U.S. Bill of Rights](#))

Human Rights Partisans: As human rights advocates, we are not aligned with any political party; we actively support and protect universal human rights. (HRWSTF)

Internet Trolls: “The wonder of internet connectivity can turn into a horror show if the people who use online platforms decide that instead of connecting and communicating, they want to mock, insult, abuse, harass and even threaten each other. In online communities since at least the early 1990s, this has been called “trolling.” More recently it has been called cyberbullying. It happens on many different websites and social media systems. Users have been fighting back for a while, and now the owners and managers of those online services are joining in.” ([Huffington Post](#))

Investigative or “Watchdog” Journalism: To many people, watchdog reporting is synonymous with investigative reporting, specifically, ferreting out secrets... it involves reporting what may well be in plain sight, contrasting with what officials in government and other positions of power say, rebuffing and rebutting misinformation, and sometimes even taking a position on what the facts suggest is the right solution. ([Huffington Post](#))

Post Truth: Relating to or denouncing circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief. ([Oxford Dictionary](#))

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. ([Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#))

Whistleblower: Those who reveal misconduct or unethical policies in the public interest, and their important role in keeping government honest is recognized in laws that provide at least some protection from retaliation for their disclosures. ([Human Rights Watch](#))