

D. ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION

Journalists must avoid fanning ethnic sentiments, particularly among children.

E. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Journalists shall at all times strive to uphold the principle that children involved in violent conflicts are victims whether they are combatants or non-combatants.

The use of children as fighters is an abuse; journalists shall never present such abuse as an attractive venture.

Journalists should avoid portraying illegal combat camp life as an attractive haven for children.

Pictures and stories that glorify child combatants as heroes and heroines shall be avoided. Where pictures of child combatants must be used, journalists must accompany such pictures with captions that discourage children from war.

Journalists shall, as much as possible, focus more on issues and events, and less on individual children or their experiences.

Where it is necessary to focus on the experiences of individuals, journalists shall do so without mentioning real names, revealing real identities either in the story, photographs or images, of the children.

Journalists in their stories shall substitute the term "child-soldier" with "child-combatant," on the grounds that a child by definition cannot train to become a soldier.

Journalists shall not present child combatants as "doomed-for-life" since this may make social and cultural reintegration more difficult.

Journalists shall endeavour to disclose the identity of people who abuse children. This should be aimed at uncovering criminals to the process of justice.

In filing stories, all effort shall be made to reflect the perspectives of children, including direct quotes.

Where this is not possible, journalists shall explore other sources apart from children such as opinion leaders, members of the civil society and individuals mindful that the protection of the identity and the interest of the child is paramount.

It shall be the duty of every journalist to rectify any information he/she publishes about children that is found to be incorrect.