

Unbias the News

"How to overcome bias in collaborations"

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#Dataharvest2020

What do you see?



Photo: Gotha State Police Inspectorate

What do you see?



Photo: Gotha State Police Inspectorate

4 Nov 2011

Neonazi terrorist cell "NSU" uncovered



What do you see?



"Kebab Killings" - Cover, Otto Brenner Foundation, "Das Unwort erklärt die Untat," FfM 2015

4 Nov 2011

Neonazi terrorist cell "NSU" uncovered



NSU-Study - Otto Brenner Foundation



- “structural mechanisms and deficits in the field of journalism”:
- "These include...**continued distance to migrant life, inadequate representation of migrant perspectives in reporting**, and a 'swarm behavior' that - as can be seen from the term 'kebab killings', which has often been adopted as a headline - can contribute to discriminatory reporting."
- Fabian Virchow, Tanja Thomas, Elke Grittmann: *“Das Unwort erklärt die Untat / The unword explains the crime,”* Frankfurt/Main 2015

***In journalism, diversity is not a matter
of political correctness.***

It's a matter of **quality journalism.**

Lack of Diversity in Newsrooms



78%

of U.S. journalists
are white

58%

of U.S. journalists
are male

0%

of 121 newsroom leaders in India
belong to a scheduled caste



88%

of 121 newsroom leaders in India
belong to the upper castes

6%

of German editors-in-chief
have at least one migrant

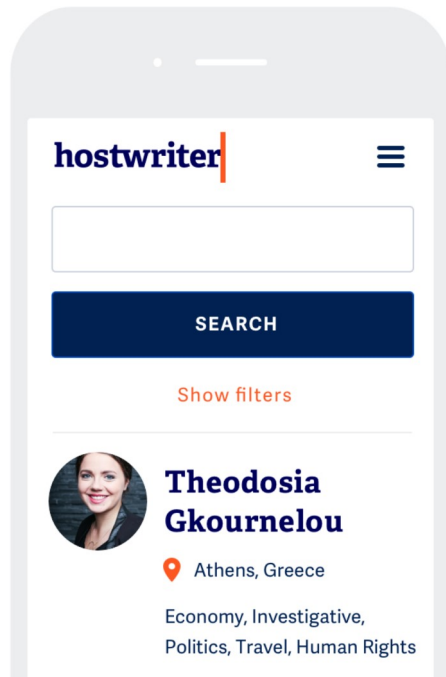


25%

of Germans have at least
one migrant parent

Sources: [ASNE](#), [News Laundry](#), [Neue Deutsche Medienmacher*innen](#)

Hostwriter - Unbias the News!



We help journalists to easily collaborate across borders.

Founded in August 2013 (nonprofit)

Online since May 2014

5,5000+ journalists in 154 countries

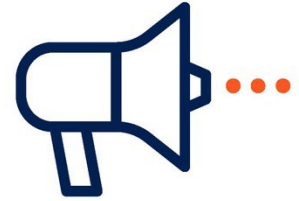
Hostwriter - Next Steps



**Hostwriter
Network**



**Training &
Counseling**



**2021
Newsroom**

Hi, we're *Hostwriter!*

***We create collaborative stories
for people interested in diverse perspectives
because journalism is more than what
white dudes have to say.***

- Mission statement as of Nov 2020

hostwriter |

How to overcome bias?

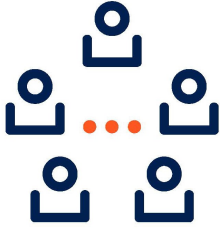
#Acknowledge and learn about your bias.



- There is no “view from nowhere”.
- No, we are not 100% neutral, objective and impartial observers of events.
- Fact-based reporting still requires a selection and interpretation of facts.
- **How biased are you?** Take a test: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

How to overcome bias?

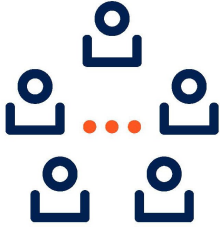
#Investigate beyond the binary.



- Journalism is deeply shaped by binary thinking, it can affect the selection of story angles, protagonists and sources.
- Expect reality to have more than “both sides of a story”.
- *E.g., the developing vs. the developed world, good vs. evil, Western vs. Non-Western, rich vs. poor etc. — might no longer (or never has) adequately reflected complex global realities.*

How to overcome bias?

#Collaborate across borders.



- International cross-border teams are a great way to find out about your own blind spots as a journalist and helps to challenge single narratives.
- *E.g. „Technology will save the world“, “the global poor are natural innovators” – common narratives that focus on technology (rather than holding governments or communities accountable or able) to improve peoples’ lives.*

Hostwriter Newsroom: Launch in 2021

1. *Collaboration as a fact-checking tool.*
2. *Editorial team of five journalists from different continents.*
3. *Contributors with intersectional perspective from the Hostwriter network.*
4. **Call for Pitches:** *Uncover the invisible!*

What do you see?!



Photo: Gotha State Police Inspectorate