

Dear Editors' committee,

I am a UK-based academic and expert on hate speech law, including hate speech media regulations.

I would like to propose the introduction of a new sub-Provision, to augment Provision 12. As amended, the new version would be as follows:

“12. Discrimination

i) The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's, race, colour, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability.

ii) Details of an individual's race, colour, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental illness or disability must be avoided unless genuinely relevant to the story.

**iii). The press must also avoid publishing material that is overwhelmingly comprised of entirely negative stereotypes or stigmatisation of a group identified on the basis of race, colour, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability.”**

I believe that the new sub-provision would both provide greater protection for groups against hate speech material that does not name specific individuals, but would at the same time be drawn narrowly enough to prevent excessive restriction of free speech on issues relating to groups.

It would also bring the Code into line with similar media law in other parts of the developed world.

I would be delighted to meet with the board of editors to provide further context and justification for this proposal

Yours sincerely

Dr. Alexander Brown

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Dr Alexander Brown  
Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Social and Political Theory  
School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
University of East Anglia (UEA)  
Norwich Research Park  
Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK

Email: [alexander.c.brown@uea.ac.uk](mailto:alexander.c.brown@uea.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)1603 59 3057 (internal: 3057)

School webpage: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/psi/People/Academic/Alexander+Brown>  
Google Scholar Citations Page:  
<http://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=DAckkDMAAAJ&hl=en>