

Dear all,

Following the review of the code, and following our experience of working closely with journalists on domestic abuse, at Women's Aid we would support the inclusion of a brief dedicated section on domestic abuse. Domestic abuse and domestic homicide is incredibly prevalent [How common is domestic abuse? - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](https://www.womensaid.org.uk), and we are pleased to see that the domestic abuse training we have provided to journalists (working with The Sun and Reuters, and planning in training with Sunday Express and the Daily Mirror) is having a positive effect. However, for some other titles, they do not engage in this training or our guidance, and for this reason the only factor that would have an impact is if domestic abuse was specifically recognised in the code.

Considering the format and brevity of the code, I would suggest an inclusion along the following lines, to cover key issues we have found with reporting and those presenting the most risk:

Domestic abuse or homicide cases

The press must not:

- 1) Blame the victim for what has happened*; or describe the abuse or homicide as a crime of love or passion.
- 2) Disclose the address or location of a survivor of domestic abuse, or a confidential refuge address where survivors of abuse are housed**.

*On this point, if it is currently possible to raise a breach under clause 1 of accuracy, and anyone can do this (for example if the victim is deceased), it would be useful to outline this in guidance.

** If this would be covered in clause 2, again I think we would need clear guidance on this when relating to locations of vulnerable domestic abuse survivors. With family courts reporting pilot currently progressing, this point is especially relevant, as this may increase the likelihood of this happening.

I am very happy to discuss this further if helpful.

With best wishes,

Teresa

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