

THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN WORLD JOURNALISM BASED ON INTERNATIONAL CODES

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As in any field of activity, journalism has strict laws and ethical codes that regulate its activities. While legislation defines the boundaries of “what to write,” i.e. the content of the media, ethics defines “how to write” — respect for personality, culture, accuracy, objectivity, and style. Each person is equally responsible for observing the laws, and compliance with the codes depends on the aesthetic world and professional ethics of the journalist.

Ethical dictionaries define the term "professional ethics" as "codes of conduct that provide an educational dimension to relationships between people related to professional activities." In this regard, a natural question arises: do journalists need a code of ethics? "A code is a law that has a logical systematization, combining norms that regulate in detail a certain area of public relations." The importance of creating a code of journalistic ethics is that if the practice of self-restraint is not implemented, the influence of other forces that restrict journalism will undoubtedly increase. This has also been proven by foreign experience. This is why such expressions as "self-censorship" and "self-regulation" have come to be used frequently. Compliance with the professional ethics set forth in the Code will help any journalist reach the pinnacle of his or her creative mastery.

Another aspect is that a comprehensive code, widely used in practice, strengthens the journalist's position both in life and in his/her work, meaning that he/she will never waver or get lost between two or more values. This is what the chairman of the Russian Foundation for the Protection of Openness A. Simonov said: "Moral authorities arise where moral rights are formed."

Codes concerning the media sphere have been created mainly since the beginning of the 20th century. In world journalism, the 20th century saw the spread of codes, especially in the 1960s and 1980s.

Let's look at the history of the creation of world journalistic codes:

- The "Code of Journalism" was adopted by the American Society of Newspaper Editors in 1923. In 1933, the Washington Post published an article about Yu. Upon taking over the newspaper, the Meyer family first published the newspaper's code of ethics.

- In France, the "Charter of the Professional Duties of French Journalists" was first adopted in 1918, and in 1938, amendments were made to it.

- In 1954, the International Federation of Journalists adopted the "Declaration of Principles of Journalistic Ethics". The "Code of Ethics" of the Society of Professional Journalists came into force in 1996.

In general, "if the period of creation of professional codes adopted in European countries mainly falls on the 1990s, then in the republics where the socialist system prevailed, especially in the CIS countries, the implementation of codes was activated mainly in the last years of the century."

What is the main reason for this trend? By the end of the 20th century, the processes of information globalization had become inevitable. In other words, it became impossible to control the flow of information. As a result, it became impossible to censor the press, and democratic principles came to the fore. In such circumstances, there must also be criteria defining specific responsibilities for ensuring freedom of the press. Satisfaction of this need fell on the shoulders of professional codes and norms of professional ethics of journalists, that is, documents aimed at self-regulation. For example: while the Duma of the Russian Federation is working on drafting laws aimed at restricting freedom of the press, the country's media system is paying more and more attention to developing professional codes. Following similar protests in the British Parliament, an initiative was put forward to create a system of self-regulation in the press and a Press Committee was created to consider complaints about the press.

If we look at the general nature of professional codes in world journalism, we will see many similarities. That is, almost every code considers the role of the journalist in society, his commitment to his professional duties, truthful and impartial dissemination of information, his relationship with the source of information, the right and norms of expressing an honest response to information, respect for the presumption of innocence, etc. In addition, the professional code of journalism of each country has its own distinctive features.

The Italian "Charter of Responsibility of Journalists" emphasizes the honesty of the individual.

The Latvian "Code of Ethics" includes as a norm the requirement for journalists to immediately publish an apology in a prominent place in the media in cases of dissemination of false information.

The Code of Ethics of Journalists of Lithuania (in the first paragraph) states: "Neither publishers nor journalists should consider news as their property. Organizers of the dissemination of public information should not treat information as a commodity. "The

ability to receive and impart information is one of the basic freedoms of a person," it says.

In the United States, the Code of Ethics developed by the Association of Radio and Television News Directors states that "the right to select news for a news program belongs exclusively to the director." What about Uzbekistan? On July 17, 2019, at the IV Conference of the Creative Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, the Code of Professional Ethics of Journalists of Uzbekistan was approved, recognizing that a democratic society, where human interests, rights and freedoms are considered the highest values, is unthinkable without freedom of speech and information. It specifically states that codes and laws should serve as a basis for journalists to self-control and self-correction. This code consists of a preamble and 10 articles, which set out the moral and ethical principles that journalists and all media workers must adhere to in the performance of their professional duties.

It should be emphasized that this Code has been developed taking into account the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN General Assembly, 1948), the International Principles of Professional Ethics of Journalists (UNESCO, 1983), the International Declaration of Principles of Ethics of Journalists (Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, 1954), the Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Despite all the specifics of the journalistic code of ethics, there are a number of common ethical standards. In particular, the main ones were identified during the consultative meetings of journalists held under the auspices of UNESCO.

It discusses the right of citizens to receive reliable information, respect for personal integrity and dignity, respect for universal values and cultural diversity, as well as the need to combat wars and other evils.

At the same time, these standards are creatively developed and detailed in the moral codes of the Central Asian countries. Below are some of them:

- Reliability and objectivity of materials;
- Protection of sources of information;
- Draw a line between fact and opinion;
- Maintain confidentiality;
- Do not discriminate on any basis;
- Independence from commercial interests;
- Avoid plagiarism;
- Correction of errors made publicly.

The Code of Ethics of Journalists of Uzbekistan establishes moral and ethical principles that journalists and all media workers must adhere to in the performance of their professional duties.

It is especially important for the media to exercise caution and adhere to professional ethics when covering crimes. After all, most experts believe that the media should not cover such crimes. The reason is that if too much freedom is given to covering such topics, the impression may be formed that the level of crime in the country has increased, which may undermine the peace and tranquility of the state. From this point of view, compliance with ethical requirements when covering crimes in the media, in particular, familiarization with and compliance with the Code of Professional Ethics of Journalists of Uzbekistan, approved on July 17, 2019, will increase the effectiveness of work.

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