



# Publication Selection and Editorial Transparency Policy

## 1. Introduction

Our commitment is to deliver reliable, accurate, and diverse content in line with our values and mission. This policy outlines our process for selecting, vetting, and presenting content, ensuring integrity, transparency, and diversity. This policy supports our mission to provide accessible audio content for people who are blind, have low vision, or require alternatives to print, ensuring our offerings meet the diverse needs of the community we serve.

## 2. Content Representation and Bias

- We acknowledge that bias and opinion can provide unique insights and depth when balanced with a broad spectrum of perspectives. We are committed to promoting diversity in our content sources, engaging with writers and publications from a variety of backgrounds, political leanings, and perspectives. This cultivates an inclusive content landscape.
- However, we may exclude content from sources with extreme bias, ensuring our focus remains on ethical and accurate reporting.
- The content we feature may not always reflect the views of Aftersight nor the presenters unless explicitly stated.

## 3. Content Selection Criteria

We evaluate the bias and factual accuracy of media outlets using quantitative and qualitative methods. These criteria primarily apply to news. Content deemed low-risk for bias or false information, such as arts, hobbies, community events, recipes, ads, specialty magazines, travel, meditation, and specialty projects, may not undergo the same level of evaluation. Volunteer readers are provided with an approved list of sources, and any changes to their list must be approved by



Aftersight staff. Key considerations include:

- **Press Freedom Rankings:** Assess editorial independence and freedom from censorship or political influence.
- **Credibility Assessments:** Assess media bias and fact-checking from IFCN and MBFC, among other media credibility/bias assessors.
- **Community Feedback:** Solicit feedback, engaging with audience reviews, and considering ratings.
- **AI Screening:** Utilize AI tools to detect biases and objectivity by analyzing loaded language, emotional tone, and overall sentiment of content.
- **Author Credentials:** Evaluate qualifications, experience, education, and expertise of contributing authors, and verify that news and fact-based articles credit their authors, with exceptions allowed for letters to the editor, editorials, and certain opinion pieces.
- **Editorial Process:** Examine editorial boards and review processes.
- **Sources and Citations:** Review credibility of sources.
- **Fact-Checking Practices:** Ensure robust fact-checking practices and prompt corrections or retractions.
- **Transparency and Accountability Practices:** Review funding sources, organizational structure, and editorial policies for conflicts of interest and commitment to accountability.
- **Social Media Engagement:** Monitor social media for audience interaction, responsiveness, and transparency.
- **Legal Compliance:** Verify compliance with defamation, copyright, and privacy laws to adhere to legal standards and ethical guidelines.

Aftersight has a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech in publications, ,



in line with journalistic ethics. Note: This scenario is separate from reporting on societal hate speech, which upholds journalistic ethics. We reserve the right to discontinue content that doesn't meet our standards.

#### **4. Editorial Standards**

In our Original Content, we clearly label personal opinions and sponsored content.

#### **5. Continuous Improvement and Community Engagement**

- We welcome suggestions for new publications, ideas for improving our vetting process, and feedback from our community, including listeners, volunteers, partners, and stakeholders.
- As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we are in the process of adding the paper's contact information to the end of each audio recording. This allows individuals to verify details, file a complaint, provide feedback, or contact the publisher directly.

#### **7. Decision Making Process**

Our decision-making process involves a comprehensive evaluation of publications from multiple perspectives, including the criteria outlined in this document, the needs of our listeners, and a case-by-case assessment. This policy serves as a guiding framework to help us make informed decisions that align with the best interests of the community we serve and our organization.

#### **Conclusion**

We're currently evaluating existing programming to align with this policy. This process may take time, and we appreciate your patience. Our commitment to high journalistic standards ensures quality content that informs, educates, and empowers our audience. Your engagement and input are valuable as we evolve.