

# **Debunk Media Initiative Impartiality and Non-Partisanship Code of Conduct**

## **1. Introduction**

Debunk Media Initiative is committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, impartiality, and integrity in our fact-checking endeavours. This Code of Conduct outlines the ethical guidelines and expectations for all employees, staff, and freelance fact-checkers associated with our organization.

## **2. Impartiality and Non-Partisanship**

2.1. Political Neutrality: All members of Debunk Media Initiative shall remain politically neutral in their roles within the organization. We do not endorse or support any political party, candidate, or ideology.

2.2. Non-Partisanship in Fact-Checking: Our fact-checking efforts shall be impartial and non-partisan. We will base our assessments solely on verifiable facts and evidence, without bias or favouritism.

2.3. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest: Employees, staff, and freelance fact-checkers shall disclose any conflicts of interest that may compromise their impartiality or credibility.

## **3. Accuracy and Accountability**

3.1. Thorough Research: We are committed to conducting thorough research and verification of information before publishing fact-checks. Accuracy is paramount.

3.2. Correction of Errors: If errors are identified in our fact-checks, we will promptly correct them and acknowledge the corrections transparently.

3.3. Attribution: Proper attribution will be given to sources and references used in fact-checks. Plagiarism or the unauthorized use of others' work is strictly prohibited.

## **4. Transparency**

4.1. Transparency in Sources: We will transparently disclose our sources, methodologies, and criteria for fact-checking.

4.2. Disclosure of Funding: Debunk Media Initiative will be transparent about its funding sources and any potential conflicts of interest related to funding.

## **5. Independence and Editorial Freedom**

5.1. Editorial Independence: Our fact-checkers and journalists have the editorial independence to make determinations based on their professional judgment, free from external influence.

## **6. Respect and Civility**

6.1. Respectful Conduct: All members of our organization will treat colleagues, sources, and the public with respect and civility, regardless of differing viewpoints.

## **7. Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

7.1. Legal Compliance: We will adhere to all applicable laws and regulations governing our operations, including those related to privacy and data protection.

## **8. Accountability**

8.1. Accountability for Violations: Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or freelance engagement, as well as legal consequences if warranted.

## **9. Reporting Violations**

9.1. Reporting Mechanisms: Any employee, staff member, or freelance fact-checker who becomes aware of a violation of this Code of Conduct is encouraged to report it to their supervisor or the organization's designated ethics officer.

Debunk Media Initiative is committed to upholding the principles of accuracy, impartiality, and ethical conduct in all our fact-checking efforts. By adhering to this Code of Conduct, we aim to maintain the trust and credibility of our organization and the public we serve.

This Code of Conduct is subject to periodic review and may be updated as needed to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

I (Mr/Mrs) .....have read and agreed to this Code of Conduct and agree to the Terms and Conditions set therein.