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Centre for Investigative Journalism

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#VirtualTownHall

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For journalists dealing with #whistleblowers raises issues, how we do our work and ethics - says @paulafray #virtualltownhall

[14 Nov 2017 at 19:07](#)

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For journalists dealing with #whistleblowers raises issues, how we do our work and ethics - says @paulafray #virtualltownhall

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. @sajournalist says you need to have a conversation with your sources, plan what information is most sensitive - what information might identify you, the #whistleblower? #VirtualTownHall

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. @SamSoleZA says journalists generally have more experience in handling sensitive compared to sources. Therefore it is the journalist's responsibility to ensure confidentiality and protection. #virtualltownhall #whistleblowers

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. @KaraboRajuli says it is incredibly dangerous to be a whistleblower but also really important - #whistleblowers are protected under the PDAAct #VirtualTownHall

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. @sajournalist says it can be incredibly costly and stressful for #whistleblowers who are constantly having to fight battles on their own. #VirtualTownHall

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. @SamSoleZA says it is important to have multiple sources. Media needs to question leaks - is the story the agenda #virtualltownhall #whistleblowers @frayintermedia

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. @paulafray asks about source credibility. 'Most sources don't give information out of the goodness of their hearts, but that doesn't mean the info isn't legitimate - says @SamSoleZA #VirtualTownHall

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. @timsetabelo says you need to interrogate your sources: have a conversation with source, 'what is in it for you?' Lay all cards on the table. #VirtualTownHall #whistleblowers

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It is a quasi-legal process, @StefaansB says in how investigative journalists go through the motions in verifying information/motive/credibility of #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall

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Institutions like the Hawks, the NPA are not providing people justice in their communities and where they live. 'It gives one a sense of feeling absolutely powerless' - @StefaansB says wrt number of tip-offs sent to @amaBhungane and the number we are able to deal with.

[14 Nov 2017 at 19:30](#)

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. @paulafray - when do the risks outweigh the story? #VirtualTownHall @sajournalist says the #whistleblowers safety always trumps the story

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. @timsetabelo 'its important to note that before sources come to us, they have often already gone through the process of reporting a crime but they are often victimised/fired before they come to us but then they are willing to expose what needs to be exposed' #VirtualTownHall

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What should journos be thinking of when dealing with sources- @timsetabelo 'I always go old-school with sources, common sense, basics, for example if you go to a small town, don't meet in a place where you will stand out.' #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall

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Old-school is very important. Cellphones are the 'spy in your pocket' - says @StefaansB #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall

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. @KaraboRajuli discussing Rica, legislation around the protection of both source and journalist information and communication #virtualtownhall #whistleblowers

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. @SamSoleZA says it is hard to take the state on over interception cases - you need proof. #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall

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Read more on our #advocacy work here -> amabhungane.co.za/advocacy/index... #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall @KaraboRajuli #amaB advocacy coordinator

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. @StefaansB Its not an automatic obligation to publish anything just because someone shares information with you - #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall

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. @SamSoleZA Sometimes it is better to disclose who is giving the information - publicising can help protect #whistleblowers #virtualtownhall

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. @SamSoleZA says when he was a young reporter a source of his was killed. He says he lacked experience and couldn't make the necessary assessment at the time #whistleblowers #virtualtownhall

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It takes experience to assess situations with #whistleblowers and how to protect sources - don't work in silos, get advice from team.

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. @StefaansB 'We need whistleblowers, they are heroic. Most #whistleblowers are good people and without these heroes the South African public would be in a much worse position - evil flourishes when good people stay silent' #VirtualTownHall

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. @paulafray 'The verification process can offer comfort to #whistleblowers'
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. @timsetabelo says #whistleblowers should first approach a journalist, and then assess the level of commitment from that journalist and get an idea if the journalist is the right fit. #VirtualTownHall
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. @sajournalist says that if a journalist takes time to understand the #whistleblowers information and story, its a good indication of journo's commitment #VirtualTownHall
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. @KaraboRajuli says #whistleblowers can also educate themselves on their rights, disclosure of information - there are available resources #VirtualTownHall
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Journalists can't solve #whistleblowers problems says @SamSoleZA #virtualltownhall
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. @SamSoleZA says communcation security is important. @StefaansB add that informed consent also important - warn, warn warn #whistleblowers #virtualltownhall
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More support and conversations in newsrooms is needed says @sajournalist source relationships are complicated #VirtualTownHall #whistleblowers
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You should push back - inform you bosses especially with male sources when things get uncomfortable - says @timsetabelo #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall
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. @StefaansB 'One step at a time but you are a hero when you reach the end' #whistleblowers #VirtualTownHall
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#Whistleblowing is entrenched in our Constitution - says @KaraboRajuli
[14 Nov 2017 at 20:20](#)

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#Whistleblowers - important to know why you are blowing the whistle and the motivation behind it. At the end of the day you have got to live with yourself. Important for the journo as well - communicate and have hard conversations with sources up front. - @timsetabelo

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Trust and not over-promising - @SamSoleZA #whistleblowers
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