

Breakout

Gender in the newsroom

ACTIVITIES AND TRAINER NOTES	SLIDE NO.
<p>Journalists are not apart from the society in which they live and work. Sometimes it can be hard to stand back and question what seem like “natural” or inevitable assumptions about newsworthiness, and the way society works.</p>	2
<p>Family violence is one example of this. For years it was not considered newsworthy. Now, in part at least, that is changing.</p>	3
<p>We know that newsrooms are, like many institutions, male dominated.</p>	
<p>This graph is based on data from the 2011 Global Report on the status of women in the news media. This data is only for Australia. It clearly illustrates that women are significantly underrepresented in the most senior editorial, management and governance positions.</p>	4
<p>An under-researched issue is how the gender politics of our media institutions affects or does not affect the way media reports family and domestic violence. We know that the recent upsurge in reporting of family violence has come out of these newsrooms, and both male and female reporters and editors have been involved in this.</p>	
<p>A Women in Media survey (2015) of 1000 women in the media industry found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41% women said they’d been harassed, bullied or trolled on social media, while engaging with audiences; several were silenced or changed their career • Almost half (48%) said they’d experienced intimidation, abuse or sexual harassment in the workplace • A quarter of women who’d taken maternity leave said they’d been discriminated against, upon return to work. • One in three (34%) said they didn’t feel confident to speak up about discrimination. • The latest report from the Global Media Monitoring Project found that the proportion of women interviewed in Australian sport coverage is barely one percent. • For all types of news, women made up only about 24 per cent of people quoted or mentioned – a level unchanged from five years earlier. 	5
<p>Women in the news</p> <p>Newsrooms elsewhere in the world have set firm benchmarks for numbers of women in stories. This has imposed on journalists an obligation to “find the women” who are experts on, and/or affected by the daily news. How might our news bulletins look different if this was done in Australia? Is it desirable to set such quotas?</p> <p>‘Front Pages Without Males’ is an Instagram project run by Melbourne-based researcher Amanda Thompson. By removing stories that are about men she seeks to highlight the gendered divide in news coverage. Her account can be found here: https://www.instagram.com/frontpageswithoutmales/</p>	6 7