

Alliances of Understanding Presents:
Ethics of Journalism in Times of Crises

Panel event: Gideon Levy (Haaretz) and Aidan White (Founder of Ethical Journalism Network)

Thursday 30th October 2025, 6pm-7pm **ONLINE**

(Registration required; MS Teams link will be shared)

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In an era defined by relentless cycles of conflict, humanitarian catastrophe, and information warfare, the moral responsibilities of journalists have never been more contested—or more vital. From Gaza to Ukraine, from the Global South to the metropolises of power, the act of bearing witness is fraught with risk, censorship, and political manipulation. This event, *The Ethics of Journalism in Times of Crises*, brings together leading figures in journalism and media ethics to interrogate the duties, dilemmas, and possibilities of truth-telling in the current global context.

The discussion will feature **Gideon Levy**, renowned Israeli journalist and columnist for *Haaretz*, whose decades-long reporting from the Occupied Palestinian Territories has made him one of the most courageous and controversial voices in Middle Eastern journalism; **Aidan White**, founder of the Ethical Journalism Network and former General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, who has championed media integrity, transparency, and human rights worldwide; and **Laila El-Haddad**, Palestinian author, journalist, and policy consultant, whose award-winning work on Gaza combines first-hand experience, storytelling, and sharp critique of global media narratives. The conversation will be chaired by **Barnie Choudhury**, veteran British journalist and diversity advocate, bringing his insight into representation and accountability in public discourse.

Together, they will explore how journalists navigate the ethical terrain of reporting under occupation, bombardment, and disinformation; how newsroom hierarchies and geopolitical pressures distort global coverage; and how language itself—words like “terrorism,” “self-defence,” and “neutrality”—becomes a battleground of meaning. The panel will also address the mental and moral toll on reporters, the safety of local correspondents, and the question of whether objectivity is possible—or even desirable—in the face of a genocide.

Timed to coincide with two years since the full ground invasion of Gaza, and at the end of a month which began with a ceasefire, the success of which hangs in the balance, this event seeks not only to analyse the failures of media ethics but also to imagine pathways towards more responsible, humane, and decolonial forms of journalism. It invites journalists, scholars, students, and concerned citizens alike to ask: what does it mean to tell the truth when truth itself is under siege?

