

# REPORTING IN AN

# ERA OF DISINFORMATION:

Fairness Media Guide for Covering Women  
and People of Color Without Bias

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# INTRODUCTION

Justice Breyer's retirement presents an opportunity for the Biden administration to make history and nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court.

A Black woman nominee would be only the third Black person nominated to this role in U.S. history, and the first Black woman ever to serve as a Supreme Court justice. As the Biden administration begins its proceedings to interview and nominate a strong candidate, the media can and must ensure this historic moment receives fair coverage that doesn't fuel the fires of disinformation and hate.

Media representation plays a critical role in how people of color and women are perceived by the public. Headlines, photos, social media previews, and other content can be used directly, or taken out of context, to spread racist and sexist ideas, encourage or legitimize disinformation, and fuel conspiracy theories. Just over a year ago, our nation saw first hand that disinformation combined with racism and sexism sows distrust, undermines our democracy, disintegrates our sense of shared reality, and sparks violence. The media must do everything in its power to ensure that racism, sexism, and disinformation do not derail the historic nomination of the first Black woman to the Supreme Court.

Disinformation and bias can inspire both online and offline attacks intended to delegitimize and dehumanize women and people of color—and ultimately dissuade them from participating in politics. Women of color, LGBTQ people, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and people who belong to religious minorities are at an even greater risk of becoming targets of disinformation campaigns, hate speech, and real-world violence.

The media must help ensure that women and people of color running for, nominated for, and holding positions of power in government are represented fairly. Particularly at this unprecedented moment in history, where a Black woman will be nominated to the Supreme Court, it is critical that the media cover this process impartially and not repeat past mistakes. This guide will help journalists, radio hosts, podcasters, and social media platforms identify and avoid unintentional sexist and racist bias and combat disinformation when handling content about women and people of color.

“The media plays a very significant role in shaping public perceptions about women and men, therefore it is important that reporting avoids any form of gender stereotypes, which often limit and trivialize women and men, as well as presenting an inaccurate view of the world and its possibilities.

Furthermore, the use of stereotypes reflects a mental block not only in terms of what society may expect from women and men, but also—more seriously—in terms of what women and men may expect from themselves.”

UNESCO, 2012



# **TIPS TO AVOID ENCOURAGING AND LEGITIMIZING DISINFORMATION AND BIAS**

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graph TD; A[MEDIA COVERAGE PERPETUATES BIAS] --> B[DISINFORMATION RELIES ON BIAS TO UNDERMINE]; B --> C[MEDIA COVERAGE OF DISINFORMATION HELPS IT SPREAD]; C --> A;
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**MEDIA COVERAGE  
PERPETUATES BIAS**

**MEDIA COVERAGE OF  
DISINFORMATION HELPS  
IT SPREAD**

**DISINFORMATION RELIES  
ON BIAS TO UNDERMINE**

# AVOIDING BIAS AND DISINFORMATION WHEN REPORTING ON POLITICAL AND SCOTUS NOMINEES

- Consider biases related to race, gender, ability, orientation, and other protected classes. Question and debunk stories, lines of questioning, and language that perpetuate bias.
- Ask yourself how a nominee's evaluation is filtered through biases against Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American, Pacific Islander, disabled, LGBTQ people, women, and other underrepresented groups.
- Indigenous women often face a Catch-22 of either being erased as a relic of pre-colonial United States or being stereotyped, objectified, and hypersexualized. Be mindful of avoiding these tropes and debunk them whenever possible.
- When choosing a nominee photo, ensure that it looks professional and doesn't play into any negative stereotypes.
- Ambition in women is often portrayed as a negative and praised in men -- avoid playing into this sexist stereotype.
- Use gender-neutral language to help stop gender bias.
  - Use businessperson, chairperson, first-year (rather than freshman), congressperson.
  - Avoid using Mrs. unless it's preferred by the nominee, use Ms. because it doesn't designate marital status. Single women have historically been seen as undesirable or unworthy.
  - Use the proper title, such as Honorable, Senator, Secretary
- Focus on a nominee's policy without typecasting. Avoid focusing gender and civil rights questions solely on women and candidates of color.
  - Ask yourself: Would you say or write this about nominee who is a white man?

# AVOIDING BIAS AND DISINFORMATION WHEN REPORTING ON POLITICAL AND SCOTUS NOMINEES

- Don't use coded racist terms when discussing nominees
  - Using such terms reinforces the white supremacist idea of inferiority.
  - Using terms like articulate, well-educated, and hardworking to describe a person of color implies that such a thing is surprising, as in, "You're articulate for a Black person." It implies that people of color are expected to be inferior, and that this person is an exception. Most political leaders, candidates, and public servants are well-educated, well-spoken, and hardworking.
  - Don't question someone's "origins," "heritage," or "loyalty."
  - Calling a woman of color "radical" is a catch all phrase often used to undermine people of color by implying that people of color are too different from the white norm to be trusted.
- Reporting on disinformation rather than debunking it can help spread it. You must call out disinformation as unfounded, a conspiracy theory, debunked, dubious, unlikely, misleading, a lie, false, etc. in the headline if you must write about disinformation.
- Avoid covering "trending" topics on Twitter as reflective of broad public support. Twitter "trends" are based on many factors and do not necessarily mean that a large number of users are participating in the conversation.

# AVOIDING BIAS AND DISINFORMATION WHEN REPORTING ON POLITICAL AND SCOTUS NOMINEES

- As content is shared on social media, the headline, photo, and preview text that users see can unintentionally encourage and spread disinformation and biases that harm women, people of color, and other marginalized groups, so you should write headlines and social media posts as if they are the only things people will read. Headlines that sensationalize disinformation and racist or sexist attacks help to spread disinformation when they are circulated on social media and in news feeds.

Opinion | Parmy Olson

## A Beltway Radical Gears Up to Take on Big Tech

Lina Khan's plan to revamp the FTC's remit may be too broad to pull off, but she has little



# TIPS TO AVOID MIS-REPORTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS

- Consider biases that are at play when it comes to race, gender, ability, orientation, and other protected classes—question and debunk stories and language that perpetuate bias.
- Reporting on disinformation rather than debunking it can help spread it. Name disinformation as unfounded, a conspiracy theory, debunked, dubious, unlikely, misleading, a lie, false, etc. in the headline if you must write about disinformation.
- Do not share links to sources of disinformation, which can drive traffic to those spaces. It is better to share screenshots with no link.
- Avoid covering “trending” topics on Twitter as reflective of broad support, even when total volume is still very low. Twitter “trends” are based on many factors, and do not necessarily mean a large number of users are participating in a conversation.
- Avoid referring to Twitter trends or data as reflective of “social media”—only 22 percent of Americans are on Twitter.
- Avoid claims of “reverse discrimination” or “failing to consider qualified candidates” when referencing President Biden’s promise to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court. These perpetuate the white supremacist narrative of “reverse racism” or “anti-whiteness.” **The reality is that qualified Black women have been kept off the court for over a century.**
- Avoid phrases like “race card,” “affirmative action,” and other racist tropes insinuating a nominee’s credentials are based solely on their race or ethnicity, rather than their background or qualifications.

**Ask yourself how this strand of disinformation is targeting Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, disabled, LGBTQ people, women, and other marginalized groups.**

# TIPS TO AVOID MIS-REPORTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS

- Don't write articles about “movements” or “viral” content online that are only moving among a few users on Facebook or Twitter.
- Avoid overemphasizing the role of foreign actors, which can undermine the reality that a lot of disinformation is spread by domestic actors.
- Avoid overemphasizing the role of bots, rather than the reality that many things that gain traction do so as a result of both artificial and organic sentiment.
- Bad actors have sought out and do seek out opponents offline. Do not report personal information that bad actors could use to identify people who may be targets.
- Be on the lookout for signs that a photo or video has been manipulated: to impersonate, change context, or play into racist, sexist, and anti-Semitic tropes.

 [Resource for covering and combatting disinformation](#)

## *Stacey Abrams's Burning of Georgia Flag With Confederate Symbol Surfaces on Eve of Debate*



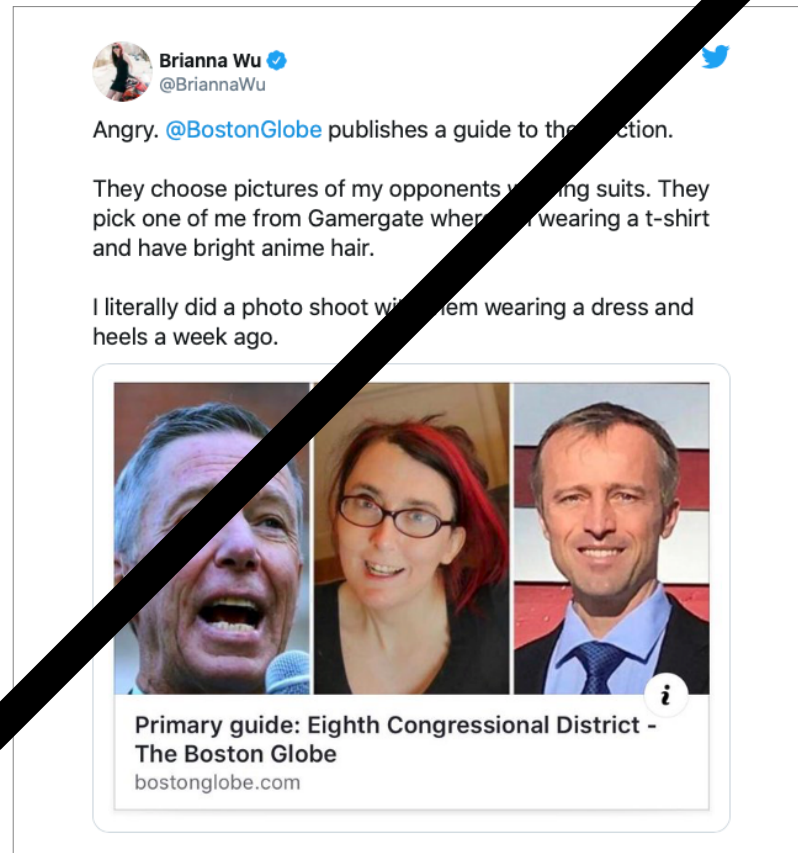
This article states that the story had “begun to emerge on social media.” In reality, the story came from a far-right news source and had received only limited attention on Twitter.

# BIAS AND DISINFORMATION IN HEADLINES, PHOTOS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- As content is shared on social media, the headline, photo, and preview text that users see can encourage and unintentionally spread disinformation and biases that harm women, people of color, and other marginalized groups.
- Write headlines and social media posts as if it is the only thing people will read. Headlines that sensationalize disinformation and racist or sexist attacks help to spread it when it circulates on social media and news feeds.
- When choosing a photo ensure that it looks professional and doesn't play into any negative stereotypes based on race, gender, or other protected class.
- If you must cover disinformation make it clear in the headline and social media preview that the information is false.



[Resource for headlines and social media](#)



The Boston Globe published a photo of male candidates in suits next to a woman candidate, Brianna Wu, in a t-shirt.



# BIAS AND DISINFO IN HEADLINES, PHOTOS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

## 'Trump haters are paedophiles': inside QAnon, the conspiracy aiming to put Hollywood behind bars

First Tom Hanks, then Lady Gaga and now Chrissy Teigen. QAnon believes Hollywood is involved in a paedophile ring linked to Epstein. Why?

By Maria Pope  
22 July 2020 • 2:57pm



This headline paired with a featured photo of Chrissy Teigen reinforces the false narrative that she is part of a politically-linked trafficking ring.

## Wayfair denies internet rumors of child trafficking, CEO resignation

A company spokesman said "there are so many more important issues that matter to our employees and our customers."

This headline helps spread and legitimize this QAnon conspiracy theory; it should be identified as unfounded.



VANITYFAIR.COM  
Terrified Women Say Senator Klobuchar Is Just Like Trump

This social media preview of an article about Amy Klobuchar intentionally plays into the sexist trope of a tyrannical, mean woman boss or a "nasty woman."

# CHECKING FOR BIAS

Prevent actively spreading or perpetuating harmful stereotypes

# CHECKING FOR BIAS

Disinformation campaigns often target marginalized people—women, people of color, LGBTQ people, immigrants, native people, Muslims, disabled people, etc.—to undermine their success and sow hate. Accordingly, it's critical to examine the impacts of systemic racism, sexism, and other forms of implicit bias in conjunction with disinformation.

Disinformation campaigns draw on negative stereotypes about marginalized people to lend a sense of credibility while attacking the intended target. The Pizzagate conspiracy that spread across social media relied on the narrative that Hillary Clinton was unlikeable and untrustworthy—insults that are frequently lobbed at women running for office. The birther conspiracy theory used to discredit President Obama relied on both racist and Islamophobic ideas. Conversely, disinformation can be fueled by a sensationalized headline, a debate question with sexist undertones, or a photo that plays into stereotypes.

**It's critical that journalists understand the ways that implicit bias can show up in politics, to both avoid perpetuating personal biases and debunk and question disinformation meant to harm diverse candidates and political leaders.**

**SEXIST TROPES AND  
STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD  
BE QUESTIONED AND  
DEBUNKED**

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Associating a woman with men as a means of legitimizing

Historically, women required permission from their husband or father before most actions. Today, women are still often identified by their relationship to or comparison with men as a means of lending them legitimacy, but this implies that the woman cannot stand on her own experiences and accomplishments.

- Wife of, mother of, female version of, etc.
- Don't qualify gender when it's not necessary. Ex.: A woman doctor, a woman attorney, a woman senator, a woman judge.
- "What does your husband think of your nomination?"

Politics & Policy

### The 'Female Obama' Tries to Be Just Familiar Enough

Ohio Democrats ask, is Kamala Harris more than an ambitious freshman senator? Ring any bells?

By Albert R. Hunt  
October 9, 2018, 6:00 AM EDT



Ready or not... Photographer: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images North America

It's deja vu for Ohio Democrats. At the state party dinner Sunday night, the star attraction was an exciting speaker who's a new-generation voice for change, a person of color with biracial parents who has been in the Senate for about 20 minutes.

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Characterizing Black women and women of color as being “too radical” or “not mainstream enough” for a position of power:

- During her nomination process and Senate confirmation hearing, Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke, the first Black woman to be nominated for this role, was characterized as “too radical,” and though she was eventually confirmed, her reputation as a civil rights expert with moral integrity was scrutinized. GOP senators asked questions based not on her qualifications and legal career but rather on posts to her personal social media accounts. And the media, from all sides, published articles that exacerbated stereotypes of Black women as too opinionated, radical, immature, and irresponsible.
- Vanita Gupta, the first woman of color and South Asian American to become Associate Attorney General for Civil Rights, faced similar comments and degrading remarks by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the media during her nomination process. She was characterized by the Senate and the media as “little known” and a “left-wing radical” thus diminishing the significance of her career and nomination to the Department of Justice.
- These types of comments perpetuate the trope that Black women and other women of color are never sufficiently qualified for a leadership role and too different from the norm of whiteness to be trustworthy. And descriptions of women of color and Black women as “little known” further marginalize and deter potentially powerful and capable leaders from entering the field.

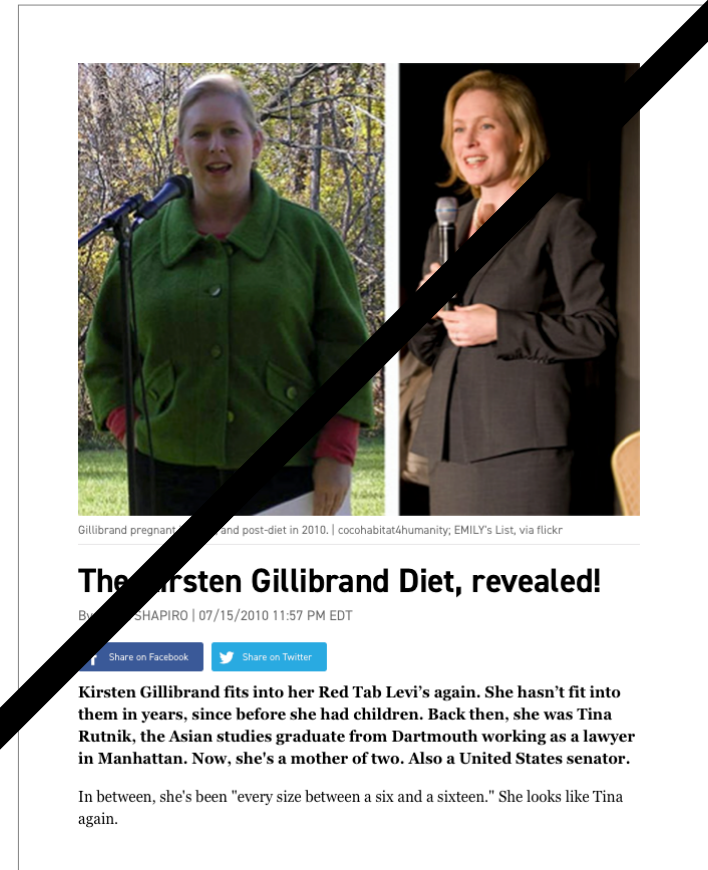


# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Too much emphasis on family roles

Men are more frequently depicted in mainstream media as professionals while women are more often shown in the context of their private lives. The media tends to cover men as thought and opinion leaders over women, preferring to focus on women's roles as wives and mothers. Such coverage takes women politicians to task if they are perceived as shirking their home responsibilities.

- Asking who is taking care of the kids or how they balance work and family
- “Now she’s a mother of two. And a US Senator. In between, she’s been ‘every size between a six and a sixteen.’ ” (See article on right.)



The article de-emphasized Senator Gillibrand's role as senator as an aside between mentioning the number of children she has and her dress size.

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Treating women as if ambition is a negative trait

Any political, business, media, or government leader has ambition but this is only seen as negative for women: Men running for office have ambition while women running for office are ambitious. It creates a double standard that punishes women while celebrating men for doing the same.

- When Romney chose Paul Ryan as his running mate, the press called Ryan “a young, ambitious beltway insider, with a camera-ready presence” while Kamala Harris was recently labeled “too ambitious” to be vice president.

**Ambition for women should not be treated in a different light.**



# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Too much emphasis on appearance or voice

One of the most consistent findings to emerge from studies is that women candidates receive far more attention to appearance compared to men, which diminishes their perceived qualifications among voters.

- Analyzing or focusing on clothing
- Focusing on weight loss or gain
- Focusing on makeup and hair
- Telling a candidate to smile or talking about whether she smiles
- Hypersexualizing a candidate or politician
- Commenting on attractiveness
- Focusing on tone of voice rather than substance

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Analyzing or focusing on clothing



### Style Michele Bachmann raises the fashion bar for female politicians



View Photo  
Fashion experts say Rep. Michele Bachmann raised the bar for all women politicians with a classic, feminine style — without letting her clothing tell the story.

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Focusing on weight loss or gain

- Describing a woman's body/size

### How Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Lost 40 Pounds

Somehow, while running for election and helping pass landmark legislation, this Democrat from New York found time to lose weight and get healthy. Here, she shares her strategies with SELF.

By Mauna Corrigan



## Focusing on makeup and hair

- Describing or focusing on makeup or lack thereof
- Following and criticizing changes in hairstyle
- Questioning a woman's ability to do a job based on personal style or taste

### Hillary Clinton Wears Hair Clip To The UN: 'Do Or Don't' (PHOTOS, POLL)

09/20/2010 08:43am EDT | Updated May 25, 2011



Hillary Clinton worked a new 'do on Sunday at the United Nations, using a jaw clip to keep her locks off of her face. The Secretary of State is stranger to hair accessories, breaking out an occasional [headband here and there](#). What do you think of her latest coif? Take a look and let us know.



SEE GALLERY

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

Telling a woman to smile or talking about whether she smiles

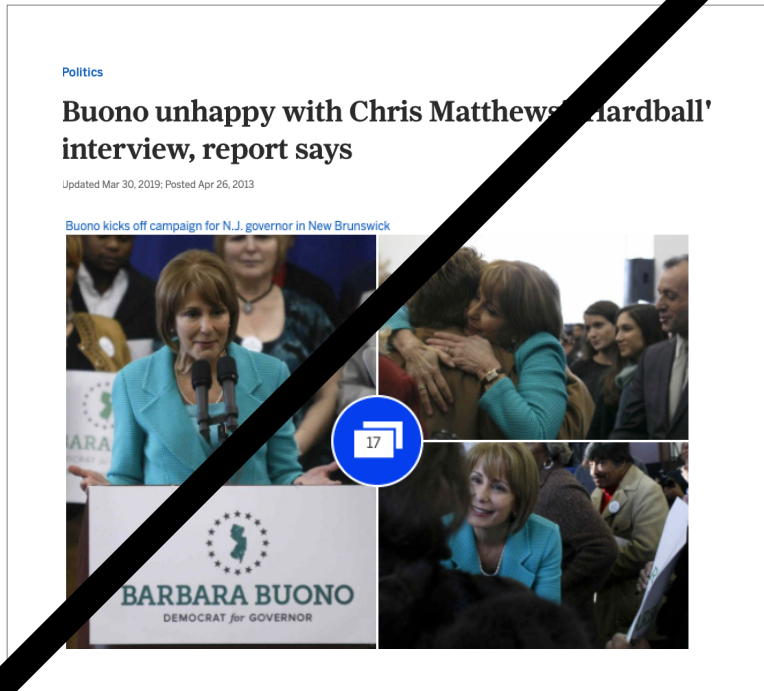


Hypersexualizing a woman politician, particularly a Black woman



# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Commenting on attractiveness



Chris Matthews asks NJ candidate if he can call her attractive

## Focusing on tone of voice rather than substance

- Shrill, bitter, angry, etc.



# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

**Avoid using terms that equate emotion with weakness or being “crazy” and stoicism with being cold**

Women are often penalized as being too emotional and seen as cold if they fail to show emotion, creating a double bind that doesn't apply to men.

- Mean girl
- Ice queen
- Bossy
- Feisty
- Unlikeable
- Abrasive
- Aggressive
- Irrational
- Emotional

FOX NEWS FLASH · Published September 23  
**AOC roasted for shedding 'crocodile tears' after crying over Israel Iron Dome House vote**

The New York lawmaker became emotional after the vote passed 420-9 to approve Iron Dome funding

# SEXIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

Be cautious of using “unlikeable” or “unelectable”

Research has shown that voters are more likely to vote for a man candidate they don't like than a woman they don't like so discussions of likeability only help to harm women.

## Why the sexist 'likability test' could haunt female candidates in 2020

Women face a double standard when it comes to public scrutiny - even as Americans say they're ready for a female president

● **Support the Guardian's fearless, independent journalism with a contribution.**



▲ Elizabeth Warren had a quick riposte to a tweet questioning her likability. Photograph: Andrew Harnik/AP



# USE GENDER NEUTRAL LANGUAGE TO HELP STOP GENDER BIAS

- Businessperson, chairperson, first-year (rather than freshman), congressperson
- Avoid using Mrs. unless it's preferred by the candidate; use Ms. because it doesn't designate marital status. Single women have historically been seen as undesirable or unworthy.
- Use the proper title such as Honorable, Senator, Secretary
- Use the they/them pronoun as a gender neutral pronoun.
  - Ex. An independent voter in Florida said they would...

**Question and debunk infantilizing and patronizing language such as calling adult women girls and calling Black men boys.**



# BE MINDFUL OF INTERSECTIONALITY

- These issues are compounded for people who hold more than one marginalized identity such as women of color, disabled women, and LGBTQ women. People may hold multiple racial or ethnic identities as well, such as Afro-Latinx.
- Avoid framing people as masculine or feminine, especially when writing about members of the LGBTQ community.
- Using the word “minority” implies inferiority or fringe. Use more accurate, descriptive terms like LGBTQ, Black, Indigenous, people of color, underrepresented, etc.
- In general, treat people as the multi-dimensional people that they are and avoid essentializing them due to their race, gender, sexual orientation, etc.
- Focus on people without typecasting: Avoid focusing gender and civil rights questions solely on women and people of color.
- Ask: would you say or write this about a white man?

**RACIST TROPES AND  
STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD  
BE QUESTIONED AND  
DEBUNKED**

# RACIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Questioning someone's "origins," "heritage," and "loyalty."

- Questioning commitment to the United States based on racism/nativism
- Implying a connection between an Arab American and/or Muslim candidate and terrorism
- Assuming Latinx people are immigrants or using the term "illegal immigrant" or "illegal alien."



Responding to Anti-Muslim Tropes:  
A Guide for Allies, by Muslim Advocates

### The birth of the Obama 'birther' conspiracy

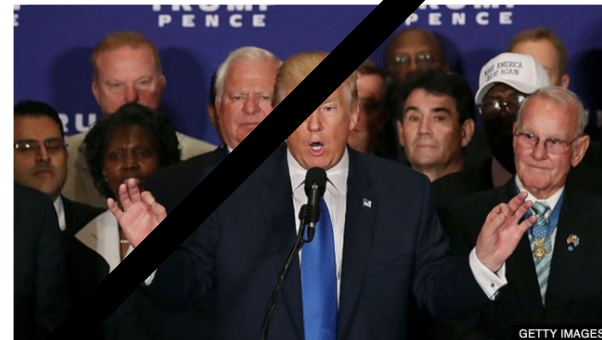


Anthony Zurcher  
North America reporter  
@awzurcher

16 September 2016

f t y d Share

US election 2016



GETTY IMAGES

Republican Donald Trump asserted that Democrat Hillary Clinton and her campaign team first raised questions about Barack Obama's birthplace in 2008 - and that he was the man who settled the issue in 2011.

The Trump presidency

The two faces of Trump's

# RACIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

**Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who lost her legs serving in Iraq, comes back after Tucker Carlson suggests she hates America**



By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business  
Updated 3:52 PM ET, Tue July 7, 2020



**Rudy Giuliani promotes long-debunked image of Ilhan Omar 'at al-Qaeda training camp'**

President's personal lawyer once shares misinformation about sitting congresswoman

HOME > POLITICS

**Everything we know about the persistent but unproven rumors that Rep. Ilhan Omar married her brother**

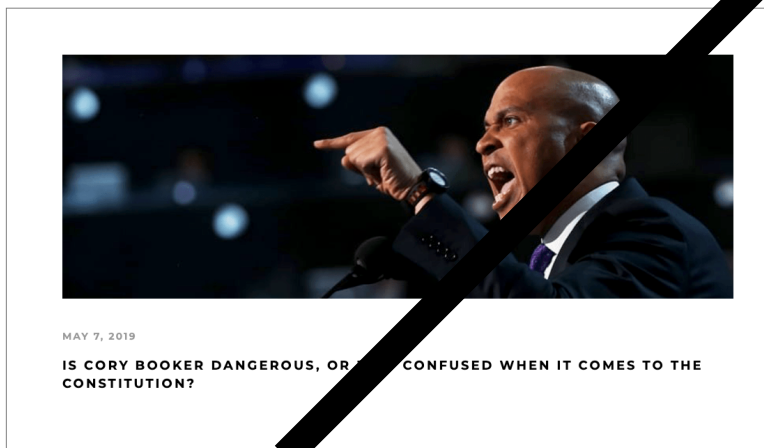
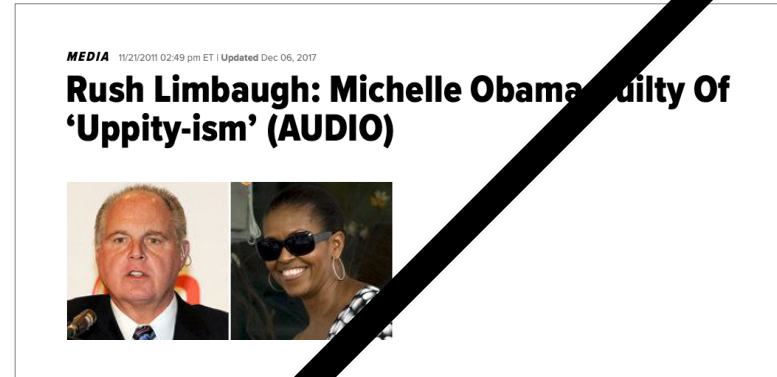
Grace Panetta Updated Nov 30, 2021, 5:25 PM



# RACIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Equating emotions with anger and threats, cause for fear

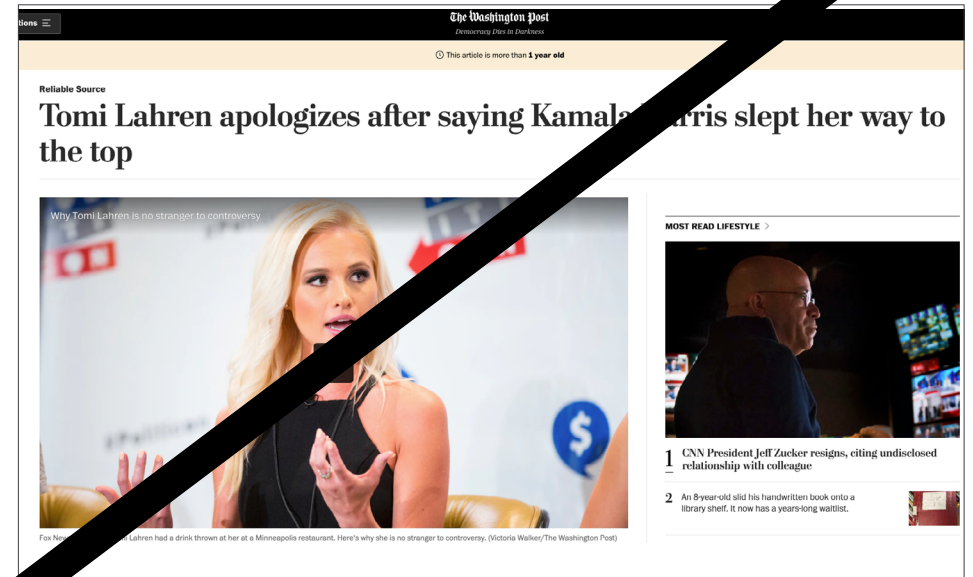
- “Angry Black woman” trope
- Calling Black men dangerous
- Using “uppity” to describe Black people
- Associating the Coronavirus with Asian people
- Associating Latinx people with drugs and crime



# RACIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Oversexualizing Black women and other women of color:

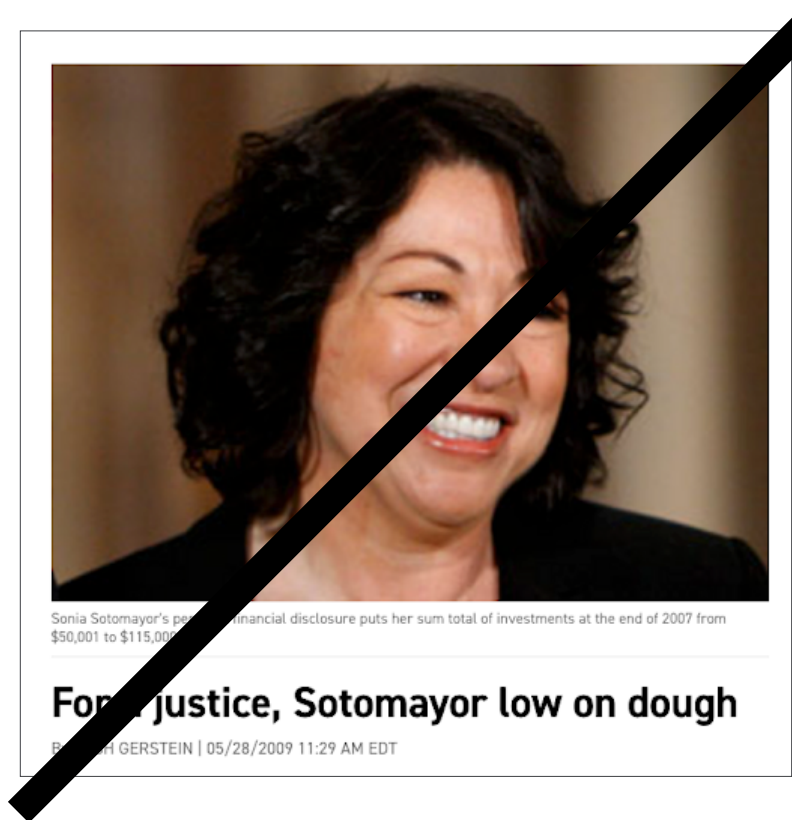
- Questioning the professionalism of Black women, particularly based on clothing choices, hairstyles, and other physical appearances
- Inappropriate comparisons between Black women in politics or positions of power in the United States.
- Asking prying questions about a nominee's personal life or sexuality



# RACIST TROPES AND STEREOTYPES THAT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED AND DEBUNKED

## Stereotypes about financial responsibility:

- Articles covering tax returns or income of potential nominees of color, specifically Black women nominees, focusing on their financial earnings, using language like “poor” or conflating their financial earnings, or lack thereof, with their ability to do the job.



# CODED RACIST TERMS TO QUESTION AND DEBUNK

- Using “urban” as code for Black.
- Describing a mixed-race person as “half,” as in half Black
- Colorist stereotyping rooted in the idea that someone with lighter skin is “better”
- Reinforcing the white supremacist idea of inferiority: Using terms like articulate, well-educated, and hardworking to describe a person of color implies a level of surprise, as in “you’re articulate for a Black person.” It implies that people of color are expected to be inferior and that this person is an exception. Most political candidates are leaders and public servants who are obviously well-educated, well-spoken, and hardworking.
- Avoid using “non-white”; it normalizes whiteness as a standard
- Characterizing nomination of a BIPOC candidate as an “affirmative action” move





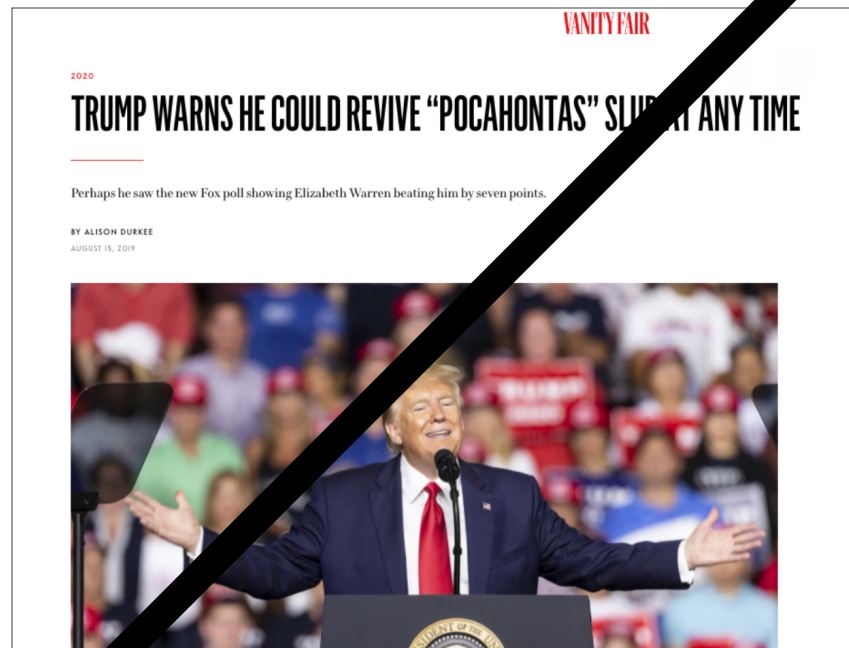
# RACIST STEREOTYPES ABOUT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO QUESTION AND DEBUNK

- Indigenous women often face a Catch-22 of either being erased as a relic of pre-colonial United States or being stereotyped, objectified, and hypersexualized. Be mindful of avoiding these tropes and debunk them whenever possible.
- Remember that Indigenous nations have sovereignty. Refer to Native people by their specific band or tribe.
- Call out uses of racial slurs and stereotypes like “squaw,” “Pocahontas,” “savage,” or “chief.” This includes refusing to normalize racial slurs through sports team names.
- Call out and avoid idioms and phrases that rely on cultural appropriation, like “put a feather in your cap,” references to “your tribe” to refer to a group of non-Indigenous people united by some commonality, or cleansing with sage or having a “spirit animal.”

- Avoid negative stereotypes such as framing Native people as poor, alcoholics, extinct, uneducated, violent, etc.



[Resource – reporting guides compiled by the Native American Journalists Association](#)



# **ABLEIST TERMS AND STEREOTYPES TO QUESTION AND DEBUNK**

# ABLEIST TERMS AND STEREOTYPES TO QUESTION AND DEBUNK

## Disability

- Disability is a spectrum that encompasses a range of experiences and includes visible and non-visible disabilities, such as chronic illness, mental illness, intellectual disabilities, neurodiversity, speech and learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and more.
- Avoid casting people with disabilities as inspirational or placing too much emphasis on “overcoming” a disability.
- Avoid terms that equate terrorism and crime with mental illness, such as calling someone “crazy,” “a maniac,” or “psycho.”
- Avoid covering a story about a person with a disability in a way that treats the person as a villain, a hero, an idiot, or another stereotype.



[Resources for reporting from the National Center on Disability and Journalism](#)

# RESOURCES

- [GLAAD Media Reference Guide](#)
- [National Center on Disability and Journalism Resource Guide](#)
- [Native American Journalist Association Reporting Guide](#)
- [NiemanLab guide to investigating disinformation](#)
- [Media Matters resource on headlines and tweets](#)
- [First Draft - Essential Guide to Responsible Reporting in an Age of Information Disorder](#)
- [The NLGJA Stylebook](#)
- [NABJ Styleguide](#)
- [The National Association of Hispanic Journalists \(NAHJ\)](#)
- [Asian American Journalist Association](#)
- [The Debunking Handbook](#)
- [The Women's Media Center Media Guide to Gender Neutral Coverage of Women Candidates + Politicians](#)

# ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

- #ShePersisted
- #VOTEPROCHOICE
- #WinWithBlackWomen
- A/B Partners
- Advocates for Youth
- AI for the People Inc.
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
- Black Women's Roundtable, NCBCP
- Build A Movement 2022
- Catholics for Choice
- Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
- Daily Kos
- DemCast USA
- Earthseed
- EMILY'S List
- Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
- ERA Coalition
- Free Press
- Friends of the Earth
- Guns Down America
- Higher Heights For America
- Indivisible
- Indivisible Northern Nevada
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Jewish Women International (JWI)
- Lake Oconee Community Church
- Make the Road Nevada
- MediaJustice
- MomsRising
- Muslim Advocates
- NARAL Pro-Choice America
- National Black Justice Coalition
- National Council of Negro Women

# ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Organization for Women
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- National Women's Law Center Action Fund
- New Currents Collective
- NextGen America
- Ohio NOW
- Oregoizers
- Peninsula 360 Press
- People's Parity Project
- Planned Parenthood Action Fund
- Pro-Choice Oregon
- ProgressNow New Mexico
- Reproaction
- Sisters Lead Sisters Vote
- SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
- SumOfUs
- Supermajority
- The League
- The Sparrow Project
- The Womxn Project
- United State of Women
- URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
- Western States Center
- Women Lawyers On Guard Action Network, Inc.
- Women's March