

November 23, 2022

Editors of NBDA

Re: Order dated 21.11.2022 of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in Vijay Nair v. Central Bureau of Investigation & Ors. W.P. (C) 15617/2022

A writ petition titled “*Vijay Nair v. Central Bureau of Investigation & Ors. W.P. (C) 15617/2022*” has been filed before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. NBDSA and NBDA, among others, have been named as Respondents in the said matter. The writ petition seeks *inter alia*, the issuance of a writ of mandamus or any other suitable writ or directions restraining the respondents from leaking and disseminating any information to the print or electronic media relating to court proceedings, including in-camera proceedings in respect of CBI FIR No. RC0032022A0053.

After hearing the submissions of the Petitioner, the Hon'ble High Court has passed the attached Order dated 21.11.2022 (**Attached**), which *inter alia*, states that “*t hopes and trusts that news and broadcasting agencies shall bear in mind the salutary principles on media trial enunciated by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in Nilesch Navalakha vs. Union of India, [2021 SCC OnLine Bom 56] while covering the criminal proceedings in question*”.

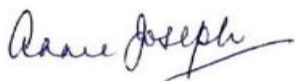
The Court has also directed the News Broadcasters to ensure that all broadcasts carried with respect to ECIR bearing No. ECIR/HIU-II/14/2022 and CBI FIR No RC0032022A0053 are in tune with the official Press Releases that may be issued either by the CBI or by the Enforcement Directorate.

Members are accordingly directed to bear in mind and strictly adhere to the Directions of the Hon'ble Courts along with NBDSA's Advisory dated 06.11.2020 on the issue of “Media Trial, while reporting the criminal proceedings in the matter. (**Attached**).

Further, the reportage would also be monitored at the highest editorial level to ensure compliance.

Kindly circulate the Advisory amongst all concerned, particularly the Editorial, for strict compliance.

Regards,



Annie Joseph
Secretary General

CC: *Members & Legal Heads*

Encl: *As above*

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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 15617/2022, CM APPL. 48624/2022 (Interim
Direction)

VIJAY NAIR

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Rajiv Nayar and Mr. Dayan
Krishnan, Sr. Advs. with Mr.
Mohd. Irshad, Adv.

versus

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Anupam S. Sharma, SPP
with Mr. Prakarsh A., Mr.
Ripudaman Sharma, Mr.
Abhishek Batra, Mr. Anurag
Agarwal and Mr. Harpreet
Kalsi, Advs. for CBI.
Mr. Zoheb Hossain, Mr. Vivek
Gurnani and Mr. Kavish
Garach, Advs. for ED/R-2.
Ms. Nisha Bhambhani and Mr.
Rahul Bhatia, Advs. for R-4.
Mr. Anurag Ahluwalia, CGSC
with Mr. Abhigyan Siddhant,
GP and Mr. Danish Faraz Khan,
Adv. for R-3.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA

ORDER

21.11.2022

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1. This writ petition has been preferred for directions being framed restraining the respondents from leaking and disseminating any information to the print or electronic media relating to court proceedings including in-camera proceedings in respect of CBI FIR No. RC0032022A0053.

2. On the last occasion when the matter had been taken up, the Court had upon going through the alleged offending broadcasts and in

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respect of which a grievance was raised by the petitioner, called upon learned counsels for the Central Bureau of Investigation [“CBI”] as well as the Enforcement Directorate to place for the perusal of the Court all press releases or communications that may have been issued by them.

3. Mr. Hossain, learned counsel representing the Enforcement Directorate, apprises the Court that insofar as the said respondent is concerned, it has not issued any Press Releases pertaining to the aforesaid case. He, on instructions, also states that none of the broadcasts in respect of which objections are raised by the petitioner are based on any information provided or disclosed by the said respondent to the concerned broadcasters.

4. Mr. Sharrma, learned counsel appearing for the CBI, has placed for the perusal of the Court the Press Releases issued by it and dated 19 August 2022, 05 September 2022 and 17 October 2022. A textual examination of those releases in juxtaposition with the broadcasts which have constrained the petitioner to approach this Court would indicate that there is simply no correlation between what was broadcasted and the information which was provided by the investigating agencies in the public domain. Mr. Sharrma takes a stand identical to that adopted by the Enforcement Directorate that no details of the investigative process were divulged by any person of the CBI to the news broadcasters. This is, therefore, not a case where at least at this stage it can be said that information was selectively leaked or provided by the investigating agencies.

5. The Court also bears in mind the various safeguards which have been structured and put in place by the Special Judge before whom the trial itself is pending. The conditions so imposed and which clearly bind and operate upon the investigating agencies are thus sufficient to protect the interest of all concerned parties in the meanwhile.

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6. Be that as it may and bearing in mind the content of the broadcasts which had been carried on various TV channels and in respect of which the instant challenge is raised, let notice issue to respondent Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The petitioner may take steps for service on the said respondents through all permissible modes including via approved courier service.

7. In the meanwhile, the Court directs the respondent No. 4 to duly examine the broadcasts which have been questioned in the instant writ petition and place a report in these proceedings as to whether they would be compliant with the **Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards** as well as the **News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Regulations** as adopted by the **News Broadcasters and Digital Association [NBDA]**.

8. The petitioner may additionally implead the **NBDA** of which respondent Nos. 7 to 9 are members. The oral prayer made in this respect by learned counsel is granted. Let an amended memo of parties be placed on the record within a period of 48 hours from today. The petitioner shall take steps for the newly impleaded respondent through all permissible modes including via approved courier service.

9. The Court notes that the subject of the deleterious impact that irresponsible news broadcasts designed only to sensationalise may have on an ongoing investigation and what is now commonly termed as a “media trial” was elaborately considered by a Division Bench of the Bombay High Court in **Nilesh Navalakha vs. Union of India**, [2021 SCC OnLine Bom 56] where the following pertinent observations came to be made:-

“232. Notwithstanding that freedom of speech is the bulwark of a democratic government and the role of the press/media to discover the truth and to ensure proper functioning of the democratic process is undoubtedly salutary, at the same time, the press/media must remember that its concern for discovery of truth and maintenance of purity in all streams of good governance by opening up channels of free discussion of issues should stop short

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of exceeding the permissible legal and Constitutional means. Since here we are majorly concerned with “*administration of justice*”, any report of the press/media, having the propensity of tilting the balance against fair and impartial “*administration of justice*”, could make a mockery of the justice delivery system rendering ‘truth’ a casualty. The duty of the press/media to have news items printed/telecast based on true and correct version relating to incidents worth reporting accurately and without any distortion/embellishment as well as without taking sides, cannot therefore be overemphasized.

253. Resting on the authorities referred to above and as a sequel to our aforesaid discussion, we hold that any act done or publication made which is presumed by the appropriate court (having power to punish for contempt) to cause prejudice to mankind and affect a fair investigation of crime as well as a fair trial of the accused, being essential steps for “*administration of justice*”, could attract sub-clause (iii) of section 2(c) of the CoC Act depending upon the circumstances and be dealt with in accordance with law.”

10. Proceeding then to recognise the applicability of the CTNV Act and the Rules on broadcasts relating to an ongoing investigation, the Court held as follows:-

“280. In the context of the issue before us, as rightly urged on behalf of the petitioners at the Bar sub-rules (a), (d), (f), (g), (I) and (k) would apply to the telecast which are in the nature of a media trial having adverse consequences on an ongoing criminal investigation. These sub-rules would have omnibus application and would apply to situations of a media trial at all the stages including when the process of criminal law is set into motion on registration of an FIR resulting into arrest and till the trial is complete and to further judicial proceedings before the Court.

284. For the reasons so discussed, we answer the question by recording our firm opinion that the matters which are pending investigation on a criminal complaint clearly fall within the restriction as contained in the Programme Code as stipulated under section 5 of the CTVN Act and Rule 6 of the CTVN Rules.”

11. Turning then to the issues that arise from a media trial, the Court in **Nilesh Navlakha**, the following pertinent observations came to be entered:-

“318. Given the circumstance that the press/media has the ability to mould the opinion of the society by publicity of certain facets of an investigative process, which could give rise to strong public emotions and prejudice the case of one party or the other, it ought to refrain from taking stances in its presentations which are biased and show a predilection for a particular point of view having enormous potential of deflecting the course of justice.

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322. Giving due recognition to the press/media as the fourth pillar of democracy and that it plays a vital role in not only disseminating information to the public but at times in urging the justice delivery system to set right a wrong, there have been several decisions of the Supreme Court expressing hope and trust that the media would cover and report events and incidents accurately and by exercising a degree of restraint so as not to impinge on others rights and even if it does cross the line, the self-regulatory mechanism would spring in to keep the media under check. The sole intention was to ensure that nothing would be done which could be destructive of orderly administration of justice, challenge the supremacy of the rule of law and shake the confidence of the people in the judicial process. Drawing from experience, there is good enough reason to conclude that the hope and trust are belied and the self-regulatory mechanism has failed to deliver in adequate measure in keeping erring media houses under check. It is now time that some corrective action is taken, lest judicial independence remains only on paper and right-thinking people start losing faith in the justice delivery system and doubt the capacity of the Courts to correct what needs to be corrected.

325. Question no. 5 is, thus, answered by observing that regulation of reporting by the media amounting to a ‘media trial’ is necessary but limited to securing the rights of others under Article 21 as well as to preserve and maintain the sanctity of the criminal justice system of the country, to the extent delineated by us while we answer Question D (infra).”

12. Ultimately the Court framed the following operative directions:-

“355. Having given our anxious consideration to all aspects of the matter, we are inclined to the opinion that the press/media ought to avoid/regulate certain reports/discussions/debates/interviews in respect of and/or touching upon any on-going inquiry/investigation into a criminal offence and that only those items are presented for reading/viewing and otherwise perceiving through the senses which are merely informative but in public interest instead of what, according to the media, the public is interested in. No report/discussion/debate/interview should be presented by the press/media which could harm the interests of the accused being investigated or a witness in the case or any such person who may be relevant for any investigation, with a view to satiate the thirst of stealing a march over competitors in the field of reporting. Accordingly, we direct the press/media to exercise restraint and refrain from printing/displaying any news item and/or initiating any discussion/debate/interview of the nature, as indicated hereunder:

- a. In relation to death by suicide, depicting the deceased as one having a weak character or intruding in any manner on the privacy of the deceased;
- b. That causes prejudice to an ongoing inquiry/investigation by:

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- (i) Referring to the character of the accused/victim and creating an atmosphere of prejudice for both;
 - (ii) Holding interviews with the victim, the witnesses and/or any of their family members and displaying it on screen;
 - (iii) Analyzing versions of witnesses, whose evidence could be vital at the stage of trial;
 - (iv) Publishing a confession allegedly made to a police officer by an accused and trying to make the public believe that the same is a piece of evidence which is admissible before a Court and there is no reason for the Court not to act upon it, without letting the public know the nitty-gritty of the Evidence Act, 1872;
 - (v) Printing photographs of an accused and thereby facilitating his identification;
 - (vi) Criticizing the investigative agency based on half-baked information without proper research;
 - (vii) Pronouncing on the merits of the case, including pre-judging the guilt or innocence qua an accused or an individual not yet wanted in a case, as the case may be;
 - (viii) Recreating/reconstructing a crime scene and depicting how the accused committed the crime;
 - (ix) Predicting the proposed/future course of action including steps that ought to be taken in a particular direction to complete the investigation; and
 - (x) Leaking sensitive and confidential information from materials collected by the investigating agency;
- c. Acting in any manner so as to violate the provisions of the Programme Code as prescribed under section 5 of the CTVN Act read with rule 6 of the CTVN Rules and thereby inviting contempt of court; and
- d. Indulging in character assassination of any individual and thereby mar his reputation.”

13. The Court at this stage deems it appropriate to observe that it hopes and trusts that the news and broadcasting agencies shall bear in mind the aforesaid salutary principles which have been duly enunciated and noticed above while covering the criminal proceedings in question.

14. Pending further consideration, the Court directs the respondent No.5 to 9 to ensure that all broadcasts that are carried with respect to ECIR bearing No. ECIR/HIU-II/14/2022 and CBI FIR No.

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RC0032022A0053 are in tune with the official Press Releases that may be issued either by the CBI or the Enforcement Directorate and comply with the directives which govern and are noticed in paragraph 7 of this order.

15. Let the matter be called again on 07.02.2023.

YASHWANT VARMA, J.

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

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November 6, 2020

All Member Broadcasters Including Editors of NBA

Re: Advisory regarding the issue of “Media Trial”

Member Broadcasters including Editors of NBA are aware of the writ petitions filed in the Bombay High Court regarding the media coverage/ reporting of the unfortunate death of Mr. Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR), a well-known film actor of Bollywood. NBA and NBSA were impleaded as respondents in the said writ petitions.

There was extensive coverage in the media on this incident. However, the manner in which some of the broadcasters telecast and reported on the incident resulted in filing of the above writ petitions and complaints being preferred to NBSA alleging that the broadcasters had conducted a **“media trial”** in respect of the above incident and had thereby violated the Programme Code of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (CTN Act) and the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 (CTN Rules, 1994) and also violated the Code of Ethics and Guidelines of the NBSA.

Upon considering the media reportage of the incidents, NBSA is of the view that it be brought to the attention of the member broadcasters and editors that while reporting on investigations being conducted by government authorities / agencies media must not conduct a **“trial”**, which would cause prejudice to the accused, pre-judge the issues and interfere with the administration of justice.

Therefore the **“Specific Guidelines for Reporting Court Proceedings” dated 15.9.2010 (Copy Attached)** is brought to the notice of the member broadcasters, which must be followed by them while reporting such matters, **in particular Guideline No 6, which reads as follows:**


- 6. After registration of a First Information Report (FIR) in respect of any crime, a news channel shall not broadcast any report that may evaluate, assess or otherwise give their own conclusions upon, or in relation to, ongoing investigation or evidence collected or produced before a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum.**

In this respect kindly also take note of the **Clauses 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5 of Guideline No 3 (Law & Order, Crime and violence) in Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage** while reporting on any investigation **(Copy Attached)**.

The broadcasters must strictly adhere to the above guidelines and the reportage should be monitored at the highest editorial level.

NBSA will keep a close watch on the above and non-compliance would lead to *suo motu* action by the NBSA.

Kindly circulate the Advisory amongst all concerned in particular the Editorial for strict compliance.



Annie Joseph
For & on behalf of the
News Broadcasting Standards Authority

Encl: As above

CC: Legal Heads of NBA

News Broadcasters Association

Specific Guidelines for Reporting Court Proceedings

In addition to the Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage dated 10th February 2009, the News Broadcasters Association hereby frames the following guidelines to be called the “Specific Guidelines for Reporting Court Proceedings”

1. A news report in relation to a proceeding pending in a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum shall be neutral and balanced, giving the version of all, or substantially of all, parties to the proceedings.
2. In reporting any Court proceedings, whether in a civil or criminal matter, a news channel shall not identify itself with, or project or promote, the stand of any one contesting party to the dispute.
3. Conjectures and speculation shall be avoided in news reports relating to proceedings pending in a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum.
4. Except where a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum conducts proceedings *in-camera* or expressly directs otherwise, it shall be open to a news channel to report on pending judicial proceedings provided the report so broadcast is an accurate, authentic and correct version of what has transpired in Court ; and is fair and reasonable to the contesting parties.

Provided however, that no news channel shall broadcast anything:

- (i) Which is in the nature of a running commentary or continuing debate (including oral comments made by the Court, Counsel, litigants or witnesses during Court proceedings) which do not form part of the record, when proceedings are pending in the Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum;
- (ii) Which purports to report a journalist’s or the news channel’s own opinion, conjectures, reflections, comments or findings on issues that are *sub judice* or which tend to be judgmental in relation to the subject matter that is pending in a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum;
- (iii) Which is a comment on the personal character, culpability or guilt of the accused or the victim; or
- (iv) Which otherwise interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the course of justice in connection with any civil or criminal proceeding pending in a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum;

- (v) Which may amount to contempt of Court;
5. No news in relation to any proceedings pending or concluded in a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum shall be broadcast unless the reporter and/or editor have adequately ascertained the accuracy, authenticity and correctness of what is reported, preferably from Court records, or at the very least, by being personally present during such proceedings. In addition to the reporter's responsibility, the executive head of the editorial operations of the news channels shall also be accountable for the accuracy, authenticity and correctness of what is broadcast in relation to proceedings pending or concluded in a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum.
 6. After registration of a First Information Report (FIR) in respect of any crime, a news channel shall not broadcast any report that may evaluate, assess or otherwise give their own conclusions upon, or in relation to, ongoing investigation or evidence collected or produced before a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum.
 7. While a news channel may, in public interest, make a fair comment on any judicial act, including any Order or judgment rendered by a Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum, a news channel shall not cast personal aspersions upon, or impute improper motives, personal bias or lack of integrity or ability to a judge or member of a Tribunal or other Authority ; nor shall a news channel report anything that may scandalize a Court or the judiciary as a whole.
 8. News channels shall eschew suggestive guilt by association and shall not name or otherwise identify family members, relatives or associates of an accused or convict, unless such reference is directly relevant to the subject matter of the report.
 9. A news channel shall report upon any proceedings pending in any Court, Tribunal or other judicial forum, in a manner so as to clearly distinguish between "facts" (as then available in the public domain) and the "allegations" being made by parties to such proceedings.

Place : New Delhi

Dated : September 15, 2010

News Broadcasters Association: Specific Guidelines Covering Reportage

In furtherance of the principles of self-regulation as contained in NBA's Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards, the following Guidelines set-out specific standards which are to be adhered to by member-broadcasters.

Fundamental Standards

All reporting must be done keeping in view the following supervening criteria:

- A. All news reporting must be done in “public interest”.
- B. Reporting should not sensationalise or create panic, distress or undue fear among viewers.
- C. ‘Content’ of matter broadcast should not be shown out of ‘context’.
- D. Subjects which promote horror, supernatural, superstition, occultism, exorcism, divination, and the paranormal should be avoided.
- E. Broadcasters should exercise care and objectivity in featuring activities, beliefs, practices, or views of any racial or religious group in their content to prevent any negative impact thereof.
- F. “Reconstruction” of events, when shown, should be clearly so marked, and to be consistent with these Guidelines.
- G. Broadcasters should eschew unhealthy competition that may lead to deterioration of broadcasting standards.

1. Accuracy

- 1.1 Information should be gathered first-hand from more than one source, if possible.
- 1.2 Reports received from news-agencies should be attributed and where possible be verified.
- 1.3 Allegations should be reported accurately as made.
- 1.4 Use of archival material should be clearly labeled “file” and preferably also state date and time of initial broadcast.
- 1.5 Errors of fact should be corrected at the earliest, giving sufficient prominence to the broadcast of the correct version of fact(s).
- 1.6 Facts should be clearly distinguishable from, and not be mixed-up with, opinion, analysis and comment.

2. Impartiality, Neutrality & Fairness

- 2.1 For balanced reportage, broadcasters should remain neutral and ensure that diverse views are covered in their reporting, especially on a controversial subject, without giving undue prominence to any particular view.
- 2.2 In editing content, broadcasters should ensure that there is no distortion of the facts and events being reported or of the views expressed.
- 2.3 Broadcasters should not use information or pictures obtained through misrepresentation or deception. (For Sting Operation guidelines see separate section below)

3. Law & Order, Crime & Violence

- 3.1 Content should not glamorize or sensationalize crime or condone criminal actions, including suicide.
- 3.2 Content should not depict techniques of crime that may tempt imitation, especially with reference to terrorism and suicide.
- 3.3 Reports on crime should not amount to prejudging or pre-deciding a matter that is, or is likely to be, *sub judice*.
- 3.4 No publicity should be given to the accused or witnesses that may interfere in the administration of justice or be prejudicial to a fair trial.
- 3.5 Identities of victims should not be disclosed in cases of sexual crimes and violence on women and children.
- 3.6 The dead must be treated with respect. Close-ups of dead or mutilated bodies should not be shown.
- 3.7 Violence must not be depicted solely for its own sake, or for its gratuitous exploitation or to pander to sadistic or other perverted tastes.
- 3.8 Scenes with excessive violence or suffering such as close-up shots of persons being subject to brutality, torture or being killed and visual depiction of such matter and looping thereof should be avoided.
- 3.9 Broadcasters should not glamorize or in any way promote individuals, groups or organizations that employ or advocate the use of violence or engage in criminal / nefarious activity. Hooliganism, vandalism and all forms of delinquency should not be shown in favorable light.
- 3.10 Live broadcast of sensitive and distressing material without prior scrutiny by senior editorial personnel should be avoided.

4. Good Taste & Decency, Sex & Nudity

- 4.1 In selecting content, broadcasters should abide by current norms and mores of decency and taste, in visuals, language and behaviour, keeping in mind the context in which any visuals, language or behaviour occurs, including the broadcast time, type of content, target audience, use of parental advisories, cautions and content classification.
- 4.2 Content that contains violent or sexual material, crude, offensive, or coarse language or other content likely to disturb or offend even a reasonable adult viewer should be avoided.
- 4.3 Subjects dealing with incest and sexual abuse, especially of children, must be handled with extreme care and sensitivity.
- 4.4 Combination of violence and sexuality designed in a manner that titillates should not be shown.
- 4.5 Coverage of killings, including terrorist attacks, executions and assassinations, should not be explicit or prolonged.

5. Privacy

- 5.1 Broadcasters should exercise discretion and sensitivity when reporting on distressing situations, on grief and bereavement.

- 5.2 Persons should not be featured in content in a manner that denigrates or discriminates against sections of the community on account of race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, occupation, religion, cultural or political beliefs.
- 5.3 Content that would cause unwarranted distress to surviving family members, including by showing archival footage, should be avoided.
- 5.4 No information relating to the location of a person's home or family should be disclosed without permission from the concerned person.
- 5.5 Surreptitious recording of any person or event should only be made without committing any illegality and if editorially justified.
- 5.6 Interviews of the injured, victims or grieving persons should be conducted only with prior consent of the persons or where applicable their guardian.

6. National Security

- 6.1 Broadcasters should not disclose confidential information of operations involving national security.
- 6.2 Broadcasters should use due discretion in reporting on operational methods used by perpetrators of serious offences against the State during the occurrence of the event.
- 6.3 Live interviews with perpetrators should not be aired.
- 6.4 Reporting of events which erodes public confidence in the capacity of national institutions meant to protect them should be avoided during the occurrence of the event.
- 6.5 Broadcasters should not reveal technical details of operations, to prevent information relating to strategies and operations of security agencies becoming known to the perpetrators.

7. Supernatural, Occultism & Paranormal

- 7.1 Subjects promoting horror, supernatural, superstition, occultism, exorcism, divination, and the paranormal, which may be frightening to children should be avoided.
- 7.2 Belief in superstition, occultism, exorcism, divination and the paranormal should not be promoted.

8. Children's Interests

- 8.1 Broadcasters should not screen content that would disturb or alarm children or tend to have a deleterious effect on their psyche during their normally accepted viewing times.
- 8.2 At other times, broadcasters should use appropriate parental advisories, cautions and content classification. Content relating to or containing anti-social behaviour, domestic friction, drug-use, smoking, alcohol-use, graphic violence, menacing or horrifying imagery, sexual material, crude, offensive or coarse language or other content that is likely to disturb, alarm or otherwise affect the psyche of, or cause distress to, children should be avoided.

9. Racial & Religious Harmony

- 9.1 Racial and religious stereotyping should be avoided.
- 9.2 Caution should be exercised in reporting content which denigrates or is likely to offend the sensitivities of any racial or religious group or that may create religious intolerance or disharmony.

10. Sting Operations

- 10.1 Sting operations should only be conducted in “public interest” and when no other means is available to obtain the requisite information, without any illegality or inducement and subject to the legitimate right to privacy.
- 10.2 Broadcasters should resort to sting operations only if editorially justified, for exposing wrong-doing, particularly of the public facets of people in public life.
- 10.3 No sting operation should be conducted except with the concurrence of the person overall in-charge of editorial function; and the Managing Director and/or the Chief Executive Officer of the broadcaster should also be kept fully informed of any sting operation.
- 10.4 Sting operations should be so conducted as to obtain “evidence” of an offence but not to induce “commission” of an offence.

10.2.2009, 6.12.2019