



# Unraveling #fakenews from opinion-making information

A NEWS LITERACY DISCUSSION

7 September 2017 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Conference Room 6, UNHQ New York



**UNAOC**  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

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## A NEWS LITERACY DISCUSSION

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This panel discussion is the second installment of a series of panels organized by UNAOC at UNHQ on topics relevant to Media and Information Literacy. Following February's discussion "Media and Information Literacy: Educational Strategies for the Prevention of Violent Extremism", this panel will focus on the "fake news in social media" phenomena from the perspective of News Literacy.

News Literacy is defined as the development of critical thinking skills applied to judge the reliability and credibility of information, whether it comes via print, radio, television or the Internet. The term News Literacy is generally associated with schools of communication and journalism rather than pedagogical schools. Some view it as a sub-sector of the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) field; others as a distinct and unique entity.

UNAOC recognizes the urgency of developing and expanding News Literacy skills in the current political and social state of the world. The onset of so-called "fake news", widely distributed through social media platforms, has the capacity to twist public opinion and shape individuals' ideological preferences and visions of the world.

News Literacy is an acutely important skill in the Digital Age as citizens struggle with information overload and the intricacies of determining its authenticity. A citizens' ability to judge the relevance and reliability of information is a leading indicator of the public health of civil society around the world.

### AGENDA

#### 11:00-11:20 am Opening Remarks

**Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

✉@UNAOC

High Representative for the  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

**Maher Nasser**

✉@MaherNasserUN

Director, Outreach Division, United Nations  
Department of Public Information

#### 11:20-11:40 pm Keynote speaker

**Howard Schneider** ✉@NewsLiteracy

Executive Director, Center for News Literacy, Stony Brook University

#### 11:40-12:30 pm Panel Discussion

**Alan Miller**

✉@alancmiller0926 ✉@TheNewsLP

Founder and CEO, News Literacy Project

**Mitra Kalita**

✉@mitrakalita

Vice President of Programming, CNN Digital

**Áine Kerr**

✉@AineKerr

Manager, Journalism Partnerships,  
Facebook

**Dina Temple-Raston**

✉@NPRDina

Counterterrorism Correspondent,  
National Public Radio (NPR)

**Michelle Ciulla Lipkin**

✉@ciullalipkin ✉@MediaLiteracyEd

Executive Director, National Association  
for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE)

**Moderator: Jordi Torrent**

✉@nycjordi ✉@UNAOC

Project Manager, Media Literacy Initiatives,  
UNAOC

#### 12:30-1:00 pm Q & A

## SPEAKERS



**Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**  
*High Representative for the  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations*

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser assumed his position as the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations on 1 March 2013. Throughout his career, he has contributed to advancing the multilateral agenda in the realms of peace and security, sustainable development and South-South cooperation. Prior to that, Mr. Al Nasser held the position of President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly from 2011 to 2012. His career as a diplomat spans for more than three decades. Since 1998, he has represented Qatar in the United Nations and has worked on core issues such as security, terrorism, poverty, hunger and natural disasters. Mr. Al-Nasser has received numerous awards and honorary doctorates from various countries and universities for his work on fostering cross-cultural understanding.



**Howard Schneider (Keynote Speaker)**  
*Executive Director, Center for News Literacy,  
Stony Brook University*

Howard Schneider is the Dean of The School of Journalism at Stony Brook University. In 2007, he helped develop the first undergraduate News Literacy course in the US. Since then it has spread to dozens of other universities around the globe including Vietnam, Russia, Poland, India, Australia, Israel and China (Hong Kong). Prior to his post at Stony Brook, Schneider was a reporter and editor at Newsday for more than 35 years. Under his tenure as managing editor and editor, the newspaper won seven Pulitzer Prizes. Schneider has served on the Pulitzer selection committee three times. In 2012, he was awarded the DeWitt Carter Reddick Award for outstanding achievement in professional communication by the University of Texas.



**Michelle Ciulla-Lipkin**  
*Executive Director, National Association  
for Media Literacy Education (NAME)*

As Executive Director of NAME, Ciulla-Lipkin has helped the organization grow to be the preeminent media literacy education association in the U.S. She launched the first ever Media Literacy Week in the U.S. in 2015, developed strategic partnerships with media companies such as Trend Micro, Participant Media, Nickelodeon, and Twitter, and restructured both the governance and membership of the organization. She has also overseen three national conferences and done countless appearances at conferences and in the media regarding the importance of media literacy education. Ciulla-Lipkin is an adjunct lecturer at Brooklyn College where she teaches in the Department of TV/Radio. She began her career in children's television production, in various roles on both corporate and production teams.



**Alan Miller**  
*Founder and CEO,  
News Literacy Project*

Before founding the News Literacy Project in 2008, Miller was a reporter with the Los Angeles Times for 21 years. He spent nearly 19 years in the paper's Washington bureau, the last 14 as a charter member of its high-profile investigative team. Miller's work prompted investigations by the Justice Department, Congress and inspector generals in federal agencies. He received more than a dozen national reporting honors, including the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Medal for breaking the 1996 Democratic National Committee campaign finance scandal. His series on the Marine Corps Harrier attack jet won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting.



**Jordi Torrent (Moderator)**  
*Project Manager, Media Literacy Initiatives,  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations*

Jordi studied Philosophy at the University of Barcelona and followed graduate studies on Anthropology and Cinema at the Sorbonne University, Paris. He was Media Educator Consultant for the Department of Education of New York City from 1990 to 2007, where he developed Media Literacy Education programs for students, educators and parents. In 2004 he co-founded "Overseas Conversations", an annual series of international conferences in New York focusing on youth, media and education. He has co-edited, among other publications, "Mapping Media Education Policies in the World", "Youth Media Visions: Conversations Across Cultures" and "New Opportunities for Media and Information Literacy in the MENA Region." Since 2007, Mr. Torrent is Project Manager of Media and Information Literacy initiatives at UNAOC.



**Maher Nasser**  
*Director, Outreach Division, United Nations  
Department of Public Information*

Mr. Nasser leads the UN Department of Public Information, which has offices in 60 locations worldwide and is responsible for promoting global awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations. A veteran of the UN System, Mr. Nasser has worked for over 29 years in various positions in Gaza, Jerusalem, Cairo, Vienna and New York, mainly in the field of communications, advocacy and public information. He served in the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He joined the DPI in 2006 as Director of the UN Information Centre in Cairo and then served as Director of the UN Information Service in Vienna from 2008 to 2011, before becoming Acting Head of DPI until 2015.



**Mitra Kalita**  
*Vice President of Programming, CNN Digital*

S. Mitra Kalita is the vice president of programming for CNN Digital and oversees the News & Alerting, Special Projects, and Mobile & Off-Platform teams. She was previously managing editor for digital strategy at the Los Angeles Times. Kalita is renowned for setting a fast pace for newsroom innovation, establishing herself early on at the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Newsday and the Associated Press, and then as executive editor-at-large and ideas editor at Quartz. She was a founding editor of Mint, a business paper in New Delhi and has written three books related to migration and globalization. A former journalism professor at St. John's, UMass-Amherst, and Columbia University, she has also served as president of the South Asian Journalists Association.



**Áine Kerr**  
*Manager, Journalism Partnerships, Facebook*

Kerr leads global journalism partnerships at Facebook, overseeing a team that builds products, tools and services for journalists and that works to improve news literacy for news consumers. She helped to create the Facebook Journalism Project launched in January 2016 and sits on the Executive Committee of the News Integrity Initiative. Previously, she spent five years at Storyful, where she served as head of content and political editor before being appointed managing editor in December 2011. Prior to that, Kerr spent over seven years working as a political correspondent and news reporter with The Irish Times, The Irish Independent and The Irish Examiner. Kerr is advisor to the Institute for Future of Media and Journalism (FwJo), as well as the co-founder of Online News Association (ONA) Ireland.



**Dina Temple-Raston**  
*Counterterrorism Correspondent,  
National Public Radio (NPR)*

Temple-Raston has been reporting from all over the world for NPR's news magazines since 2007. She recently completed a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University where she studied the intersection of Big Data and intelligence. Prior to NPR, Temple-Raston was a long-time foreign correspondent for Bloomberg News in Asia and served as Bloomberg's White House correspondent during the Clinton Administration. She has written four books and is a regular reviewer of national security books for the Washington Post Book World. She is a frequent contributor to PBS Newshour, the New Yorker, and the Times Literary Supplement, among others. She is currently working on a podcast that looks at the way adolescents make life-defining decisions and how their developing brains may play a role in their choices.

For further information on initiatives as well as access to publications and resources relevant to Media and Information Literacy, please visit the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) website:

[www.unaoc.org/media-information-literacy](http://www.unaoc.org/media-information-literacy)



*The **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** is a political initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General. Established in 2005, UNAOC is co-sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Turkey. On March 1st, 2013 Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser assumed the leadership of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as High Representative. Prior to his current position, Mr. Al-Nasser was the President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.*

The Alliance benefits from the political support of the Group of Friends, a community of countries and international organizations, which actively promotes the objectives and work of the Alliance at the global, regional and local levels. The Group is a driving force of UNAOC and plays a vital role in the Alliance's strategic planning and implementation process. Through a broad dialogue-based and consensus-building approach, the UNAOC High Representative seeks the input, advice and support of the Group of Friends' members on all key aspects of the Alliance's activities and mandate. UNAOC Group of Friends currently includes 145 Members of which are 119 UN Member States and 26 international organizations. They represent all continents, societies and cultures.

A High-Level Group of experts was formed by the UN Secretary-General to explore the roots of polarization between societies and cultures and to recommend a practical programme of action to address this issue.

In its 2006 report, the High-Level Group identified four priority areas for action namely, Education, Youth, Migration, and Media. UNAOC project activities are fashioned around these four areas, which play a critical role in helping to reduce cross-cultural tensions and to build bridges between communities.

The UNAOC High Representative and Secretariat are based and operating from New York. The Alliance maintains a global network of partners including states, international and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector to improve cross-cultural relations between diverse nations and communities.

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General, has described UNAOC as a soft power tool for bridging divides and promoting understanding between countries or identity groups, all with a view toward preventing conflict and promoting social cohesion.

## UNAOC's Media and Information Literacy Programme

The **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' High Level-Group Report** recognizes that "The constant exposure of populations to media presents an educational challenge, which has increased in the electronic and digital age. Evaluating information sources requires skills and critical thinking and is an educational responsibility the importance of which is often underestimated. Separating fact from opinion, evaluating text and image for bias, and constructing and deconstructing a text based on principles of logic are teachable skills. Media literacy instruction is not widely recognized for its importance as an aspect of civic and peace education and therefore few instructional programs have been developed as part of basic modern education." The Report recommends that "Media literacy programs should be implemented in schools, particularly at the secondary level, to help develop a discerning and critical approach to news coverage by media consumers and to promote media awareness and development of Internet literacy to combat misperceptions, prejudices and hate speech."

To that end, UNAOC has developed a wide range of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) initiatives:

### MIL Clearinghouse

Media Literacy clearinghouse, a web-based multi-lingual platform for the dissemination of MIL resources and information developed in partnership with UNESCO.  
<http://milunesco.unaoc.org/>

### MIL Curriculum for Teachers

MIL Curriculum for Teachers is the interactive version of UNESCO's Media and Information Literacy curriculum.  
<http://unesco.mil-for-teachers.unaoc.org/>

### PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival

PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival focuses on the themes of migration, diversity and social inclusion, developed in partnership with IOM.  
<http://pluralplus.unaoc.org/>

### PEACEapp

PEACEapp is a series of projects using ICT, gamified apps, and videogaming for intercultural dialogue.  
[unaoc.org/what-we-do/projects/peaceapp/](http://unaoc.org/what-we-do/projects/peaceapp/)