

# A Guide to Fake News

## What is Fake News ?



Fake news can be defined as news stories that are false. The story itself is fabricated, with no verifiable facts, sources or quotes.

## What are the consequences of Fake News ?



Information shapes our world view and we make important decisions based on information. We form an idea about people or a situation by obtaining information. So if the information we see is invented, false, exaggerated or distorted, we won't make good decisions.



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“Fake news” is not simply false news stories. Some stories contain an element of truth but lack any contextualizing details. They may not include any verifiable facts or sources. Some stories may include basic verifiable facts, but are written using language that is deliberately inflammatory, leaves out pertinent details or only presents one viewpoint. We can categorize “Fake news” as:

## **Misinformation**

Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is mistakenly or inadvertently created or spread; the intent is not to deceive.

## **Disinformation**

Disinformation is false information that is deliberately created and spread in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.



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## How can you identify trustworthy news sources ?

Obtain your information from reputable broadcasters or newspapers where information is verified by journalists before being published. Avoid getting your news from social media or unverified websites as these are generally uploaded by individuals. Be on the lookout!

## How you can help

Before you post or share anything on social media, check whether the news source is true. Fake news spreads so rapidly and that is mainly due to people not checking whether the news they are posting or sharing is in fact true.

**So do your bit. Check before you share !**

