

Clause 12 (Discrimination) Analysis 1 April to 31 June 2021

IPSO will publish information on a quarterly basis where we have received more than ten complaints under Clause 12 of the Editors' Code of Practice about the same issue. The information below gives a brief summary of the types of complaints received and the outcome. It is not intended to be exhaustive and the statistics about the numbers of complaints received are accurate up to the end of the relevant quarter. These statistics do not include any cases still under investigation; cases relating to any non-regulated publications; or cases where IPSO received fewer than 10 complaints.

Headline	Publications	Characteristics/group	Analysis
Over 100 complaints received			
Forced to mourn alone, the Queen bids Philip goodbye	The Sunday Times	East and South-East Asian people	Front page article about the funeral of Prince Philip. The article reported a derogatory comment he had made in the past during a visit to China. The article implied that the public "secretly enjoyed" these comments. Complainants disputed this and believed that it was offensive and that the report normalised racism, particularly towards East and South-East Asian people. The newspaper issued an apology the following day. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
It's time we stopped pandering to travellers	The Times	Gypsies and Travellers	Comment piece published in print and online which was critical of Travellers. The columnist suggested "phasing out the 'ethnic minority' rights" of this group. Complainants believed that the article was racist towards Gypsies and Travellers and targeted a vulnerable community. No complaint of discrimination against an individual. Complaints made under Clause 1 (Accuracy), Clause 3 (Harassment) and Clause 12 (Discrimination) were not upheld.
Between 10 and 100 complaints received			
"God on Earth" cult leader accused of raping devotees	The Times	Worshippers at the Baba Balak Nath temple / Hindus	Print and online article about a High Court case in which a man described as a cult leader has been accused of raping four women. Complaints were from members of his temple who dispute the allegations. Complainants believed that the article was false and would lead to racial hatred against members of the temple who continue to attend. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.

Headline	Publications	Characteristics/group	Analysis
Between 10 and 100 complaints received (cont.)			
Cult leader who practised obscure branch of Hinduism and claimed to be 'an incarnation of God' is accused of raping four female devotees	Mail Online	Worshippers at the Baba Balak Nath temple / Hindus	Front page article about the funeral of Prince Philip. The article reported a derogatory comment he had made in the past during a visit to China. The article implied that the public "secretly enjoyed" these comments. Complainants disputed this and believed that it was offensive and that the report normalised racism, particularly towards East and South-East Asian people. The newspaper issued an apology the following day. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
CULT GURU 'RAPED' 4 OF HIS DEVOTEES	Daily Mirror	Worshippers at the Baba Balak Nath temple / Hindus	Print and online article about a High Court case in which a man described as a cult leader has been accused of raping four women. Complaints were from members of his temple who dispute the allegations. Complainants believed that the article was false and would lead to racial hatred against members of the temple who continue to attend. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
Mob members who caused havoc in Glasgow's George Square (again!) aren't true Rangers fans	Edinburgh Evening News	Rangers fans and Protestants	Online article which criticised the behaviour of some Rangers fans and claimed that the football club has allowed poor behaviour for decades. Complainants believed that the article insinuated that the club's board and all supporters of Rangers were bigoted and anti-Catholic. Complainants also felt that the article was racist, discriminatory and filled with hate speech. The article has now been deleted from the newspaper's website.
NOW VACCINE REFUSENIKS THREATEN FREEDOM / END OF MASKS AND 1M RULE IN PERIL	Daily Mail	People who have not been vaccinated against Covid-19 / Jewish people	Front page article. Some complainants objected to the term "refuseniks" which they considered anti-Semitic as it originally applied to Jews who were denied permission to emigrate to Israel by the Soviet Union. Other complainants believed that the article discriminated against those who had not been vaccinated against Covid-19 and that it would create division in society between vaccinated and non-vaccinated people. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
Transgender people do change their sex – it is discriminatory to say otherwise	metro.co.uk	Gender critical people	Online opinion piece about a recent ruling by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). Complainants believed that the article discriminated against gender-critical women and objected to the use of the term TERF (trans exclusionary radical feminist) by the writer, claiming that it was used in a derogatory manner to silence women. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.
British towns that are no-go areas for white people: Muslim author's study of mosques reveals children 'attacked for being white', parents making families live under Taliban-like rules and women who can't leave home without permission	Mail Online	Muslims	Online article based on a new book, about Britain's mosques and Muslim communities. The article describes how some white people admitted there were areas where they felt that they would be physically attacked. Complainants believed that the article targeted Muslims as a community to be feared and would incite violence and racial tensions between white and Asian people. No complaint of discrimination against an individual.