

Thursday, 31 March 2016

Communications and Knowledge Management

TEN THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN REPORTING SUICIDE

1. Leave out technical details about the method of suicide, such as describing the type of firearm used or the number and type of pills taken, and mention never suggest that a method is quick, easy, painless or a means to avoid death.
2. Language matters. Avoid dramatic headlines and terms such as 'suicide epidemic' or 'suicide pact'.
3. Include references to support groups and professional help. People can find help in many ways other than professional help. See [Samaritans 116 123](#).
4. Treat suicidal people with particular caution and which focus reporting on individuals or networks that promote or glorify suicide.
5. Avoid all events or social media pictures or video taken from including content from suicide cases.
6. Young people are especially vulnerable to negative media coverage. Do not give undue prominence to photographs of a young person who has died and avoid repeated use of images such as glitchee.
7. To not to give a story undue prominence, for example with front cover choice.
8. Don't focus on the suicide method if suicide and its impact on those left behind. Remember that people bereaved by suicide are often vulnerable and are more likely to seek out news than from the general population.
9. Speculation about the 'trigger' for a suicide, even if presented by a news body, should be avoided.
10. Use specialist media contacts. Check with Samaritans, IAS or the relevant national mental health agency to make sure you have the most recent data and are complying with the law.

Contact Samaritans' press office for advice on reporting:
+44 (0)20 8394 8300
See also [www.samaritans.org.uk](#)
[press@samaritans.org](#)
[www.ias.org.uk/mediaguidelines](#)
[#samaritans](#) [#reportingsuicide](#)



A guidance poster for newsrooms which includes ten things to remember when reporting suicide. The poster is taken from Samaritans and Irish Association of Suicidology's Media Guidelines for Reporting Suicide.

Details

Format

A3 poster

Target group

Journalists, editors, sub-editors

Downloads

Attachment

[PHA A3 Poster Ten Things to Remember March 2016_1.pdf](#)

Size

246.39 KB

Tags

- [reporting on suicide](#)
- [Samaritans](#)
- [ten things](#)

[Print](#)