



香港記者協會

HONG KONG JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

Report on a complaint against The Standard

The Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) received an email from Prof Julian M. Groves of HKUST on 6th December 2017 about a number of news stories that The Standard had not treated properly. He had attached a supporting document together with a list of news articles between March 30 to November 2, 2017 of which no less than 13 had been published by The Standard which associated Jewish people with different types of criminality including sexual harassment, fraud and plagiarism by identifying the Jewishness of the accused. The complainant found that the religion and ethnicity had nothing to do with the stories in question. He further pointed out that article 10 of the HKJA's code of ethics states that "a journalist shall not originate material which encourages discrimination on grounds of race, colour, creed, gender or sexual orientation" and obviously The Standard had violated this code of ethics.

The HKJA sent a letter to The Standard and asked for its response. In reply The Standard said that all the instances of complaints were drawn from the Breaking News section of the paper's website. None of them appeared in the print version of the newspaper. It seems the Editor of Hong Kong Standard was aware of the seriousness of the allegations. The editor had spoken to staff member involved to ensure there would be no more such instances in future. He also said they had received complaints from other parties and had taken steps to remove the contentious content from their website.

After carefully considering the findings, the Ethics Committee of HKJA concluded that the complaint is substantiated. Journalists are reminded again that it is their duty to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.

Ethics Committee

Hong Kong Journalists Association

28th April 2018