

Information for Contributors to the International Safe Spaces Feature Series

Thank you for your interest in contributing to this article series for the Norwegian newspaper *Minerva*. Please read the following information carefully in order to familiarise yourself with Norwegian journalism standards, *Minerva* as a news outlet, and what we are looking for from contributors to this series.

What we are looking for

The series explores the rise of movements associated with the idea of safe spaces, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, feminism and/or different approaches to expressing religious tolerance. We are interested in feature articles about local variations of these movements, which have gained increased attention since the global Black Lives Matter protests erupted in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in the US.

We are interested both in the origins of these movements at a local and regional level, criticisms levelled against them from a liberal and free speech-perspective, and responses to these criticisms.

Contributors are invited to produce feature-articles focusing on:

- why these concepts are influential in the country/region;
- what ideas are the main ideas of these movements, what are their sources (ie. colonial pasts, strict religious controls, feminist grievances) and who are the drivers behind the movement in the country/region;
- if and to what extent ideas and events in the US have influenced the movement;
- what are criticisms against the movement, and who is criticising;
- how have authorities, locally and regionally dealt with the issue.

While stories should be critical, it is essential that they are impartial, balanced, factual and nuanced. We are looking for long-form feature journalism that paints a picture of how these movements play out at local levels. Articles should include interviews with people who are personally affected and willing to share their experiences, activists and/or experts who are deeply involved in issues.

IMPORTANT: *Minerva* is a Norwegian language publication. All articles will be translated to Norwegian for publication.

Articles should be between 1.500 and 4.000 words.

What we are NOT looking for

We are not looking for reports, lists of facts or academic essays and articles. Nor will we include articles reported solely via secondary sources, such as other news articles and reports. We may consider reported pieces from a personal angle or opinion-pieces if they offer unique and in-depth insights that are otherwise difficult to obtain.

Journalistic standards

We adhere to the core ethical principles of Norwegian journalism. These are formulated in the [Ethical Code of Practice for the Press](#) (Vær Varsom-plakaten) and [Ethical Codes for the Editor](#) (Redaktørplakaten), adopted by the Norwegian Press Association.

Importantly, all articles must:

- be factually accurate;
- use quotes that reflect what the source intended and meant with the statement;
- be balanced;
- and use neutral descriptions and language where quotes are not used, or where it is not clear that it is the personal views of the author that are being expressed.

IMPORTANT: Norwegian journalistic practice deviates from the common standards of English-language journalism in one key way in particular: **quotes do not have to be written word-by-word**. This means that minor alterations may be made to the quote, as long as it accurately, and in good faith, still represents the intentions of the source. Permitted changes include removing superfluous words, correcting mispronunciations and making moderate structural changes that improve the flow of the text. If you have any questions, please contact us and we can discuss this further.

Key principles of feature writing

The articles should follow the standard of narrative feature writing. It should tell a story intended to be read from the beginning to the end. It should include an interesting title and introduction that draws the reader in, a logical narrative structure, and some concluding paragraphs that wraps up the story. Avoid making the narrative overly complicated. A good story is clear, focused and intentional.

Sources, quotes and facts should be used with moderation. Avoid unnecessary information not directly related to the story. Sources should be introduced in a way that makes it clear to the reader who they are and why their opinions are interesting. At a minimum, articles should use

two interviewed sources, and in general no more than five. The reader should not need specialised knowledge to understand the content of the story.

About *Minerva* – www.minervanett.no

Minerva is an independent liberal publication whose focus is analytical stories about political and cultural affairs in Norway and the rest of the world. The online newspaper is updated daily, while a printed magazine is issued quarterly. *Minerva* is Norway's oldest magazine of its kind, and was founded in 1924.

About the editors

Vilde Skorpen Wikan is a journalist with the Norwegian news agency NTB and freelance journalist and editor. She is based in Oslo, Norway. Eva-Kristin Pedersen is a freelance journalist and editor based in Rome, Italy. This is the second article series they jointly commission as freelance editors. The previous series was about how to Covid-19 pandemic is being experienced around the world, which was published in norwegian Transit magasin.