

Common Ground News Service Guide for Writers

The Common Ground News Service (CGNews) is an independent news source that disseminates fresh, solution-oriented articles to promote constructive perspectives and encourage dialogue. To date, more than 18,000 CGNews articles have been published by over 1,600 print and online media outlets.

CGNews appears in two editions:

CGNews – Partners in Humanity distributes timely, high-quality articles that promote a shift to constructive thinking about how to address Muslim-Western relations. We aim to bring about a paradigm shift in the thinking of readers of mainstream media by promoting thoughtful analysis of Muslim-Western issues.

CGNews – Middle East distributes timely, high-quality articles that promote a shift to solution-oriented thinking about how to address the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our purpose is to contribute to a Middle East where Arabs and Israelis solve problems constructively and non-violently by offering a diversity of voices.

The Common Ground News Service publishes articles that:

- Provide constructive, solution-oriented perspectives
- Promote dialogue, mutual understanding, empathy and cooperation
- Encourage peaceful and non-violent means to resolve conflict and ease tension
- Express constructive self-criticism
- Highlight positive experiences between communities and nations that humanise the other and offer hope
- Dispel myths and negative stereotypes
- Highlight organizations and people working for a better regional environment
- Build trust and mutual respect
- Present information and analyses in ways that encourage rational and positive thinking
- Model a form of journalism that is constructive, not antagonistic

Style & format guidelines for writing a CGNews article:

- **Have a point:** Have one major point. Make it strong and clear
- **Make it quick:** Make your point in the first or second paragraph
- **Back it up:** Use the rest of the article to make the case for your point, giving evidence, reasons, details, illustrations, anecdotes, quotes and facts
- **Be clear:** Good writing is clear thinking made visible
- **Be fair:** Even though op-eds are opinions, they should still strive for fairness. Try to give a reasonable explanation for the other point of view or allow for different interpretations
- **Be accurate:** Check all of your facts
- **Be original:** Present original thoughts and insights
- **Write in a journalistic, not an academic, style:** Use short paragraphs and common, conversational language
- **Keep it short:** Stay under 700 words

If your article is selected for publication in *CGNews*, anyone is free to reprint the article as long as they attribute the article to both the author and to *CGNews*.

The author is expected to show intellectual honesty (i.e. no plagiarism) and accuracy (i.e. fact-checking) and to identify all information taken from other sources.

Language: *CGNews-Partners in Humanity* has the capacity to review articles in Arabic, English, French, Indonesian and Urdu. *CGNews-Middle East* welcomes articles in Arabic, English and Hebrew.

Submission Process: Anyone with an interest in Muslim-Western relations or the Arab-Israeli conflict is invited to submit articles through our website www.commongroundnews.org, or via email to cgnews@sfcg.org.

Please indicate clearly whether or not the article has been published elsewhere, or if it is an original submission.

CGNews Authors: Regular contributors include journalists, academics, religious leaders, writers, policy-makers, civil society practitioners, dialogue and reconciliation activists, economists, artists and musicians, among others.

About SFCG

Founded in 1982, Search for Common Ground (www.sfcg.org) works to transform the way the world deals with conflict – away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative problem solving. We work with local partners to find culturally appropriate means to strengthen societies' capacity to deal with conflicts constructively: to understand the differences and act on the commonalities.



Abidjan Abuja Beirut Bujumbura Bukavu Conakry Freetown Jakarta Jerusalem
Kathmandu Kiev Kigali Kinshasa Luanda Monrovia Rabat Skopje