

## **Ethical dilemmas**

You are journalists living and working on the fictional island of Paloo in the Atlantic. Read the following scenarios and decide what you would do.

### **1. Police**

You receive a tip off from a trustworthy source that a police officer was dismissed four years ago for stopping teenage boys driving cars, threatening to fine them for driving without the proper papers, but letting them go in exchange for sex. You track down the boys who agree to talk to you provided you don't reveal their identities. One of them is a drug-user who keeps asking you for money. You also track down the police officer who confesses to you on tape, but threatens to kill himself if you run the story. WHAT DO YOU DO?

### **2. Documents**

You are a reporter on a national newspaper. You have been running a series of stories based on documents provided by a source in Paloo's Foreign Ministry (FM) whom you trust. Most of the stories have been embarrassing for foreign governments, most recently Germany. A representative of the Germany Embassy contacts you and provides an official document that proves that your latest story cannot be true. He tells you that your source in the Foreign Ministry has been fabricating the documents that you have based your stories on, and they are all likely to be false. WHAT DO YOU DO?

### **3. Oil**

You are an investigative reporter on Paloo's biggest radio station. Paloo Air is the only airline allowed to fly into Paloo and is owned by the Government. You receive anonymously in the post a copy of a Paloo Air investigation report about a mechanical problem that affects the safety of all of its aircraft. The report is in very technical language but a handwritten note with the report says that Paloo Air is trying to keep the problem quiet because fixing it would mean grounding all of the planes for two months, which would seriously affect the island's tourism industry and economy. The note says: "Please expose this cover-up". HOW DO YOU HANDLE THE STORY?

### **4. Football**

You are a photographer on a small Paloo newspaper. Football is the national sport of Paloo and you cover all of the island's large games. Paloo's biggest manufacturer of football kit is your paper's largest advertiser, and the head of the company calls you and asks you not to take any more photographs which show any equipment made by his rivals. He promises you a week-long luxury holiday near Agadir if you can do this, and threatens to withdraw his advertising if you do not. WHAT DO YOU SAY AND DO?

### **5. Riot**

You are a TV reporter on Paloo's largest TV channel. There has been a riot in a prison where children and teenagers are detained. The authorities are not letting reporters anywhere near the prison and not releasing any information about the situation, but say the situation is 'under control'. Five minutes before your main evening news

programme, a teenager calls you from a mobile phone and says he is inside the prison. He says the guards have all been forced out of the prison and the teenagers and children are now in control. He is willing to do an interview now, on air, and says he can also get you and a camera inside the prison to reveal what is really going on. WHAT DO YOU DO?

### **6. Film star**

You go to interview Paloo's most famous film star. Whenever your newspaper publishes a front-page story about her, sales double high and your editor has told you to get all the details you can of the next film she is starring in. She gives you a great interview and tells you that you are her favourite journalist, but won't tell you anything about her next film. She says her contracts forbids her from saying telling you anything about it. But when she steps out of the room for a minute, you see a copy of the script for her new film lying on the table. WHAT DO YOU DO?