

Press Release First Draft, embargoed until Tues, 13th September 2016 - 8am ET

First Draft's new partner network unites Google, Facebook and Twitter with more than twenty global news organizations to improve practices in reporting and sharing information that emerges online

First Draft, a coalition set up to provide social newsgathering and verification guidance for journalists, is expanding with the launch of a new partner network including major news and technology organizations.

This partner network is the first of its kind to bring the biggest social platforms together with global newsrooms and other relevant industry projects and associations. Facebook and Twitter join the network alongside Google News Lab which is a founding member of the First Draft Coalition. Each partner is committed to sharing knowledge, developing policies and devising training in how journalists use the social web to find and report news. Additional partners who have joined the network include: **The New York Times, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, CNN, ABC News (Australia), AJ+, ProPublica, Agence France-Presse, Channel 4 News, The Telegraph, France Info, Breaking News, Les Décodeurs, International Business Times UK, Eurovision News Exchange, SAM, Aljazeera Media Network, Reveal project, InVID project, Euronews, Sourcefabric, WITNESS, Amnesty International, European Journalism Centre, American Press Institute, International Fact Checking Network at Poynter, Duke Reporters' Lab.**

Google, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Periscope are central to how news is now discovered, reported and distributed. The partner network will create a feedback loop for representatives from each social media platform to connect with journalists and develop ideas for ways to streamline the verification process, improve the experience of eyewitnesses and increase news literacy amongst social media users.

Current partners have been invited based on their capacity to actively contribute to relevant initiatives and their existing dedication to improving practices in the ethical sourcing, verification and reporting of stories that emerge online. The network is open to all news and technology organisations who share an interest in these common issues and First Draft will seek to continually recruit partners who are keen to promote recommendations and best practice principles within their own workplace. First Draft Managing Director, Jenni Sargent said: *"First Draft already works so closely with both news organizations and social platforms that we feel uniquely positioned to coordinate efforts and facilitate real progress in tackling some of the key challenges facing journalists and their audiences."*

The First Draft Coalition was formed in June 2015 of nine different organizations and projects, each working to raise awareness and standards around the use of newsworthy information and eyewitness media sourced from the social web. Its website, [First Draft News](http://FirstDraftNews.com), offers training resources, case studies and regular blog posts authored by founding coalition members, including Bellingcat, Dig Deeper Media, Emergent, Storyful, Reportedly, Meedan, Verification Junkie and Eyewitness Media Hub, with support from Google News Lab.

Partner Network initiatives planned by First Draft in the coming months include a train the trainer programme, the launch of a collaborative verification platform, and the creation of a voluntary code of verification practice. Each partner is also invited to suggest and sponsor specific projects, either financially or in-kind.

For more information, contact Jenni Sargent on +44 7411 655443 / jenni@firstdraftnews.com

To learn more about the network and to sign up as a partner organisation, visit firstdraftnews.com/partner-network.

*****LAUNCH EVENT*****

To celebrate the launch of the partner network, First Draft is inviting partners and press to drinks and a 'News Review' quiz on Wednesday 14th September at 8pm in the Peaks Lounge at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Denver. Please RSVP to jenni@firstdraftnews.com if you would like to attend.

Links:

<https://firstdraftnews.com/>

<https://newslab.withgoogle.com/>

<https://storyful.com/>

<https://reported.ly/>

<https://meedan.com/en/>

<http://eyewitnessmediahub.com/>

<http://digdeepermedia.com/>

<http://bellingcat.org/>

<http://verificationjunkie.com/>