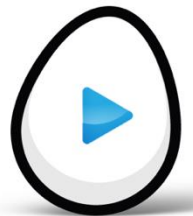


Fake News and Misinformation - Helping Young People Check the Facts

28 April 2025

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Fake News and Misinformation - Helping Young People Check the Facts

Moderator

Lewis James

Editor, BBC Newsround

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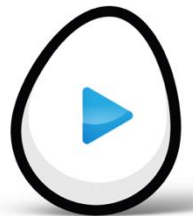


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Fake News and Misinformation - Helping Young People Check the Facts

- **Nicky Cox MBE** Editor in Chief, First News and Sky News FYI
- **Savannah Hanson** Youth Engagement Officer, Connect Futures
- **Margaret Holborn** Head of Secondary and Higher education, The Guardian Foundation
- **Jeriah Kibusi** Presenter FYI News, Sky Kids
- **Charles Kriel** AI strategist and government advisor on disinformation and online safety

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Helping young people check the facts

Margaret Holborn, The Guardian Foundation



Award-winning news & media literacy



Behind the Headlines
(ages 11-25)

Inspirational news and media programmes for young people



NewsWise
(7-11 year olds)

Immersive news literacy project for children

Make the learning

- Fun
- Interesting and engaging
- Interactive
- Relevant
- Authentic



Involve young people in co-delivery and design

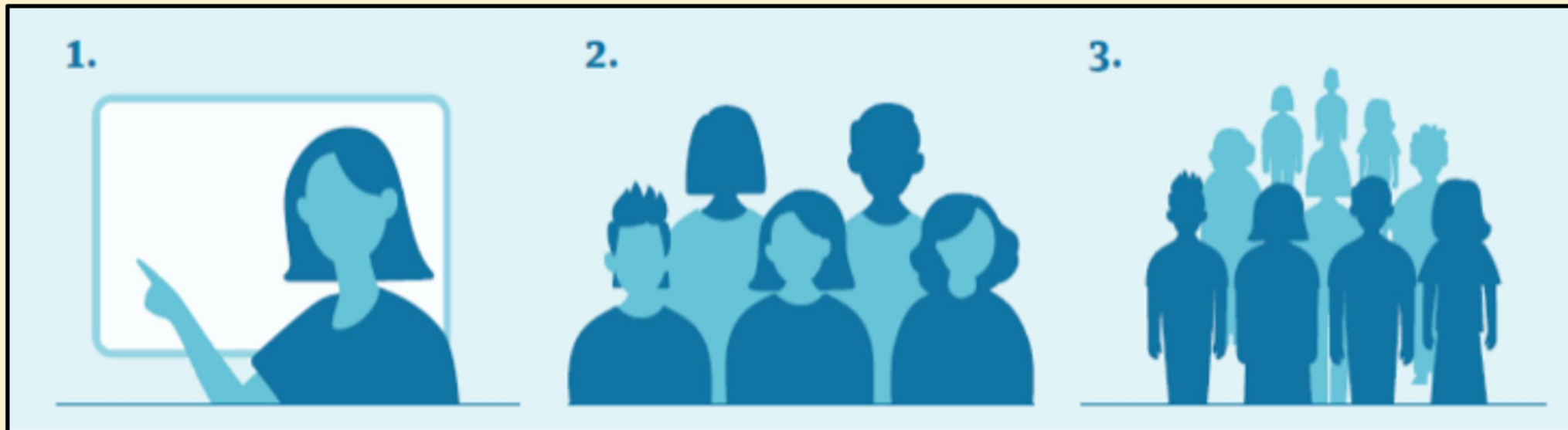
Why?

Deepens media literacy skills and resilience to mis and disinformation.
Develops leadership, presentation and teamwork skills.

Flip the classroom

Media Literacy Ambassadors

We train young people aged 14-18 to teach their peers about fake news in an interactive and engaging way.



Media Literacy Ambassadors (14-18 year olds)

Ambassadors are selected:

Workshops takes place in school/college across a day

1. Fake or for real session (all about how to spot fake news including mis and disinformation)
2. Ambassadors training session
3. Ambassadors deliver Fake or for real session with their teachers to other groups
4. Training for teachers.

Celebrate success:

Carry on as an Ambassador eg deliver to other groups,
create campaigns in school/college

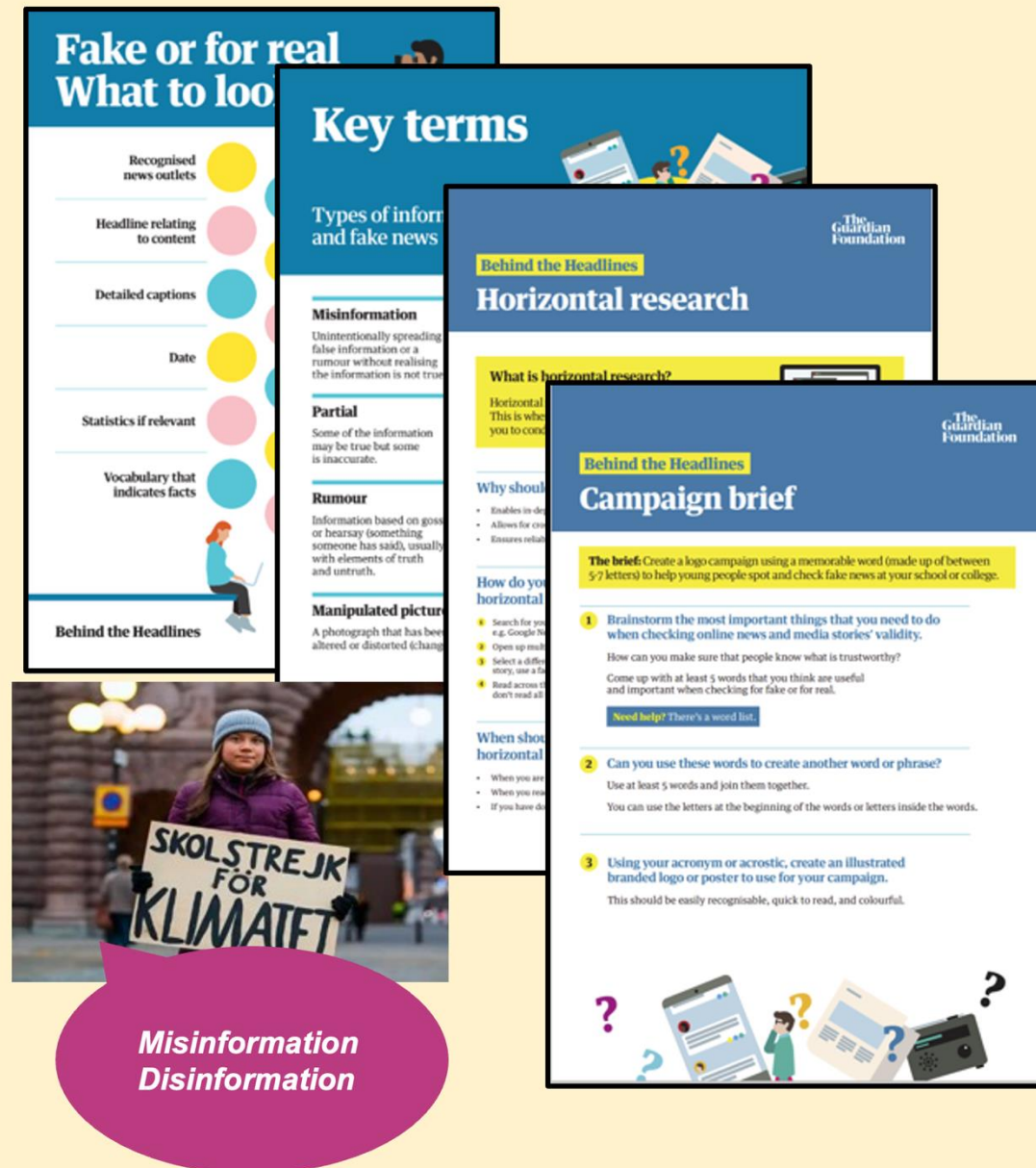
Attend a showcase/ meet journalists



Fake or for real - key elements

Activities:

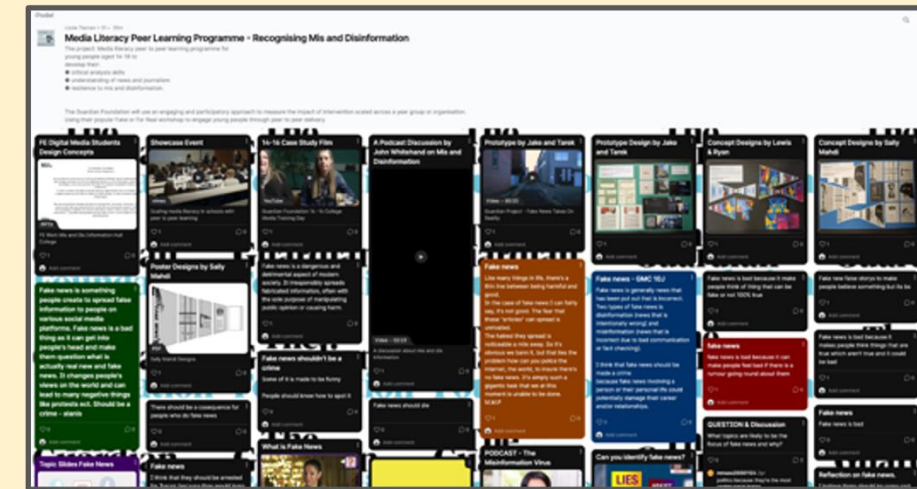
- Fake or for real voting
- Find out how journalists edit and check stories
- Find out what to look for in a trusted news story
- Develop questioning skills - 5Ws
- Misinformation and Disinformation
- Photography/video/deep fakes/AI
- Lateral reading/horizontal research



Spread learning and skills further

Ambassadors have:

- Delivered activities across a range of subjects
- Talked to parents/younger children about the project
- Made films and podcasts
- Written articles, blogs and produce videos about the project
- Created a campaign on how to check Fake news
- Trained teachers
- Produce an art exhibition on mis and disinformation.



Teacher guide & resources

Free guide and resources enable schools who have not participated in the Media Literacy Ambassador project to implement in their organisation.

Sections on:

- Running the programme
- Approaching SLT
- Getting colleagues on board
- Why media literacy and peer learning?
- Lesson plans
- Videos
- Curriculum links
- Resources to extend the project

Supported by resources on our website.

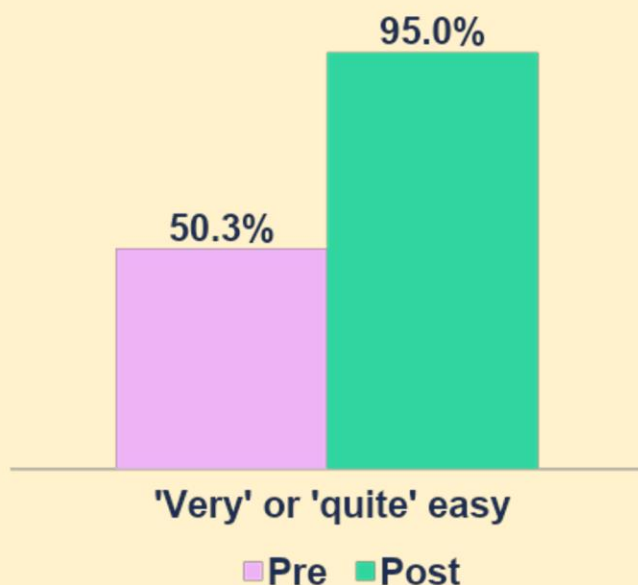
Teacher guide link

https://uploads.guim.co.uk/2024/03/28/Media_Literacy_Ambassador_Teachers_Guide.pdf



Improved news and media literacy attitudes, behaviours and confidence

How easy is it for you to tell if a news story is trustworthy?



The percentage interested in news more than doubled, from 26.1% to 72.5%

- Ambassadors felt more confident about recognising mis and disinformation (90.3%) and that they had increased skills in thinking critically about news stories (88.0%)
- “...the need to understand what you’re doing before you can teach others”.
- 75% of Ambassadors increased their communication and presentation skills.

Impact

Students

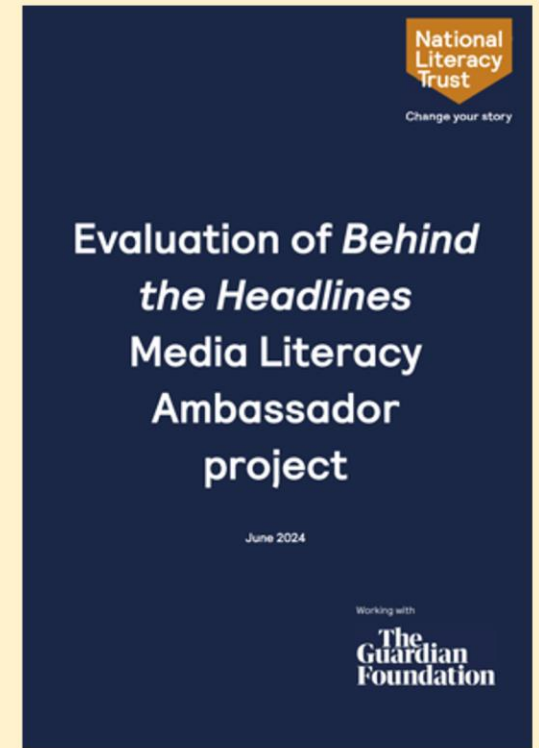
"For me I wasn't aware before (about mis and disinformation) and **it taught me things about if news is true or false, it helps me tell others and to educate my peers to know how not to spread mis and disinformation.**"

"**I am more open to news and media because I trust that now I can fact-check sources and news.** I used to avoid most news altogether because I didn't know what was true and what wasn't."

Teachers

"Their ability to look at local, national news stories, reporters' research skills, and fact-checking was massive. **They might have read something and thought, 'I don't really know [if it's trustworthy],'** but now they think, **'I'm going to find out.'** That's brilliant. "

"Impact for our students is significant. **In terms of critical engagement with news, this has been the most profound impact.** Students who have a wider knowledge of legitimate news journalism now regularly tell us that they have been reading the news from apps they have downloaded."



To date: **1300**
Ambassadors have
delivered to
7000+ of their
peers

Thank you!

Behind the Headlines:

theguardianfoundation.org/programmes/behind-the-headlines

Media Literacy Ambassador project:

theguardianfoundation.org/programmes/behind-the-headlines/media-literacy-ambassador-programme

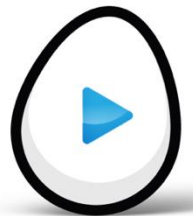
Contact us:

info@theguardianfoundation.org

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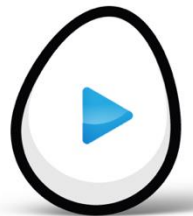
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Presenter FYI News, Sky Kids

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FY

INVESTIGATES



NEWS KIDS CAN TRUST

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 

First
News

2.6M
READERS*

Issue 975 £2.95 21 - 27 February 2025

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
INTERVIEWS PUZZLES COMPETITIONS



**PRIME
MINISTER
KEIR STARMER
INVITED US TO
BRING CHILDREN
TO DOWNING
STREET FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE Q&A**



8 9

ASK THE PM



SCHOOL
LESSONS

POLICE
AND
CRIME

HEALTH

WHAT WAS
YOUNG
KEIR LIKE?

FAMILY
LIFE

BUYING
A HOME

PART TWO NEXT WEEK

* Newspaper Awards 2023, Niche market Newspaper of the Year. First News readership is 2,600,000. Source: Opinion Matters 2023. First News is the widest-read of all children's publications outlined in the UK. First News supports children's charities.

Article 17 (access to information from the media)

Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

– *United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child*



Although **83%** of teachers say media literacy is important or very important,

61% say it's not taught at their school, and only

5% would feel very confident teaching it.



Without MIL

- fall for mis/disinformation about everything from politics to their own health
- fail to realise when what they see is being shaped by algorithms, often reinforcing bias or fear
- struggle to question sources or verify facts
- start to question whether anything is real – ‘tuning out’, altogether, or losing trust in ALL news



With MIL

- understand what's true and what's not
- ask the right questions: Who made this? Why did they make it? Can I trust it?
- navigate social media wisely – both as consumers and creators
- recognise bias and opinion, and realise that two people might tell the same story differently
- develop their own opinion based on facts, not hearsay or manipulation
- become confident, critical thinkers, ready to shape the world around them



sky news

HOW CAN WE SAVE WATER FOR FARMING?

FYI
FOR YOUR INFO

FAKE NEWS
OR
FACT





Teaching children to read isn't enough. We need to teach them to question.

Critical thinking starts with credible information.

Children don't need all the answers; they just need to know how to find them.

We can't stop the noise – but we can help them understand it.

The stories children believe will shape the people they become.



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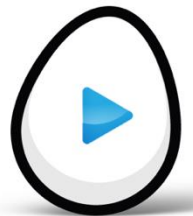
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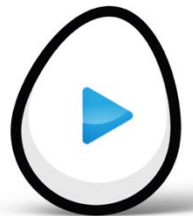


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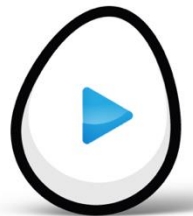


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Charles Kriel
AI strategist

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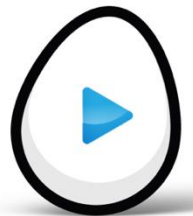


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Savannah Hanson

Youth Engagement Officer,
Connect Futures

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HOW TO TACKLE THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION

THE CASE FOR DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Savannah Hanson

Youth Engagement Officer,
ConnectFutures



RESEARCHING | TRAINING | FACILITATING



We have worked directly with over:

- **260,944** young people
- **34,686** practitioners
- **17,676** members of the public
- reached millions online

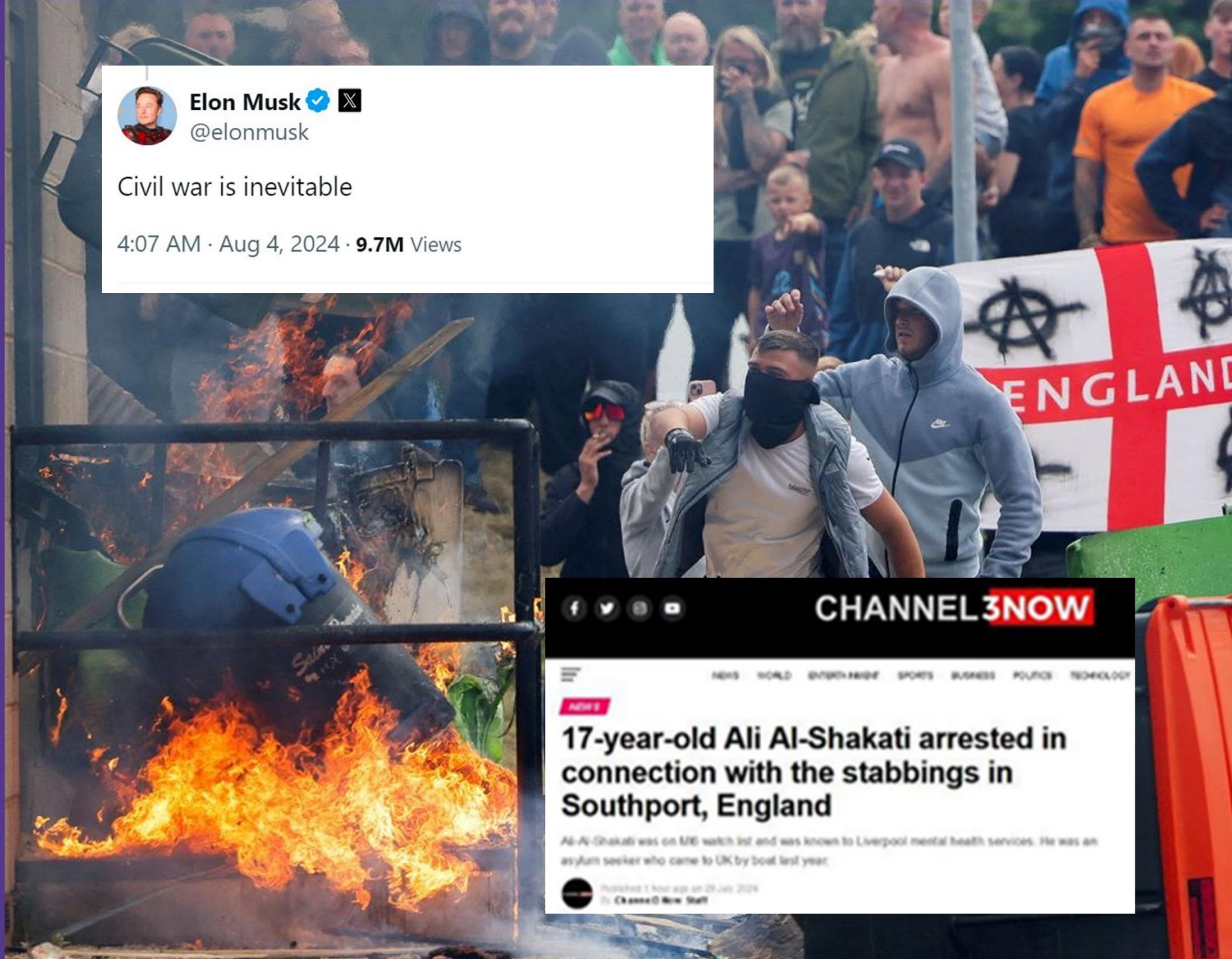
“6.5%”



Elon Musk  
@elonmusk

Civil war is inevitable

4:07 AM · Aug 4, 2024 · 9.7M Views



CHANNEL 3 NOW

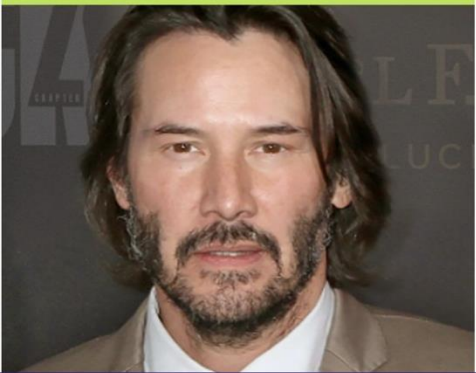
NEWS WORLD ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS BUSINESS POLICE TECHNOLOGY

17-year-old Ali Al-Shakati arrested in connection with the stabbings in Southport, England

Ali Al-Shakati was on M6 watch list and was known to Liverpool mental health services. He was an asylum seeker who came to UK by boat last year.

Published 1 hour ago on 29 July 2024
By Channel 3 News Staff

SIGMA



ALPHA



The Becky



The Stacy



Ian Miles Cheong  
@stillgray · [Follow](#)

When given pictures of thirst traps, AI imagines what could've been if they'd been raised by strong fathers.



4:05 PM · Feb 2, 2024 

 1.6K  Reply  Share

MASCULINITY
ALPHA PERSONA
POLARISING
PROVOCATEUR



WHAT DO THESE EXPERIENCES TELL US?

RED FLAGS

- Abusive / Mental / Emotional
- Coercive - blocking
- Toxic / Controlling
- Pressured
- Younger men
- Acts different in front of his mates.
- 3+ year age gap
- Rude to others and me
- Alcoholic
- Drug addict
- Roadman
- Islamophobic
- Indian
- If he's a Jew then no X
- Unhygienic

GREEN FLAGS

- MONEYYYY
- BBB BOOTER
- No straight hair
- giving me money everyday
- more money
- if they like cats
- they have to be possessive
- Caring
- Polite
- Rude in a jokingly way
- If they hate Messi
- Ask for Permission
- Rich
- If he can cook
- ~~Abusive~~ If he isn't abusive
- MONEY PLS family or me or
- HE NEEDS TO BE RICH



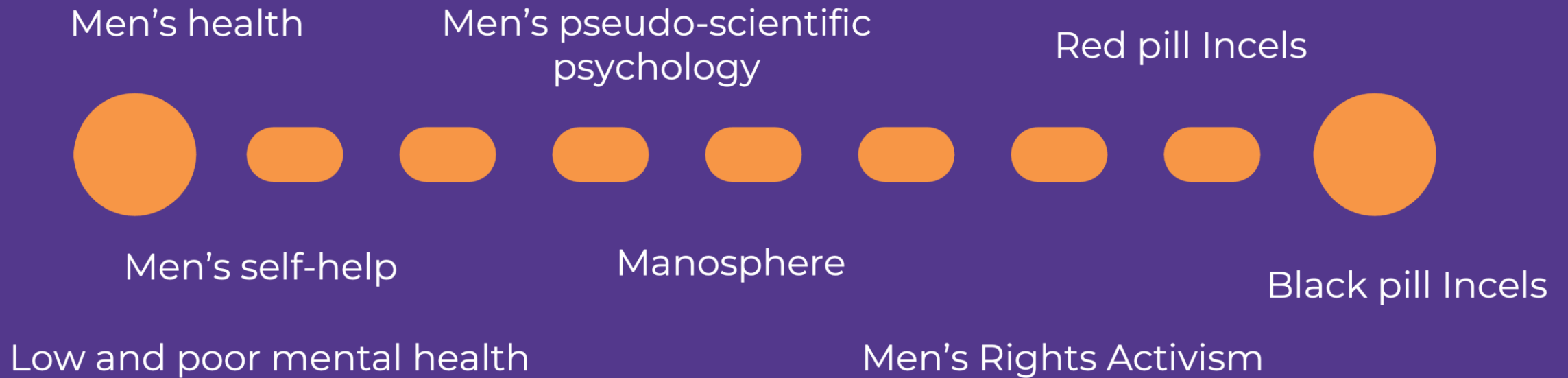
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP VS. MEDIA LITERACY



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: SOLUTIONS?

.....

Recognising where and when hate exists in online content and where there is an absence of respect, kindness, openness, or criticality.



THREE THOUGHTS...

.....



THANK YOU



www.connectfutures.org

info@connectfutures.org

[@ConnectFutures](https://www.instagram.com/ConnectFutures)



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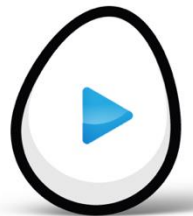


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Editor, BBC Newsround

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Young people's academic performance and the gender pay gap

New research by the Centre for Social Justice



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RESEARCH

EMPLOYMENT:

- Young men's and women's average salary comparison
- Over the last 5 years, the rise in number of young men and women who are "neet" (not in education, employment or training)

EDUCATION:

- Early Years – percentage of boys and girls who meet goals
- A Levels – Comparative performance of girls and boys
- School exclusion numbers



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FINDINGS

EMPLOYMENT:

- Young women's average salary is almost 9% higher than men's
- Over the last 5 years, the number of young men who are "Neet" has risen by 40%, while the rise for women is 7%

EDUCATION:

- Early Years – 74% of girls meet goals, versus 60% of boys.
- A Levels – Girls outperform boys by more than a grade and a half.
- Boys are twice as likely to be excluded from school.



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According to the CSJ, the shift reflects an unfolding “crisis” for boys and young men, who are increasingly trailing behind in education, career opportunities and earnings.

Andy Burnham, Labour Mayor of Greater Manchester, warns that young men are losing hope in their mid-teens and often “fall by the wayside” when they do not fit the traditional school-to-university pathway.

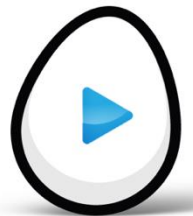


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