How journalism can cause a breakthrough in the debate on sexual abuse

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De Volkskrant
Play the Game
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Relevant questions

1. How do we know if a victim is telling the truth?

2. Why don’t we write about the numbers instead of the personal stories?

3. Are sexual intimidation and abuse themes a newspaper should cover?
Andy Woodward: ‘It was the softer, weaker boys he targeted.’
Ook misbruik bij Nederlandse profclubs

Het ingehouwde zaakje eindigt onder een grote misbruikkaak. In het Nederlandse profvoetbal waren tot nu toe geen gevallen van misbruik bekend. Nu meldt zich de eerste slachtoffer.

ZATERDAG

Hoewel macht heeft de Franse president eigenlijk?

STOP MET ADVERTEREN BIJ GEENSTIJL

VOETBALWELDOR

Ontdek de wereld!
De meeste reizigers en reisverhalen in Londen en de wereld. "Vliegtuigreizen, autohuur en het beste van de binnenland." Kras.nl/actie of bij kiosk 50%-korting.

Voorzitter Raad van Commissarissen
Kas de vijfjaarlijks bij de Kamer van Koophandel.

PUBLIC LEAKS

PUB

Adres:...
Isn’t offering apologies to victims a confession of guilt?

‘So be it. We, the people who work for PSV at the moment, aren’t guilty of course. But we do acknowledge that bad things happened many years ago. People tell us their sincere stories and say: listen, the club should’ve done more to protect us. Well, they are right.’

Have you considered the possible legal consequences for PSV?

‘No. And I also don’t care. If you decide to turn left, you should accept the consequences. We do ask the victims why they come forward now. Nobody claims any money. Nobody wants to name and shame PSV. Many employees were afraid that would happen, but it didn’t. We also asked ourselves what the consequences would be of five abuse cases within the club. Would it get harder to attract talented youth players? I think the opposite is true. It might sound crazy, but I am glad that the silence has been broken.’
Actions taken by clubs after Volkskrant stories:

1. Opened a hotline
2. Offered apologies to 5 victims
3. Paid for professional help victims
4. Better prevention in youth academy

1. Opened a hotline
2. Offered apologies to victim
3. Paid for his study
4. Changed code of conduct

1. Opened a hotline
2. Offered apologies to victim
3. Offered professional help to victim
4. Cooperated with PSV

1. Opened a hotline
2. Offered apologies to victim
3. Fired a volunteer
4. Offered professional help to victim
1. How do we know if they are telling the truth? We listen, we try to verify and we investigate.

2. Why don’t we write about the numbers instead of the personal stories? Brave victims are role models. Without them we don’t know anything about numbers.

3. Are sexual intimidation and sexual abuse themes that a newspaper should cover? Whether it’s a politician, a bank director or a trainer: it is our duty to make it visible when somebody misuses his powers.
‘Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations.’

George Orwell