

# Beehive News

Top Writers Report 2025



 beehive news

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# Foreword

The past year has been one of the most demanding periods for journalism in recent history. Rapid shifts in power and alliances have been reshaping the global order and defining what the future of humanity may look like in ways that are not yet entirely clear. Armed conflict has continued in Europe, war in the Levant has reshaped regional and global diplomacy, and geopolitical instability has intensified through shifts in U.S. foreign policy, renewed tariff disputes, ethnically motivated killings in places like Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, and the escalation of popular unrest in Iran. Luigi Mangione's trial and the killing of Charlie Kirk have contributed to a renewed sense of class struggle and of further erosion of the rule of law. Old divisions between East and West, authoritarianism and liberalism, have re-emerged, whilst political pressure and polarisation have deepened across many democratic societies.

In the United Kingdom, the news agenda has been largely shaped by the rise of the Reform Party, the launch of Jeremy Corbyn's Your Party, large-scale demonstrations of national pride such as those organised by Tommy Robinson, and mounting political pressure surrounding immigration, religion, tax and IDs. Across markets, political identities have hardened, public trust has become increasingly fragmented, and news consumption followed increasingly ideological lines.

As the world has become more polarised, so too has much of the news ecosystem. Narrative framing, selective emphasis, emotional charge, and identity-driven storytelling have played a growing role in how events are presented and interpreted.

The average score for *Bias & Fact base* fell by c. 5% in 2025 vs 2024, and the average score for *Context & Completeness* fell by c.7%. For readers, navigating this environment has become ever more complex.

Yet even in this context, responsible journalism has not disappeared. Across publications of different sizes, geographies, and editorial traditions, rigorous writers continued to produce work characterised by balanced framing, solid sourcing, clearly contextualised facts, and logically and transparently demonstrated links of causality. These writers exposed competing perspectives, distinguished evidence from opinion, and resisted the pressure to simplify complex realities into partisan or ideological narratives.

For readers seeking to navigate nuance and understand the bigger picture, this work acted as a beacon of clarity. By enabling informed interpretation rather than prescribing conclusions, it strengthened a core democratic prerogative: the ability of citizens to form their own views and make their own decisions.

The *Beehive News Top Writers Report 2025* is based on the systematic analysis of over half a million news articles written by circa fifteen thousand authors. As the only report in the world to use article-level evaluation at scale, it now seeks to recognise 59 selected professionals (the top 0.4%) who performed particularly well across our long list of assessment criteria. It is an acknowledgement of their civic impact in a year when clarity was harder to achieve – but perhaps more necessary than ever.



# Methodology

This report is produced by Beehive News to assess the professional rigour of contemporary journalism through systematic, article-level analysis. Unlike outlet- or sample-based approaches, Beehive News evaluates individual news articles at scale, recognising that performance can vary within the same publication and author.

The analysis draws on a corpus of 589,504 news articles written or co-written by 14,700 individual writers and published across 17 major publications in the UK and the world.

Key aspects of the methodology are:

## Uniform criteria and structural focus

The same assessment criteria are applied to all articles, regardless of political or ideological alignment. Evaluation focuses on structure and analytical framework rather than viewpoint – for example, an article may be penalised for failing to include different perspectives on a story, but not for what those specific perspectives are.

## Core rating areas

Scores are primarily driven by two main areas - *Bias & fact base* and *Context & completeness* - with two secondary areas also assessed - *Headline framing* and *Quality of writing*.

- *Bias & fact base* evaluates source attribution, the presence of one-sided claims, emotional framing, the logical construction of arguments with facts, and whether causality is clearly demonstrated.
- *Context & completeness* assesses whether all relevant contextual elements are present, and whether facts and figures are properly contextualised through meaningful comparisons across peer groups, time periods, or relevant

baselines.

- *Headline framing* examines whether headlines accurately reflect the content of the article, avoid sensationalist or click-driven elements, and refrain from implying causality, responsibility, or guilt that is not supported by the reporting.
- *Quality of writing* evaluates language use, clarity, accessibility, and precision, including whether language remains proportionate and avoids unnecessary ambiguity.

## Award categories.

For each news topic assessed, we selected the top-performing journalist overall – across all 4 areas - as well as the top-performing journalists in the *Bias & fact base* and *Context & completeness* categories. One news article can belong to more than one news topic.

## Writer attribution and consistency

Writer performance is assessed across multiple articles using aggregated averages and score distributions, including lowest and highest results. Writers with frequent or significantly low-rated articles are not considered, even where averages might be high. Because we prioritise quality over volume, the minimum number of assessed articles that a writer needs to publish to be considered is three. This also means that not all writers hereby recognised are full-time journalists.

## Selection for this report

The *Beehive News Top Writers Report 2025* recognises 59 writers whose work consistently performed at a high level across the assessment criteria. Selection exclusively reflects sustained analytical rigour rather than engagement, reach, or ideological alignment.



# The Top Writers of 2025



# Top Writers of the Year

Overall

**Ignacio López-Goñi**, *Professor at University of Navarra*  
Ignacio is a microbiology professor and science communicator who writes about viruses, vaccines and science, being republished across major outlets.



**Tedros A. Ghebreyesus**, *Director-General of the WHO*  
Tedros writes Word Health Organisation opinion and policy pieces on health which are published via official channels and republished by global outlets.



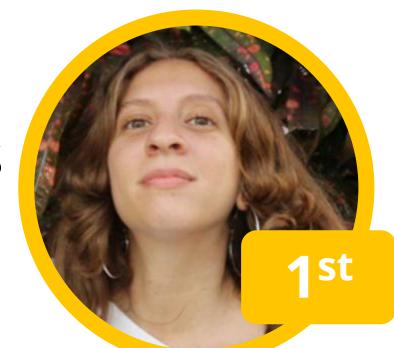
**Alison Kershaw**, *Journalist & Senior Editor at PA Media*  
Former Law correspondent, Alison produced relevant work within the Public Policy topic, which has been reported and syndicated across the UK.



**Kate Pickles**, *Journalist & Health Editor at Daily Mail*  
Kate reports on health, medical research and lifestyle science. Her stories are published on Daily Mail and MSN platforms in the UK&I, Asia and North America.



**Monica Uszerowicz**, *Freelance writer*  
Based in the U.S, Monica writes cultural criticism, arts and entertainment features published by major outlets like The Guardian, Observer and VICE.



**Soraya Amiri**, *Journalists for Human Rights (JHR)*  
Based in Canada, Soraya is a Contributing Writer to The Walrus through JHR, and writes on Afghanistan, women's rights and human rights.



Context &amp; Completeness

# Top Writers by Topic

For each of the 15 news topics considered, we have selected 3 writers.<sup>1</sup> Each of those writers was the best-performing writer of 2025 in 1 of 3 scoring categories: *Overall*, *Bias & Fact Base*, or *Context & Completeness*.

## Politics

Overall	<b>Daniel Dunford</b>	Sky News
Bias & fact base	<b>Bill Mahoney</b>	Politico
Context & completeness	<b>Luke Mansillo</b>	The Guardian

## Public Policy

Overall	<b>Joanna Hodgson</b>	The Independent
Bias & fact base	<b>Alison Kershaw</b>	The Independent
Context & completeness	<b>Michela Moscufo</b>	The Guardian <sup>2</sup>

## Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs

Overall	<b>Tamara Kovacevic</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Ben Chu</b>	BBC
Context & completeness	<b>John Kampfner</b>	The Guardian <sup>3</sup>

## War & Conflict

Overall	<b>Richard Irvine-Brown</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Jonathan Beale</b>	BBC
Context & completeness	<b>Max Hunder</b>	Reuters

<sup>1</sup> Writers may have no formal or informal relationship with the listed publishers and may appear only as occasional contributors or via republication; <sup>2</sup> Also considers 1 article by Al Jazeera, <sup>3</sup> Also considers 1 article by The Independent. **Source:** Beehive News

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## Ethics & Humanity

Overall	<b>Ruth Green</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Lorena Allam</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Soraya Amiri</b>	The Walrus

## Gender & Sexuality

Overall	<b>Megha Mohan</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Mollie Malone</b>	Sky News
Context & completeness	<b>Josh Parry</b>	BBC

## Business & Economy

Overall	<b>Patrick Commins</b>	The Guardian
Bias & fact base	<b>Hilary Osborne</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Jørn Madslien</b>	BBC

## Technology

Overall	<b>Joe Fay</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Marc Cieslak</b>	BBC
Context & completeness	<b>Sean McManus</b>	BBC

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## History

Overall	<b>Darius von Guttner</b>	The Independent
Bias & fact base	<b>Ariel David</b>	Haaretz
Context & completeness	<b>George Charles Darley</b>	Al Jazeera

## Sciences

Overall	<b>Laura Driessen</b>	The Independent
Bias & fact base	<b>Sophie Kevany</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Pallab Ghosh</b>	BBC

## Climate & Sustainability

Overall	<b>Justin Rowlatt</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Mark Hertsgaard</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Mac Margolis</b>	The Guardian

## Health

Overall	<b>Ignacio López-Goñi</b>	The Independent
Bias & fact base	<b>Kate Pickles</b>	Daily Mail
Context & completeness	<b>James Gallagher</b>	BBC

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## Arts & Culture

Overall	<b>Mark Hudson</b>	The Independent
Bias & fact base	<b>Rosamund Brennan</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Monica Uszerowicz</b>	The Guardian

## Food & Travel

Overall	<b>Alexis Steinman</b>	The Guardian
Bias & fact base	<b>Jenny Kumah</b>	BBC
Context & completeness	<b>Scott McFetridge</b>	The Independent

## Sports

Overall	<b>Daniel Austin</b>	BBC
Bias & fact base	<b>Emanuele Giulianelli</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Ryan Baldi</b>	The Guardian

## Daily events

Overall	<b>Oscar Lopez</b>	The Guardian
Bias & fact base	<b>Claire Wang</b>	The Guardian
Context & completeness	<b>Cillian Sherlock</b>	The Independent

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# Topic Definitions

In 2025, we have recognised writers across 16 news topics: *Politics, Public Policy, Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs, War & Conflict, Ethics & Humanity, Gender & Sexuality, Business & Economy, Technology, History, Sciences, Climate & Sustainability, Health, Arts & Culture, Food & Travel, Sports and Daily Events.*

## Politics

Includes articles on politicians, political parties, government decisions, appointments, elections, corruption and political scandals.

## Public Policy

Includes articles on infrastructure, immigration, housing, education, information management and regulations impacting everyday life.

## Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs

Includes articles on interstate relations, bilateral and multilateral agreements, tariffs, economic disputes and sanctions.

## War & Conflict

Includes articles on wars and armed conflict involving more than one country, as well as violent domestic unrest.

## Ethics & Humanity

Includes articles on human rights, race and religion, as well ethically complex decisions such as euthanasia and abortion.

## Gender & Sexuality

Includes articles on gender and sexual identity as concepts and in relation to rights, equity, legal protections and social recognition.

## Business & Economy

Includes articles on economy, markets and industries, money, investment, corporate movements and relevant businessmen.

## Technology

Includes articles on innovation, technological breakthroughs and AI, as well as those on gadgets and wearables.

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## History

Includes articles on past events, historical figures and societies, as well as archaeological discoveries and research.

## Sciences

Includes articles on the natural sciences, covering all forms of life on Earth as well as research into the physical universe, including space.

## Climate & Sustainability

Includes articles on climate change, environmental impact, and strategies to protect and sustain ecosystems and resources.

## Health

Includes articles on medical findings, diseases, healthcare systems, fitness and nutrition, and as well mental and social health.

## Arts & Culture

Covers all forms of artistic expression, including music, film and television, cinema, theatre, dance, painting, literature and fashion.

## Food & Travel

Includes articles on food systems and consumption, culinary culture, and travel as lived experience (destinations, exploration and logistics)

## Sports

Covers all forms of sport and athletic competition, both professional and amateur, including individual, team, and motor sports.

## Daily events

Includes articles on everyday events and stories, such as disruptions, accidents, crime, celebrities, and consumer matters.

# Top Writers by Publisher

In 2025, we have selected 1 writer for each publication based on their *Overall* score,<sup>1</sup> including 5 traditional UK publishers, 8 international publishers across North America, Africa, West Asia, South Asia and East Asia, 3 academic publications and 1 fact checker.

## UK Publishers

BBC	<b>Ruth Green</b>
Daily Mail	<b>Kate Pickles</b>
Sky News	<b>Daniel Dunford</b>
The Guardian	<b>Sera Sefeti</b>
The Independent	<b>Ignacio López-Goñi</b>

## International Publishers

Al Jazeera • Qatar	<b>Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</b>
Daily Post • Nigeria	<b>Chika Onyesi</b>
Dawn • Pakistan	<b>Amin Ahmed</b>
Haaretz • Israel	<b>Ariel David</b>
Politico • USA	<b>Bill Mahoney</b>
Sixth Tone • China	<b>Jiang Xinyi</b>
The Hindu • India	<b>Sreeparna Chakrabarty</b>
The Walrus • Canada	<b>Michelle Cyca</b>

## Academic Publications

Bath Time • University of Bath	<b>Carina Olariu</b>
OxStu • University of Oxford	<b>Audrey Miu</b>
Perspectives • University of Warwick	<b>Charles Wawn</b>

## Fact Checkers

Full Fact	<b>Sian Bayley</b>
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# List of Awarded Writers

<b>Alexis Steinman</b>	Page 10
<b>Alison Kershaw</b>	Pages 6 & 7
<b>Amin Ahmed</b>	Page 13
<b>Anushe Engineer</b>	Page 7
<b>Ariel David</b>	Pages 9 & 13
<b>Audrey Miu</b>	Page 13
<b>Ben Chu</b>	Page 7
<b>Bill Mahoney</b>	Pages 7 & 13
<b>Carina Olariu</b>	Page 13
<b>Charles Wawn</b>	Page 13
<b>Chika Onyesi</b>	Page 13
<b>Claire Want</b>	Page 10
<b>Cillian Sherlock</b>	Page 10
<b>Daniel Austin</b>	Page 10
<b>Daniel Dunford</b>	Pages 7 & 13
<b>Darius von Guttner Sporzynski</b>	Page 9
<b>Emanuele Julianelli</b>	Page 10
<b>George Charles Darley</b>	Page 9
<b>Hilary Osborne</b>	Page 8
<b>Ignacio López-Goñi</b>	Pages 6, 9 & 13
<b>James Gallagher</b>	Page 9
<b>Jenny Kumah</b>	Page 10
<b>Jiang Xinyi</b>	Page 13
<b>Joanna Hodgson</b>	Page 7
<b>Joe Fay</b>	Page 8
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<b>Josh Parry</b>	Page 8
<b>Justin Rowlatt</b>	Page 9
<b>Kate Pickles</b>	Pages 6, 9 & 13
<b>Laura Driessen</b>	Page 9
<b>Lorena Allam</b>	Page 8
<b>Luke Mansillo</b>	Page 7
<b>Mac Margolis</b>	Page 9
<b>Marc Cieslak</b>	Page 8
<b>Mark Hertsgaard</b>	Page 9
<b>Mark Hudson</b>	Page 10
<b>Max Hunder</b>	Page 7
<b>Megha Mohan</b>	Page 8
<b>Michela Moscufo</b>	Page 7
<b>Michelle Cyca</b>	Page 13
<b>Mollie Malone</b>	Page 8
<b>Monica Uszerowicz</b>	Pages 6 & 10
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<b>Soraya Amiri</b>	Pages 6 & 8
<b>Sreeparna Chakrabarty</b>	Page 13
<b>Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</b>	Pages 6 & 13

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