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

Willem Feenstra De Volkskrant Play the Game 26 November 2017



# 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.'





Robbert Dijkgraaf Thomas van Luyn Alfred Birney Cécile Narinx Guus Kuijer Sylvia Witteman

# deVolkskrant

### **Ook misbruik** bij Nederlandse profclubs

Het Engelse voetbal zucht onder een grote misbruikzaak. In het Nederlands profvoetbal waren tot nu toe geen gevallen van misbruik bekend. Nu melden zich de eerste slachtoffers.

ZATERDAG

Achertoritie

### **VOETNOOT** MÉLENCHON



erder deze week tweette dig voor een 'progressief'.) Mélenchon weigerde zijn kiedevoormalige Belgische premier Elio Di Rupo, voor wie ikveel respect zers on te roepen voor Macron te heb: 'Comme souvent, avecMelen-chon, l'extrême gauche favorise l'exver.Melenchon doet denken aan de Partijvoor de Dieren en in mintrême drotte. Cest trresponsable et tdigne d'un "progressiste".' (Zoals di kwijls steunt extreem-links met Melenchon extreem-rechts. Dat is onverantwoordelijk en onwaaring ake het Oekraine referendum Het is geen toeval dat Brigitte Bar-dot heeft laten weten: 'Als Macron

wint, sterven de dieren.' In naam van de dieren moeten wij de fascisten ondersteunen. stemmen. Zelfs Fillon ging niet zo dere mate de SP alswe ons bilvooreeld hun standpunt herinneren

ZATERDAG

'Stop

met

OPINIE

adverteren

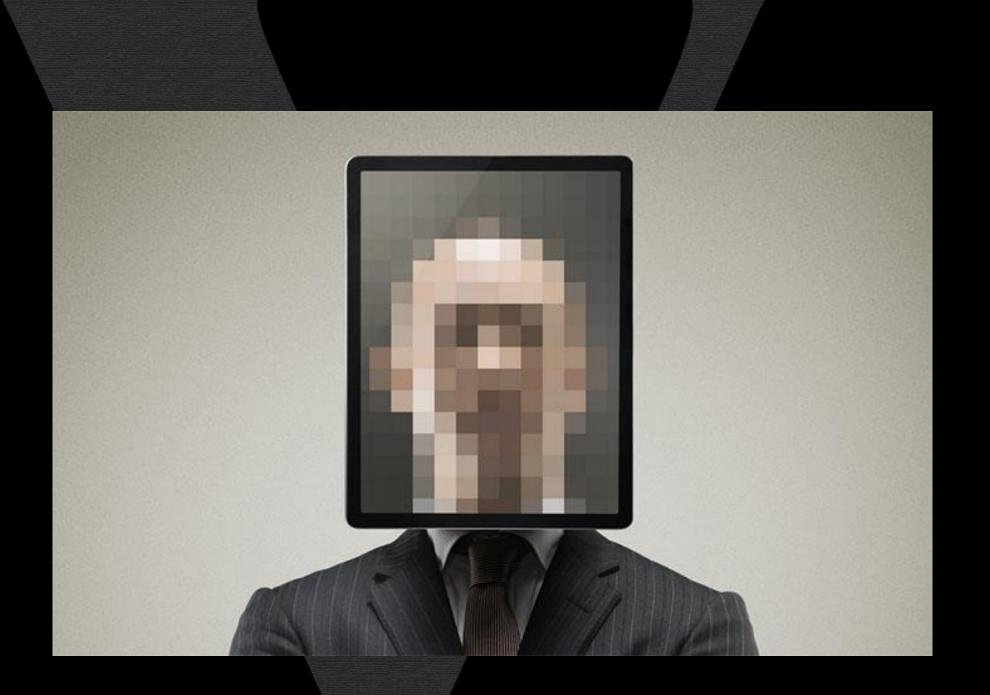
bij Geenstijl'

Hoe dan ook, Macron zal winnen Maar als Le Penrond de 40 procent haalt, is dat een nederlaag voor iedereen die meende dat de bruine partijen in Europavoorgoed tot het verleden behoorden. Arnon Grunberg

Hoeveel macht heeft de Franse president eigenlijk?



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### Ten eerste

### Australië wil paspoorten veroordeelde pedo's afnemen

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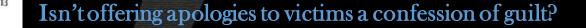
irecteur Toon Gerbrands in zijn excuses aan. Wij zijn als club erantwoordelijk, zo simpelijs bei





Ten eerste





'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:



Opened a hotline
 Offered apologies to 5 victims
 Paid for professional help victims
 Better prevention in youth academy







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

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