

medias-presse.info

A far-right website that does not disclose its political perspective and that has made false claims, including on health topics such as vaccines and the 2020 coronavirus outbreak.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

The site belongs to Medias-Presses-info, a French nonprofit registered in the city of Besançon, according to the official registry of associations (Journal officiel des associations.) Médias Presse Info describes itself as a “nonprofit that offers a free reinformation service and subsists only on the generosity of its readers.” (“Association à but non lucratif qui offre un service de réinformation gratuit et qui ne subsiste que par la générosité de ses lecteurs.”)

According to French news site Rue89, Medias-Presses.info’s domain name was first registered in 2013 by Civitas, which was then a far-right association, and became a political party in 2016. Civitas promotes traditional Catholic values and opposes same-sex marriage, abortion, and pro-immigration policies. The party also advocates for France’s exit from the European Union and an end to the separation between the French state and the Catholic Church.

Pierre Alain Depauw, the site’s publishing director, according to a Legal Notice page that is not accessible from the site, said that Medias-Presses.info was not officially connected to Civitas, telling Rue89 in November 2016 that “the structures are distinct, even if we’re happy to disseminate the actions of this movement.” (“Les structures sont bien distinctes même si nous relayons volontiers les actions de ce mouvement.”)

Médias Presse Info says on its donations page that it generates about 1,100 euros in revenue a month in advertising. It also derives revenue from donations and subscriptions for ad-free access to the site.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who’s in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Content

According to its Who We Are page (Qui Sommes-

Nous), Médias-Presses.info is “an original media service, which seeks to disseminate information in a deliberately objective, free and uncompromising way” (“est un média original qui vise la vulgarisation de l’information d’une manière délibérément objective, libre et sans concession”). On its donations page, the site describes itself as the “first truly Catholic news site” (“le premier site d’information réellement catholique”) and says it provides “reinformation,” a term often used by French far-right sites to set themselves apart from traditional media.

The website publishes news and opinion articles, which it says are produced by “many international correspondents” and “many specialists in different fields” (“nombreux correspondants internationaux... nombreux spécialistes de différents domaines”).

Medias-Presses.info features categories including Politics (Politique), International, Society (Société) and Culture. The site primarily covers news from a conservative, nationalist perspective and focuses on topics of interest to fundamentalist Catholics, often voicing opposition to abortion and LGBT rights.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “Increase in crime in Paris confirmed by police headquarters” (“Hausse de la délinquance à Paris confirmée par la Préfecture de police”); “Belgium - Anti-white racism advocated around a black transperson” (“Belgique – Racisme anti-Blanc prôné autour d’un Noir transgenre”); and “Pakistan: Christian tortured to death for washing himself in a well” (Pakistan : un chrétien torturé à mort pour s’être lavé dans un puits”).

Credibility

Although Medias-Presses.info sometimes produces original videos, most content on the site is drawn from unnamed or unverified sources, such as social media postings. Some articles support false and unfounded health claims, including about the risks associated with vaccines and the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak.

For example, a March 2020 article claimed, without citing evidence, that “it’s obvious that the Covid-19 virus did not appear on its own. It was synthesized by genetic mutation in the Wuhan research center.” (“Il est évident que le virus Covid-19 n’est pas apparu seul. Il a été synthétisé par mutation génétique dans le centre de recherche de Wuhan.”)

There is no credible evidence backing this claim. The Wuhan Institute of Virology, a research center that has been the subject of coronavirus conspiracy theories, has denied that the COVID-19 virus came from one of its labs. In February 2020, a report by the World Health Organization-China joint mission found that “since the COVID-19 virus has a genome identity of 96% to a bat SARS-like coronavirus and 86%-92% to a pangolin SARS-like coronavirus, an animal source for COVID-19 is highly likely.” A study published the same month in *Nature* found that the virus is “96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

Another February 2020 article, titled “The strange mutated coronavirus of Wuhan raises questions” (“L’étrange coronavirus mutant de Wuhan pose question”) also said that the virus was “created in a lab” and further claimed that an analysis published in *BioRxiv* showed that the COVID-19 virus contained insertions of “proteins of the AIDS virus HIV-1” — suggesting the virus was manufactured.

The claim that COVID-19 is linked to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is false. It was attributed to a study posted on the website *bioRxiv*, which publishes studies before they have undergone peer review. According to a February 2020 article on the fact-checking website *HealthFeedback.org*, the study’s finding that there is a similarity between COVID-19 virus and HIV “was detected using extremely short protein sequences, a practice that often gives rise to false positive results.” The authors of the study withdrew it from *bioRxiv* just two days after it was published. The *Medias-Presse.info* article noted that the article had been taken down, but did not explain the important doubts surrounding the results. “It’s one or the other. Either the analysis by the Indians ... is

false, or it's a nuisance. Everyone should make their own opinion," the article stated. ("De deux choses l'une. Soit l'analyse faite par les Indiens (...) est fausse, soit elle gêne. A chacun de se faire son opinion").

Medias-Presse.info has also spread false claims about the risks associated with vaccines. For example, a November 2019 article featured a video interview of French oncologist Gérard Delépine, who claimed that the Gardasil vaccine does not actually prevent the development of cervical cancer. The article stated that "according to Dr. Delépine, this vaccine doubles the incidence of this cancer in young vaccinated girls!" ("Selon le Dr Delépine, ce vaccin double l'incidence de ce cancer sur les jeunes filles vaccinées !")

There is no evidence that the use of the Gardasil vaccine, which protects against certain forms of human papillomavirus (HPV), has resulted in an increase in cervical cancer rates. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that "the HPV vaccine is highly effective in preventing the targeted HPV types, as well as the most common health problems caused by them." This includes "the HPV types that most commonly cause cervical cancer," according to the CDC. A March 2019 study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* found that "the impact of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination has been observed in the United States through declining cervical precancer incidence in young women."

Because Medias-Presse.info has frequently published discredited and misleading health claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Medias-Presse.info does not feature an opinion section or label content as opinion. Nevertheless, its articles and videos regularly support the views of Civitas and its political agenda, including its anti-immigration platform. Medias-Presse.info does not disclose any ties to or support of the party, and while the site's donations page mentions that it provides

"reinformation," in NewsGuard's view, this does not constitute adequate disclosure of an agenda, since many people are not familiar with that concept.

In November 2019, the site published an article labelled "Immigration/Islam /Society," which criticized politicians on the left for joining a rally against Islamophobia in Paris. "Whether or not they fall in step with CCIF Islamists [CCIF is a French NGO that opposes Islamophobia], or whether they defend true anti-freedom laws, all these politicians have one thing in common: A hatred of France and its identity!," the article stated. ("Qu'ils mettent ou non leurs pas derrière ceux des islamistes du CCIF ou qu'ils défendent des lois véritablement liberticides, tous ces politiciens ont un point commun : la haine de la France et de son identité !")

In February 2020, the site published an article on an anti-migrant rally organized in Lesbos, Greece, which stated: "It's a small but significant victory for Europe and people who want to survive globalism, globalization, multiculturalism, the melting-pot. Resistance pays when the will to save a civilization and its people is there." ("C'est une victoire, petite mais significative, pour l'Europe et les peuples qui veulent survivre au mondialisme, à la globalisation, au multiculturalisme, au brassage melting-pot. La résistance paye quand la volonté de sauver sa civilisation et son peuple est là.")

The site is consistently critical of mainstream politicians, including President Emmanuel Macron, and extremist right-wing personalities are typically the subject of laudatory comments or explicit support. The site also frequently publishes opinions from extreme right-wing publications such as Minute and Rivarol.

Because Medias-Presses.info does not disclose its political perspective yet frequently publishes unlabeled content advancing that agenda, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Medias-Presse.info does not articulate a corrections policy. The most recent correction NewsGuard found on the site was published in November 2018, which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for regularly publishing corrections. Moreover, none of the false content cited above has been corrected.

The site did not respond to two emails seeking comment on the articles and headlines cited above, its handling of opinion, and its approach to corrections.

Transparency

The site's Legal Notice page, which is not accessible from the homepage, discloses that it is owned by the nonprofit Médias Presse Info. However, the site does not provide information about its financing or donors, which does not meet NewsGuard's ownership disclosure standard for nonprofits.

The site provides the name of its publishing director in its Legal Notice. However, that page is not accessible from the site and was located by NewsGuard via a Google search. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet the standard for identifying editorial leaders.

Articles generally include author names and link to a profile page that lists the writer's previous articles. However, the site does not provide contact or biographical information for its content creators.

Readers can reach Médias-Presse.info via an online form.

Medias-Presse.info did not respond to two emails inquiring about the site's lack of information about its ownership, content creators and editors.

Advertising is distinguished from editorial content.

History

The website was registered in 2013.

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [Chine Labbe](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

<https://www.medias-presse.info/aidez-medias-presse-info-faites-un-don/>
<http://www.civitas-institut.com/2020/02/21/reservez-vos-entrees-a-fete-pays-reel/>
<https://www.conspiracywatch.info/civitas>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/abonnez-vous/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/medias-presse-info-a-vraiment-besoin-de-votre-soutien/112928/>
https://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr/associations/detail-annonce/associations_b/20130046/378
<http://www.leparisien.fr/politique/extreme-droite-a-la-fete-du-pays-reel-les-integristes-de-civitas-preparent-les-legislatives-11-03-2017-6754320.php#xtor=AD-1481423553>
<https://www.nouvelobs.com/rue89/rue89-internet/20160101.RUE7577/charlie-hebdo-qui-sont-ces-sites-qui-vous-parlent-de-complot.html>
<http://www.civitas-institut.com/programme/fin-de-laicite/>
<http://www.civitas-institut.com/programme/>
<https://www.la-croix.com/Urbi-et-Orbi/Actualite/France/Civitas-devient-parti-politique-2016-06-28-1200772102>

Content

<https://www.medias-presse.info/qui-sommes-nous/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/category/societe/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/chaine-mpi-tv/>
<http://www.civitas-institut.com/category/rubrique-actualites/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/pakistan-un-chretien-torture-a-mort-pour-setre-lave-dans-un-puits/118634/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/les-images-des-pompiers-brutalement-reprimes-par-les-forces-de-lordre/117038/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/hausse-de-la-delinquance-a-paris-confirmee-par-la-prefecture-de-police/116763/>
<https://www.medias-presse.info/belgique-racisme-anti-blanc-prone-autour-dun-noir-transgenre/118541/>

Credibility

<https://www.medias-presse.info/les-dangers-du-vaccin-gardasil-le-dr-delepine-met-en-garde/114579/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/le-gardasil-la-grande-escroquerie/117512/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/hpv-vaccine.html>

<https://vaccination-info-service.fr/Les-maladies-et-leurs-vaccins/Infections-a-Papillomavirus-humains-HPV>

https://ansm.sante.fr/var/ansm_site/storage/original/application/d205520689cf2cacdb15144658a9833c.pdf

<https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/217/10/1590/4841780>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/tag/coronavirus/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/coronavirus-covid-19-ou-va-t-on/118395/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/limpossible-origine-naturelle-du-coronavirus-2019-ncov/117575/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/letrange-coronavirus-mutant-de-wuhan-pose-question/117362/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/coronavirus-lepidemie-progresse-la-verite-aussi/117918/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/coronavirus-a-qui-profite-cette-epidemie/117026/>

http://www.whiov.ac.cn/tzgg_105342/202002/t20200219_5502325.html

<https://qz.com/1805422/wuhan-virology-lab-unable-to-quell-china-coronavirus-conspiracies/>

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/elections-municipales-robert-menard-est-reelu-a-beziers/118717/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/municipales-2020-a-orange-jacques-bompard-vent-debout-contre-le-pret-a-penser/118622/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/municipales-2020-a-tarascon-avec-valerie-laupies-la-police-sera-disponible-24h-sur-24/118418/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/jerome-bourbon-et-le-coronavirus-on-privilegie-lhygiene-au-recours-a-dieu-comme-si-la-providence-ne-gouvernait-pas-lunivers-et-netait-pas-a-meme-de-repondre-efficacement/118767/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/minute-en-liquidation-judiciaire/118110/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/trafic-des-enfants-avortes-aux-etats-unis-super-amende-pour-les-lanceurs-dalerte/114621/>

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/pp-baby-parts-sale/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/fans-de-macron-ou-figurants/118065/>

<https://www.20minutes.fr/societe/2725751-20200224-accuses-etre-figurants-apres-avoir-rencontre-emmanuel-macron>

https://www.francetvinfo.fr/societe/salon-de-l-agriculture/desintox-les-bains-de-foule-d-emmanuel-macron-au-salon-de-l-agriculture-n-etaient-pas-mis-en-scene_3843475.html

<https://www.medias-presse.info/paris-toujours-capitale-de-la-mode-grace-au-gouvernement-humour/112685/>

https://www.lemonde.fr/les-decodeurs/article/2019/12/17/la-robe-de-sibeth-ndiaye-inspiree-de-la-retraite-a-points-est-un-montage_6023185_4355770.html

<https://www.medias-presse.info/la-manif-pour-tous-et-le-vote-catholique-conservateur-un-vote-de-classe-plutot-quun-vote-ethique/117177/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/larabe-a-lecole-pour-nos-enfants-mais-tout-est-prevu/118208/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/le-grand-remplacement-dans-les-universites-en-images/113425/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/marche-contre-lislamophobie-rififi-chez-la-gauche-plurielle/114102/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/les-manifestants-anti-migrants-grecs-font-fuir-la-police-aux-ordres-du-gouvernement-immigrationniste/118316/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/vous-vouliez-des-valeurs-republicaines-des-gilets-jaunes-installent-une-guillotine-a-paris/101377/>

Transparency

<https://www.medias-presse.info/author/jpd/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/mentions-legales-cgu-3/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/author/francesca-de-villasmundo/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/aidez-medias-presse-info-faites-un-don/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/formulaire-de-contact/>

<https://www.medias-presse.info/author/pad/>

<https://www.nouvelobs.com/rue89/rue89-internet/20160101.RUE7577/charlie-hebdo-qui-sont-ces-sites-qui-vous-parlent-de-complot.html>

History

<https://www.whois.com/whois/medias-presse.info>

<https://www.nouvelobs.com/rue89/rue89-internet/20160101.RUE7577/charlie-hebdo-qui-sont-ces-sites-qui-vous-parlent-de-complot.html#pointun>