

A conservative website covering politics, science, and health that has spread misinformation about vaccines and immigration.



**Proceed with caution: This website fails to adhere to several basic journalistic standards.**

## Ownership and Financing

Oltre.tv is owned by Arcanet Web Srls, a privately owned company based in Basciano, Teramo.

In addition to Oltre.tv, Arcanet Web runs the website [informarexresistere.fr](http://informarexresistere.fr), a site that has repeatedly published conspiracy theories and pseudoscientific information.

Oltre.tv derives revenue from advertisements.

## Content

“Oltre.tv is an independent and non-partisan website that brings together many authors with different passions but bound by a common interest: the love for correct information” (“Oltre.tv è un sito indipendente e apartitico che riunisce tanti autori con passioni diverse ma legati da un interesse comune: l’amore per la corretta informazione”), according to its About Us (Chi Siamo) page.

The site publishes news and commentary from a right-wing perspective, with a focus on Italian politics, foreign affairs, and healthcare. It publishes articles in more than twenty sections, including Art (Arte), Law (Diritto), Humor, Education (Istruzione) News (Notizie), Religion (Religione), Health (Salute), Sport, Technology (Tecnologie), and Oddities (Stranezze).

Typical headlines include “Dominican Republic: mysterious deaths, tourists on the run, the FBI’s help requested” (“Repubblica Dominicana: morti misteriose, turisti in fuga, richiesto aiuto FBI”), “Water, ginger and lemon: here are the doses for the recipe that purifies the body” (“Acqua zenzero e limone: ecco le dosi per la ricetta che depura l’organismo”), “Puigdemont wins the European elections but now they want to jail him, the police have been alerted” (“Puigdemont vince le Europee ma ora lo vogliono arrestare, polizia allertata”), and “Chinese and Pakistani shops, it’s gonna get ugly: here is what Di Maio is about to do” (“Negozi cinesi e pakistani, si mette male: ecco cosa sta per fare Di Maio”).

**Score: 59.5/100**



Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)



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.](#)

Oltre.tv's coverage reflects an anti-immigration and anti-abortion viewpoint. Many articles feature criticisms of left-leaning Italian and international political parties and their supporters.

Articles tend to mostly quote right-wing sources, such as officials of The League and Brothers of Italy, and organizations, such as CitizenGo, an advocacy group founded to defend traditional Catholic causes.

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Credibility

Oltre.tv's articles rely mostly on coverage by other news organizations, such as Italian newspapers *Il Messaggero* and *La Repubblica*. Information and photos from other media outlets and social media accounts are rarely credited.

Oltre.tv has repeatedly published misleading information on topics such as abortion, vaccines, immigration, and the coronavirus pandemic.

For example, an April 2020 article headlined "Ayurveda, forget the vaccine: Prince Charles heals thanks to homeopathy" ("Ayurveda, altro che vaccino: il principe Carlo guarisce con l'omeopatia") states that "Prince Charles of England had contracted the coronavirus. He recovered thanks to Ayurveda, the traditional Indian medicine."

This claim is false and was spread by Shripad Naik, the Indian Minister of State in the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, but immediately rejected by the Prince's spokesperson saying that Prince Charles "followed the medical advice of the NHS in the UK," to treat COVID-19.

Another July 2019 article titled "American liberals hit rock-bottom: 'Abortion is like emptying a watermelon'" ("Progressisti americani alla frutta: 'Abortire è come svuotare un cocomero'") stated that there is a link between abortion and breast cancer. The site quoted an article published by the Catholic site *La Nuova Bussola Quotidiana* that claimed: "voluntary abortion does not facilitate but undermines maternal health, being associated - to have a rapid overview - with a higher incidence of breast cancer" ("l'aborto volontario non agevoli ma mini la salute materna, essendo associato - per fare una rapidissima panoramica - a una più elevata incidenza di tumori al seno").

A 2012 report from the World Health Organization concluded, "Sound epidemiological data show no increased risk of breast cancer for women following spontaneous or induced abortion." Similarly, in 2008 the UK-based Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists concluded, "From the literature we reviewed there is no established link between induced abortion or miscarriage and development of breast cancer." The German Cancer Research Center published similar findings.

The U.S. National Cancer Institute and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have repeatedly reviewed scientific evidence since 2003 and concluded that there is no link between abortion and breast cancer. An ACOG analysis of multiple studies on the purported breast cancer and abortion link found that some earlier research asserting that a connection existed was "methodologically flawed." Additionally, the American Cancer Society has stated that "scientific research studies have not found a cause-and-effect relationship between abortion and breast cancer."

After an email exchange with NewsGuard, Oltre.tv appended an update above the article stating, "NewsGuard has pointed out that there are dozens of scientific studies that contradict the correlation between voluntary abortion and increased cancer. It is true. But there are also scientific studies that show the opposite, like this: 'A meta-analysis of the association between induced abortion and breast cancer risk among Chinese females.'" (NewsGuard ci ha fatto notare che esistono decine di ricerche scientifiche che smentiscono la correlazione tra aborto volontario e aumento di tumori. È vero. Ma esistono anche studi scientifici che evidenziano il contrario, come questo: A meta-analysis of the association between induced abortion and breast cancer risk among Chinese females). However the study does not show the opposite, as Oltre.tv affirmed, but only that induced abortion "might increase the risk of breast cancer in parous women, but in the nulliparous, IA [induced abortion] was not significantly associated with an increased risk of breast cancer." Moreover an update of the study published in 2015 underline that "the current prospective evidences are not sufficient to support the positive association between abortion (including IA and SA [spontaneous abortion]) and breast cancer risk."

As the fact-checking site Snopes pointed out “the weight of scientific evidence and medical consensus is that abortions do not lead to an increased risk of developing breast cancer.”

A March 2019 article titled “Measles outbreak in New York: scientists say the infection started from a vaccinated child” (“Focolaio di morbillo a New York, gli scienziati: contagio partito da bimbo vaccinato”) misstated facts and misrepresented research on vaccinations. The story claimed that researchers from the state’s Bureau of Immunization studied a “recent outbreak of measles” in New York and found that a vaccinated child had “caused a real epidemic” (“ha causato una vera e propria epidemia”). Oltre.tv also asserted that the scientists “say that we should not blame unvaccinated people for what happened, as there is nothing that prevents vaccinated people from infecting other subjects” (“affermano che non bisogna incolpare i non vaccinati per quello che è avvenuto, in quanto non esiste niente che impedisca ai vaccinati di infettare altri soggetti”).

Although Oltre.tv’s story does link to an article published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, the article was published in 2014 and concerned a 2011 outbreak of measles in New York. The study underlined that, although a vaccinated individual did pass on measles to four other vaccinated people in the 2011 outbreak, no others were infected, contradicting the claim that this case “caused a real epidemic.” Further, the study affirmed that “it remains critical that we maintain high population immunity and vigilance for disease” and that “the current 2-dose MMR vaccination strategy has successfully maintained measles elimination in the United States for nearly 20 years, despite continued importations.”

After NewsGuard asked Oltre.tv about the misleading information in the article, it added a note stating, “The arguments of the article on such a delicate subject have been done too lightly and with little care, thus giving rise to a series of errors that have misrepresented the news (“le argomentazioni dell’articolo su un tema così delicato sono state fatte con troppa leggerezza e poca cura, dando così luogo a una serie di errori che hanno travisato le notizie”). However, the content and the headline of the article were not corrected. Daniele Di Luciano, Oltre.tv’s Web Content Manager, also told

NewsGuard that the contributor who wrote the article decided to stop producing content for the site, following the inquiry from NewsGuard.

A May 2019 Oltre.tv article, “Doctor disbarred because he dared to make this request to an Islamic woman” (“Medico radiato perché ha osato fare questa richiesta a una donna islamica”), told the story of an English doctor, Dr. Keith Wolverson, who “got fired while visiting an Islamic patient because of a request” (“è stato licenziato durante una visita a una paziente islamica per una richiesta”). According to the article, the doctor requested that a Muslim woman remove a veil she was wearing because he could not hear her well, and was later fired and lost his license because of “racial discrimination” (“discriminazione razziale”).

Several British newspapers, such as The Telegraph and The Mirror, reported that although the doctor was being investigated regarding the incident, which occurred in May 2018, he had not been fired or disbarred, but was suspended during the investigation, which was still ongoing as of October, 2019. After an email interview with NewsGuard, Oltre.tv added a note to the beginning of the story stating, “The doctor was neither dismissed nor fired. He was sued and, if convicted, could be expelled from the medical order. We apologize to our readers” (“il medico non è stato né radiato né licenziato. È stato denunciato e, se fosse condannato, potrebbe essere espulso dall'ordine dei medici. Ci scusiamo con i nostri lettori”). However, as of September 2019, the false information in the headline and text of the article were not corrected.

Because Oltre.tv has frequently published misleading articles, often failing to cite its sources, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly.

In an email interview with NewsGuard, Daniele Di Luciano, Oltre.tv’s Web Content Manager, said the examples NewsGuard mentioned are “errors” (“errori”) rather than false content that otherwise would have implied “a certain voluntariness” (“una certa volontarietà”).

Oltre.tv has repeatedly published misleading headlines. For example, a March 2019 article stated, “Here are the ties between Soros and the Italian left” (“Ecco svelati i legami tra Soros e la sinistra italiana”). However, the

article did not explain these “ties.” Moreover, the story erroneously asserted that politicians Carlo Calenda and Emma Bonino are left-wing.

Another article published in January 2019 with the headline “90 minutes of applause for the communist Marco Rizzo which destroys the mayors of the PD” (“90’ di applausi per il comunista Marco Rizzo che distrugge i sindaci del Pd”) suggested that the politician Marco Rizzo received a 90-minute round of applause, when he did not. An October 2019 article appeared with the headline, “Some words of the parents destroy children's brains: here are what to avoid” (“Alcune parole dei genitori distruggono il cervello dei figli: ecco quali evitare”). However, neither the article nor the study mentioned by Oltre.tv suggested that certain words can destroy the brains of children.

For these reasons NewsGuard has determined that the site does not avoid deceptive headlines.

“Your red valuation on deceptive headlines makes no sense” (“La vostra valutazione rossa sui titoli ingannevoli non ha senso”), said Di Luciano.

Oltre.tv states its correction policy at the end of each page, with a sentence stating that “We are committed to correcting our mistakes honestly and transparently, trying to ensure that readers always see the correct version of articles” (“Ci impegniamo a correggere i nostri errori in maniera onesta e trasparente, cercando di garantire che i lettori vedano sempre la versione corretta dell’articolo”). Oltre.tv meets NewsGuard’s standards for effectively correcting errors by appending correction notices at the top of articles, despite the fact that it does not then correct the false information within the articles or their headlines. “We publish the note because it seems the most transparent correction possible” (“Pubblichiamo la nota perché ci sembra la correzione più trasparente possibile”) Di Luciano said in an email interview with NewsGuard, adding that Oltre.tv is open to begin correcting the text and the headlines.

After correspondence with NewsGuard, the site added an opinion (Le opinioni di Oltre.tv) section, where it moved several articles previously published in the website’s news sections. Nonetheless, many articles, including many posted in the News from Italy (Notizie

dall'Italia) section, express right-wing or conservative opinions on Italian politics, immigration, vaccines, religion.

For example, a December 2018 article labeled "Politics" ("Politica") attacked the former Italian Health Minister Giulia Grillo's stance on vaccinations, stating that "yesterday she rightfully opposed [former] Minister [Beatrice] Lorenzin and the mandatory vaccinations, while today, when she could really change things, seems she wants to endorse the law" ("ieri criticava (a ragion veduta) il ministro Lorenzin e l'obbligatorietà mentre oggi, che potrebbe realmente cambiare le cose, sembra addirittura voler avallare la legge").

A May 2019 article in the Politics (Politica) section expressed solidarity with Michele Schiavi, the 19-year-old mayor of Onore, who had been criticized for his right-wing positions. The author wrote that he agreed with populist Fratelli d'Italia leader Giorgia Meloni when she said that "the people who really spread hate [in Italy]" ("chi diffonde davvero l'odio") are those who call people from her party fascist.

Moreover, the website's story selection promotes a conservative perspective that it does not disclose. Of 20 articles published between September and November 2019 in the Politics (Politica) section, 19 either were critical of the Democratic party and the Five Star movement, or celebrated the far right-wing parties The League and Brothers of Italy.

Because the site publishes commentary in stories presented as news and is not upfront about the right-wing perspective evident in its coverage and in the story selection, NewsGuard has determined Oltre.tv does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly. In response to a NewsGuard email inquiring about Oltre.tv's slant, Di Luciano stated that the site's authors and owners are "really nonpartisan and non-conservatives" ("realmente apolitici e non conservatori").

In May 2019, Oltre.tv's Facebook page was one of 23 Italian Facebook pages shut down by the social media network after an investigation by the U.S.-based nonprofit Avaaz concluded the pages had spread false information ahead of that month's EU elections. Oltre.tv reopened a new Facebook page on May 29 under a new URL.

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Transparency

On its About Us (Chi siamo) page, Oltre.tv states that the website belongs to Arcanet Web, a communications and marketing company, and names its editorial leadership.

Most articles are bylined and provide author biographies and contact information in a text box at the bottom.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

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History

Oltre.tv's domain was registered in November 2018, according to its WHOIS record.

*Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on July 17, 2020, to include examples of false content about the coronavirus pandemic. This Nutrition Label was previously updated on Nov. 12, 2019, to include examples of deceptive headlines and new comments from the site.*

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

## Sources

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Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Credibility

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History

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