

**Title of the poster: SILENCED DEMOCRACY**

This poster is prepared by getting inspiration from the brave journalist Carole Cadwalladr in the UK.

Cadwalladr's investigation on Vote Leave campaign has started with identifying concerns created on Facebook through unreferenced ads which also create hate crime and fear. Most importantly, only some parts of the society were facing these ads. Cadwalladr calls this part of society who are manipulated on Facebook, as "persuadables". They are at the bottom of my poster. The votes of these people were not made under informed basis, but rather by spreading disinformation on Facebook through ads. And most of the times we are liking, commenting on posts and sharing them with our friends without realizing how our actions on social media can be used to manipulate us.

As Carole had claimed, this entire referendum took place in darkness because it took place on Facebook. That is why my poster is mainly dark coloured and why there is a stamp on a piece of vote saying that this is approved by Facebook.

This darkness can only be enlightened by the brave investigative journalists and public interest defenders. The light at the top of the poster represents how silencing journalism can plunge entire society into darkness.

I would like to draw attention to the contradiction of states which claim to be 'democratic' in nature, yet where freedom of the press is not adequately protected, and freedom of expression for the benefit of society is considered as a crime. In the absence of these freedoms, the implementation of meaningful free elections will not be possible. Democracy imprisoned in a vote box during the referendum, symbolizes this fact and its lock symbolizes the monetary power of the individuals or companies who may use the legal system to threaten and punish journalists.

I have also written a blog post which is titled as "The Business of Silencing Journalists And Its Harm to the Democratic Environment: The case of Carole Cadwalladr" on the CSR Blog. I dedicated my article and my poster to all brave investigative journalists and public interest defenders who face challenges and even risk their lives to speak the truth. The link of my article:

Demet Altunay, 'The Business of Silencing Journalists and Its Harm to the Democratic Environment' (The Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics Blog, 31 March 2022) retrieved at: <https://corporatesocialresponsibilityblog.com/2022/03/31/the-businessofsilencing-journalists>

## REFERENCE LIST

TED TALK 2019. Facebook's role in Brexit -- and the threat to democracy. Carole Cadwalladr. Retrieved from [https://www.ted.com/talks/carole\\_cadwalladr\\_facebook\\_s\\_role\\_in\\_brexit\\_and\\_the\\_threat\\_to\\_democracy](https://www.ted.com/talks/carole_cadwalladr_facebook_s_role_in_brexit_and_the_threat_to_democracy)

Preparation of the poster: <https://www.canva.com/>

*By submitting the poster presentation I confirm that its content are the results of my genuine and authentic work that I did not infringe any third party rights. I confirm my acceptance of terms and rules of the digital poster presentation organized within the research project "Whistling at the Fake: The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in Countering Disinformation", including right of the organizer to showcase, publish and market selected works and use them or excerpts of them as project outcomes.*

DEMET ALTUNAY



13.04.2022