MILD

More correct Information. Less Discrimination

Real or Fake ?

Test your ability to distinguish between authentic photos/videos and AI-generated content

THE GAME RULES

Real Photography

Messy details, human agency, authentic context. Real photos contains "random noise".
It is important to resist the temptation of creating pictures for "illustration purpose" in news reports - that confirms AI biases and algorithmic stigmatisation - with the risk of AI visuals becoming the norm in journalism.

AI Stereotype

Hallucinations, cinematic lighting, inconsistent shadows, and waxy skin textures can be found in AI-generated images.
But the blurred line between fake and real is becoming increasingly thin. AI is a mirror that reflects the framing used in disinformation, such as manipulative visual angles.

Can you spot the difference?

ROUND 1: THE PROTEST (A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT)

IMAGE 1

IMAGE 2

Which one is a REAL photograph?

IMAGE 2 IS AI

The Invasion trope

Slightly more people and more signs are added to the image. The angle of both pictures left out the bigger picture: this protest was legal and attended by a mixed crowd.

![MILD - More correct Information. Less Discrimination]

ROUND 2: THE SCAMMER
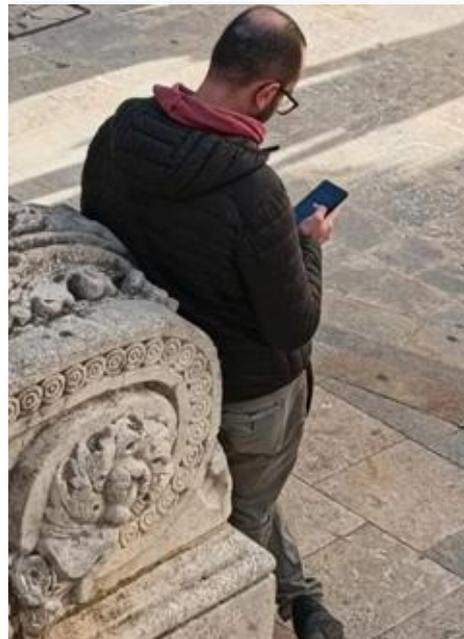
IMAGE 1

IMAGE 2

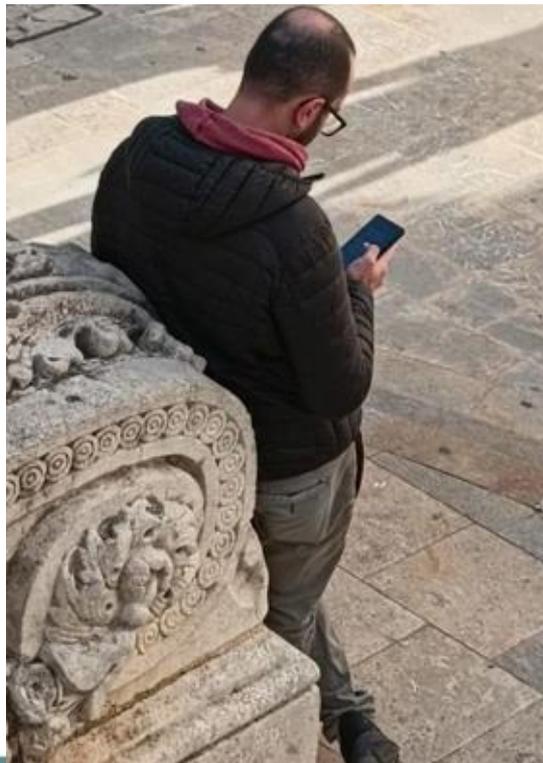**Which one is a REAL photograph?**

IMAGE 2 IS REAL

REVEAL: THE FAKE REFUGEE

The "fake refugee" trope

Zooming in on a smartphone to frame the individual as **a fake refugee or a scammer**, ignoring the reality that these are basic tools for modern survival and communication.

In a manipulative intent, this real image of a Caucasian person can be modified to place a racialized person in a fake place.
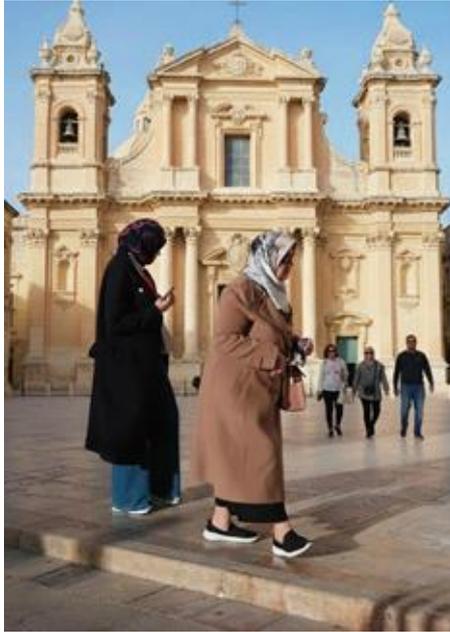
ROUND 3: RELIGION OVER REASON

IMAGE 1

IMAGE 2

Which one is a REAL photograph?

IMAGE 2 IS AI

The cultural clash trope

An image suggesting that muslims are out of place near a Church. The zoom on the two muslims women over the reduced size of the people in the background suggests cultural takeover.

The manipulative intent is clear.

MILD
More correct Information. Less Discrimination

ROUND 4: ARE WE ALL EQUAL?

IMAGE 1

IMAGE 2

Which one is a REAL photograph?

REVEAL: MIGRANT PEOPLE ARE BETTER SERVED

The positive discrimination trope

Cropped picture of migrant people carrying food leaving out the real picture of poverty affecting also locals. Across the EU, locals and migrant people receive items from Food banks.

The manipulative intent is the AI image on the previous slide corresponding to the narrative that elderly locals are suffering from poverty while migrant people receive prime treatment.

MILD
More correct Information. Less Discrimination

ROUND 5: SLEEPING ROUGH

IMAGE 1

IMAGE 2

Which one is a REAL photograph?

IMAGE 2 IS AI

Security concern

The manipulative intent is to picture migrant people (who would supposedly be under substance abuse) sleeping on a public street, while a caucasian woman is cleaning around their "mess".
It can be used to trigger strong emotions and rejection of migrant people. (Yet, homelessness concerns everyone).

FINAL CHECK

AI is not a camera. It is a mirror.

As media professionals, we must always be aware that visuals shared by politicians in press releases can be manipulated. To counter discrimination and visual manipulation, we must challenge visual framing and, whenever possible, use verified real images

CHOOSE REALITY OVER THE MIRROR