

Mr. Pascal Crittin
Director of Radio Télévision Suisse
Quai Ernest-Ansermet 20
Case postale 234
1211 Genève 8

17 December 2020

Dear Mr. Crittin,

We are writing to share with you the attached report concerning Anne-Frédérique Widmann and her [documentary](#) about UNRWA that will be aired this evening by Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS) on its *Temps Présent* program, and to request that RTS inform its viewers about Ms. Widmann's highly partisan position regarding UNRWA when the program is broadcast.

As detailed in the report, it is clear from her social media that she is not objective about UNRWA, Israel, or antisemitism. On her official social media, Ms. Widmann routinely dismisses or downplays antisemitism, criticizes only one side in the Arab-Israeli or Palestinian-Israeli conflicts, and uncritically supports UNRWA.

Ms. Widmann's partisanship on this issue appears to violate RTS's [Code of Ethics](#) which places a strong emphasis on impartiality and objectivity. The RTS Code of Ethics states that reporting should be "objective and transparent" and "avoid omitting or distorting essential information." Publicly expressing political opinions, openly taking sides on an issue being covered or sounding off about matters relevant to a report in an openly partisan way compromises a journalist's impartiality. A journalist who has repeatedly made partisan, public pronouncements opposing one side in the controversies being examined by her investigative report cannot be regarded as objective.

Furthermore, in light of Ms. Widmann's partisan social media posts on issues related to Israel, UNRWA and antisemitism, it is impossible to imagine how she could possibly produce a balanced program as required by [Swiss law](#). It is troubling that RTS is producing a program about UNRWA where there are serious grounds to fear that impartiality and balance are being compromised.

In light of the foregoing, we request that, at a minimum, RTS make full disclosure when the program is broadcast, and inform its viewing public about Ms. Widmann's partisan positions with respect to UNRWA.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director