



International Network of Street Papers

www.street-papers.org



SNS: Uniting a Movement of Independent Media Voices

A Unique News Agency

The **Street News Service** (SNS) plays a key role in INSP's efforts to build a strong and united anti-poverty movement. The SNS provides a forum for street papers to exchange editorial content and photographs, enabling their development and capacity building. The SNS is particularly crucial for street papers in the developing world, who often operate in isolation and with scant resources. The SNS also aims to inform and educate public opinion surrounding issues of social and economic justice. It promotes the diversity and flow of under-represented voices, independent perspectives and substantive social journalism distinctive to the international street paper movement.



The Broad Reach of Local Journalism

Since 2007, some 1,500 street paper articles have been circulated through the SNS. The service is distributed weekly, in 3 languages, to over 200 street paper journalists worldwide. The SNS offers access to the best of street paper journalism as well as exclusive features and photos from our media partners - Reuters and Inter Press Service. Working with a team of 46 volunteer translators, from the UK and around the world, the SNS currently offers a translation service in 15 languages. Since 2007, there have been over 600 known republications of content from street papers and our media partners.

One Article's Journey

The Big Issue in Scotland published an article, telling the story of fellow street paper La Calle in Bogota, Colombia. The story was submitted to the SNS and then republished by The Big Issue Japan and The Big Issue in the North (UK). In its journey around the world, one SNS article was read by a diverse audience of over 400,000 people.



Informing & Engaging on an International Level

INSP has invested substantial energy in developing the capacity, accessibility and relevance of the SNS project. Since it began in 2005, and with the support of volunteers, journalists and media partners, the service has grown enormously in scope and diversity of participation.

As well as facilitating worldwide editorial exchange between street papers, SNS liaises with a working group of street paper editors to develop its own exclusive content. The 'SNS Exclusive' aims to provide editorial voices missing from mainstream media, give global perspectives on important social issues and raise awareness of the street paper movement. The SNS currently compiles 2 'SNS Exclusive' articles every month, in 3 languages.

Over time, the SNS aims to make even greater use of its network, to bring more independent information and local, street-level perspectives to a global audience.

A Future Full of Potential

INSP's focus is on the creation of a brand new, user-friendly website. It will provide an innovative and unique public gateway to a specific kind of independent reporting, and perspectives that cannot be accessed elsewhere.

Developing our translation capacity will make the SNS more accessible to a diverse user group and help us bring the service to a wider audience.

Employing a dedicated expert member of staff is necessary to support a premiere independent news agency. An SNS Editor would contribute organisational capacity, multilingual communication abilities, seasoned journalistic experience and outreach efforts to this exciting project.

Eventually the Street News Service will be marketed as a fee based subscription service for external media partners and operate as a social enterprise in its own right.



“The Street News Service is a dynamic movement of independent social media, which is distinctive in its capacity to encourage editorial voices missing from traditional media. Reuters has been a proud supporter of the SNS for over two years and hopes to be part of INSP's future growth and development.”

—David Schlesinger, Editor-in-Chief, *Reuters*



“IPS supports the development of the Street News Service as a fresh perspective on development-related news and information from around the world. We need more voices in society, not fewer, to make it a more just and equitable world and the development of the Street News Service is positive step towards this aim.”

—Mario Lubetkin, Director General, *Inter Press Service*

The screenshot shows the Street News Service website interface. At the top, it says 'STREET NEWS SERVICE' and 'INSP: a gateway to the best stories published by street papers worldwide'. Below this, there are sections for 'TOP STORIES' with a featured article 'Female trafficking: Women as Commodities' by Apropos, Austria. There are also 'OTHER RESOURCES' and 'FEATURES' sections. A 'SNS EXCLUSIVE' section is highlighted, with a featured article 'Living with a Terrorist in your Head - The Story of a Brain Tumour Patient' by Street Magazine, the Netherlands. Below this, there are 'ALSO THIS WEEK...' and 'REPLICATIONS' sections. The 'REPLICATIONS' section lists various stories from different street papers, such as 'Cartoon: The Happy Homeless Guy' and 'The Addict's Almanac'. There are also sections for 'OTHER INFORMATION' and 'SUBMISSION DEADLINE'.

The SNS email feed which is sent to street paper members every week.