



Tipsheet from Inside the Investigation: Lauren Chooljian of NHPR

When it comes to reporting on sexual misconduct, there are some great resources available – including this [FIJ Tipsheet](#) by Jessica Miller of The Salt Lake Tribune. We especially +1 her recommendation to check out the resources available through the [Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma](#). The Dart Center was very helpful to us as well.

We also recommend reading [She Said by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey](#), the New York Times reporters who broke the story of Harvey Weinstein’s decades of sexual assault. Lauren was particularly inspired by how these two journalists described their approach to sources who potentially had experienced sexual misconduct. (You can also read about that strategy [here](#).)

As for reporting on substance use disorder and the treatment industry, check out the “resources” page on our website, [13thsteppodcast.org](#). There, you’ll find the books and other resources Lauren found helpful while reporting and writing this series.

Other things we learned on this reporting journey:

- Resources for proactively protecting yourself/your information online:
 - [DeleteMe](#): This paid service helps remove your personal information from search engines and data broker sites. While there are no guarantees, DeleteMe does a really solid job of it (and can save you a lot of time and effort going through the hoops to get this information removed on your own).
 - [Digital Safety Snacks](#): (from PEN America, the Online News Association, and the International Women’s Media Foundation) This was a series of helpful webinars in 2022 that offered a lot of practical advice for journalists (also useful for just about anyone these days). You can still explore the training series in the online archive linked here.
- [HP Risk Management](#), especially [Colin Pereira](#): If you or your team have faced or could face retaliation for your reporting, Colin and the folks at HP are there to help. The UK-based firm provides excellent safety trainings for newsrooms, as well as consulting services and risk assessments for specific reporting projects, including reviewing editorial plans. If you have questions about how to mitigate your or your team’s risks, we highly recommend calling this team. These situations can leave teams feeling like there’s no roadmap, and HP’s experts can light the path forward. We can only speak to Colin’s work, but he has a great bedside manner, too, which is much appreciated.

- The importance of psychological safety: This is key for almost any type of work, but especially the intensity of investigative journalism. One exercise we still use for fostering a sense of psychological safety on our team has become known as “the check-in.” Here’s how it works: At the start of a team meeting or before a group edit, we go around and each share how we’re feeling at that moment. Then, someone else in the group repeats back what they heard that person share, and reminds them they are doing a great job. This may sound simple, but can have a profound effect, especially during really difficult times in the life of these reporting projects. This exercise helps build empathy, and provides some relief before diving into the work.