

## **ANONYMITY POLICY**

*Created March 2015*

- 1.** The reporter must always know the identity of their sources, regardless of whether or not the source's name is used in print.
- 2.** Anonymity should not be granted without justification that holds up to scrutiny from the assigning section editors and the editor-in-chief. A reporter should ask their assigning editor and/or the editor-in-chief if they are unsure a source warrants anonymity.
- 3.** The reporter should always ask themselves why the source wishes to remain anonymous. Can their statements be independently verified? Do they have any reason for personal gain in disseminating this information?
- 4.** The reporter must make any and all efforts to get the source's name in print (i.e. point out that an anonymous tip is less powerful, and less credible, than an attributed quote.)
- 5.** Anonymity should only be granted when having the source's name printed would have adverse effects on the source's personal or professional life (i.e. harassment, loss of employment or damage to reputation).
- 6.** It is good practice for the assigning editor and/or editor-in-chief to be aware of the source's identity, especially if they are being used repeatedly.
- 7.** When a source is granted anonymity, the reporter must not break that trust with their source, and The Link Publication Society must respect the source's anonymity until they have granted their name to be used in print.