

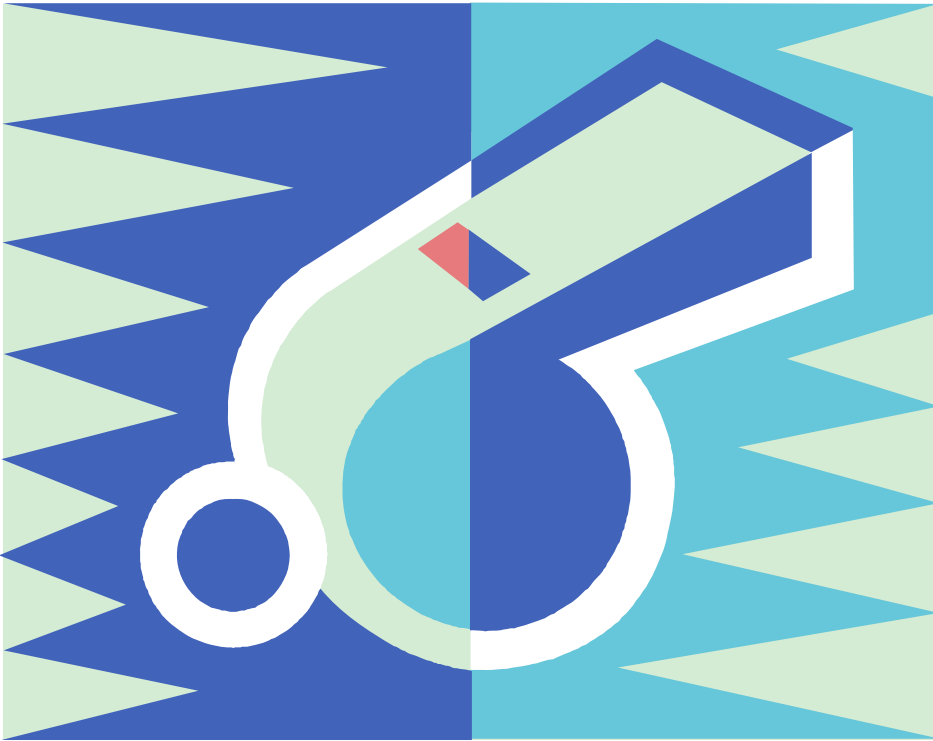
Whistleblowing

International Workshop on Accountability Challenges:
Choosing the Right Direction

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A **whistleblower** is an [employee](#), former employee, or member of an organization, especially a [business](#) or [government agency](#), who reports misconduct to people or entities that have the power and presumed willingness to take corrective action. The misconduct may be a violation of a [law](#), rule, regulation and/or a direct threat to [public interest](#), such as [fraud](#), health/safety violations, and [corruption](#).

Who wants to be a wisleblower?



Common reactions to whistleblowing

Ideas about whistleblowing vary widely. Whistleblowers are commonly seen as selfless [martyrs](#) for public interest and organizational [accountability](#); others view them as " " or "[snitches](#)" (slang), solely pursuing personal glory and fame. Because the majority of cases are very low-profile and receive little or no media attention and because whistleblowers who do report significant misconduct are usually put in some form of danger or persecution, the latter view is generally less held.

Legal protection for whistleblowers

Legal protection for whistleblowing varies from country to country. In the [United Kingdom](#), the [Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998](#) provides a framework of legal protection for individuals who disclose information so as to expose malpractice and matters of similar concern. In the vernacular, it protects whistleblowers from victimisation and dismissal.

In the United States, legal protections vary according to the subject matter of the whistleblowing, and sometimes the state in which the case arises. In passing the 2002 [Sarbanes-Oxley Act](#), the Senate Judiciary Committee found that whistleblower protections were dependent on the "patchwork and vagaries" of varying state statutes. (Congressional Record p. S7412; S. Rep. No. 107-146, 107th Cong., 2d Session 19 (2002).) Still, a wide variety of federal and state laws protect employees who call attention to violations, help with enforcement proceedings, or refuse to obey unlawful directions.

Norway

- 42% of the "firms" asked told that there had been serious economic crimes within their "firm"
- New §§ in an old law
 - Set up a channel for internal whistleblowing
 - Protection of the whistleblower

Flow chart wistleblowing

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