

Who controls the story?

Britain's Media faces a crisis of Trust

As trust in mainstream media wanes and digital voices rise, people are rethinking how, and where, they get their news



Picture: Courtesy BBC Sport

The UK's media landscape is undergoing a reckoning, not because of dwindling viewing figures or competition from streaming platforms, but because of trust. Once considered reliable sources of information, Britain's major outlets, including the BBC and Sky News, now stand accused of bias and selective reporting. Nowhere is this been clearer than in the coverage of the Gaza conflict, where the narrative has often seemed controlled by those holding the microphone, while other voices are silenced.

Former BBC presenter Gary Lineker is one of the most outspoken critics of this bias in reporting. Having previously compared government rhetoric on immigration to language "used in 1930s Germany," he again clashed with the broadcaster over its decision to drop the documentary Gaza: Doctors Under Attack.

The BBC said airing the film, which was shot inside hospitals during Israel's bombardment, risked compromising its impartiality. Lineker pointed out the contradiction: "It wasn't impartial about Ukraine and Russia," he noted, urging the corporation to "hold its head in shame" for silencing the voices of medics working under fire.

For many, this isn't about football or politics, it's about fairness and the right to see and hear the truth. Lineker's confrontation with his employer exposed the fragile boundary between impartiality and stating facts.

Observers have long noticed patterns in how broadcasters frame the conflict. Israeli officials often receive more uninterrupted airtime, while Palestinian

representatives are interrupted or pressed to condemn violence before being fully heard. The imbalance is visible to everyone watching.

A detailed study by the Centre for Media Monitoring (CfMM) supports these perceptions. It found during the early months of the Gaza genocide, UK outlets gave far greater prominence to Israeli perspectives, with emotive terms such as, massacre or slaughter overwhelmingly used for Israeli deaths. Palestinian casualties, by contrast, were often reported in neutral or bureaucratic language.

Inside the BBC, frustration has been growing. Reports from openDemocracy revealed that more than 100 staff members signed a letter protesting the decision to shelve the Gaza documentary, arguing senior management had succumbed to political pressure. The corporation maintains it acted to preserve editorial standards.

The issue extends beyond one broadcaster. Across the UK's media landscape, journalists are grappling with questions of fairness, objectivity and the influence of politics on storytelling. With trust eroding, audiences are increasingly turning to independent outlets and social media, where alternative viewpoints thrive.

For the Mauritian diaspora, this erosion of trust feels familiar. When the MV Wakashio oil spill devastated Mauritius in 2020, global networks arrived briefly, capturing dramatic footage of oil-slicked lagoons and grieving locals, then vanished. The ongoing clean-up, activism and community heroism barely made the headlines.

Just as in Gaza, it was local voices and social media that told the fuller story. The parallels remind us that journalism's purpose is not to govern what we see, but to ensure we see enough to understand and form a balanced opinion.

In a world saturated with information yet starved of empathy, the question for mainstream media is no longer who reports the news, but who is allowed to speak.

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Rob Skolar



The Balfour Declaration was part of the curse of the era of British imperialism/colonialism.

The famous declaration was made by Prime Minister Lord Balfour in 1917 to purposely plant a Jewish colony in Palestine. He viciously did not send the European jews to nearby Israel. 1917 wat at the height of the World War I.

The ploy was to attract jewish-controlled America to join the war, and to purposely implanting a second jewish faction among the Arabs. Lord Balfour succeeded in both. He is probably frying in hell at the moment for the crimes he committed whose effects will last as long as man will exist on Planet Earth.

Charles Dance is an English actor, playing heroes and villains:

P.C.

Japan Local Colour

A tale of two lakes

Lake Toya and Lake Utonai



From Mylene



Wilderness of Lake Utonai

Hokkaido, Japan's northern island, is located 1,270 km north of Tokyo and only 824 km from Vladivostok in Russia. This island is celebrated for its untouched wilderness and six national parks, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Shiretoko, recognized for its outstanding natural beauty and rich biodiversity.

Living in such a green environment makes it easy to retreat to peaceful spots that provide an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

I decided to visit two lakes within a week of each other: Lake Toya in the southwestern part of the island and Lake Utonai, located to the east of Toya.

Each lake presents its own distinct characteristics

As the lake is the main attraction for visitors, the town has been carefully designed to enhance its appeal.

A pleasant walking promenade winds around the water, providing a perfect path for leisurely strolls. Hotels are positioned a bit further inland, while shops, restaurants, and other amenities are strategically placed away from the shores to preserve the breathtaking views.

I would describe this as a functional lake. There are cruise boats, pedal boats that look like large ducks, canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddle-boarding, and for those who prefer land-based activities, there are volcano-related trails, museums, hot springs, foot springs and the Usuzan ropeway.

Although this might appear to be a lot of activity, research indicates that the tranquility people feel around bodies of water tends to elicit positive physical and mental responses, often referred to as the "Blue Mind" effect.

At Lake Toya, you'll spot Nakajima Island, which was formed approximately 45,000 years ago from lava domes. Additionally, plumes of smoke can be seen rising from Mt. Usu, an active volcano that has erupted four times in the 20th century (specifically in 1910, 1944-45, 1977-78, and 2000), each time reshaping its form.

From the ropeway or from a helicopter, you can look down at its steaming peak that resembles a cauldron ready to erupt, serving as a reminder of the ongoing activity below the surface.

sand gradually accumulated, ultimately transforming the Yufutsu area into grassland. Water from the Bibi River collected, and Lake Utonai was formed. The lake itself, along with the surrounding marshes and vegetation, qualifies as a wetland ecosystem.

Historically, wetlands were viewed negatively and often associated with disease. As people pursued economic growth, they drained wetlands for construction and agriculture.

However, we now understand the important benefits of wetlands, including their ability to purify water, control floods and provide habitats for wildlife. In 1981, The Wild Bird Society of Japan designated the lake as its first sanctuary and built a Nature Centre to serve as a hub for natural conservation and environmental education.

Today, wetlands are regarded as crucial components of the environment, supporting biodiversity and contributing to the fight against climate change.

Whether you prefer Lake Toya or Utonai, being near water can help improve your mood. It has been shown to increase the release of hormones like serotonin and endorphins, making you feel happier and more relaxed. The body shifts from a fight-or-flight mode to a rest-and-digest state.

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Wildlife on Lake Utonai

and with key differences.

Lake Toya

Lake Toya is a caldera lake, which means it is a large, bowl-shaped body of water formed within a volcanic crater. This stunning lake was created after a massive volcanic eruption around 110,000 years ago.

Lake Utonai

A Wildlife Sanctuary

While Lake Toya may be lively with resorts and attractions, Lake Utonai, a freshwater lake, is smaller (9km) and quieter, providing a more natural experience focussed on nature and wildlife.

It's incredible to think that around 6000 years ago, the Yufutsu area was part of the ocean. Over time,



Wild Mushroom called Monkey's shelf

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As endorphins and serotonin coursed through me, the open expanse of water provided a welcome respite from the constant stimulation and clutter of

urban life. It prompted introspection. I reflected on Mauritius, an island surrounded by water. Does the vastness of the ocean inspire awe? Can a trip to the beach help to diminish daily worries providing

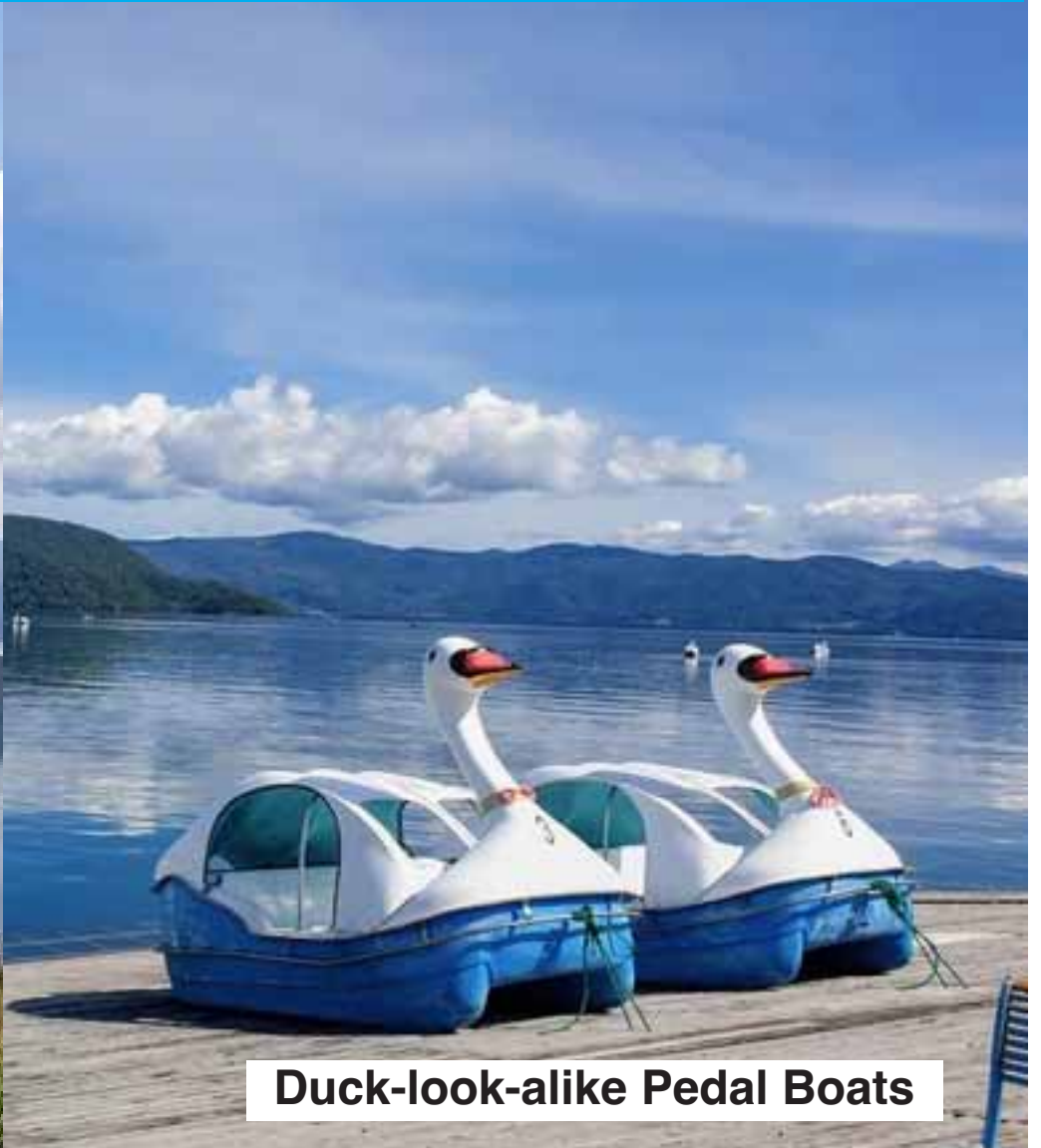
a broader perspective on life? Do the rhythmic sounds of waves or even the gentle movements of a lake serve as "pink noise" to calm the mind and block out jarring noise.

I wonder

Make a trip on Lake Toya with Mylene



Lake Toya



Duck-look-alike Pedal Boats



Cruise Boat on Lake Toya



Duck pedal boat on Lake