

## Ethics Essay Contest 2022

### Whistle-blower to the Press

Sheila is the manager of a strategic planning department of a multinational organization that owns and manages apparel-manufacturing facilities in a developing country. The company's advertising emphasizes the organization's "partnership with the developing world." In recent weeks, the company has been the subject of a series of critical articles in a national paper. The articles have contained detailed exposés about the exploitive pay and conditions in the factories. The newspaper has also commented unfavorably on the arrangements that the organization made with the country's government for the repatriation of profits.

The information in the articles includes confidential company information, and it is evident that a member of the organization has been supplying the information. The organization has a rule that staff members "must not disclose commercial information to unauthorized persons" and another that says "all contact with the press must be handled by the properly authorized officers." The company leadership is adamant that employees abide by the policy worldwide.

Sheila is mortified that the company for which she works could engage in such activities in these countries. It goes against her personal sense of fairness. At a social function, a member of Sheila's department, Kevin, inadvertently blurts that he has been supplying the information to the newspaper. Kevin immediately recognizes that he should not have told Sheila and says, "You must ignore what I have said or I will be sacked."

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### Questions to Consider

1. What are the issues in this scenario that create an ethical dilemma for Sheila?
2. What should Sheila do with the information learned from Kevin? Assess the situation using the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Principles for the best manner for Sheila to handle this situation.

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*So we can know more about you - please attach a short biographical sketch or resume; include school activities, community activities, hobbies and interests, and employment or volunteer experiences. Please also include your major, college, and if you are an undergraduate or graduate student. **Note: This is not included in the 1,000-word essay count.***