

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JUNE 4, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

IRAN PROJECTS STRATEGIC DOMINANCE AND IDEOLOGICAL CONTINUITY AMID REGIONAL WAR AND US POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION



DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: JUNE 4, 2026

Post-40-day War Victory Narrative; Imam Khomeini 37th Anniversary & Eid al-Ghadir; Leadership Transition to Murtaza Khamenei. Iran asserts Hormuz Sovereignty.



GLOBAL CONTEXT

US House Curbs Trump's War Powers (Resolution Passed); Israeli Societal Trauma & Attrition; Regional Axis Cohesion; Information Warfare Peak.

IRAN: IDEOLOGICAL CONSOLIDATION & STRATEGIC ASCENT



LEADERSHIP TRANSITION & CONTINUITY:

'Diplomacy of Resistance' validated. Murtaza Khamenei framed as necessary successor.

MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE & 'AXIS OF RESISTANCE'



Domestic Production: Ballistic missiles, air defenses (Ramadan War proof).
Coordinated Network: Capable of regional strikes on US bases (Bahrain, Kuwait).

Hezbollah's War of Attrition: Low-cost FPV drones vs. Israeli armor, resisting ceasefire terms.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ SOVEREIGNTY



ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY ASSERTED: Challenging international waterway status. IIRGC clearance required for transit. Control over submarine fiber optic cables (Digital Cargo Sovereignty).

GEOPOLITICAL & ECONOMIC FALLOUT: THE 'WEAPONIZATION OF GEOGRAPHY'



THE END OF US REGIONAL HEGEMONY THEME:

Narrative of American decline & failure to achieve strategic objectives. Shift to imposing costs via energy & tech control.

ECONOMIC WARFARE VECTORS



ENERGY TRANSIT DISRUPTION:

20-21M barrels/day pre-war. Threat to global markets, driving US inflation & fuel costs.

DATA SOVEREIGNTY & TOLLS:

\$10 Trillion daily financial flows via Potential transit fees & jurisdiction over digital infrastructure.

DIPLOMACY & INFORMATION WARFARE



STALLED NEGOTIATIONS: Lack of trust, Iran rejects Trump's nuclear deal claims. 'Front-Wide Ceasefire' is Iran's position.



AI PROPAGANDA VICTORY: Iran claims success in viral content & political satire, dismissing Israeli interception reports as false narratives.

US & ISRAEL: DOMESTIC FRAGMENTATION & SOCIETAL STRAIN



US POLITICAL CRISIS:

House resolution limits Trump's military action against Iran. Legislative constraint driven by inflation & midterm election backlash. Trump characterizes as 'unpatriotic'.

ISRAELI PSYCHOLOGICAL & MILITARY STRESS



SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN:

Hundreds of thousands seeking mental health treatment. Reports of 'psychological wounding' vs. Iranian 'resilience'.



HEZBOLLAH'S ATTRITION STRATEGY:

Israeli forces fail to produce breakthrough in Lebanon after 3 months. FPV drones target IDF positions.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & RISKS



SHORT TERM (1-4 Weeks): Increased Houthi activity, potential Lebanese unrest.



MEDIUM TERM (1-6 Months): US midterms force isolationism? Formal Iranian cable jurisdiction declaration?



LONG TERM (1-5 Years): Permanent regional power shift to Iran? Structural societal burden in Israel?



MAJOR RISKS: TOTAL HORMUZ CLOSURE, BEIRUT ESCALATION, DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SABOTAGE, US CONSTITUTIONAL STANDOFF.

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DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The regional security environment on June 4, 2026, is defined by the fragile aftermath of a high-intensity conflict, frequently referred to as the [40-day war](#) or the Ramadan war. Iranian state media portrays this period as a definitive victory for the "Axis of Resistance," claiming that Iran's domestic military production and self-reliance successfully neutralized US-Israeli aggression. The day is anchored by two major domestic events: the 37th anniversary of the [passing of Imam Khomeini](#) and the celebration of Eid al-Ghadir. These events are leveraged to project an image of national unity, ideological steadfastness, and a seamless transition of leadership toward [Ayatollah Mujtaba Khamenei](#).

Simultaneously, the broadcast highlights significant political fragmentation within the United States. The passage of a [House resolution](#) requiring President Trump to

obtain congressional authorization for further military action against Iran is framed as a major setback for US policy. This domestic friction is contrasted with the reported psychological trauma and [societal breakdown](#) in Israel, where hundreds of thousands are reportedly seeking mental health treatment due to the war's persistence. In the maritime domain, Iran asserts absolute authority over the [Strait of Hormuz](#), framing it not as an international waterway but as a sovereign Iranian territory and a strategic tool to impose economic costs on the West.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

US Legislative Constraints on Executive War Powers

- The US House of Representatives passed a [Democratic-led resolution](#) with support from four Republicans to force the winding down of military operations against Iran.
- President Trump characterized the vote as [meaningless and unpatriotic](#), claiming it undercuts sensitive negotiations with Tehran.
- Legislators cite [growing public backlash](#) over fuel costs and inflation as drivers for the resolution ahead of the November midterm elections.

Sovereignty Assertions in the Strait of Hormuz

- Iranian officials and military commanders reaffirmed [exclusive jurisdiction](#) over the Strait of Hormuz, challenging international waterway designations.
- The IRGC reported that [28 vessels](#) transited the strait only after obtaining IRGC clearance within a 24-hour period.

- Iran suggests that its control over submarine [fiber optic cables](#) in the strait provides a "turning point" for digital cargo sovereignty and potential retaliation.

Hezbollah Strategy and Israeli Attrition

- Hezbollah has transitioned from conventional clashes to a [war of attrition](#) in southern Lebanon, utilizing low-cost FPV drones to target Israeli tanks and command positions.
- Reports indicate Israeli forces have [failed to produce a breakthrough](#) after three months of ground operations in Lebanon.
- Hezbollah rejects US-brokered [ceasefire frameworks](#) that require their disarmament or withdrawal from the Litani River area.

Ideological Consolidation and Leadership Transition

- National commemorations for Imam Khomeini are used to validate the current ["diplomacy of resistance"](#) and the strategic importance of the 1979 Revolution.
- The leadership of [Ayatollah Mujtaba Khamenei](#) is framed as a direct and necessary continuation of his predecessors' paths.
- The concept of "Hybrid Warfare" is introduced as the [enemy's new strategy](#) to sow internal doubt following their reported military defeat.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The "Ramadan War" is cited as proof of Iran's [military self-reliance](#), with ballistic missiles and air defenses manufactured entirely in Iranian factories.

- The [Iranian Navy](#) claimed a direct hit on a US command and control center on a warship in the Sea of Oman.
- The "Axis of Resistance" is described as a [coordinated military network](#) capable of regional strikes on US bases in Bahrain and Kuwait.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi maintains that communication channels with the US remain open but [negotiations are stalled](#) due to lack of trust.
- Tehran rejects Trump's assertions of a new [nuclear agreement](#), stating no such negotiations have occurred.
- The Iranian position for any regional ceasefire is a [simultaneous halt](#) to conflicts on all fronts, including Lebanon.

Information Warfare & Disinformation

- Iran claims to be [winning the propaganda war](#) through viral AI-generated content and political satire.
- Western media is accused of [legitimizing US aggression](#) by framing Iranian strikes as "defensive" while ignoring regional alternatives.
- Israeli reports of [intercepting most attacks](#) are dismissed by Iran as false narratives contradicted by rising mental health clinic admissions in Israel.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- Submissions have been made to the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) regarding the detention and abuse of aid flotilla activists by Israeli forces.

- Rome's prosecutor's office has reportedly opened investigations into the [kidnapping of Italian nationals](#) by the Israeli regime.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The End of US Regional Hegemony

A recurring theme is the irreversible [decline of the American empire](#). Iranian analysts argue that the "superpower is only Almighty Allah" and that the US has reached a point of defeat within less than 50 years of the Islamic Revolution. This is supported by the narrative that US [military strikes](#) have failed to achieve strategic objectives, forcing Washington to seek "face-saving" exits. The Iranian perspective shifts from reacting to US pressure to proactively [imposing costs](#) on the global economy and US domestic politics via the Strait of Hormuz and energy market manipulation.

Societal Resilience vs. Psychological Collapse

There is a stark contrast drawn between the [resilience of the Iranian public](#), which reportedly gathers in millions for religious and nationalistic events, and the [psychological wounding](#) of Israeli society. The broadcast emphasizes that Iranian citizens view martyrdom with [joy and honor](#), whereas Israeli citizens are living in constant fear despite official claims of successful missile interceptions. This theme serves to bolster the domestic Iranian mandate while delegitimizing the durability of the Israeli state.

The Weaponization of Geography and Connectivity

Iran's strategic depth is no longer presented solely in terms of territory, but in terms of [controlling the physical layer](#) of the global internet and energy flows. The assertion of rights over undersea cables in Iranian waters represents a new front in tech sovereignty. By framing the Strait of Hormuz as a ["demonstrated instrument of conflict,"](#) Tehran signals that it will no longer allow "free siphoning" of data or energy through its yard without political and financial concessions.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Iran

Domestic stability in Iran appears high, reinforced by [mass participation](#) in state-sanctioned rallies. The narrative that millions are "ready to defend" the country, including a large [contingent of women](#), contradicts Western portrayals of a fragile regime. However, leadership warns of ["hybrid warfare"](#) aimed at sowing internal division, suggesting a state of heightened vigilance against domestic dissent or rumors regarding economic shortages.

United States

The US is portrayed as a nation in [deep political crisis](#). The split between the Trump administration and the House of Representatives on war powers indicates a possible constitutional or procedural standoff. State media highlights [voter frustration](#) over inflation and fuel costs, suggesting the administration's foreign policy is constrained by the upcoming midterms.

Israel

The Israeli government is framed as [sacrificing its citizens' future](#) for political

goals. The broadcast highlights [credibility gaps](#) in the IDF's reporting, noting the failure of the Iron Dome against low-cost "Abobil" drones. This perceived military failure is linked to a growing social and economic burden that could last for years.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is dominated by the consequences of the "naval blockade" and maritime restrictions. Iran is positioning its control over the Strait of Hormuz as a primary [economic weapon](#) against the West.

Key Economic Vectors:

- **Energy Transit:** Between [20 to 21 million barrels](#) of oil transited the Strait of Hormuz daily prior to the conflict, with current disruptions threatening global energy markets.
- **Inflation:** Higher [fuel costs](#) and rising inflation are cited as the primary drivers for US domestic opposition to the war.
- **Nuclear Industry Assets:** Iran generates [7 terawatt hours](#) of nuclear electricity annually and exports radio-pharmaceuticals to 15 countries, framing its nuclear program as an industrial rather than purely military asset.
- **Data Sovereignty:** Iran asserts that [10 trillion dollars](#) in daily financial transactions flow through cables in its territorial waters, suggesting a new mechanism for imposing transit fees or exercising jurisdiction.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's coverage emphasizes continuity and the consolidation of power within the Iranian clerical and military elite.

- **Ayatollah Mujtaba Khamenei:** Framed as the [new leader](#) whose school of thought is identical to Imam Khomeini's, signaling a completed and stable succession.
- **Sheikh Naim Qasim:** The [Hezbollah Secretary General](#) is portrayed as a key regional strategist, rejecting "humiliating" US-led negotiations.
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a [weakened leader](#) lashing out at both domestic opponents and international allies, having "no good options" regarding Iran.
- **Major General Raffi Milo:** Named by Hebrew media (and cited by Iran) as a target of [drone operations](#) in southern Lebanon.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The editorial hierarchy for June 4, 2026, prioritizes ideological celebration and strategic resilience. The **lead stories** are the 37th anniversary of Imam Khomeini and the passage of the US House resolution, which together form a narrative of "Iranian strength vs. American weakness." **Buried stories** include the specific details of Iranian military losses, which are only alluded to through mentions of "martyrs" without precise counts. The **emotional tone** is one of triumphant defiance and moral superiority. **Conspicuous omissions** include any perspective from moderate Lebanese voices who might support disarmament, or details on the actual state of Iran's domestic economy beyond energy and nuclear sector successes.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcast frames the world as a clear struggle between the "Resistance Axis" and the "Global Arrogance" led by the US and Israel.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Portrayed as a principled, [self-reliant](#), and invincible state. Quote: "Iran will never negotiate away the [foundation of its power](#)."
- **Israel:** Characterized as a ["cancerous tumor"](#) and a "criminal child-killing regime" suffering from military and societal collapse. Quote: "The image of his [troubled army](#) have been shattered."
- **United States:** Portrayed as a [dangerous but declining](#) power led by an "inconsistent" and "alienated" president. Quote: "Trump is just not [capable of admitting](#) that he has made a mistake."
- **Lebanon:** Framed as an [indivisible front](#) where the government is secondary to the "Resistance" (Hezbollah).

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Framed as a [chaotic and corrupt](#) figure humping "the leg of power" and prone to "flip-flops."
- **Ayatollah Khamenei:** Portrayed as a [guiding light](#) and a source of pride for freedom lovers globally.
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Described as a leader [marginalized from decision-making](#) and holding a "satanic interest" in Jerusalem.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Hezbollah:** Framed as the [sole effective defender](#) of Lebanese sovereignty, gaining popularity while the state weakens.
- **FIFA:** Criticized as a ["mercenary organization"](#) in the service of the empire.
- **IRGC:** Presented as the [legitimate authority](#) over regional security and maritime traffic.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The information space is heavily weaponized, with Iran claiming a "big achievement" in the propaganda war through saturation of [AI-generated content](#). Tehran identifies ["hybrid warfare"](#) as the primary current threat, accusing the West of spreading rumors and exaggerating shortages to break "people's resilience." There is a clear **media spin** where military victory is declared based on "refusal to collapse" rather than territory gained, while ground truth regarding Iranian casualties and economic hardship is largely suppressed in favor of nationalistic fervor.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Escalation of Asymmetric Strikes:** If the ceasefire fully collapses, Iran will likely [unleash its entire missile stockpile](#) in a single night to overwhelm regional air defenses.
- **Hormuz Toll Regime:** Iran may formalize a [fee-based transit model](#) for all commercial and digital traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, effectively creating a new national revenue stream at the expense of global trade.

- **US Constitutional Standoff:** The conflict over [war powers](#) between Trump and Congress could lead to domestic legal challenges that paralyze US military deployments in West Asia.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks)

- Increased [Houthi \(Ansarullah\) activity](#) in the Red Sea as they vow to enter the equation if Beirut is struck.
- Potential for "spontaneous" [rallies](#) turning into localized unrest in Lebanon if the government continues to push for Hezbollah's disarmament.

Medium Term (1-6 Months)

- The US [midterm elections](#) will likely force the Trump administration into a more isolationist or purely defensive posture to manage fuel prices.
- A formal Iranian policy declaration regarding [jurisdiction over undersea cables](#) could cause major fluctuations in global tech stocks and financial market sentiment.

Long Term (1-5 Years)

- A permanent shift in regional power where Iran exerts ["fourth center of power"](#) status, utilizing a unified "Axis of Resistance" to dictate terms of trade and energy transit.
- Structural [societal burden](#) in Israel leading to long-term demographic shifts or increased emigration.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current environment is high-risk, with multiple actors incentivized toward controlled

escalation that could rapidly exceed intended bounds.

- **Total Closure of Strait of Hormuz:** Triggers: A major US strike on Iranian infrastructure or an assassination of high-level leadership. Likelihood: Moderate-High. Impact: [Mass international economic problem](#) and global recession. Mitigations: Diplomatic concessions on naval blockades or recognition of Iranian maritime sovereignty.
- **Beirut Bombing Escalation:** Triggers: Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu carrying out threats to [bomb southern Beirut](#). Likelihood: High. Impact: Immediate Iranian [retaliation against northern Israel](#) and potential full-scale regional war. Mitigations: US pressure on the Israeli leadership or a comprehensive ceasefire agreement.
- **Digital Infrastructure Sabotage:** Triggers: Iran asserting rights over [undersea cables](#) and demanding permits for data transit. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Massive disruption to intercontinental internet traffic and financial transactions. Mitigations: International regulatory agreement recognizing Iranian jurisdiction in its territorial waters.
- **US Domestic Political Crisis:** Triggers: A constitutional standoff over the [House resolution](#) curbing Trump's war powers. Likelihood: High. Impact: Weakened US deterrence and potential for allies to [break away from Washington](#) to secure independent energy deals with Iran. Mitigations: Bipartisan consensus on a Middle East exit strategy.

- **Food Security Collapse in Conflict Zones:** Triggers: Continued destruction of [94% of Gaza's agricultural land](#) and escalating attacks on farmers in southern Lebanon. Likelihood: Certain. Impact: Widespread starvation and mass migration. Mitigations: Guaranteed humanitarian access and an immediate end to the destruction of civilian infrastructure.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The state of the **Iranian domestic economy** (real inflation, currency value, unemployment) is completely absent, replaced by reports of strategic industrial success.
- Details on **civilian resistance to the IRGC** within Iran are suppressed, with all public sentiment presented as monolithic support for the leadership.
- The **military casualties on the Iranian side** during the 40-day war are not quantified, preventing a true assessment of the conflict's cost to Tehran.
- The **role of Russia and China** is noticeably minimized, with focus remaining on the bilateral struggle with the US/Israel, obscuring potential diplomatic maneuvers by these powers.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Potemkin Resilience" Hypothesis: The massive public rallies and assertions of "joy in martyrdom" are not a sign of state strength, but a desperate propaganda effort to mask [internal doubt](#) and exhaustion within the Iranian population. The leadership's heavy emphasis on "hybrid warfare" suggests they

are more afraid of domestic rumors than US missiles.

The "Stalling Diplomacy" Scenario: Trump's claims of a nuclear deal and Iran's rejection are part of a coordinated "Good Cop, Bad Cop" routine intended to [buy time](#) for both sides to replenish stockpiles before a final, more destructive phase of the war begins in late 2026.

Black Swan Event: Israeli Civil Unrest. Given the reported [psychological trauma](#) and military failures, a sudden and violent internal uprising in Israel against Netanyahu could lead to a total collapse of the Israeli military front, forcing a chaotic US withdrawal similar to Afghanistan.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Intelligence agencies should focus on Iranian "digital sovereignty" threats, specifically potential [regulatory or physical control](#) over undersea fiber optic nodes in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Economic:** EU nations should accelerate diversification of energy supplies to mitigate the risk of a [permanent maritime blockade](#) in the Persian Gulf.
- **Diplomatic:** Shift focus toward [simultaneous Front-Wide ceasefire](#) negotiations rather than isolated deals for Lebanon or Gaza, as the "Resistance Axis" appears fully integrated.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Reroute sensitive data traffic and logistics hubs away from the [Iranian front yard](#) to avoid potential transit fees or digital interception.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Monitor evolving [ICC and European court probes](#) into Israeli military actions for potential ESG and legal risks for multinational partners.
- **Capital Allocation:** Anticipate [increased volatility](#) in the US energy sector as midterm elections approach and legislative constraints on military spending intensify.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative action in the US is currently focused on reclaiming war powers from the executive branch, driven by economic fallout from the Iranian conflict. In Iran, the legislative body is following a ["road map" of strategic guidance](#) provided by the clerical leadership.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **US House War Powers Resolution:** A measure requiring the President to obtain [congressional authorization](#) for military action against Iran. Strategic intent: To curb executive escalation and manage voter anger over inflation.
- **Iranian Strategic Asset Declaration:** Legislative reaffirmation of [sovereign authority](#) over the Strait of Hormuz. Strategic intent: To provide legal cover for Iranian military interference with international shipping.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Nasir Kazmi Reporting from Islamabad:** Reports on the [legacy of Imam Khomeini](#) and its regional resonance. Strategic intent: To demonstrate "Resistance Axis" soft power in Pakistan.
- **Almayadeen Interview with Foreign Minister Araghchi:** A statement asserting Iran's [readiness for a prolonged war](#) while leaving a narrow door for diplomacy. Strategic intent: Signaling to the US that "maximum pressure" has failed.

KEY STORIES

- **Commemoration of Imam Khomeini's Passing:** Nationwide events marking the [37th anniversary](#) of the Islamic Republic's founder, emphasizing ideological continuity and military victory.
- **US House Votes to Curb Trump's War Authority:** A resolution [passed 215-208](#) requiring authorization for military action against Iran, sparking a sharp rebuke from the President.
- **Eid al-Ghadir Rallies in Tehran:** A [10-kilometer route](#) celebration in the capital used to pledge allegiance to the new leadership and condemn US-Israeli atrocities.
- **Strait of Hormuz Maritime Control:** Iran asserts [exclusive right](#) to determine shipping policies and reports IRGC clearance procedures for all passing vessels.
- **Hezbollah Battlefield Innovations:** The use of [FPV drones](#) in southern Lebanon has created a "battlefield nightmare" for Israeli armor and infantry.

- **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression:** Protests in Tehran and reports from Gaza highlighting the death of over [20,000 children](#) since the conflict began.
- **Gaza Wheat Harvest Under Hardship:** Farmers in the territory harvesting wheat with [primitive tools](#) as 94% of agricultural land is reported damaged.
- **Handala Bombing in Tel Aviv:** A Palestinian-aligned group claims responsibility for a [car explosion](#) targeting a senior Mossad official.
- **Psychological Impact on Israeli Society:** Reports indicating more than [435,000 Israelis](#) have sought mental health care since October 2023.
- **North Korean Nuclear Expansion:** Kim Jong Un orders an [exponential expansion](#) of the country's nuclear arsenal in response to global security threats.
- **The 1963 JFK Assassination Mystery:** A segment exploring theories that the assassination was linked to [Israel's nuclear program](#) and the Dimona facility.
- **Palestine National Team History:** A retrospective on how [FIFA and the "empire"](#) allegedly hindered Palestinian qualification for the 2004 Olympics.
- **The "Minab Massacre" Protests:** Families gathering in front of [UNICEF offices](#) to demand accountability for US-Israeli strikes on an Iranian school.
- **Italian Probes into Flotilla Kidnappings:** Rome's prosecutor opens [investigations](#) into the detention of its nationals by the Israeli regime.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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