



GIJTR

Global Initiative for Justice,
Truth & Reconciliation

Social Media Guidelines when Working with Survivors of Conflict

It is always recommended to document the work you and your organization do with communities, partner organizations, and also victims and survivors of conflict. You can use the collected information to raise awareness of the human rights violations, conflict, and context that people are experiencing in a particular community across different social media which can reach thousands of people across the globe.

Here are some examples of photos to take during your work:

- Image from behind
- Hand gestures while talking
- Picture from the side when talking
- Picture from the side or behind when walking
- Picture of a drawing, something written or made during a workshop
- Object selected by survivor
- Headshots / Portraits (if they chose to be identified)
- The Site of their assault (which they don't have to revisit if too traumatizing)
- A healing Site, a Site that brings them peace (like a river or a road they like to walk along)

If participants would like to tell their story but may not want to be identified, here are some suggestions for visual content for your social media instead of using a photo that identifies them:

- Ask survivors if there is an object or site of significance in their lives that they would like to share and focus the narrative around why that object or site is significant.
- If they would like to write out their story, take a photo of their hands while writing down their words.

Guidelines on how to make survivors feel safe while being photographed:

- Don't assume they are comfortable being photographed. Ask if they would prefer to be photographed or to choose an object/place they feel represents their story.
- If they choose an object/place to represent them here are some questions you could ask. What is a place/thing that is important to you? What is a place/thing that has helped you heal? What is a place/thing that represents your trauma?
- Although survivors/survivor organizations should be encouraged to submit their own photographs, if a photoshoot takes place, make sure that the survivor feels in control of the photo shoot. Some ways to do this are by telling them that they can stop whenever they



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want, continuously checking in and asking them if they feel safe, asking them which parts of their face/body they are ok with shooting.

- Never touch a survivor without their verbal consent

What to avoid:

- Images of, or identifying women's shelters, psychosocial support/counselling centers, etc.
- Taking pictures of children, unless you have a prior consent of the parent or guardian
- Having (unidentified) people in the background when taking a picture. Make sure everyone who'd be identified in the image has provided their consent to be photographed.

