



**Survivor Engagement Safety Plan**

# **Hand-out: Safe Media Interactions**



## STEP 1 - RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK SITUATION: MEDIA INTERACTIONS

### THREATS

A journalist exploits your story for their own purpose.

A journalist does not respect your boundaries.

Being confronted with or asked difficult questions during an interview.

A newspaper publishes personal information.

### RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE THREAT

Psychological harm and re-traumatization due to stress, triggering questions, speaking about past trauma, the feeling of someone overstepping your boundaries etc.

Being contacted by pimps, traffickers, sex buyers, pro-sex work lobbyists, opponents or other people in the community.

### VULNERABILITIES/ PRACTICES WHICH GENERATE VULNERABILITIES

Lack of experience in being interviewed.

Having difficulty setting boundaries.

A person living with trauma is vulnerable to being retraumatized and is more easily triggered.

### CAPACITIES/PRACTICES WHICH GENERATE CAPACITIES

Being supported by an organization or a mentor/consultant, who can provide media training, and help me to prepare for the interview.

Having access to mental health services.

Having knowledge about relevant laws and regulations.

### GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY

Being exposed to additional and specific threats due to age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disabilities (psychological/physical) and/or sexual orientation.

## STEP 2 - RISK MITIGATION

### SAFE INTERACTIONS WITH MEDIA

#### PREVENTION

**Objective:** Reduce the risks of re-exploitation by the media as well as threats related to the increased exposure following the media interaction.

- Analyze if any possible previous experiences with similar activities, consider any threats that have occurred, and how to avoid such threats.
- Recognize the increased public exposure due to media publication, leading to potential online and or offline harassment or threats.
- Participate in media training and use guidelines that equip you with tools on how to protect your integrity.
- Analyze the media landscape, understanding the stance of various outlets and potential biases.
- Be aware of legal considerations and regulations related to media engagements.
- Anticipate potential backlash or negative coverage from certain media outlets.
- Equip oneself with media literacy skills to navigate interviews and discussions effectively.
- Provide the media outlet with written guidance on how to engage with survivors prior to the interview as well as to the journalist/interviewer during the interview.
- Plant different scenarios: What will you do if a journalist does not cooperate in a trauma-informed way? What will you do if the media exploits your story?
- Ask if you can receive the questions and approve them before the interview.

#### DURING INTERACTIONS

**Objective:** Take adequate measures in order to ensure the safety of your interactions with media.

##### During interactions

- Require final approval of the interview before it is printed.
- Inform the journalist if you want to stay anonymous or just go by your first name and if they can include any recognizable facts.
- Inform the journalist if you want photos to be taken without any recognizable factor.
- If possible, have someone accompany you to the meeting/ interview, preferably someone with sufficient training.
- If asked uncomfortable questions - **always remember that you have the right to not share sensitive information to the press/journalist.**

##### After interactions

- Read through the interview thoroughly, **preferably more than once** before giving your approval. Consider asking a trusted friend or colleague for their views as well.
- If the interview is translated into another language, make sure the translation genuinely reflects what was said.
- After publication: If threats occur, implement immediate security measures to address the specific threat. Develop long-term strategies based on the analysis to prevent similar incidents in the future.
- Do a follow-up with the interviewed person: How did the interview go? How do you feel?

This guide is developed by Beyond Survivors in cooperation with Protection International. Beyond Survivors is a cluster of survivor-led organizations and its **overall goal is to strengthen, structure and safeguard survivor engagement in the field of trafficking and exploitation of children.**

For more information please visit [www.beyondsurvivors.org](http://www.beyondsurvivors.org).