

GBV Prevention Network 16 Days of Activism Campaign: **Media Training Module Hand Out**¹

Guiding Principles that **Journalist** and **Editors** Should Follow when Reporting on GBV

There are 9 ethical Principles that the media should follow when reporting on violence against women. The media can amplify women's voices, counteract myths and stimulate dialogue and actions.

- 1. Accuracy:** get your facts right and be specific when reporting the crimes
- 2. Fairness:** "informed consent" is very important and the interviewee should be fully aware of the consequences of appearing in the media
- 3. Impartiality:** do not mention details that can be interpreted as implying blame towards the survivor
- 4. Duty to inform;** distinguish between "in the public interest" and what is "of interest to the public"
- 5. Respecting Privacy;** anonymity of survivors and respect the privacy of the survivor and their family
- 6. Sources;** protect your sources
- 7. Payment for interviews;** its poor ethics and may influence the interview, make it difficult for other journalist to get interviews as people will be expecting payments. Furthermore, this may pressure the survivor to speak to the media
- 8. Do no harm;** show sensitivity, respect the survivors privacy and ensure you have an awareness and basic knowledge of the subject i.e. VAW
- 9. Survivor centred approach;** the main focus is to give back power and control to the survivor by putting them at the centre of the healing process. It recognizes that each person is unique, reacts differently to GBV, has different strengths, resources and coping mechanisms, has the right to decide who should know about what has happened to them, and what should happen next. VAW is a manifestation of power inequality; if people around survivors in a position of power (such as reporters and service providers) impose their perspective, they can unintentionally create another experience where the survivors feel less in power. Dealing with survivors in a survivor-centered manner involves prioritizing their best interest, and applying the guiding principles of safety, confidentiality, respect, and non-discrimination.¹

¹ UNFPA Nine Ethical Principles: Reporting Ethically on Gender-Based Violence in the Syria Crisis - <http://www.unfpa.org/resources/nine-ethical-principles-reporting-ethically-gender-based-violence-syria-crisis#sthash.fEAIYxvQ.dpuf>