GENDER-SENSITIVE MEDIA GUIDELINE FOR REPORTING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

ފެމިލީ ޕްރޮޓެކްޝަން އޮތޯރިޓީ
Family Protection Authority

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Quick Reference: Ten Tools for Ethical Reporting on DV & GBV

1. Essential Practices for Reporting on DV & GBV

Protect survivor dignity, name crimes clearly, use accurate terms, hold perpetrators accountable, include survivor and expert voices, provide systemic context, choose respectful images, follow laws, moderate comments, and signpost support services.

2. Interviewing Survivors

Work through trusted organizations, ensure safety, explain purpose, use trauma-informed questions, obtain voluntary informed consent, offer protective options, and safeguard children’s identities.

3. Language and Framing

Use precise survivor-centered language, avoid euphemisms or stereotypes, describe perpetrators accurately, and hold them accountable.

4. Do No Harm

Prioritize survivor wellbeing, use trigger warnings, avoid graphic details, protect identities, select respectful images, and include support services.

5. Headlines

Name crimes clearly, avoid sensationalism or blame, and never evoke sympathy for perpetrators

6. Intersectionality

Reflect intersecting risks (disability, migration, poverty), avoid stereotypes, highlight systemic barriers, and ensure accessibility

7. Digital & Social Media

Never repost survivor content without informed consent, moderate harmful comments, share facts and services, remove harmful posts, and hold influencers accountable.

8. Advertising & Entertainment

Avoid objectification and stereotypes; promote inclusive, empowering portrayals and reject shock-value marketing.

9. Accessibility

Use subtitles, plain language, alt-text, descriptive narration, and translations. Ensure websites are accessible.

10. Journalist Wellbeing

Recognize trauma risks, set boundaries, rotate difficult assignments, debrief, practice self-care, and seek support

ކުރުކޮށް: ގެވެށިއަނިޔާ އަދި ވަކި ޖެންޑަރަކަށްވީމާ ކުރާ އަނިޔާ ރިޕޯޓް ކުރުމުގައި ބަލަންޖެހޭ ކަންތައްތައް

1. ގެވެށި އަނިޔާ އަދި ވަކި ޖެންޑަރަކަށްވީމާ ކުރާ އަނިޔާ ރިޕޯޓްކުރުމުގައި ގެންގުޅެންވާނެ އަސާސީ އުސޫލުތައް

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާގެ ކަރާމާތް ހިފަހައްޓާށެވެ. އެކަށީގެންވާ ދެމިހުރެވޭ އަސްލު ނަން ބޭނުންނުކުރާށެވެ. ވިކްޓިމްގެ އަސްލު ސާފުވެގެންދާ ބަސްތަކާއި ބޭނުންކުރުން، އަނިޔާކުރި މީހާ ޖަވާބުދާރީ ކުރުވުމުގެ އިތުރުން ބަލައިގަންނާށެވެ. މީގެ އިތުރުން، އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުގެ ސަލާމަތާއި ސިއްރުވެރިކަމަށް މުހިންމުކަން ދޭށެވެ. ސަލާމަތީ ކަންތައްތަކަށް ބުރަވެވޭ ދިރާސާތަކާއި ބަޔާންތަކަށް ބިނާކޮށް ރިޕޯޓް ތައްޔާރުކުރުމުގައި ބޭނުންކުރާ ބަސްތައް ސަމާލުކަމާއެކު ހޮވާށެވެ. އެއްވެސް މަޢުލޫމާތެއް ޝާއިޢުކުރުމުގެ ކުރިން އެ މަޢުލޫމާތު ދިނުމަށް އެ ފަރާތެއްގެ މަޝްވަރާ ހޯދާށެވެ. ގޮތްތަކާއި އޮޅުންފިލުވައިދިނުމަށް ހުރި ބޭނުންތަކަކީ ޚަބަރުގެ ސިފަ ހޯދުމަށް ބޭނުންކުރެވޭ ގޮތްތަކެވެ. ކުރާ ރިޕޯޓުތަކުގައި ތަފާސްހިސާބާއި ބައިނަލްއަޤްވާމީ މިންގަނޑުތަކާއި ގުޅުން ހުރިކަމާއި ހިއްސާކުރާށެވެ.

2. އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތާ އިންޓަރވިއު ކުރުން

އަނިޔާއަށް ލިބުނު ފަރާތާއި އިންޓަރވިއު ކުރުމުގައި އިޖާޒަތު ހޯދުމާއި ރައްކާތެރި މާޙައުލެއް ޤާއިމްކުރުން މުހިންމެވެ. ފަރާތްތަކުގެ ސިއްރުވެރިކަމަށް ހުރުމަތްތެރިވެ، ސުވާލުތައް ކުރާނީ ހަމަޖެހިފައިވާ ގޮތަކަށެވެ. އަދި ކުރާ ސުވާލުތަކުގައި ބޭނުންކުރާ ބަސްތައް ހޮވާނީ ގަދަފަދަ ނުވާ ގޮތަކަށެވެ. އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުގެ ނަފްސާނީ ހާލަތަށް ބަލާ، ސުވާލުކުރުމުގައި ކުރިމަތިވާ ދަތިތަކަށް ހަމަޖެހުމާއެކު ޖާގަ ދޭށެވެ. އެފަރާތުގެ ހާލަތު ފާހަގަކުރެވޭތީ ރިޕޯޓް ނުކުރާށެވެ. ފަރާތުގެ އިޖާޒަތާ ނުލައި ހުރިހާ ކަމެއް ހާމަނުކުރާށެވެ. އެއްވެސް މީހަކު މަޖުބޫރުނުކުރުމާ ސާފުކޮށް ކަށަވަރުކުރަންވާނެއެވެ. އަދި ކުއްޖެއްގެ ވަޒަންވާ ސިޔާސަތު އަދި ޤާނޫނީ ކަށަވަރުކުރާށެވެ.

3. ބޭނުން ކުރާ ބަސްތައް

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކަށް އިސްކަންދީ، އެކުލަވާ ނުބައިނުވެސް އަދި މާނަ ނުވެސް ތަފާތު ބަސްތައް ބޭނުން ކުރާށެވެ. ހަމަޖެހޭ ތަސްވީރެއް ދިމާވެގެން ބައިވެރިވާ ބަސް ބޭނުން ކުރާށެވެ. މިސާލަކަށް، ނަފްސާނީ ގޮތުން ސަލާމަތްތެރިކަން ނިސްބަތްވާ ބަސް ބޭނުންކުރުމަށް ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ. ކުށްވެރިން ސިފަކުރާ ސިފަތައް، އަބަދުވެސް އަމަލުތަކަށް ޖިންސީގޮތުން ތަފާތުކޮށް ބަސްމަގު ގެންނާށެވެ.

4. ގެއްލުމެއް ވިޔަ ނުދިނުން

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަމާއި މަސްލަޙަތު ހިމާޔަތް ކުރުމަށް ކުރިމަތިވާ އިސްކަންދޭށެވެ. ޕްރައިވެސީ އިންސައިޓުތައް (ދައުލަތް ބެލެހެއްޓުމުގެ ސިސްޓަމް) އަސާސީކޮށްގެން މައުލޫމާތު ފިލުވުމަށް އާއިލާގެ ފަރާތުން ތަފާސް އެއްބަޔަކަށް "ޗެކްލިސްޓު" "ތަރުތީބު" ބޭނުންކުރާށެވެ. ޒާތީ ސިފަތައް ސާފުކުރާ ބޭނުންކުރުން ބޭނުންކުރާ ނުކުރާށެވެ. ޤާނޫނީ ޚިދުމަތްތަކާއި ބޭނުންވާ ދަތިތަކުގެ ފަރާތުން ނިކަމެތިކުރާށެވެ. އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާއާ އާއިލާ ގުޅިގެން ހޯދުމަށް ހުރި މަގުތައް ހާމަކުރާށެވެ. ފަރު/ މަސްއޫލު ބައިނަލްއަޤްވާމީ އިންސާނީ ކަރާމާތް ނުގެއްލޭ ގޮތަށް ތަފާސް ކުރާށެވެ. އެހީތެރިކަން ހޯދޭ ތަންތަނާއި، އެކި ހިދުމަތް ދޭ ފަރާތްތައް ހިމަނާށެވެ.

5. ސްޓެޕް ގައިޑް

ކުރުގެ ހާދިސާ ސާފުވާގޮތަށް ލިޔުއްވާށެވެ. ތަޖުރިބާކުރި ކުޅަދާނަ ބަހުރުވަ، އަދި މީހުން ނުވަތަ ބަޔަކު (ވަކިން ހާއްސަކޮށް އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާ) ބަދުނާމުވާފަދަ ބަހުރުވަ ބޭނުންނުކުރާށެވެ. އަނިޔާ ދިނުން ފަރާތަށް ހިތްދަތި ލިބޭ ފަދައިން ބަސްމަގު ބޭނުން ނުކުރާށެވެ.

6. އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހުންގެ މުޅި ބަޔާނަށް ބެލުން

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާ އާއި ގުޅުމުގައި ނުބައިކަންތަކަށް ކަންކުރުން (މިސާލަކަށް: ނުކުރަންޖެހޭ ސުވާލުތައް، ބިރުދައްކާލުމާއި، ފާޑުކިޔުން) ވިސްނުން ބަހައްޓާށެވެ. އަދި އެފަދަ ނުބައި ކަންކަމާ ގުޅޭ ބޭނުންކުރާ ސުވާލު އެއްވެސް ސުވާލުކުރުމުގައި ނުހުށަހަޅާ ބަސް ބޭނުންކޮށްގެން ދަތިކަމެއް ދިމާވެދާނެއެވެ. އެކުލަވާފައި ހުރި ސުވާލުތަކަކީ ހިތްވަރު ދިނުމާއި ސަލާމަތީ ކަންކަމަށް ވިސްނާ ހުރިހާ ބަޔަކަށް ރަނގަޅު ގޮތެއް ކަމުގައި ހަދާށެވެ. އަދި އެކަށީގެންވާ ވަގުތުތަކުގައި، ނުކުރަންވީ ސުވާލުތަކާއި ނުހަނު ގަދަކަމާއި ބެހޭ ސުވާލުތަކާ ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ. ބަސްބަހާ ތަފާތު ހާލަތުގައި ގަދަކަމާއި ތަފާތު ކަންކަމުގައި އިސްކަންދޭށެވެ.

7. ޑިޖިޓަލް ސޯޝަލް މީޑިއާ

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުން ސޯޝަލް މީޑިއާގައި ޕޯސްޓްކުރާ ކޮންޓެންޓް، އެފަރާތުގެ ހުއްދައާނުލާ ރީޕޯސްޓްކުރުން ނުވާނެއެވެ. އެއްވެސް ކަމަކާ ގުޅިގެން ފީޑްބެކް، ކޮމެންޓްސް އާއި ޓްރޯލް ކޮމެންޓްތައް ބަލަހައްޓާށެވެ. ދިރާސާތަކާއި ފޮނުވަން ހުރި ވަރުގަދަ ތަފާސް ހިސާބު އަދި ލިބުނު ކަންކަން ބަލައިގެން ޑޭޓާ ބޭނުންކުރާށެވެ. އަދި ޖެންޑަރާ ގުޅޭ ކަންކަމުގައި ސޮރުކަން ވާހަކަ "އިންޓަރނެޓް ސޭފްޓީ" ހިއްސާކުރާ މައުލޫމާތު ދަށުގައި ބަލާ، އެހެން ފަރާތްތަކުގެ ޚިދުމަތް ހޯދުމަށް ކުރުވާށެވެ.

8. ރިޕޯޓިންގ ކުރުން އަދި މީޑިއާ ދައުރު ދެނެގަތުމުގެ ޕްރޮސެސް

ކަރާމަތް ގެއްލިދާފަދަ ގޮތަކަށް ސިފަކުރާ އަދި ނުރައްކާ ސިފަކުރުމާއި ގުޅޭ ރިޕޯޓިންގ ފޯމެޓް، ވީޑިއޯ، ފޮޓޯ ހިމެނުން ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ. އަދި ކަމާބެހޭ މީހުން ޝާމިލުކުރުމާއި، ބަލިވެރިކަމާއި ގުޅުންހުރި ގޮތަކަށް ޕޯޒު ނުވަތަ ވީޑިއޯ ގެންގުޅުމާއި ހިފެހެއްޓުމާއި ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ. އަދި ސުރުޚީ ހިތްދަތިވާގޮތަށް ބެހުން މީހުންނަށް ސިފައިން، ސުރުޚީ ޤަބޫލުކުރެވޭ ގޮތަށް ކަންކުރުމުގެ ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ.

9. ހެޑްލައިން ފްރޭމިންގ

ހެޑްލައިން އިސްކޮށް ކަރުދާހަށް ސްކްރީންގައި ބޭނުން ކުރާށެވެ. ސިޓީ ސާފު ބަހުރުވަ ބޭނުން ކުރާށެވެ. ހެޑްލައިން ލިޔުމުގައި (ވަކިން ހާއްސަކޮށް ކުއްވެރިކަމަށް ދެވޭ ޖަވާބުދާރީ ބޭނުން ކުރާށެވެ. ސުރުޚީގައި ބޭނުން ކުރާ ބަސްތަކަކީ ޖަވާބުދާރީ ގޮތަކަށް ހިފުން ހިފެހެއްޓުމާއި) ބޭނުންކުރާށެވެ. ޚިޔާލުތަކަށް ހިތްވަރު ދިނުމާއި، ޖަވާބުދާރީ ރިޕޯޓް ނުކުރުމަށް ކުރާ ކުރިއެރުން ހަމަކުރާށެވެ. ހަމަޖެހޭ ހިސާބަށް ފިޔަވަޅު ދީފައިވާ ހުރިހާ ކަމަކީ ރިޕޯޓިންގ ކުރުމުގައި ސިފަވުން ހިފެހެއްޓުމާއި ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ.

10. ޝާއިޢުކުރުމުގެ ކުރިން ޗެކްލިސްޓް ބެލުން

ޗެކްލިސްޓް ނުވަތަ ހަވާލާދޭ ހަޤީޤަތް ދެނެގަންނަންވާނެއެވެ. ހުރި ހަމައެއްވެސް ގޮތެއްގެ ކުއްވެރިކަން، އަދި ރިސްކް ފެކްޓަރސްގެ ބަދަލު ހިމެނޭ ސަރަހައްދުތަކާއި ހަމަޖެހިފައި ވުން. އެހެންނަމަވެސް ރިޕޯޓް ކޮށްނުދީ، އަދި ޝާއިޢުކުރުމަށް ހިމެނުން ހުރި ހިމާޔަތް ކުރެވޭ ހުރިހާ ގޮތްތައް ބަލާށެވެ. އަދި ސަލާމަތީ ގޮތުން (މިސާލަކަށް، ކައުންސެލިންގެ) ޚިދުމަތް ހޯދުމުގެ ފުރުސަތު ހަމަޖެހިފައިވާކަން ކަށަވަރުކުރާށެވެ.

Section 1: Introduction

Purpose of the Guideline

This guideline has been developed as part of a joint effort by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSFD), Family Protection Authority (FPA), and UNDP Maldives, with the support of the European Union to promote ethical, inclusive, and survivor-centered media reporting on domestic violence (DV) and gender-based violence (GBV) in the Maldives. Its purpose is to equip media professionals, including journalists, editors, producers, influencers, content creators and media personnel in state agencies and public companies, with the practical tools, knowledge, and ethical considerations required to report on DV and GBV responsibly. The guideline aims to promote media coverage that upholds the dignity and safety of survivors, avoids sensationalism, victim-blaming and misogyny, and supports a broader cultural shift toward gender equality, justice, and violence prevention. Through this resource, media professionals are encouraged to become active agents in challenging harmful gender stereotypes, elevating survivor voices, and fostering a public discourse rooted in empathy, accountability, and human rights.

Scope of the Guideline

This guideline provides a comprehensive, practical framework for media professionals to ethically and sensitively report on domestic violence (DV) and gender-based violence (GBV), while amplifying survivor voices, avoiding harm, and promoting justice and equality.

The guideline covers:

1. Introduction

Explains the purpose and scope of the guideline, the importance of gender-sensitive and survivor-centric reporting, and the critical role of the media in shaping public understanding and prevention of DV and GBV.

2. Facts and Misconceptions about DV and GBV

Outlines DV and GBV as systemic issues, where to access relevant data, and addresses common myths and misconceptions.

3. Guide to Relevant Laws and Regulations

Provides summaries and links to key national and international legal frameworks and codes of conduct.

4. Recommendations to Editors

Offers editorial guidance on assigning, shaping, and supporting DV and GBV reporting.

5. Ten Steps to Reporting on DV and GBV

Presents a simplified framework for ethical reporting, covering essential steps when covering DV and GBV related content.

6. Interviewing Survivors

Guidance on approaching sources ethically, ensuring safety, obtaining informed consent, managing triggers, and interviewing children.

7. Language and Framing Guide

Offers practical direction on how to report on crimes, perpetrators, survivors, and children, and includes a chart of harmful vs. recommended terms.

8. Do No Harm

Introduces the principle and outlines considerations for survivor and reader well-being, including the use of trigger warnings, appropriate imagery, and signposting support services.

9. Framing of the Headline

Provides guidance on writing accurate, responsible, and respectful headlines using active voice and correct terminology.

10. Publishing Readiness Checklist

A pre-publication checklist covering survivor safety, accuracy, legal compliance, ethical framing, comment moderation, and balance.

11. Disability-Inclusive DV and GBV Reporting

Provides practical guidance for ensuring DV and GBV reporting is inclusive and respectful of persons with disabilities, addressing accessibility, representation, language use, and barriers to justice.

12. Addressing Intersectionality

Highlights the increased vulnerability of persons with disabilities and migrant workers, and provides inclusive practices for reporting on these groups.

13. Advertising and Entertainment Media

Offers recommendations for avoiding gender stereotypes, promoting empowering narratives, and responsible storytelling in Dhivehi media.

14. Digital Media and Social Media

Covers the responsibilities of influencers and digital content creators, ethical use of online content, managing hate speech, and responding to online harm.

15. Looking After Yourself

Provides insight into secondary trauma, vicarious trauma, and compassion fatigue, along with strategies for self-care and accessing mental health support.

16. Recommendations for Implementation and Monitoring

Suggests roles for regulatory and implementing bodies (e.g., MMC, MBC, MSFD, FPA), options for media house-level integration, ongoing education, expert resource groups, and positive reinforcement mechanisms.

17. Annexes

Includes practical tools and reference materials such as a glossary, interview checklists, a consent form template, and a crisis response checklist for media organizations.

This guideline applies to all media forms, print, broadcast, digital, and social, and is intended for journalists, editors, media educators, influencers, advertisers, media personnel in state agencies and public companies, citizen journalists and content creators who have a responsibility to represent stories with integrity, care, and a commitment to human rights.

Why Media Reporting on DV and GBV Matters

How the media reports on DV and GBV has a profound impact on public understanding, survivor safety, and societal change. While reporting on these issues in the Maldives has seen some positive progress, many media outlets still report violence as isolated incidents, use sensational or victim-blaming language, and fail to reflect survivor voices. Such practices can contribute to stigma, normalize abuse, and silence those affected. Media professionals have the power and responsibility to change this.

Ethical, gender-sensitive, and survivor-centered reporting can:

1. **Help the public understand** how widespread DV and GBV are, what causes them, how they can be prevented, and services available for them.

2. **Challenge harmful norms** that tolerate or justify violence, contributing to a culture where such acts are recognized as unacceptable and preventable.

3. **Empower victim-survivors** by reflecting their experiences with care and accuracy, making it easier for others to recognize abuse, speak out, and seek help.

4. **Influence progress** in public policy and legislation by shaping discourse, raising awareness, increasing institutional accountability and motivating institutional responses.

Importantly, these goals can be achieved without compromising journalistic integrity or freedom of expression. Upholding the public's right to know and the media's duty to inform can, and must, go hand in hand with ethical reporting practices.

Freedom of expression includes the responsibility to avoid harm, respect human dignity, and protect the privacy and safety of those most vulnerable. By prioritizing accuracy over sensationalism and empathy over exploitation, journalists can ensure that their work both informs the public and upholds the rights of survivors. Ethical journalism and press freedom are not at odds, but rather they strengthen each other when used with care and purpose.

Through thoughtful and responsible storytelling, media professionals can become powerful advocates for justice, prevention, and healing.

Section 2: Understanding Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence

Defining Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence

Domestic Violence

According to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, Law No. 3/2012, domestic violence is defined as any act committed by one individual against another in a domestic relationship that endangers or threatens to endanger that person's safety, health, or well-being, or instills fear of such harm. Under this law, domestic violence can be defined as either a single act or a pattern of behavior over time. The focus is on the effect and intention of the act, including whether it causes harm, exerts control, intimidates, or coerces.

These acts include, but are not limited to:

- Physical abuse (e.g., hitting, slapping, or other forms of bodily harm)
- Sexual abuse
- Verbal and psychological abuse
- Financial or economic control (e.g., restricting access to money or property)
- Impregnating a wife against medical advice or without consent
- Deliberate withholding of personal property
- Intimidation, harassment, and stalking
- Destruction of property
- Unlawful entry into the survivor’s residence
- Coercion or forced actions against the survivor’s will
- Confinement or restriction of movement
- Causing a child to witness or be exposed to domestic violence
- Attempting or threatening to commit any of the above

Gender-based Violence

Gender-based violence refers to any harmful act directed at an individual based on their gender. It arises from unequal power relations and includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. GBV disproportionately affects women and girls but can impact all genders.

Forms of GBV include:

- Domestic violence
- Rape and sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Child sexual abuse
- Image-based abuse (e.g., "revenge porn")
- Economic abuse
- Online harassment

A glossary of related terminology can be found in Annex A.

Understanding DV and GBV as Systemic Issues

Gender-based violence and domestic violence are not isolated occurrences. They are signs of more profound structural injustices. Inequitable power dynamics, detrimental gender norms, and ingrained cultural beliefs that condone, excuse, or downplay abuse are the root causes of these types of violence.

DV and GBV are systemic because of the institutions, laws, and cultural norms that support discrimination, silence survivors, and fail to hold offenders accountable. The cycle of violence persists, for instance, when victim-blaming is the main focus of media narratives, when the legal system is unresponsive or slow, or when communities stigmatize survivors instead of providing support.

By viewing DV and GBV as systemic problems, the emphasis is shifted from personal conduct to the larger context that permits violence to happen and continue. This viewpoint pushes media workers to investigate trends, underlying causes, and society's shared obligation to stop and deal with violence rather than just covering isolated incidents.

Journalists and content producers can better educate the public, question damaging norms, and encourage long-term change by acknowledging that DV and GBV are systemic issues.

10 Common Myths and Facts About DV and GBV

Myth 1: DV and GBV only happen in certain types of families or communities.
Fact: DV and GBV occur across all social, economic, educational, and cultural backgrounds. While some socioeconomic risk factors are shown to increase the likelihood, no group is immune[1].

Myth 2: It's not abuse unless there's physical violence.
Fact: Abuse can be physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or financial. Non-physical forms can be equally damaging[2].

Myth 3: Victims could leave if they really wanted to.
Fact: Leaving is often extremely difficult because of fear, financial dependency, stigma, threats, or lack of support[3].

Myth 4: GBV is a private, family matter.
Fact: GBV is a human rights violation and a public concern with serious social, health, and legal consequences[4].

Myth 5: Alcohol, drugs, or stress cause people to become violent.
Fact: These may intensify violence, but they do not cause it. Abuse is a deliberate choice rooted in power and control[5].

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[1] Source: https://www.cawc.org/news/socioeconomic-risk-factors-for-domestic-and-intimate-partner-violence/
[2] Source: https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence
[3] Source: https://www.thehotline.org/support-others/why-people-stay-in-an-abusive-relationship/
[4] Sources: https://www.cawc.org/news/why-domestic-violence-is-a-public-health-issue/ and https://www.usaforunfpa.org/what-does-gender-based-violence-mean-gbv/
[5] Source: https://mcadv.org/domestic-violence-myths-and-facts/

Myth 6: Only women and girls experience GBV.
Fact: While women and girls are disproportionately affected, men and boys can also be victims[6].

Myth 7: If there's no report or conviction, it probably didn't happen.
Fact: Most cases of DV and GBV go unreported due to fear, shame, or mistrust of authorities. Lack of a report does not mean lack of harm[7].

Myth 8: False allegations of GBV are common.
Fact: False allegations are very rare. In reality, most victims don't report abuse and many face disbelief or blame when they do[8].

Myth 9: If a woman stays with an abuser, it must not be that serious.
Fact: Survivors may stay for many complex reasons, including concern for children, lack of resources, or fear of retaliation[9].

Myth 10: GBV is only about individual incidents of conflict.
Fact: GBV is part of a systemic issue rooted in inequality, discrimination, and harmful norms, not isolated "domestic disputes[10]."

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[6] Source: https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/protection/gender-based-violence

[7] Source: https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/student-life/advocates-forum/exploring-low-rates-reporting-domestic-violence-bihar-india 8

[8] Source: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21164210/

[9] Source: https://www.thehotline.org/support-others/why-people-stay-in-an-abusive-relationship/

[10] Source: https://reliefweb.int/report/world/engaging-men-end-gender-based-violence-against-women

Where to Find Data

For the purpose of educating the public, spotting violent trends, and telling stories that emphasize the scope and systemic character of DV and GBV, accurate and current data is crucial. Using verified data adds depth, credibility, and context to media coverage, helping shift the focus from isolated events to systemic patterns that demand attention and action.

We advise journalists to avoid depending only on anecdotal evidence or isolated cases and instead cite reliable sources to back up their reporting.

Key sources of DV and GBV data in the Maldives include:

- **Family Protection Authority (FPA):**
  The FPA is the central agency mandated to oversee implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. FPA regularly compiles and publishes statistics on reported DV cases, disaggregated by gender, age, and type of violence. Annual reports and situation updates can be found on www.fpa.gov.mv

- **Maldives Police Service (MPS):**
  The MPS compiles data on sexual offences and other gender-based crimes, which include reports of rape, sexual abuse, and harassment. Some disaggregated data by gender, age, types of violence and locations can be found in the MPS website www.police.gov.mv/statistics. Journalists can also formally request specific data via email or official communication, although delays in response are possible.

- **Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSFD):**
  MSFD collects monthly data on DV and GBV through services like shelters, helplines, and Family and Children's Service Centres. These monthly statistics, often presented as case counts disaggregated by age and gender are publicly shared via their website and official social media channels. Visit their website: https://gender.gov.mv/

- **Prosecutor General's Office:**
  Responsible for prosecuting offenses including DV and GBV, the PGO's Aamahi Portal (https://aamahi.pgo.mv/en/about) publishes summaries of select cases, especially child sexual abuse cases. Journalists can request more granular records directly from PGO, bearing in mind confidentiality laws.

- **Judiciary:**
  Courts like the Criminal Court and High Court publish public judgments and rulings concerning DV and GBV cases. Journalists should review individual court portals for access to official verdicts and case updates. The following are links to key court websites:
    - Criminal Court: https://criminalcourt.gov.mv/
    - Family Court: https://familycourt.gov.mv/
    - High Court: https://highcourt.gov.mv/dv/
    - Supreme Court: https://www.supremecourt.mv/

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):**

  NGOs and advocacy groups play an essential role in gathering qualitative and quantitative data, conducting community-level research, and advocating for survivors' rights. Key organizations include:

  - **Hope for Women** – Engages in GBV prevention, survivor support, research, and public awareness. Visit their website: https://hopeforwomen.org.mv/
  - **Transparency Maldives** – Conducts research related to access to justice and policy accountability in DV and GBV cases. Visit their website: https://transparency.mv/
  - **Family Legal Clinic** – Provides legal support to survivors and may have aggregated data on access to legal remedies. Visit their website: https://www.familylegalclinic.org.mv/
  - **Public Interest Law Center** – Offers legal aid and conducts policy research on systemic legal barriers for survivors. Visit their website: https://www.pilcmv.org/
  - **SHE (Society for Health Education)** – Provides psychosocial support, health services, and survivor-centered community engagement. SHE also conducts gender-based violence research and outreach across the Maldives. Visit their website: https://www.she.org.mv/

These organizations (and others working in similar areas) may be willing to share anonymized data, reports, and context-specific insights, particularly if engaged through formal or collaborative partnerships.

When using data:

- Clearly cite the source, month and year.
- Disclose any limitations in the dataset (e.g., underreporting, lack of disaggregation).
- Use statistics to complement, not replace, survivor stories and expert voices.
- Wherever possible, link directly to sources, rather than just naming them.

Section 3: Guide to relevant laws, regulations and international treaties

This section is divided into three parts. The first part provides a summary of the laws and policies on Domestic Violence (DV) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), along with links to access the full texts. The second part outlines the key national policies and guidelines relevant to media professionals reporting on DV and GBV, with summaries and reference links. The third part highlights international conventions and treaties relevant to media coverage of DV and GBV, also accompanied by useful links for further reference.

Laws and Policies on DV and GBV

Domestic Violence Prevention Act (3/2012)

The Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) provides the legal framework aimed at addressing domestic violence (DV) in the Maldives. The law makes provisions for the prohibition and prevention of domestic violence, outline measures taken against persons who commit acts of domestic violence, protection of and support of victims of domestic violence, the role of relevant state authorities and the inter-agency collaboration for addressing DV. The law establishes that every act of domestic violence, under any circumstances, in any form between persons involved in a domestic relationship is prohibited by law. The law includes definitions of key terminologies, including “domestic relationships”, “act of domestic violence” (which includes a comprehensive list of acts) and “victim of domestic violence”.

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/172/consolidations/207
Link to translation (English: https://maldives.unfpa.org/en/publications/domestic-violence-act-2012-unofficial-translation

Sexual Offences Act (17/2014)

The Sexual Offences Act details out the sexual offences in the Maldives, the penalties for each and the procedures relating to those offences. Thirty-three different types of sexual offences are included, the majority of these perpetrated on a non-consenting individual. Chapter two of the law includes legal definitions for concepts like rape, sexual assault, consent and sexual intent, among others. In addition to this, the law sets the standards for defining consent in relation to sexual offences. Notably, under sexual offences, the law recognizes marital rape, stating that a husband having sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent shall be considered marital rape under certain exceptional circumstances, further underscoring the importance of consent. It also provides a mechanism for recovery of damages for victims of sexual offences. The law also mandates the maintenance of persons convicted for sexual offences in a “sex offenders’ registry”.

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/40/consolidations/903

Link to translation (English):
https://lethun.pgo.mv/storage/files/1719809621_5.%20Sexual%20Offences%20Act%20%20English%20Translation.pdf

Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment Act (16/2014)

This Act defines what constitutes sexual abuse and harassment and outlines responsibilities of different parties in prevention. It also provides measures to be taken to prevent sexual abuse and harassment in places of employment, and institutions that provide educational services, health services, and social services. The law mandates all workplaces to display their policies on sexual harassment in the workplace, and to make complaint forms accessible to all employees. For workplaces that has 30 or more employees, the law mandates the formation of a "Committee on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment" to investigate and take action on complaints of sexual abuse or harassment in the workplace.

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/76/consolidations/84
Link to translation (English)
https://www.familylegalclinic.org.mv/_files/ugd/d2bc44_bc211692697a4d0f97ce9c35fe4e18e9.pdf

Gender Equality Act (18/2016)

The Gender Equality Act includes provisions to achieve gender equality in the Maldives, policies to prohibit discrimination based on gender in the Maldives and the duties and responsibilities of State institutions and other relevant parties to achieve gender equality in the Maldives. The Act details out the various types of discriminations and their key features in Chapter 2- Equality and Non-Discrimination. Chapter 3 is on gender-based violence against women, and includes definition of gender-based violence and the types of acts it entails.

Under Chapter 5- Responsibilities of offices and individual parties, Article 21 includes the responsibilities of institutions in media services and media personnel, which includes two key responsibilities, as follows:

Article 21- Responsibilities of institutions in media services and media personnel

(a) Institutions in media services and media personnel shall actively promote the principle of equality between men and women.

(b) ...It is the responsibility of media personnel to promote the belief in the principle of equality amongst all people, that everyone is entitled to their rights and opportunities without discrimination, and that both men and women are entitled to the same degree of representation without undertaking particular roles in the society, regardless the biological differences between men and women.

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/130/consolidations/157

Link to translation (English): https://maldives.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Gender%20Equality%20Act_0.pdf

Child Rights Protection Act (19/2019)

This Act is a comprehensive act that includes rights of children, responsibilities given to them, the responsibilities of the family, community and different entities within state for the care of and for the protection of the rights of children. Article 33 of the Act, in particular, is of importance for the media, as it prohibits publishing any personal information relating to a child that may affect the dignity of the child. It also lays out the types of information that should not be published for children in conflict with the law, child victims of crime, and vulnerable children in need of protection. This includes their name, address, place of study, photos, or any other information that may be directly or indirectly used to identify the child.

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/141/consolidations/169
Link to translation (English): https://lethun.pgo.mv/en/laws/f3f688a7-7c1c-433c-b5fa-51bcb61d9373

Special Provisions Act to Deal with Child Sex Abuse Offenders (12/2009)

The Act introduced specific provisions for handling child sex abuse cases, including the confinement of offenders during investigation and trial, post-release monitoring mechanisms, the court's ability to accept a lower threshold of evidence, and a special procedure for awarding damages to victims.

This law enhances child protection from sexual abuse through key provisions such as detaining suspects during investigation and trial, and establishing ongoing monitoring after their release. It expands admissible evidence in court and lowers the threshold for proving abuse. The law also mandates strict penalties for offenders and their accomplices, enables victim compensation, allows public disclosure of offender identities, and prohibits requiring child victims to reenact the abuse in court.

The law lists offences that fall under the law, their descriptions, and the length and types of sentencing for the offences. The law provides stricter penalties for offences perpetrated by adults in a position of trust, and the strictest penalties to offences perpetrated by family members.

Understanding the law will be useful for journalists covering child sexual abuse.
Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/190/consolidations/226

Juvenile Justice Act (18/2019)

This Act outlines the rights and responsibilities of children and adolescents who come into conflict with the law, and provides comprehensive details of the juvenile justice system.

Article 15 of the Act relates to the role of media in juvenile justice.

15(a) states media's role in contributing to the prevention of children coming into conflict with the law, protection of the rights of children accused of a crime, and supporting the reintegration of children in conflict with the law back to society.

15(b) mandates the media to uphold the values of neutrality to its highest standards when reporting on stories that involve children in conflict with the law, to prioritize and protect the child's best interest.

15(c) mandates Maldives Media Council to publish standards that media professionals should uphold to achieve the objective of 15(b).

15(d) prohibits publishing any information that may lead to the child's identity being known.

15(e) prohibits publishing of information on crimes committed by a person while he/she was under the age of 18.

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/140/consolidations/977

Penal Code (9/2014)

The Penal Code of the Maldives is a legal framework outlining offenses and their corresponding punishments. It is divided into three parts: General Part (covering general principles), Special Part (defining specific offenses), and Sentencing.

Chapter 130 of the Penal Code includes sexual assault offences. Under this section, the offences included are sexual assault, of which the highest grade is rape (Section 130), criminal sexual contact, constituting of other sexual contact without consent (Section 131), indecent exposure (Section 132) and sexual exploitation (Section 133).

Chapter 410 outlines offences against the family, which includes child abandonment and parental duty of care (Section 414) and non-support (Section 415).

Link to the law: https://mvlaw.gov.mv/dv/legislations/251/consolidations/1172

Law, Policies and Guidelines on Media Ethics, DV, GBV and Related Issues Maldives Media and Broadcasting Regulation Act (2025)

The Maldives Media and Broadcasting Regulation Act (16/2025) establishes the national regulatory framework for media outlets, broadcasters, and journalists. The Act seeks to uphold freedom of expression while ensuring responsible, ethical, and accurate media practice. It outlines standards for content, the responsibilities of media personnel, and the role of the Maldives Media and Broadcasting Commission in oversight and enforcement.

Key provisions include requirements to ensure accuracy, avoid publishing false information, and correct or retract inaccurate content. Newspapers, online media, broadcasters, and magazines must be registered and operate in line with the Act and its accompanying Code of Conduct (chapter 6).

The Act defines the responsibilities of media outlets and personnel, emphasizing the need to provide fair, truthful, and dignified information, avoid misleading or harmful content, and maintain editorial accountability. The law empowers the Commission to issue warnings, impose fines, suspend programming or publication, and require corrections or public apologies where ethical violations occur. These obligations reinforce the importance of safe, sensitive, and accurate reporting on domestic and gender-based violence, including protecting privacy, avoiding sensationalism, and preventing misinformation.

Link to the law: https://justiceinitiative.legal/laws/68d2cfb02f935218e4334eb0

Link to the unofficial translation: https://www.law-democracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Maldives.Media_.Sep25.Eng_.pdf

Gender Equality Action Plan (2022- 2026)

The National Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) was developed to fulfill the obligations outlined in Article 42 of the Gender Equality Act (Law No. 18/2016). It also aligns with the Maldives' international human rights commitments, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the government's manifesto. Serving as a framework, the GEAP guides state institutions, private sector bodies, and gender advocates in putting the Gender Equality Act and Policy into practice. It is derived from the National Gender Policy.

The action plan is structured around five key pillars: leadership and governance, economic empowerment, institutional gender mainstreaming, elimination of gender-based violence, and access to justice. Familiarity with the action plan is valuable for journalists and media professionals reporting on DV, GBV, and gender equality.

Link to GEAP: https://gender.gov.mv/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/1/2022/03/GEAPFinal.pdf

Policy on Publishing News and Information on Children in Conflict with the Law (MMC, 2021)

This policy in Dhivehi language was developed for the purpose of implementing Article 15(c) (refer to the section on Juvenile Justice Act for details on Article 15) of the Juvenile Justice Act (18/2019).

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard that all media should uphold when publishing news and information on children in conflict with the law. The short policy sets strict limitations on sharing of any information that can be used to reveal the identity of a child that is accused of a crime, convicted of a crime, or reintegrated back to society after rehabilitation. The policy also prohibits sharing of information of crimes committed by individuals while they are under the age of 18.

Link to the policy: *https://www.mmc.org.mv/publications/article/17-05-2022-2*

Policy on Children's Ombudsperson's Standards for Responsible Media and Public Disclosure Involving Children in Conflict with the Law, Child Victims, and Vulnerable Children (COO, 2023)

The Policy on Children's Ombudsperson's Standards for Responsible Media and Public Disclosure Involving Children in Conflict with the Law, Child Victims, and Vulnerable Children (COO, 2023), which elaborates on Article 33(c) of the Child Rights Protection Act (19/2019), provides the standards set by the Children's Ombudsperson when reporting on cases involving children, including survivors, witnesses or children in conflict with the law. Article 33 prohibits publishing any personal information that could harm a child's dignity, including their name, address, place of study, photographs, or other identifying details, whether direct or indirect. The policy provides additional clarity on standards for protecting children in conflict with the law, child victims of crime, and vulnerable children in need of protection, including limited circumstances under which disclosure may be permitted. However, the guiding principle is clear: any disclosure of a child's information or image must be limited to the minimum necessary and must never harm the child's dignity.

Link to the Policy: *https://oco.mv/storage/media/643/gazette_volume-52_issue-157-(1).pdf*

Reporting on Good Governance and Human Rights (MBC)

The document provides an overview of the concept of good governance and its connection to human rights. It explores the role of media and freedom of expression as essential tools for protecting rights and promoting accountability. The document also highlights how the media can contribute to good governance through a rights-based approach to journalism. In addition, it includes practical guidelines on applying a human rights perspective in reporting, conducting rights-based interviews, and interviewing victims of human rights violations.

Link to the document: *http://broadcom.org.mv/v2/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/draft-Guidelines-on-reporting-on-good-governance.pdf*

Relevant International Conventions and Treaties

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a landmark international treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1979. Often described as an international bill of rights for women, it outlines the obligations of states to eliminate discrimination and promote gender equality in all areas of life, including education, health, employment, and political participation. More than 185 countries, including Maldives are parties to the Convention.

Maldives ratified CEDAW in 1993, committing to take active steps to ensure women's equal rights and protection from violence and discrimination. CEDAW emphasizes that gender-based violence, including domestic violence, is a form of discrimination that prevents women from enjoying their human rights and freedoms.

Why it matters for the media:

- CEDAW encourages states to address harmful gender stereotypes, including those perpetuated by the media.
- Journalists play a vital role in shaping public attitudes toward gender equality and must avoid reinforcing discriminatory narratives.
- Ethical, gender-sensitive reporting aligns with CEDAW principles and supports national and global efforts to end violence against women.

Useful Links:

The resolution: https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/54/4

Optional protocol: https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/54/4

A summary of CEDAW: https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/convention-on-the-elimination-of-all-forms-of-discrimination-against-women-cedaw

A helpful video to understand CEDAW: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBdDB5PKrmk

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – 1989

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a UN treaty that protects the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of all children. It recognizes children as individuals with rights and special protections. Article 19 obliges states to protect children from all forms of violence, while Article 16 ensures a child's right to privacy. Maldives ratified the CRC in 1991.

Why it matters for the media:

- Journalists must protect children's identities when reporting on DV/GBV cases.
- Consent from a parent or guardian is essential when featuring children in stories.
- Media should avoid retraumatizing children or exposing them to public harm.

Useful Links:
The CRC:
https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child
A helpful video to understand CRC, including the origin:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uew8OYvr-UE

UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women – 1993

This declaration defines **violence against women** as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination. It emphasizes that states must take active measures to prevent violence and support survivors, including through education and media reform. Maldives became a signatory of this treaty in 1993.

Why it matters for the media:

- Encourages media to help change attitudes that condone violence.
- Recognizes the importance of public awareness and education to prevent GBV.
- Promotes survivor dignity, privacy, and accurate representation in reporting.

Useful Links:
The resolution: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/179739?ln=en&v=pdf#files

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – 1995

A milestone global commitment to gender equality, the Beijing Platform outlines specific actions for governments, civil society, and the media to eliminate discrimination and violence against women. It recognizes the media's role in shaping values and public opinion. Maldives became a signatory of this treaty in 1995.

Why it matters for the media:

- Calls for the elimination of gender stereotypes in media.
- Emphasizes women's access to and participation in media.
- Urges responsible portrayal of women and girls, especially in the context of violence.

Useful Links:
The Beijing Platform:
https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/PFA_E_Final_WE B.pdf

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – 2015

Adopted by all UN Member States, the SDGs provide a global framework for ending poverty and inequality, and promoting peace and justice by 2030. The Maldives committed to the SDGs as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the UN in September 2015. The SDGs features 17 goals and 169 targets that aim to end poverty, combat inequalities and promote prosperity while protecting the environment by 2030.

Some goals that are of particular relevance to media working on DV and GBV include:

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Includes Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies

- Includes targets on access to justice, accountable institutions, and public access to information.

Why it matters for the media:

- Ethical reporting supports SDG efforts by raising awareness of GBV, challenging harmful norms, and promoting justice.
- Media is a powerful tool for holding institutions accountable and amplifying survivor voices.

Useful Links:
The SDG website: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000)

UNSCR 1325 is a landmark resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2000. It recognizes the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls and calls for their equal participation in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and security processes. It also emphasizes the need to prevent violence against women, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, and to ensure women's protection in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Why it matters for the media:

- Highlights the importance of women's voices and leadership in peace and security reporting.
- Reinforces the media's role in promoting women's participation and visibility in national and international peace efforts.
- Urges media to report responsibly on conflict-related GBV, centering survivor dignity and preventing re-victimization.

Useful Links:
The resolution: https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1325%282000%29

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The Maldives is a State Party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which reinforces the country's responsibility to ensure media representation of persons with disabilities (PWD) is dignified, accurate, and inclusive.

- Article 8(c) of the CRPD specifically *"encourages all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the Convention's purpose."* This means avoiding stigmatizing, infantilizing, or pity-based depictions, and instead highlighting the rights, agency, and diversity of persons with disabilities.
- Article 21 guarantees the *freedom of expression and access to information,* obligating States to ensure that all public information is provided in accessible formats, including digital media. For journalists and media organizations, this underscores the need to publish content that is usable by all audiences—through subtitling, sign language interpretation, screen-reader-friendly design, plain language summaries, and other inclusive practices.

Why it matters for the media

For journalists and media professionals, the CRPD provides a global rights-based framework that connects everyday reporting decisions to international obligations. By integrating CRPD principles into reporting, Maldivian media demonstrate leadership in human rights–based journalism, while also building trust with diverse audiences at home and abroad.

Referencing it ensures that:

- Stories reflect dignity and agency rather than pity or stereotypes.
- Editorial choices about imagery, framing, and language align with international human rights standards.
- Content production practices—from subtitling to digital accessibility—actively remove barriers to information for audiences with disabilities.

Useful Links:

The convention: https://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/

A helpful video to understand CRPD and its significance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLHbKuu39hc

United Nations Convention Against Cybercrime (UNCC)

The Maldives signed the UN Convention Against Cybercrime on 25 October 2025, committing the country to international standards for preventing, investigating, and prosecuting cyber- enabled crimes. The Convention obligates States to criminalize offenses such as unauthorized access, data interference, non-consensual distribution of images, online harassment, and other technology-facilitated harms. It emphasizes protection of privacy, personal data, and procedural safeguards when accessing or sharing digital content — essential when media outlets handle survivors' digital testimonies, personal data, or sensitive online content. It also establishes a framework for global cooperation, evidence-sharing, and technical assistance, which is crucial for cases of cross-border cyber-violence or online abuse affecting survivors of DV/GBV.

Why it matters for media

For journalists and media professionals, the Convention provides an internationally grounded framework that aligns digital reporting, content moderation, and data-handling practices with legal obligations and human rights standards. Referencing it when reporting on technology- facilitated GBV helps ensure that:

- Digital coverage does not inadvertently facilitate cyber-harassment, doxxing, or data breaches;
- Survivors' privacy and online safety are protected;
- Publication of sensitive digital content (images, private messages, metadata) is carefully vetted in line with legal and ethical standards;
- Media agencies contribute to upholding cybersecurity principles while fulfilling their duty to report responsibly.

Useful Links:

The convention: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/cybercrime/convention/home.html

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The UPR is a peer-review process under the UN Human Rights Council in which each Member State's human rights record is examined every four to five years. States receive recommendations from peers and indicate which they accept for implementation. The Maldives' 4th cycle (2022–2027) is underway; its most recent completed review was the 3rd cycle in 2020.

From that review, the Maldives accepted a range of recommendations aimed at strengthening protection from violence, improving services, and promoting long-term prevention. Key accepted commitments that are relevant for this guideline include:

- **Response:** Strengthen laws and enforcement against domestic violence (DV), gender-based violence (GBV), and trafficking; expand training for police, judiciary, healthcare, and social services on trauma-informed, gender-sensitive, and disability-inclusive approaches; ensure safe reporting and protection for migrant workers; provide rehabilitation and reintegration for trafficking survivors.

- **Support:** Improve survivor-centered services such as shelters, hotlines, legal aid, and counselling; ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities through sign language, accessible formats, and barrier removal; enhance coordination between government, civil society, and communities.

- **Prevention & Awareness:** Integrate education on gender equality, non-violence, and respectful relationships into schools; strengthen community-based strategies for at-risk groups; run public campaigns to challenge harmful norms and stigma; collect and publish disaggregated data on DV/GBV to guide targeted action.

Why it matters for the media

The UPR emphasizes awareness-raising, accountability, and public education, areas where media has a unique influence. Journalists and editors can help ensure these commitments lead to real change by challenging stereotypes, informing communities with accurate and sensitive reporting, highlighting gaps in protection, and amplifying solutions. Through ethical, survivor-centered coverage, media can build public trust and contribute to a safer, more equitable society in the Maldives.

Useful Links:

Information on the Maldives UPR processes can be found on
https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/mv-index

Section 4: Recommendations to the Editor

Editors play a critical role in shaping how stories on DV and GBV are told and how they are received by the public. From assigning stories to approving headlines and visuals, editors are gatekeepers of tone, accuracy, and ethics. Their decisions can either reinforce harmful stereotypes or foster public awareness and understanding of sensitive issues. By prioritizing sensitivity, survivor dignity, and journalistic integrity, editors ensure that media coverage not only informs but also upholds the rights and safety of those affected by violence. The following recommendations aim to support editors in leading responsible, gender-sensitive reporting practices across all platforms.

1. Developing Stories that Serve Public Interest

- When covering individual cases, encourage stories that go beyond incident-based reporting to examine the systemic and societal causes of DV and GBV, such as legal gaps, harmful norms, or lack of services. Cover not only individual cases but also the broader phenomenon of violence against women, including psychological, economic, and sexual violence, which often remains invisible in the media.
- Editors should assign stories on violence against women to experienced and sensitized journalists, and it is recommended to consider the survivor's preference on the gender of the interviewee. For example, for survivors who are women or girls, male reporters, even well-intentioned individuals, may unintentionally causediscomfort or distress.

2. Prioritize Journalist and Survivor Safety in the Field

Editors should ensure that reporters never enter high-risk/dangerous and unsafe environments, including homes where a perpetrator may be present or situations where tensions are escalating. Before approving field interviews, editors must assess potential risks, advise journalists to relocate interviews to a safe, neutral space when needed, and maintain regular check-ins during assignments. Safety must take precedence over access to the story.

3. Qualities Journalists Should Bring to DV and GBV Reporting

- Journalists reporting on DV and GBV should demonstrate empathy, ethical responsibility, awareness on gender issues, and non-judgmental listening.
- Editors are encouraged to refer journalists to training events and relevant manuals and guidelines on responsible reporting of violence and gender discrimination. In addition, editors can encourage journalists interested in working on reporting related to DV and GBV to reach out to CSOs and support services for survivors to gain a better understanding or to learn essential skills in working with survivors.

4. Building Knowledge and Capacity

- Facilitate journalists' access to trainings on trauma-informed, gender-sensitive reporting, either in-house or in collaboration with external organizations.
- Encourage ongoing learning through mentorship and peer exchange, and integrate DV and GBV-related reporting modules into staff development.
- Based on available resources of the media agency, editors should consider maintaining and sharing a resource bank of reporting guides, expert contacts, and survivor support organizations.

(See also point 6: Partnering with CSOs for practical ways to build expertise through collaboration.)

5. Comprehensive Story Development

- Stories should follow events from beginning to end, including updates on investigations, legal proceedings, and final judgments. This not only holds institutions accountable but also educates the public that violence is punishable, and survivors are protected.
- Editorial offices should anticipate that other survivors may come forward after a report is published. Be prepared with support pathways and trauma-sensitive practices.
- Incorporate broader narratives that educate the public on the full spectrum of violence (e.g. emotional, economic, and psychological), and its multi-faceted impact on survivors and society.

6. Headline Writing: Key Principles

- Editors are often responsible for final headlines, and must ensure that titles do not undermine survivor dignity or sensationalize violence.
- Avoid terms like "brutal", "horror", "shocking", "bloodbath" and similar descriptors that dramatize and objectify suffering.
- A good headline should:
    - **Accurately reflect the story**
      Headlines should truthfully match the facts without exaggeration or distortion.

      Bad example: *"Jealous Husband Snaps, Kills Wife in Rage"*- sensationalizes and frames the killing as a momentary loss of control.
      Good example: "Man Charged with Murder of Wife in Domestic Violence Case"- factual, direct, and accurate.
    - **Use correct legal and social terms**
      Avoid slang, euphemisms, or terms that misrepresent the crime.

      Bad example: "Teacher in Schoolgirl Sex Scandal"- trivializes sexual assault and suggests mutual involvement.
      Good example: "Teacher Arrested for Sexual Assault of 14-Year-Old Student"- uses the correct legal term and states age appropriately.

- **Avoid victim-blaming or sympathy for perpetrators**
  Don't imply the survivor's actions caused the harm, or portray the offender in an overly sympathetic light.

  Bad example: "Young Woman Raped After Walking Home Alone at Night"- shifts blame to the survivor's choices.
  Good example: "Man Arrested for Rape in City Center Incident"- focuses on the accused and the crime.

- **Be respectful, specific, and free of stereotypes.**
  Language should treat survivors with dignity and avoid objectifying or sensationalized imagery.

  Bad example: "Pretty Bride's Fairy Tale Ends in Blood"- objectifies and dramatizes the incident.
  Good example: "Woman Killed by Husband in Suspected Domestic Violence Homicide"- specific, neutral, and stereotype-free.

- **Use correct legal and social terms**
  Avoid slang, euphemisms, or terms that misrepresent the crime.

  Bad example: "Teacher in School girl Sex Scandal"- trivializes sexual assault and suggests mutual involvement.
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  Bad example: "Pretty Bride's Fairy Tale Ends in Blood"- objectifies and dramatizes the incident.
  Good example: "Woman Killed by Husband in Suspected Domestic Violence Homicide"- specific, neutral, and stereotype-free.

7. Partnering with Civil Society Organizations

- Editors should build formal or informal partnerships with CSOs working on DV and GBV to:
  - Improve story accuracy and depth
  - Access survivor-informed perspectives.
  - Connect journalists to trained sources or case studies with proper safeguards.
- Such partnerships can enhance public trust and provide referral options for survivors who reach out to media.
- **Partnerships can also serve as long-term capacity-building opportunities** — enabling journalists to gain deeper subject expertise, collaborate on thematic pieces with CSOs, and produce regular, in-depth coverage that strengthens credibility and public trust.

8. Corrections, Retractions, and Apologies

Do:

- Correct errors transparently and without delay, especially if they risk harming survivors.
- Acknowledge the impact of misinformation and issue apologies that are direct, sincere, and visible.

Don't:

- Blame the survivor, source, or another journalist for the error.
- Publish vague corrections that fail to take responsibility.
- Repeat harmful or inaccurate language in the retraction itself.

9. Supporting Journalists: Managing Secondary Trauma

Journalists covering DV and GBV are vulnerable to secondary or vicarious trauma, especially when hearing or viewing distressing accounts.

Editors should:

- **Allow flexible deadlines and recovery time** after emotionally intense assignments.
- **Promote access to mental health and wellness resources.**
- **Encourage journalists to seek timely support** when their coping mechanisms are overwhelmed.
- **Promote self-care** by encouraging strategies such as regular exercise, mindfulness, and setting healthy work boundaries, alongside facilitated access to mental health and wellness resources[11].
- **Create a culture of support** and openness around burnout and emotional wellbeing. Editors can lead by example, openly acknowledging the emotional impact of DV/GBV reporting and normalizing conversations about stress. Simple practices such as regular check-ins, encouraging peer support, reducing stigma, and respecting requests for breaks help ensure journalists feel safe to speak up and seek help when needed.

Best Practice Spotlight for Editors

1. Counting Dead Women – Guardian Australia

What it is:
A long-running investigative series documenting every woman in Australia killed by violence. The project connects individual cases to systemic issues such as legal gaps, service failures, and entrenched social attitudes.

Lessons for Editors:

- Goes beyond incident coverage to reveal patterns and root causes.
- Holds institutions accountable for systemic failings.
- Maintains dignity and avoids sensationalism.
- Demonstrates sustained editorial commitment influencing public debate and policy reform.

Read an example: https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/mar/08/domestic-violence-deaths-in-australia-cast-shadow-over-international-womens-day

2. Breaking Silence – Stuff (New Zealand)

What it is:
An award-winning multimedia investigation into why family and sexual violence remain pervasive in New Zealand. The series blends survivor testimonies, long-form reporting, and interactive data analysis.

Lessons for Editors:

- Centers survivors' voices with consent and care.
- Uses multimedia storytelling to deepen audience engagement.
- Focuses on systemic causes and solutions, not just incidents.
- Tracks institutional accountability over time.

Explore: https://interactives.stuff.co.nz/2021/breaking-silence-2/

Additional Resources:

UNDP Serbia: "Guidelines on Media Reporting on Violence against Women"

Includes a comprehensive editorial protocol with strong emphasis on assignment practices and headline sensitivities.
Link:
https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/rs/Guidelines_WEB-VERSION- ENG.pdf

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[11] "For practical self-care tips journalists can use in their daily routines, see Section 14 "Looking After Yourself"

Section 5: Ten Steps to Reporting on DV and GBV

1. Respect the Victim-Survivor's Dignity

Report on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in a manner that protects the dignity, safety, and anonymity of victim-survivors. Avoid sensationalizing or trivializing the violence through clickbait headlines, exaggerated language, graphic descriptions, or unnecessary personal details, such as what the survivor was wearing.

2. Be Mindful of the Language

Language matters. Choose words that reflect the seriousness of the violence without minimizing or distorting it. Avoid terms like "crime of passion" and instead use "domestic murder." Replace "alleged victim" with "reported victim" to avoid casting doubt on the survivor's account. Use phrases such as "she reported being raped" rather than "she confessed to being raped," which wrongly implies guilt or shame. Understand that terms like "people smuggling" and "trafficking in persons" are not interchangeable[12].

Do not describe violence as caused or "driven" by alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, stress, financial pressure, culture, or caregiving responsibilities. While these factors may exacerbate violence, they are not its root cause. Such descriptions misrepresent the issue and shift focus away from the perpetrator's responsibility.

Avoid phrases or framing that shift responsibility to the survivor or imply blame, including references to clothing, being out late, walking alone, drinking, or seeing other people. These narratives reinforce harmful stereotypes and diminish the seriousness of the violence. Focus on the actions of the perpetrator, not the survivor's behavior.

Avoid sensationalism in headlines or storytelling. Do not include unnecessary graphic details or dramatic language that may shock, dehumanize, or encourage morbid curiosity. Respect and dignity should guide descriptions.

When reporting on violence, prioritize the survivor's well-being. While survivor dignity and public interest are not mutually exclusive, balance is essential to avoid causing further harm.

Use appropriate terminology, such as "survivor" instead of "victim," wherever possible.

3. Name the Crime Clearly

Use precise and accurate terms to describe the crime, such as violence against women, domestic abuse, rape, murder, child sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or coercive control. Avoid vague, misleading, or trivializing terms like sex, sex case, domestic dispute, sex scandal, or sex affair, as these can downplay the seriousness of the incident.

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[12] There are also many international resources that you can use on terminologies. An example is Zerotolerance.UK that covers guidance on careful framing of perpetrators, survivors, and cases involving children, and is written for journalists at all levels.
Link: https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/language-guide-for-reporting/

4. Present the Perpetrator Responsibly

Avoid including quotes from perpetrators, as this may reinforce harmful attitudes and retraumatize victim-survivors. Use active language that clearly assigns responsibility to the perpetrator (e.g., "He threatened and isolated her…"). Where relevant, specify the relationship between the survivor and the perpetrator, as violence is often committed by someone known to the survivor.

Ensure the story centers on the harm experienced by the survivor rather than eliciting sympathy or attention for the perpetrator.

5. Center Victim-Survivors and Experts' Voices

When reporting on domestic violence (DV) and gender-based violence (GBV), prioritize the voices of victim-survivors and subject matter experts. Focus on the impact of the violence on survivors' lives and avoid providing space for justifications or excuses by perpetrators.

Seek insights from civil society organizations, women's rights groups, and advocates experienced in DV and GBV. Their perspectives offer valuable context and help frame the issue accurately and sensitively. Collaborate with these organizations to identify case studies in a respectful and ethical manner.

Avoid relying solely on police or judicial sources for commentary. These sources may provide crime statistics or procedural updates, but much violence against women goes unreported, may be legally non-criminal, and usually occurs as part of a pattern rather than isolated incidents. Official language can sometimes minimize abuse, reinforce stereotypes, or blame survivors.

Including diverse and informed voices ensures media coverage is balanced, survivor-centered, and fosters deeper public understanding.

6. Show the Systemic Nature of DV and GBV

When reporting on violence against girls and women, present the broader context to show how such violence is part of larger social issues, rather than isolated events. Use statistics to help readers understand the scope, including national and, when relevant, global data. Acknowledge that many cases go unreported and that gaps in data collection may be part of the story.

Explain how violence is linked to social, economic, and political factors that influence people's lives. Listening to survivors and experts helps counter fatalistic views like "violence always happens and cannot be changed." Report not only the violent act but also the background, such as whether the victim sought help but was not protected.

Inform readers about laws designed to prevent violence and how enforcement can protect women and girls. Provide information about support services, such as shelters or legal aid, to guide those in need.

Providing this full context helps the audience understand the complexity of the issue and encourages hope for change.

7. Select Images Thoughtfully

Visuals are powerful in storytelling but can reinforce harmful stereotypes related to gender, race, disability, and age. Avoid images that suggest a victim was "drunk," "promiscuous," or "irresponsible," or that portray a perpetrator as a respectable family man.

When selecting or creating images, including stock photos, consider the narrative they convey. Ask what assumptions the image makes and how it may affect survivors, their families, or others affected by violence.

Avoid visuals that disempower or infantilizes the victim-survivor, or imply only physical violence is serious. Do not use images that reinforce harmful gender stereotypes or objectify the victim-survivor. Refrain from clichéd imagery such as clenched fists or women cowering in fear, which oversimplify or distort the realities of gender-based violence.

Showing physical abuse, such as bruises, cuts, or burns, should be avoided unless the survivor explicitly consents, the imagery is essential to the public interest, and it is presented in a way that upholds dignity, avoids sensationalism, and minimizes re-traumatization. Wherever possible, use symbolic or illustrative visuals that convey the severity of violence without exposing survivors' bodies or identities.

Choose images that uphold dignityand reflect the issue's complexity.

8. Know the Law and Regulations

Journalists must be aware of legal restrictions on what can be reported, particularly concerning certain age groups (such as children and PWDs), specific offenses, or where protection orders exist. These legal parameters may change, and media professionals are responsible for staying informed about their obligations.

Recognize that violence takes many forms, including emotional or psychological abuse, elder abuse, financial abuse, and coercive control. While not all forms are criminalized under current laws, all are serious, harmful, and sometimes life-threatening. Treat all forms of abuse with equal care and gravity in reporting.

9. Moderate Comments Strictly

Disable or carefully moderate online comments on articles covering DV and GBV. Unmoderated comment sections often become spaces for misinformation, victim-blaming, and harmful narratives that discourage survivors from seeking help or speaking out. Where comments are allowed, editors should actively engage by sharing fact-based resources, correcting misinformation, and linking to verified support services. This approach not only curbs harmful content but also promotes informed discussion and offers survivors clear pathways to help.

Content shared on social media reaches a wide audience but can also attract comments and posts that amplify harmful narratives. When engaging with social media, media organizations should designate a staff member such as a social media content manager or editor responsible for ensuring that online content and engagement follow survivor-centered, ethical, and accessible standards. Where resources allow, hiring a dedicated social media content manager can strengthen ethical oversight, consistent accessibility, and responsible moderation across digital platforms.

10. Include Guidance on Reporting Abuse and Seeking Help

Always include support information for readers who may be experiencing family violence. Provide referral details for specialist services assisting women, children, and men (e.g., "If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, contact xxx"). Include referrals relevant to the story, such as relationship counseling, anger management, or parenting skills. Where appropriate, add links or references to trusted resources that guide readers on creating a personal safety plan, helping them prepare steps to protect themselves and their children in dangerous situations.

Avoid limiting referral information to suicide or mental health helplines only. While important, this can unintentionally minimize gender-based violence and overlook the need for specialist services that directly address DV and GBV. Including appropriate support options helps those at risk find the help they need.

Example Highlight 1: "Sex for Grades" (BBC Africa Eye, 2019)

Link: Watch "Sex for Grades"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=we-F0Gi0Lqs
An undercover investigation by BBC Africa Eye, led by journalist Kiki Mordi, exposing sexual harassment in universities in Nigeria and Ghana. The documentary prompted national debate, university investigations, and the introduction of anti-sexual harassment legislation.

Why this works for each step:

1. Respect the Victim-Survivor's Dignity – Identities protected with pseudonyms; consent obtained; narratives framed with empathy, not spectacle.
2. Be Mindful of the Language – Uses clear terms ("sexual harassment," "abuse of power") instead of euphemisms; avoids victim-blaming.
3. Name the Crime Clearly – Labels the misconduct as sexual harassment and abuse of authority, maintaining accuracy and seriousness.
4. Present the Perpetrator Responsibly – Focuses on institutional accountability; avoids dramatizing perpetrators.
5. Center Victim-Survivors and Experts' Voices – Survivor testimony drives the narrative, supported by expert analysis on systemic issues.
6. Show the Systemic Nature of DV and GBV – Connects cases to structural failures in policy and enforcement, showing patterns, not isolated incidents.
7. Select Images Thoughtfully – Visuals are discreet, avoiding graphic or sensational imagery; uses footage for evidence, not shock value.
8. Know the Law and Regulations – Demonstrates careful adherence to legal and ethical constraints in undercover reporting.
9. Moderate Comments Strictly – Follow-up coverage and online engagement were guided by constructive dialogue and minimization of harm.
10. Include Guidance on Reporting Abuse and Seeking Help – Coverage sparked institutional helplines, investigations, and legislative reform.

Exemplary Quotes:

"They told me, if I wanted my grades to improve, I should meet them alone in their offices. I said no. And then... my grades disappeared."- Survivor testimony

(Step 5: Centering survivor voices; Step 2: Mindful language)

"We wanted to show the evidence without putting any woman at further risk — so we filmed in ways that protected their identities, even if it meant blurring faces or filming from behind."- Kiki Mordi

(Step 1: Respect dignity; Step 7: Thoughtful imagery)

Example Highlight 2: "An Unbelievable Story of Rape" (ProPublica & The Marshall Project, 2015)

Link: Read "An Unbelievable Story of Rape"
https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/12/16/an- unbelievable-story-of-rape

A Pulitzer Prize–winning investigation (also adapted into the Netflix series "Unbelievable") telling the story of "Marie," a young woman charged with false reporting after her rape account was doubted—later proven true when a serial rapist was caught. Reported by T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong.

Why this works for each step:

1. Respect the Victim-Survivor's Dignity – Uses pseudonym (in this case, her middle name); prioritizes Marie's perspective; avoids intrusive details.
2. Be Mindful of the Language – Avoids victim-blaming; uses precise, non-sensational terms; describes events with clarity and care.
3. Name the Crime Clearly – Calls it "rape" and "sexual assault," not diluted terms; correctly labels false reporting charges.
4. Present the Perpetrator Responsibly – Provides necessary facts without humanizing or excusing; focus remains on harm caused and systemic failings.
5. Center Victim-Survivors and Experts' Voices – Marie's account is central; includes expert commentary on trauma and investigative bias.
6. Show the Systemic Nature of DV and GBV – Places Marie's case within a broader pattern of disbelieving survivors, highlighting institutional gaps.
7. Select Images Thoughtfully – Uses no graphic imagery; accompanying visuals are contextual (courtroom, police) rather than voyeuristic.
8. Know the Law and Regulations – Navigates legal sensitivities around false reporting charges, evidence disclosure, and privacy.
9. Moderate Comments Strictly – In online publication, reader engagement was curated to focus on systemic learning, not personal attacks.
10. Include Guidance on Reporting Abuse and Seeking Help – Ends with broader context and links to resources for survivors of sexual assault.

Exemplary Quotes:

"When the police pressed her, Marie wondered if maybe she had imagined it. That doubt became their certainty."
(Step 6: Systemic nature; Step 2: Mindful language)

"It wasn't until two years later, when another woman was raped 1,200 miles away, that the truth came out."
(Step 3: Naming the crime clearly)

Section 6: Interviewing Survivors

Victim-survivors of violence often experience significant trauma, which can make it challenging for them to speak about their experiences. Before interviewing a survivor of DV and GBV, it is crucial to first understand the profound and lasting impact such violence can have. The effects vary widely from person to person and may include physical injuries, illness, and psychological challenges such as shock, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Social stigma, victim-blaming attitudes, and safety concerns often prevent survivors from speaking out. When approaching survivors to share their experiences, it is essential to do so with compassion, care, and sensitivity. Involve them in decisions about the interview process, and respect their boundaries and perspectives throughout.

Avoid approaching survivors or their families in the immediate aftermath of an incident, as they may still be in shock and unable to fully comprehend the implications of sharing their story. Always assess whether the survivor is emotionally and mentally prepared to participate, and respect their right to decline without pressure or consequence.

The goal should be to create a space where the survivor feels empowered by telling their story to someone who listens with empathy. An interview that feels rushed, impersonal, or intrusive risks re-traumatizing or exploiting the interviewee.

Remember: Always place the survivor's well-being and dignity at the center of your preparation and conduct.

Tips for Safe and Sensitive Interviews

The following tips are designed to help you engage with survivors in a respectful and sensitive manner, ensuring both ethical storytelling and providing the survivor with a safe and empowering space to share their voice.

1. Engage with Specialist Support Services

Before proceeding with an interview, reach out to organizations that support survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. These organizations can ensure the interviewee has access to professional support and may also assist in connecting you with survivors who are willing to share their stories.

2. Ensure Safety in High-Risk Environments

Before entering homes or locations where a perpetrator may be present, journalists must conduct a safety assessment and avoid situations that could endanger themselves or the survivor. Do not enter environments where tensions are high, violence is ongoing, or the perpetrator is nearby. When in doubt, relocate the interview to a safe, neutral space in coordination with a support organization. Journalist safety and survivor safety must take precedence over access to the story.

3. Assess safety of the interviewee

When interviewing survivors or those affected by DV and GBV, their safety and well-being must be the top priority. Only proceed if the survivor is in a safe and stable environment, ideally with the involvement of a trusted support organization. Always ensure that you have the interviewee's informed consent (this topic is covered later in this section).

4. Build Trust and Comfort

Establish a rapport with the interviewee by listening actively and creating a supportive environment. If others (e.g. videographers or producers) will be present, allow the interviewee to meet them beforehand. Use a qualified interpreter if needed, and where appropriate, for example, in interviews with women, ensure the interpreter is also female to maintain comfort and cultural sensitivity.

5. Ensure Emotional Support

Clearly explain the purpose of the interview, the topics you wish to explore, and how the process will unfold. Be mindful of the emotional impact of recounting trauma, and avoid causing further harm. Encourage the interviewee to have a trusted friend, relative, or support worker with them. Where possible, arrange for a professional support person to be available, or keep contact information for support services readily accessible.

6. Maintain Confidentiality

Always prioritize the survivor's safety and privacy. Avoid revealing names, addresses, workplaces, or any other information—visual or otherwise—that could lead to identification. Survivors may not always be fully aware of the long-term implications of being named publicly. This is especially critical in cases involving children, as identifying caregivers can also expose children to harm.

7. Ask Respectful, Open-Ended Questions

Use open, non-judgmental questions that give the survivor space to speak on their own terms. Examples include:

- What do you think people should understand about your experience?
- In what ways has this impacted your life?
- Who or what helped you in your recovery process?
- What challenges did you face in coming forward?
- What would make it safer for others to speak out?

Avoid questions that suggest the survivor's actions contributed to the violence.

8. Allow Flexibility

Let the survivor control the pace of the interview. Be prepared to pause or stop altogether if they become distressed. Respect their need for breaks or their decision to end the interview at any time.

One possible way to convey this message is to say, 'Your wellbeing is more important to me than this story. If at any point you want to take a break or you want this interview to be over, just let me know.'

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9. Clarify Use and Obtain Informed Consent

Review the quotes you intend to publish with the interviewee and confirm they are comfortable with how they are represented. Ensure they understand where and how the story will appear, including online and on social media, and that they have consented to this. Make clear that publishing timelines can shift due to editorial changes and keep them informed of any updates.

Survivors should be informed that they have the right to change their mind and withdraw consent at any stage, even immediately before publication, and that such a decision will be respected without question.

If your organization has legal counsel, consult them before publication. Survivors may feel disappointed or re-traumatized if their interview is withheld due to legal concerns that weren't addressed early on, especially if no conviction has been made. More detailed guidance on informed consent is included later in this section.

10. Take Care of Your Own Wellbeing

Reporting on violence against women and girls can be emotionally taxing. It is important to recognize the risk of vicarious trauma and adopt strategies to protect your mental health. Guidance on self-care and coping strategies can be found on Section 14.

Remember: Always prioritize the survivor's dignity and security over editorial demands.

Ethically approaching sources

Ethically engaging with sources, particularly survivors of violence, requires care, respect, and survivor-centric approach. Survivors are not simply "subjects" of a story; they are individuals with lived experiences that carry deep personal impact. Your approach can either support their healing or cause further harm.

Whenever possible, connect with survivors through support organizations legal aid providers, or community advocates. These intermediaries can help identify individuals ready to speak, while ensuring the survivor is in a safe and stable place to share. They are more likely to be able to offer support before, during, and after the interview.

If a survivor reaches out directly or through a trusted intermediary, it is important to respond promptly and with care. Sharing an experience of DV or GBV with the media often comes after a long and difficult process of reflection and preparation. Delayed responses can cause distress or discourage the survivor from moving forward, especially if they have already taken a significant emotional step in speaking out. A timely, respectful reply helps build trust and reinforces that their voice is valued.

Is it ever okay to reach out to a survivor?

While it is strongly encouraged to work with an appropriate support organization, it may be appropriate to reach out to a survivor, but only under very specific and carefully considered conditions. The approach must be survivor-centered, voluntary, and non-intrusive, ensuring that the survivor's autonomy and well-being are respected at every stage.

If you are meeting a survivor, arrange a meeting with the survivor where she/he feels safest, such as a public place, editorial office, her private space, online video-meeting etc. It is essential that the outreach does not bypass any existing safety protocols or support systems, such as those provided by a shelter or caseworkers. Journalists should only attempt this if they have been trained in trauma-informed interviewing or are working alongside someone who has the relevant expertise. Most importantly, the survivor must be in a safe and stable environment, with access to appropriate support before, during, and after any engagement, to minimize the risk of harm or re-traumatization.

Remember: Just because someone is a public figure, shared their story on social media, or was named in the news doesn't mean it's ethical to contact them directly.

Creating a Safe and Supportive Interview Environment

Ensure the interview takes place in a safe, calm, and private environment that supports the survivor's comfort, autonomy and privacy. A well-prepared setting helps minimize distress and fosters trust. Best practices include:

- Choose a quiet, private space free from interruptions and visibility to others.
- Ensure that the space is secure and safe.
- Ensure comfortable seating, adequate lighting (soft, non-harsh light), and control over noise.
- Offer water, tissues, and frequent breaks; allow the survivor to choose where to sit. Avoid recording equipment that feels intrusive; explain each step before you begin.

Developing Questions for Survivor Interviews

Before conducting an interview with a survivor of domestic or gender-based violence, it is essential to prepare your questions with care and sensitivity. Thoughtfully crafted questions help create a safe and respectful environment, empower the interviewee to share their story on their own terms, and reduce the risk of retraumatization. The way questions are framed can shape the entire tone of the interview, reinforcing dignity, trust, and understanding. The following tips provide guidance for developing ethical and trauma-informed questions.

1. Use Open-Ended Prompts

Choose questions that encourage the interviewee to speak freely and share their perspective in their own words. Avoid yes/no questions or those that limit expression. Prompts such as the following can help foster a more meaningful conversation:

- Can you describe your experience...?
- Would you be comfortable telling me about...?
- How did you feel when...?
- What would you like others to understand about your experience?

2. Frame Questions with Care and Sensitivity

Ensure your questions do not imply blame or suggest that the survivor could have prevented what happened. Avoid language that is accusatory, judgmental, intrusive, or emotionally provocative. Respect boundaries and do not pressure the interviewee to share more than they are comfortable with. Be mindful not to reinforce harmful myths, such as the idea that survivors are responsible for the violence they experienced or that gender-based violence is inevitable.

3. Choose Language Thoughtfully

Language matters. Use accurate terms- rape is not sex, and abuse is not conflict. At the same time, recognize that survivors may choose different words based on their comfort or lived experience. Discuss with your interviewee how they prefer to describe their identity (e.g., victim, survivor, neither, or both) and use their preferred terms in the interview and final story. Prioritize respectful and empowering language throughout the process.

Informed consent

Before conducting an interview with a survivor of domestic or gender-based violence, you must first obtain their informed, voluntary, and revocable consent. Consent is an ongoing process that prioritizes survivor dignity, safety, and autonomy at every stage of reporting.

Obtaining consent means the survivor:

- Understands how their story, voice, image, or personal details will be used.
- Knows the platform(s) where the story may appear (print, digital, broadcast, audio, social media).
- Recognizes the potential risks and consequences of sharing their story.
- Gives consent freely and without pressure, with the option to withdraw later if they no longer feel comfortable.

Key Principles of Informed Consent

1. Link to "Do No Harm"

Consent is a key safeguard against re-traumatization and exploitation. It ensures survivor dignity remains central, in line with the Do No Harm principle outlined in this guideline see Section 8 for further details on the Do No Harm principle).

2. Clarify Expectations Early

At the start of the process, explain what media exposure can and cannot achieve. Coverage may amplify a survivor's voice but cannot guarantee justice, legal action, or institutional change. Survivors must also be aware of potential negative reactions, including online backlash.

3. Special Care in Legal Cases

If the survivor is part of an ongoing legal case, proceed with extreme caution. Public storytelling may affect legal outcomes or safety. Seek legal advice where needed, and explain these risks to the survivor before proceeding.

4. Ongoing and Revocable Consent

Consent must be revisited before, during, and even after interviews, especially if story direction shifts. Survivors should never feel bound to participate if they change their mind. Journalists must create safe opportunities for survivors to decline or withdraw without consequence.

5. Risk-Mitigation Options

Offer survivors meaningful choices, such as:

- Using a pseudonym.
- Blurring or omitting images.
- Excluding identifying details.
- Withholding sensitive audio or video elements.

Survivors should also be informed of the permanence of online publication and the risk of content being re-shared beyond editorial control.

6. Acknowledge Power Imbalances

Survivors may feel pressured to consent due to unequal power dynamics. Journalists must make it explicit that saying no will have no negative consequences.

7. Accessible Consent

Provide consent forms in plain Dhivehi and other languages commonly spoken by migrant workers. Ensure formats are accessible for persons with disabilities (e.g., large print, preferred language, audio, or sign language interpretation if needed).

8. Document Consent

Consent may be recorded through:

- A signed form (see Appendix C for a sample consent form), and/or
- A verbal statement captured on audio or video.

Always begin with an off-the-record conversation to explain:

- The purpose of the story.
- Where and how it will be published.
- Who the intended audience is.
- That they retain the right to withdraw at any stage (with the caveat that removal from digital platforms may not be guaranteed).

Special considerations for children and persons with disabilities in seeking consent can be found in the relevant sub-sections below.

Special Considerations When Interviewing Children

Interviewing children, especially in the context of domestic or gender-based violence, requires heightened ethical, legal, and emotional sensitivity. The following are the key considerations journalists must keep in mind:

Know and Follow the Law

Journalists must be fully aware of national laws and regulations that govern the protection of children's identities. In the Maldives it is illegal to name or show identifying details of a child (refer to Section 3 for further information). Even when consent is obtained, legal and ethical boundaries must not be crossed.

Obtain Informed Consent with Additional Safeguards

Consent must be obtained from both the child (if they are old enough to understand) and their legal guardian. However, consent alone does not justify conducting the interview. Journalists must consider whether the interview is in the child's best interest.

Prioritize the Child’s Safety and Well-being

The interview must not cause distress or emotional harm. Avoid any questions or settings that could re-traumatize the child. Use simple, age-appropriate language and allow the child to lead the pace of the conversation.

Avoid Direct Questions About Traumatic Events

Children may not have the emotional or developmental capacity to explain their experiences accurately. Do not pressure them to recount details of abuse or violence. Focus instead ongeneral observations or feelings, and respect their right to silence.

Engage a Trusted Adult or Child Advocate

A parent, guardian, or professional such as a counselor or social worker should be present to support the child, monitor their emotional state, and stop the interview if needed.

Anonymize and Protect Identity

Never reveal a child’s name, location, photo, or any detail that could make them identifiable. Take extra care with visuals and online publishing.

Avoid Sensationalism or Exploitation

Children’s stories should never be used for emotional impact or dramatic effect. Keep the tone respectful, and ensure the focus remains on raising awareness or advocating for positive change, not generating sympathy at the child’s expense.

Always ask: ‘Is this interview necessary, and can it be done in a way that protects the child’s rights, safety, and dignity?’ If the answer is uncertain, the interview should not proceed.

Special Considerations When Interviewing Persons with Disabilities

Interviewing survivors with disabilities requires additional preparation to ensure accessibility, respect, and dignity. Journalists must be mindful of the diverse needs and potential barriers that may impact how a person shares their story.

Presume Capacity for Informed Consent

Always begin with the assumption that adults with disabilities have the capacity to give informed consent, unless proven otherwise. This aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which emphasizes legal capacity on an equal basis with others (Article 12). If someone has difficulty understanding complex information, they should be offered support (e.g., a trusted friend, advocate, or interpreter) to understand and make their own decision. This is different from substituting their decision. The key is enabling autonomy.

Assess Accessibility Needs Early

Before the interview, ask the interviewee about any accessibility requirements, such as a physically accessible location, preferred seating arrangements, or assistive technology.

Identify Preferred Communication Methods

Discuss in advance whether the interviewee prefers written, verbal, or sign language communication. Where needed, arrange for a qualified interpreter, ensuring the interpreter is acceptable to the interviewee and familiar with the subject matter.

Plan for Extra Time

Some interviews may require more time due to communication needs, physical arrangements, or additional breaks. Avoid rushing the process.

Ensure Privacy and Comfort

The interview space should be safe, comfortable, and free from distractions. For survivors with sensory sensitivities, consider factors like lighting, noise, and temperature.

Offer Choice and Control

As with all survivor interviews, allow the person to set boundaries, pause, or stop at any time. Respect their autonomy in how they share their story.

Understanding Triggers in Survivor Interviews

Triggers are stimuli, such as words, images, sounds, or even the tone of a question, that can cause a survivor to re-experience the emotional or physical distress linked to a past traumatic event. For survivors of domestic or gender-based violence, these reactions can be overwhelming and involuntary. As journalists, being mindful of potential triggers is essential to conducting ethical, trauma-informed interviews. Sensitivity to triggers helps ensure that survivors feel safe, respected, and in control when sharing their stories, ultimately resulting in more authentic and responsible storytelling.

Journalists can reduce the risk of triggering survivors by taking a trauma-informed and respectful approach to interviews. This includes:

1. Preparing the survivor in advance with clear information about the interview, using sensitive language, and allowing them to set boundaries around what they are comfortable sharing.
2. During the interview, it's important to watch for signs of distress, offer breaks, and avoid pushing for emotional or graphic details.
3. Giving survivors control over how their story is told. This helps to create a safer, more empowering experience.
4. A brief check-in after the interview and sharing a list of support services/ resources can further support the survivor's well-being.

Example Highlight: The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo (2007, dir. Lisa F. Jackson)

Link: https://www.wmm.com/catalog/film/the-greatest-silence-rape-in-the-congo/
A review: https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/39/article/434510

A profoundly sensitive and courageous documentary centering survivors of wartime sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The filmmaker, herself a survivor, approaches deeply traumatic testimonies with empathy, care, and context. The film won the Special Jury Prize at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and received Emmy nominations.

Why this works for survivor interviewing:

1. ***Engage with Specialist Support Services***
   Survivor interviews were conducted with respect and safety in settings likely facilitated by local clinics and advocacy groups.
2. ***Assess Safety of the Interviewee***
   Jackson was deeply conscious of working in perilous conflict zones; interviews were structured to minimize harm.
3. ***Build Trust and Comfort***
   The director's own experience as a survivor created an intuitive bond, establishing emotional safety.
4. ***Ensure Emotional Support***
   The film's tone and pacing show a trauma-informed approach, giving survivors space and control in sharing.
5. ***Maintain Confidentiality***
   Survivors' identities are protected where needed; emphasis remains on dignity and their voices.
6. ***Ask Respectful, Open-Ended Questions***
   Interviews allow survivors to convey their experiences in their own phrasing—deeply personal and unprompted.
7. ***Allow Flexibility***
   The film flows at the interviewees' pace, reflecting careful, responsive direction.
8. ***Clarify Use and Obtain Ongoing Consent***
   The sensitive nature of the footage indicates ongoing ethical awareness and survivor agency in how their stories are used.
9. ***Take Care of Your Own Well-being***
   While not explicit, Jackson's reflective filmmaking suggests self-awareness around trauma on both sides of the lens.

10. Ethically Engaging with Sources

The film respects survivors as individuals, neither subjects nor spectacles, allowing their humanity to guide the storytelling

Exemplary Quote:

“I want the world to know what happened here—not so they will pity me, but so they will stop it from happening to other women.”- Survivor testimony, The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo
Demonstrates: Step 5- Asking respectful, open-ended questions and Step 3- Building trust and comfort: survivor retains purpose and agency.

Section 7: Language and Framing Guide

Language is never neutral. Every word of choice either reinforces or resists power structures. When reporting on violence, use language that promotes dignity, centers on the survivor, and reflects the seriousness of the harm. Accurate, inclusive, and respectful language helps create a media environment that supports survivors and holds perpetrators accountable.

Talking About the Crime

When reporting on DV and GBV, it is essential to:

- **Name the crime clearly and accurately.** Use terms such as “rape,” “sexual assault,” “domestic abuse,” “child sexual abuse,” and “coercive control,” instead of vague or euphemistic language like “incident,” “affair,” or “sex case.” While naming the crime accurately is essential, some legal terms may be highly technical. Journalists should use precise legal terminology but may also include a brief, plain-language explanation so the public clearly understands the nature of the offense. Terminology with their meanings can be found in Appendix A. In addition, you may also refer to Section 3: Guide to relevant laws, regulations and international treaties, which provides summaries and links to laws (for example, Domestic Violence Prevention Act, Sexual Offences Act, Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment Act) that include legal terms and their definitions.
- **Avoid implying consent where it did not exist.** For example, use “rape” or “sexual assault,” not “non-consensual sex” or “sex with a minor.”
- **Describe patterns, not just events.** DV and GBV often involve ongoing abuse. Avoid language that frames it as a one-off dispute or outburst.

Talking About the Perpetrator

Framing perpetrators with accuracy helps to place accountability where it belongs:

- **Use accurate identifiers such as “abuser,” “perpetrator,” or “offender.”** When appropriate, you may refer to the perpetrator’s relationship to the victim (e.g., “former partner”), but only if the survivor has given explicit consent and it will not compromise their privacy or safety. In cases where the survivor does not wish to disclose the relationship, or where doing so could indirectly reveal their identity (such as when the survivor is a child), avoid using relationship-based identifiers altogether. This is especially important to comply with Article 33 of the Child Rights Protection Act, which prohibits publishing information that could identify a child. When in doubt, choose neutral descriptors that protect the survivor’s anonymity.
- **Avoid sensational or dehumanizing labels** (e.g. “monster,” “beast,” “fiend”), which suggest that violence is rare or committed only by outsiders. Most perpetrators are individuals within the victim’s own social or family circle.
- **Avoid using language that evokes sympathy** (e.g. “devoted father,” “respected professional,” “pillar of the community”) in a way that deflects attention from the violence.

Talking About the Victim-Survivor

Media coverage should preserve the dignity of all victim-survivors:

- **Use survivor-centered language.** Refer to individuals as "victim-survivor" or "survivor" depending on how they identify. Avoid language that infantilizes, blames, or reduces them to their trauma.
- **Avoid implying blame** through language or tone. Do not reference what the victim was wearing, where they were, or their lifestyle choices in ways that shift responsibility away from the perpetrator. For example, avoid lines like "She was walking home alone late at night", unless directly relevant to understanding the case and framed clearly to avoid implying responsibility for the harm.
- **Be mindful of gender-based assumptions.** While women and girls are disproportionately affected, GBV also impacts men and boys. Language should be inclusive and not erase male survivors.
- **Do not assign stereotypes.** Avoid portraying survivors as helpless or passive; include context that shows their agency and resilience where appropriate.

Talking About Children

Children who experience or witness abuse must be treated with particular care:

- **Do not identify children,** directly or indirectly, in stories involving abuse. This includes omitting names, island and atoll, school names, photos, or any other details that could reveal identity.
- **Avoid language that normalizes or minimizes abuse.** Use "child sexual abuse," not "sex with a minor" or "child sex."
- **Be careful not to blame caregivers,** unless legally established and relevant to the story.
- **Respect children's rights to safety, dignity, and privacy** at all times.

"Victim" or "Survivor"?

The term victim is often used in legal and judicial contexts to identify a person who has been harmed by a crime. In such cases, it is important for affirming recognition of harm under the law. However, outside of legal proceedings, describing someone only as a "victim" can carry unintended implications, portraying the individual as powerless or defined solely by the violence they experienced.

By contrast, the term survivor has become widely preferred in media and advocacy spaces because it emphasizes agency, dignity, and resilience. It aligns with trauma-informed and rights-based approaches, and acknowledges that people who have experienced violence can rebuild their lives beyond it. Advocacy groups, UN agencies, and many international media standards now encourage the use of "survivor" in everyday reporting.

Some individuals, however, prefer to use victim-survivor. This hybrid term recognizes both dimensions of their experience: that they were subjected to harm (victim) and that they have continued to live, resist, or heal (survivor). It can be particularly meaningful for those who wish to affirm the reality of the violence while also asserting their resilience.

Best Practice for Journalists

- Whenever possible, ask the individual how they wish to be identified.
- Use *"victim"* in legal contexts or where explicitly self-identified.
- Use *"survivor"* in general reporting to highlight resilience.
- Avoid undermining credibility with terms like "alleged victim" unless legally required.
- Instead, use neutral phrases such as "she reported" or "according to her statement".

Words to Avoid and Alternatives

Avoid	Why	Use Instead
Sex with minor	Children cannot consent to sex	Child sexual abuse
Domestic dispute	"Dispute" trivializes and mutualizes the abuse	Domestic abuse / violence
Non-consensual sex	Does not communicate the magnitude of the crime.	Rape / sexual assault
Victim confesses to rape	"Confesses" implies guilt	Victim reports / discloses rape
Monster, fiend	Dehumanizes and suggests violence is rare or abnormal	Perpetrator / abuser / offender
Devoted dad / good guy	Distracts from the violence and creates undue sympathy	(Use neutral descriptions or roles)

Avoid	Why	Use Instead
Alleged victim	“Alleged” undermines credibility unless legally required	Victim / survivor
Abusive relationship	Shifts blame from person to relationship	Abusive partner / partner who abused
Child porn	“Porn” implies legitimacy or consent	Child sexual abuse material
Revenge porn	“Revenge” suggests justification or motive. The issue is lack of consent.	Non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII)
Online affair	Avoids language that normalizes predators	Grooming / online coercion
Trolling	“Trolling” trivializes coordinated harm	Targeted online abuse / hate speech
Harassment on social media	Does not capture the systemic, gendered nature of online abuse	Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)

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(އޮންލައިން) ދިމާކުރުން/ ފެއްސުން ކުރުން ("ސްޓޯކިންގ")	މިފަދަ ބަސްތަކުން، ލިބުނު އަނިޔާގެ ވާހަކަ ނުރައްކަލަށްވުރެ ފަސޭހަކަމެއް ގެނެސްދެނީ. ހާލަތަކީ އެކަން ސީރިއަސް ކުށްތަކެއް ކަމަށް ދޭހަ ނުވުމެވެ.	ޝިކާރަކުރުން އޮންލައިނުން ކުރާ ފާރަވެރިކަން/ އަނިޔާކުރުން/ ސަލާމަތަށް އުފައްދާ ބިރު ބޮޑުކުރުން

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Additional Resources

Zero Tolerance – Language Guide for Reporting

A practical online guide that offers clear "Avoid / Use Instead" examples for reporting on GBV. It covers careful framing of perpetrators, survivors, and cases involving children, and is written for journalists at all levels.
Link:
https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/language-guide-for-reporting/

SVRI – The Power of Language and its Use in the GBV Field

A comprehensive resource exploring how language shapes public perception, impacts survivor dignity, and can be reclaimed to promote justice and systemic change. It's particularly useful for policy framing and editorial decision-making.
Link:
https://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2021-1125/SVRI_Knowledge_Exchange_Power_of_Language.pdf '

UN Women – Framing and Messaging of Media Content

An in-depth look at how media framing influences understanding of violence against women and girls. It emphasizes strategic narrative choices, precise terminology, and ethical messaging for complex GBV coverage.
Link:
https://www.endvawnow.org/fr/articles/2026-framing-and-messaging-of-media- content.html

Australian Government – Sexual Consent Reporting Guidelines & Language Guide

Offers definitions and style suggestions for consent-related reporting, focusing on positive, proactive framing—presenting consent as a learned skill rather than only as a legal safeguard.
"Consent is a set of skills people can learn to have healthy relationships... rather than a problem to be solved."
Link:
https://www.consent.gov.au/node/177

Our Watch (Australia) – Media Reporting Resources

A collection of quick-tip guides, webinars, and curriculum tools to help journalists report on GBV ethically and challenge stereotypes across print, broadcast, and online platforms.
Link: https://www.ourwatch.org.au/media-reporting/resources/guidelines-for-reporting

Section 8: Do No Harm

The principle of Do No Harm is a cornerstone of ethical journalism, and is especially critical when reporting on domestic violence and gender-based violence. It requires media professionals to minimize the risk of causing further harm to survivors, their families, audiences, and even themselves, throughout the process of news-gathering, reporting, and publishing.

In the context of DV and GBV, harm can occur even when reporting is factually accurate and well-intentioned. Survivors can be re-traumatized by how their story is told, a photograph may reinforce harmful stereotypes, or a reader may be distressed without access to appropriate support. Applying Do No Harm means understanding the potential psychological, legal, and social consequences of how a story is framed and shared, and placing survivor safety, dignity, and autonomy at the center of every editorial decision.

Considerations for the Victim-Survivor (and Their Children's) Wellbeing

Media coverage can have lasting impacts on survivors, long after a story is published, both positive and negative. Ethical journalism must not only report truthfully but also actively avoid re-victimization, re-traumatization, or social harm.

Key considerations include:

Informed and continuous consent: Survivors must fully understand how their story will be used, where it will appear, and the potential risks involved, even if they are not named. Consent should be treated as an ongoing process, with survivors allowed to withdraw at any stage, even immediately before publication.

Proper timing: Avoid approaching survivors or their families in the immediate aftermath of an incident, when they may still be in shock and unable to fully process what they are consenting to. Ensure the survivor is mentally and emotionally ready to engage.

Protect privacy and safety: Do not publish names, addresses, workplace details, school names, or photographs that could identify survivors or their children. Even indirect identifiers (e.g., "only daughter of a teacher at the school") can lead to stigmatization or harm.

Consider the children: Take extra care when reporting on cases involving minors. Identifiers can inadvertently reveal a child's identity, which may violate laws such as Article 33 of the Child Rights Protection Act.

Avoid victim-blaming: Do not imply the survivor's actions contributed to the violence. Understand the dynamics of abuse, such as power imbalances, coercive control, and systemic barriers to leaving, and reflect this in your reporting. For example, avoid framing such as "she stayed" or "she went back," and instead highlight the complex reasons survivors may remain in unsafe situations.

Use empowering language: Portray survivors as people with agency, resilience, and dignity.

Adopt a trauma-informed approach: Avoid pressuring survivors for details, and do not repeatedly ask the same question in different ways. Repetition can cause re-traumatization.

Considerations for the Reader's Wellbeing

Audiences can also be impacted by the content they consume, especially survivors of violence or those with lived trauma. Responsible journalism recognizes that readers, too, deserve care and protection.

- Provide context, not graphic detail: Avoid lurid descriptions that serve no purpose but to provoke horror or voyeurism.
- Avoid normalizing violence: Do not publish content that trivializes or justifies abuse, such as presenting it as a "domestic dispute" or a "private matter."
- Use clear, accurate language: Name the crime correctly. For example: rape is not "non-consensual sex"; child abuse is not "sex with a minor."

Trigger Warnings

Trigger warnings are brief notices that alert readers to potentially distressing content. They are a practical way to respect the emotional safety of audiences, especially survivors.
Best practices:

- Place trigger warnings at the top of articles or content segments.
- Use neutral, direct language. For example:

"This article contains descriptions of domestic violence and sexual assault that may be distressing to some readers."

"މި ލިޔުމުގައި ގެވެށި އަނިޔާއާއި ޖިންސީ ގޯނާއާބެހޭ ވާހަކަތައް ހިމެނޭ ބައެއް ކިޔުންތެރިންނަށް ނުތަނަވަސްކަން އިޙްސާސް ކުރެވިދާނެއެވެ."

- Using trigger warnings allow readers to choose whether to engage with the material.

Avoiding Photos / Imagery That Could Be Triggering

Images have immense power—but when poorly chosen, they can do more harm than good.
Avoid:

- **Stock images of cowering women, clenched fists, or shadows,** which perpetuate stereotypes and disempower survivors.
- **Sexualized or sensational visuals,** even in stories about sexual violence.
- **Photos from survivors' social media** without explicit **informed consent**, even if the profiles are public.

Instead:

- Use **symbolic imagery** (e.g. doors, empty spaces, silhouettes) or **abstract visuals** that convey the theme respectfully.
- When using real photos, **obtain informed consent and discuss implications** of publication.

Inclusion of How to Report and Places to Seek Support

A key way to minimize harm is **to connect readers to report or help.** Always include ways to report, helplines, crisis centers, or referral services at the end of stories on DV and GBV.

For example:

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, help is available:

- **Call [insert domestic violence helpline number]** for confidential support 24/7.
- **Contact [insert police emergency number]** in immediate danger.

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- ސިއްރުހިފެހެއްޓޭ 24/7 އެހީތެރިކަމަށް (ގެވެށި އަނިޔާގެ ހެލްޕްލައިން ނަންބަރު) އަށް ގުޅާށެވެ.
- ވަގުތުން އެހީތެރިކަން ބޭނުންވާނަމަ (ފުލުހުންގެ ކުއްލި ހާލަތު ނަންބަރު) އަށް ގުޅާށެވެ.

Additional resources:

- [Insert NGO name] for specialized services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (e.g. legal aid, counseling, etc.).
- Visit [insert website] for information on safety planning, legal help, and support services.

This small step can empower survivors, educate the public, and transform a painful story into a pathway to healing and action.

އިތުރު ޚިދުމަތްތައް:

- ގެވެށި އަނިޔާއާއި ވަކި ޖިންސަކަށްވީތީ ކުރާ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކަށް ޚާއްސަ ޚިދުމަތްތަކަށް (މިސާލަކަށް: ޤާނޫނީ އެހީ، ކައުންސެލިންގ، ވަޣައިރު) (އެންޖީއޯގެ ނަން) އާ ގުޅާށެވެ.
- ރައްކާތެރިކަމުގެ ޕްލޭނިންގ، ޤާނޫނީ އެހީ، އަދި އެހީތެރިކަމުގެ ޚިދުމަތްތަކާބެހޭ މަޢުލޫމާތު ހޯދުމަށް (ވެބްސައިޓް) އަށް ޒިޔާރަތްކުރައްވާށެވެ.

Featured Resource Summary

Trauma Reporting: A Journalist's Guide to Covering Sensitive Stories – Jo Healey (Ethical Journalism Network / Routledge)

This insightful guide developed from Jo Healey's extensive experience as a BBC reporter and trainer offers ethical, human-centered advice for journalists covering trauma and sensitive stories. Built around the principle "Do your job, do it well, do no harm," it emphasizes treating people as dignified human beings, rather than subjects. Featuring firsthand insights from journalists like Louis Theroux, Jina Moore, and Lucy Williamson, as well as survivors of trauma, the article addresses:

- How to approach grieving or traumatized individuals with empathy and without intrusion.
- Why human connection must come before journalistic pursuit ("Be a human being first..." as Lucy Williamson underscores).
- The importance of aftercare, staying in touch with interviewees and not leaving them feeling abandoned post-reporting (as Richard Bilton reflects).
- Avoiding retraumatization, interview sensitively, explain every step, offer control, and always seek to empower.

"Be a human being first, and a journalist second."- Lucy Williamson, BBC correspondent

Section 9: Framing of the Headline

Headlines are powerful. They often draw more attention than the article itself. This is especially true on social media, where many users share content based solely on the headline, without reading the full story. For this reason, headlines should be written with great care. Sensational or careless titles can perpetuate harm, even when the article itself is responsibly written.

When crafting a headline, journalists should ask:

- Does this headline reinforce harmful gender stereotypes?
- Does it respect the dignity of the survivor?
- Does it avoid voyeurism and sensationalism?
- Does it place undue focus on the perpetrator, rather than the broader issue or the survivor's experience?

Thoughtful, ethical headlines are essential to responsible reporting.

How to Frame Ethical and Accurate Headlines

- Name the crime clearly (e.g. assault, murder, abuse).
- Avoid sensationalism, emotional language, or clickbait.
- Do not blame or sexualize the victim.
- Use survivor-centered language and maintain dignity.
- Avoid implying consent in cases involving coercion or minors.

Examples of Bad and Better Headlines

Bad Headline	Why it is Problematic	Better Headline
"Jealous Husband Snaps, Kills Wife in Fit of Rage"	Sensationalist language ("snaps," "fit of rage") implies loss of control, minimizing accountability. Also centers the perpetrator.	"Woman Killed in Suspected Domestic Violence Incident"
"She Stayed. And It Cost Her Life"	Blames the victim for not leaving. Overlooks barriers to escaping abuse (safety, finances, social stigma).	"Victim of Long-Term Abuse Killed by Partner"
"Sex Scandal Shocks Village"	Trivializes assault as a "scandal." Fails to name the crime and disrespects the victim's dignity.	"Police Investigate Reported Sexual Assault Case"

Bad Headline	Why it is Problematic	Better Headline
"Victim of Rape Confesses Her Ordeal"	"Confesses" implies guilt or shame. "Ordeal" may sensationalize.	"Survivor Shares Her Story of Sexual Violence"
"Scorned Woman Claims Abuse Against Ex-Lover"	"The headline plays into sexist stereotypes of women as overly emotional, irrational, or vengeful, minimizing the seriousness of GBV. It also discredits the survivor by framing her allegations as "claims."	"Woman Reports Pattern of Abuse in Domestic Violence Case"

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ރަނގަޅު ނޫން ބައެއް ސުރުޚީތައް	މިފަދައިން ސުރުޚީ އާންމުވުން ދިމާވާ މައްސަލަ	ސުރުޚީ އޮންނަންވީ ރަނގަޅު ގޮތް
ހަސަދައިން ނުއެއްބިގެން ގޯސް އަނބި މީހާ މަރާލައިފި	"ހަސަދައިން ނުއެއްބިގެން ގޯސް" މިހެން ބުނުމުން އަނިޔާ ލިބި މީހާ ޖަވާބުދާރީ ކުރުވާ މިންވަރު ކުޑަވުން	ގެފިރިއަނބީގެ ބާރުސާއްގައި އަންހެނަކު މަރާލައިފި.
ދެރައް ނަފްރަތު. ކަރުހިއްލާ އަދަބިއްޔާ މަރު.	މިކަން މިހެން ދިމާވީ އަނިޔާކުރި އިރުވެސް ސަލާމަތްނުވުމުން ކަމަށް ދޭހަވާ، އަދި މިއީ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުގެ އަމަލެއް ކަމަށްދެއްކޭ ސިފަވާ. އަދި އަނިޔާއަށް ޒިންމާދާރުވާ ހާލަތަކުން ސަލާމަތްވުމަށް ހުރި ނިޔާމު ގޮސްޖެހިފައިވާ (މިސާލަކަށް ފުރުސަތު ދޭތެރެން، މުޖުތަމަޢުން ދޫކޮށްލާ) ވިސްނާލުން ފުރުސަތު ނެތިފާ.	ދިގުމުއްދަތަކަށް ބައިވެރިވާއަށް އަނިޔާކޮށް، މަރާލައިފި.
ޖިންސީ ފާޙިޝް އަމަލުތަކުން މުޖުތަމަޢު ސިއްސާވެފައި	ޖިންސީ ގޯނާއަކީ އަނިޔާ ދިން މީހާއި އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާ ދެމެދުން ހިނގި ޖިންސީއަމަލެއް ކަމަށް ދެއްކުން. ޖިންސީ ގޯނާއެއްކަމަށް ސިފަނުކުރުން، އަދި އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތް ބަދުނާމުވުން	ފުރުޞަތުގެ ތަފާތުކަމުން ޖިންސީ އަނިޔާގެ އަމަލުތަކަށް ފެންވަރުތަކެއް

ރަނގަޅު ނޫން ބައެއް ސުރުޚީތައް	މިފަދައިން ސުރުޚީ އޮތުމުން ދިމާވާ މައްސަލަ	ސުރުޚީ އޮންނަންވީ ރަނގަޅު ގޮތް
(އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާ) ޒޫރުގެ ވާހަކަތަކަށް އިޢުތިރާފް (ނުވަތަ އެއްބަސް) ވެއްޖެ	އިޢުތިރާފް (ނުވަތަ އެއްބަސް) މި ބަސް ބޭނުން ކުރުމުން އަނިޔާ ލިބުނުފަރާތް ކުށްވެރި ކުރުވޭ އަދި ބަދުނާމު ކުރުވޭ	(އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުން) ލިބުނު ޖިންސީ އަނިޔާގެ ވާހަކަތައް ހިއްސާކޮށްދީފި
ބޭވަފާތެރިކަމުގެ ތުހުމަތު ހުރި އަންހެނަކު، އޭނާގެ ކުރީގެ ލޯބިވެރިޔާ އޭނާއަށް ޖިންސީ އަނިޔާ ކުރި ކަމަށް ބުނެފި	މިގޮތަށް ސުރުޚީ އޮތުމުން، އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު އަންހެނުން މީހާ މިފަދައިން ބުނީ، އެކަމަށް ކުރިން ދިމާވި ކަމަށާ ގުޅޭގޮތުން، އަދި ހިތްވަރު ހުރި ޖަޒުބާތުގެ ސަބަބުން، ހަރަކާތާ ހިފާފައިވާކަމަށް ސިފަކުރެވޭ. އަދި މިއީ ވަކި ޖިންސެއްގެ ކުރާ ޖިންސީ އަނިޔާއެއް ނޫންކަން ނުވަތަ އެހާ ސީރިއަސް ކަމެއްނޫންކަމަށް ދެކެވިދާނެ.	އެކުގައި އުޅުނު އިރު ލޯބިވެރިޔާ ޖިންސީ އަނިޔާ ކުރަމުން ދިޔަ ކަމަށް އަންހެނަކު ރިޕޯޓްކޮށްފި.

Checklist: What Makes a Good or Bad Headline

A Good Headline:

Accurately reflects the story without exaggeration or distortion.
Names the crime in clear, legally accurate terms.
Respects survivor dignity and avoids shaming or blaming.
Avoids stereotypes, sensationalism, and voyeurism.
Uses neutral, factual language free of emotional bias.
Focuses on the incident and context rather than glorifying or humanizing the perpetrator.

A Bad Headline:

- ✘ Uses sensational, emotive, or dramatic language for impact (“brutal,” “shocking,” “horror”).
- ✘ Blames or sexualizes the victim.
- ✘ Implies consent or mutual responsibility in cases of abuse.
- ✘ Frames abuse as scandal or gossip.
- ✘ Centers the perpetrator’s emotions, motives, or backstory rather than the harm caused.
- ✘ Uses vague, misleading, or euphemistic descriptions of crimes

Breaking News Headlines

When reporting DV or GBV as breaking news, headlines must follow additional safeguards:

- **Avoid early speculation.** Do not guess at motives, relationships, or causes before facts are confirmed.
- **Never include graphic details.** Do not mention injuries, methods, or descriptions that sensationalize the violence.
- **Do not reveal identifying information.** Avoid naming or implying the survivor's identity through location, relationship, residence, workplace, or other specifics.
- **Use neutral, factual language.** Stick to confirmed information such as: "Police responding to reported domestic violence incident."
- **Be responsible with visuals.** Do not use photos, CCTV stills, or thumbnails that reveal identities, show the survivor's home or neighborhood, or sensationalize the incident; avoid stock images that reinforce stereotypes (e.g., crying women, clenched fists). Instead, neutral graphics or text only thumbnails can be used, especially for sensitive stories.
- **Update responsibly.** As verified information becomes available, revise headlines to maintain accuracy and dignity.

Section 10: Publishing Readiness Checklist for Stories

Survivor Safety & Consent

☐ Have I obtained **informed consent** from the survivor for sharing their story?
☐ Have I clearly explained the **risks and consequences** of publication to the survivor?
☐ Does the story **avoid revealing identifiable information** (e.g., names, addresses, photos, relationships, locations) that could risk the survivor's safety?
☐ Have I **respected the survivor's decision** to include or exclude specific details?

Language and Framing

☐ Is the **language non-sensationalist,** neutral, and respectful?
☐ Have I avoided **victim-blaming or judgmental language?**
☐ Is the story **survivor-centric** (centering on the survivor's experience, agency, and voice)?
☐ Have I ensured that **terms related to disability, mental health, gender, or trauma** are respectful and inclusive?
☐ Have I added **trigger warnings** if the story includes distressing or graphic content?

Images and Visuals

☐ Do the images/ videos **respect the dignity and privacy** of those involved?
☐ Have I avoided using images that are **graphic, sensational, or unrelated stock photos** that reinforce stereotypes?
☐ Have I **sought permission** to use personal photos, if any?

Accuracy and Responsibility

☐ Is all **information fact-checked and verified?**
☐ Have I cross-checked legal, medical, or procedural facts with reliable sources?
☐ Have I **avoided speculation**, especially about motives, character, or outcomes?
☐ Have I included **referrals to support services** (e.g., hotlines, legal aid, shelters)?

Sources and Balance

☐ Have I included **expert voices** (e.g., civil society advocates, legal aid providers) where necessary?
☐ Have I made efforts to **represent multiple perspectives** without causing harm?
☐ Did I reach out to relevant institutions (e.g., MSFD, FPA) for **context and accuracy?**

Ethical Compliance

☐ Does the story comply with the **Maldives Media Code of Conduct?**

☐ Have I reviewed relevant **laws and regulations** (e.g., DV Act, Child Rights Act)?

☐ If the story involves children or persons with disabilities, have I ensured **additional safeguards and sensitivity?**

Post-Publication Considerations

☐ Is the **comment section moderated** to prevent hate speech or revictimization?

☐ Am I prepared to **follow up with the survivor** if needed after publication?

☐ Am I taking the necessary steps to **look after my mental health?**

ޝާއިޢު ކުރުމުގެ ކުރިން ބަލަންޖެހޭ ކަންތައްތައް

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާގެ ރައްކާތެރިކަން އަދި ޝާއިޢު ކުރުމުގެ ހުއްދަ

☐ ފުރިހަމަ މައުލޫމާތު ފޯރުކޮށްދީފިންތޯ؟ އަދި އެއަށްފަހު ވާހަކަ ޝާއިޢުކުރުމުގެ ހުއްދަ އޭނާގެ ފަރާތުން ހޯދައިފިންތޯ؟

☐ ޝާއިޢު ކުރުމުގެ ސަބަބުން އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާއަށް ދިމާވެދާނެ ގެއްލުންތަކާއި ހިރާސްތަކާއި ސާފުކޮށް އެކަން ފިލުވައިދީފިންތޯ؟

އެއީ ކާކުކަން އެނގޭނެފަދަ މައުލޫމާތުތައް އުނި ކުރެވުނުތޯ؟ (މިސާލަކަށް: ނަން، އެޑްރެސް، ފޮޓޯ، ލޮކޭޝަން) މިނޫންވެސް އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު

☐ މީހާ އިތުރު ނުރައްކާތެރިކަން ހުށަހެޅިދާނެ ކަހަލަ މައުލޫމާތުތައް އުނިކޮށްފިންތޯ؟

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާގެ ސިއްރުވެރިކަމަށް އިހުތިރާމް ކުރެވުނުތޯ؟ އިތުރަށް ތަފްސީލު ކުރުމަށް ނުވަތަ ބަޔާން މައުލޫމާތު ނުހިމެނުމަށް ނުވަތަ

☐ އިތުރު މައުލޫމާތު ހިމެނުން ފަދަ ކަންކަމުގައި އިއްތިފާޤުކުރެވިފައިވޭތޯ؟

ބަސްމަގު އަދި ހުށަހެޅުން

☐ ބަސްމަގު ބޭނުންކޮށްފައިވަނީ އާދަރުކުރަނިވި (ސެންސިޓިވް) ނޫން، ޖަޒުބާތީ ނޫން، ވަކިފަރާތަކަށް ނުޖެހޭ، އަދި ކަރާމާތްތެރި ގޮތަކަށްތޯ؟

☐ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތް ކުށްވެރިކުރުމުގެ ނުވަތަ އޭނާއަށް ފާޑުކިޔުމުގެ ބަހުރުވައިން ދުރުހެލިވެފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު މީހާ ބަދުނާމުވާފަދަ އިބާރާތް ބޭނުންކުރެވުނުބާ؟ އަދި ވާހަކަ ލިޔުމުގައި/އެޑިޓްކުރުމުގައި ވަކި ފަރާތަކަށް ބުރަވެވުނުބާ؟

☐ ވާހަކައިގައި އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުގެ ތަޖުރިބާ، ޖަޒުބާތުތަކާއި، އަދި އޭނާގެ އަޑު (އޭނާގެ ބަސްތަކުން އޭނާ ދެކޭގޮތް) އިސްކަންދެވިފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން، ނަސްލީ، ބިދޭސީ، ދީނީ، ނުވަތަ ޖިންސީ ގޮތުން ބަސްތަކާއި ކަރާމާތްތެރިކަން ހިފެހެއްޓުމާއި އަދި ޝާމިލުކުރުވަނިވި ބަސްމަގެއް ބޭނުންކުރެވިފައިވޭތޯ؟

ވާހަކައިގައި ކަންބޮޑުވުން އުފެދޭ ނުވަތަ ހިތްދަތިވާފަދަ މައުލޫމާތު ހިމެނޭނަމަ، ޓްރިގަރ ވޯނިންގ ހިމަނާފައިވޭތޯ؟

ފޮޓޯ އަދި މަންޒަރު

☐ ފޮޓޯ/ވީޑިއޯތަކުން ކަމާގުޅުންހުރި ފަރާތްތަކުގެ ކަރާމާއި ޒާތީ މިނިވަންކަމަށް އިޙްތިރާމްކުރެވޭތޯ؟

☐ ހިތްދަތިވާފަދަ، ޝޮކްކުރަނިވި (ސެންސިޓިވް)، ނުވަތަ ނުފޫޒު އާންމު ސިފަކުރަނިވި (ސްޓީރިއޯޓައިޕްތަކަށް) ބާރުދޭ ފޮޓޯތަކާއި ކަމާ

☐ ގުޅުމެއްނެތް ސްޓޮކް ފޮޓޯއެއް ބޭނުންކުރުމުން ދުރުހެލިވެފައިވޭތޯ؟

އޭނާގެ އަމިއްލަ ނުވަތަ ޚާއްޞަ ފޮޓޯއެއް ބޭނުންކުރާނަމަ، ހުއްދަ ހޯދިންތޯ؟

ބަސްބަހަކާ ޖިންސާ ނުގެން

☐ ހުރިހާ މައުލޫމާތަކީ ޔަގީންކަން ޗެކްކޮށް ބަލައިގެން ކަށަވަރުކުރެވިފައިވާ މައުލޫމާތެއް؟

☐ ޤާނޫނީ، ސިޔާސީ، ނުވަތަ އިޖުތިމާއީ މައުލޫމާތުތައް އިތުބާރުކުރެވޭ މަސްދަރުތަކާއި ކޮންސަލްޓްކޮށްފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ ވަކިން ހާއްސަ ބަލާކަން ސަމާލުކަމާއި، ޝަރުޢީ ސިޔާސަތާއި، ސަރަހައްދީ ބަދަލުތަކާ އަމިއްލަ ޒިންމާދާރީ ތަފާސީލުކުރުން ދުރުހެލިވެފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ އެއީ ހެދުމަކަށް ގުނޑުން މަސްމަސްގެ މައުލޫމާތު (މިސާލަކަށް: ހުޖްޖަތުތަކާ، ޤާނޫނީ އެހީ، ހިމާޔަތުގައިވާން) ހިމަނާފައިވޭތޯ؟

މަސްދަރުތަކާއި ހަރުދަނާކަން

☐ ބޭނުންކުރުން މިއަދު ޔާރޫމުގައިވާ މަޖުރިބާގެ ހާލަތުގެ ބަދަލުގައި (މިސާލަކަށް: މަދަނީ ޖަމިއްޔާތަކުގެ ވަކާލާތުގެ ފަރާތްތަކާއި، ޤާނޫނީ އެހީ ފޯރުކޮށްދޭ ފަރާތްތަކާއި) ހިމަނާފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ ގޮސްފައި ނުދިނުމަށް އިސްކަންދިނުން، ރަނގަޅު ޒާތުގެއަށް ރަނގަޅުކުރުމަށް މަސައްކަތްކޮށްފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ ކަމާގުޅުންހުރި މުއައްސަސާތަކާ (މިސާލަކަށް: އެޗް.ޕީ.އެސް.އޯ.ސީ.، އެފް.އީ.ޕީ.އޭ.) ގުޅައި ކަންބޮޑުވުންތައް ބެލުމަށް ކަނޑައަޅާފައިވާ ކަމަށް މައުލޫމާތު ސާފުކޮށްފައިވޭތޯ؟

ސުރުޚީ މިންގަނޑުތަކާއި ރިޕޯރޓިން

☐ ދިފާއަށްޓަކައި މީޑިއާގެ ސުރުޚީ މިންގަނޑަށް ވާހަކަ ފެތޭތޯ؟

☐ ކަމާގުޅުންހުރި ފޯނުނަމްބަރާއި ގެވާއިދުތަކަށް (މިސާލަކަށް: ގެވެނި އަނިޔާ ހުއްޓުވުމުގެ ކޯޓުހުރިނަމަ، ފޯނުން، ޚިދުމަތުތަކަށް ހާސިލުވާގޮތަށް ފޯނުން) މުޖުތަމަޢަށް ހިމަނާފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ ވާހަކައިގައި ކޯޓުހުރިން ނުވަތަ ނުކުރެވޭބަޔަކަށް ހުރަސް ފަރާތްތަކަށް ހިއްސާކުރަން، އިތުރު ތަޢާރަފްކުރާ ޒާތް ބަޔަކާ ސަމާލުކަން ކަނޑައަޅާފައިވޭތޯ؟

ޝާއިޢު ކުރުމަށްފަހު ވިސްނަންޖެހޭ ކަންތައްތައް

☐ ކޮމެންޓް ސެކްޝަން މޮޑެރޭޓްކޮށް، ނުރައްކާތެރި އިބާރާތްތައް ނުވަތަ އަޑުއަހާ އަނިޔާއަށް ހިތްވަރުދިނުން މުޖުތަމަޢުން ބެލެހެއްޓުމަށް ތައްޔާރުވެފައިވޭތޯ؟

☐ ޝާއިޢުކުރުމަށްފަހު ހާލަތަށް ބަލާ، ބޭނުންވާ ބަދަލުގެނައުމަށް އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތާ ގުޅުމަށް ތައްޔާރުވޭތޯ؟

☐ އަލުން ނަފްސާނީ ދުރުގެދަށުގައި ބޭނުންވާ ފިކުރުބަލަމަށް އަހަރެމެންނަށްތޯ؟

Section 11: Disability-Inclusive DV and GBV Reporting

Disability-inclusive reporting on domestic and gender-based violence requires a commitment to accuracy, respect, and accessibility. Persons with disabilities should not be considered as a homogenous group. Their experiences of violence, barriers to justice, and visibility in the media vary widely depending on the nature of their disability, personal circumstances, and social environment. However, they are often underrepresented or misrepresented in public discourse, with narratives shaped by stereotypes, pity, or sensationalism. Ethical reporting means portraying survivors with dignity, using language that empowers, and ensuring content is accessible to diverse audiences. This section provides practical guidance for journalists and editors to cover DV and GBV involving persons with disabilities in a way that protects their rights, amplifies their voices, and fosters understanding.

1. Understanding the Unique Vulnerabilities of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities face increased risks of DV and GBV, including:

- Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse by caregivers, family members, intimate partners or wider community.
- Social isolation, limiting opportunities to seek help.
- Communication barriers that make reporting abuse difficult.
- Disbelief or dismissal when they speak out.

While these risks apply broadly, women and girls with disabilities often experience heightened vulnerability due to gender-based discrimination (see Section 11 for intersectional context).

2. Avoiding Dehumanizing or Infantilizing Practices

Language and framing can unintentionally diminish dignity:

- Avoid referring to adults with disabilities as “children” or using diminutive terms.
- Avoid pity-based or “tragic” framing that reduces the person to their disability.
- Avoid “inspiration” framing that ignores the abuse or systemic barriers they face.
- Avoid using terms like “special needs” or “uniquely abled”, which can come across as patronizing, alienating, or overly euphemistic. Use straightforward, respectful language that focuses on the person rather than their disability.

3. Inclusive Storytelling: Describing Disability Respectfully

- Only mention a disability if it is relevant to the story (e.g., as a barrier to accessing support).

- Obtain informed consent before disclosing any identifying information, including the nature of a disability. Consent must always be sought directly from the individual first, using accessible communication methods. Guardian consent is only required in limited circumstances (e.g., children, or where a court has formally appointed a guardian). Even in such cases, the person with a disability should be included in decision-making to the fullest extent possible. Survivors should also be informed that they have the right to withdraw consent at any stage of the reporting process, and that withdrawal will be respected to the fullest extent possible (with the caveat that content already published online may not always be fully removable). See Section 6: Interviewing Survivors for more details on seeking informed, voluntary and revokable consent, including best practices for seeking informed consent from PWDs.
- Focus on the person first, not just their condition (e.g., “a person who uses a wheelchair” rather than “wheelchair-bound”). Where the disability is clearly visible in accompanying photos or videos (e.g., a wheelchair user), refer to the person by name (or pseudonym) rather than unnecessarily repeating their disability in the text.

4. Avoiding Derogatory or Outdated Terms

Language should always be empowering, respectful, and relevant.

Avoid	Why the term is problematic	Use Instead
“Deaf and dumb” “Mammanu”	Terms like “dumb” or “Mammanu” are derogatory and inaccurate, suggesting lack of intelligence rather than hearing difference.	“Deaf,” “hard of hearing”
“Bali” (meaning ‘diseased’)	Bali” equates disability with disease, reinforcing stigma, shame, and exclusion. The neutral “person with a disability” is respectful and accurate.	“Person with a disability”
“Kanu”	“Kanu” is a term in Dhivehi often used as an insult. It dehumanizes people rather than describing a visual impairment.	“blind”, “Person with a visual disability”
“moya”	“Moya” is a slur implying foolishness or incompetence. It strips away dignity and agency.	“Person with an intellectual disability”

Avoid	Why the term is problematic	Use Instead
“Handicapped”	“Handicapped” is outdated and rooted in charity or pity models of disability. It frames people as dependent or limited rather than recognizing rights and inclusion.	“Person with a disability”
Special needs or “haassa ehee ah beynunvaa’	“Special needs” is vague and patronizing, implying difference as abnormal or extraordinary. The CRPD standard is “person with a disability.”	“Person with a disability”

ރަނގަޅު އަދި ނުރަނގަޅު ބައެއް ސުރުޚީ (ހެޑްލައިން) ތަކުގެ މިސާލުތައް

ބޭނުންކުރާ ބަސްތަކަކީ އަބަދުވެސް ބާރުވެރިކުރުވަނިވި، ހިތްވަރުދެނިވި އަދި ހާލަތާއި ގުޅޭ ބަސްތަކަކަށް ވާންވާނެ.

ބޭނުން ނުކުރަންވީ ބަސް	އިބާރާތް މިގޮތަށް ބޭނުމުން ދިމާވާ މައްސަލަ	ބަދަލުގައި ބަސް ބޭނުން ކުރެވިދާނެ ރަނގަޅުގޮތް
ވަސްވަސް، ގަމާރު	ގަމާރު އަދި ވަސްވަސް މިފަދަ ބަސްތަކަކީ އަޑުއިވުމުގެ ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން ހުންނަ މީހުންނަށް ބޭނުންކުރާއިރު، އެމީހުންގެ އިވުމުގެ ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަމުގެ ބަދަލުގައި ބުއްދީގެ ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން ހުރިކަމަށް ދޭހަކޮށްދޭ، ނިކަމެތިކޮށްލާ އިހާނެތި ބަސްތަކެކެވެ.	އިވުމުގެ ދަތި ކަމެއް ހުރި، ނުވަތަ އަޑުއިވުމުގެ ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަމެއް ހުރި
ބަލި/ ބަލިމީހެއް	"ބަލި" މިބަސް ބޭނުންކުރުމުން ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަމަކީ ބަލިމަޑުކަމެއްކަމަށް ދެކެވި، އިޞްލާޙީ ޙައްލު (ސޮލިއުޝަނާ)، ގުޅުވާލަން، އަދި އެކަހެރިކުރުން އިތުރުކުރެއެވެ. "ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން ހުންނަ ފަރާތް" ފަދަ ވަކިފަރާތަކަށް ނުބައި ބަސްތަކާއި އިސްތިޢުމާލުކުރާ އަދި ސަމާލު ބަސްތަކެވެ.	ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން ހުންނަ ފަރާތެއް ނުވަތަ މީހެއް
"ކަނު"	"ކަނު" ފަދަ ބަސްތަކަކީ ގިނަފަހަރަށް ނިކަމެތިކަމާ ގުޅިގެން ބޭނުންކުރާ ބަސްތަކެކެވެ. މިބަސް ބޭނުން ކުރުމުން އެމީހުންގެ ކުޅަދާނަކަމާއި ހަމަހަމަކަން މިހެންވީ ގޮތުގައި ދެކިގެންދެއެވެ.	ފެނުމުގެ ނުކުޅެދުން، ލޯފަން ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން ހުންނަ ފަރާތް

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Understanding Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence

Section 3: Guide to relevant laws, regulations and international treaties

Section 4: Recommendations to the Editor

Section 5: Ten Steps to Reporting on DV and GBV

Section 6: Interviewing Survivors

Section 7: Language and Framing Guide

Section 8: Do No Harm

Section 9: Framing of the Headline

Section 10: Publishing Readiness Checklist for Stories

Section 11: Disability-Inclusive DV and GBV Reporting

Section 12: Addressing Intersectionality – Gender, Disability, and Migrant Experiences in DV and GBV Reporting

Section 13: Responsibilities of Advertising and Entertainment Media

Section 14: Responsible Digital Media and Social Media Practices

Section 15: Looking After Yourself

Section 16: Recommendations for Implementation and Monitoring

ބޭނުން ނުކުރަންވީ ބަސް	އިބާރާތް މިގޮތަށް އޮތުމުން ދިމާވާ މައްސަލަ	ބަދަލުގައި ބަސް ބޭނުން ކުރެވިދާނެ ރަނގަޅުގޮތް
"މޮޔަ"	"މޮޔަ" އަކީ ބުއްދީގެ އުނިކަމެއްހުރިކަން ނުވަތަ ސިކުނޑީގެ ޤާބިލުކަން ނެތްކަން ދޭހަކޮށްދޭ ނިކަމެތިކޮށްލާ ބަހަކެވެ. މިފަދަ ބަސްތައް ބޭނުންކުރުމުން އެފަރާތްތަކުގެ ޝަރަފާއި އަމިއްލަ ނިންމުންތައް ނިންމުމުގެ ޙައްޤު ނިގުޅައިގަނެއެވެ. ބޭކާރު މީހެއްގެ ގޮތުގައި ސިފަކޮށް އެކަހެރި ކޮށްލައެވެ.	ސިކުނޑީގެ ނުކުޅެދުންތެރިކަން ހުންނަ ފަރާތް
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5. Making Content Accessible for Diverse Audiences

- Include subtitles or sign language interpretation for video content.
- Provide plain language summaries for complex topics.
- Ensure digital content is screen reader–friendly for blind or visually impaired audiences.
- Offer multiple formats, including audio-based content where relevant.
- Use alt-text (alternative text) when posting photos or videos online. Alt-text is descriptive text that replaces or accompanies an image so screen readers can convey the content to visually impaired audiences, ensuring they understand what is depicted even if the image cannot be viewed.

- Develop newsroom guidelines and policies on accessibility, and ensure news websites comply with accessibility standards so that information is usable by all.
- Address language barriers: for example, the Deaf community may not read Dhivehi easily, and blind readers may struggle to access content in English. Understand these needs by engaging with these communities, and provide translations or adaptations that meet these needs.
- Use more descriptive narration in video reportage so people with visual disabilities can follow the story without depending solely on visuals.

See also Section 12: Addressing Intersectionality for guidance on reporting when disability intersects with other identities such as migration status, ethnicity, or class.

6. Making Newsroom Processes Accessible to Journalists with Disabilities

Accessibility must also extend to the journalists producing the news. Media organizations should ensure that newsroom systems, workflows, and physical spaces are inclusive for staff with disabilities. This includes providing accessible workstations and software, flexible communication formats (e.g., captions, transcripts, screen-reader compatible tools), and adaptive equipment where needed. Supporting journalists with disabilities strengthens editorial diversity and helps ensure more accurate, nuanced reporting on DV and GBV.

Featured Resource Summary

UN Disability Inclusive Communications Guidelines (UN, 2020)

This practical resource provides clear, actionable guidance for ensuring that communication, including journalism, digital content, and public messaging, is inclusive, respectful, and accessible to people with disabilities. Emphasizing the principle "Nothing about us without us," the guideline supports communicators in avoiding stereotypes, promoting dignity, and ensuring accessibility across formats. Key insights include:

- The importance of using person-first or identity-first language based on community preference, while avoiding stigmatizing descriptors or infantilizing terms.
- Practical steps for creating accessible content, including captioning, alt-text, high-contrast design, readable layouts, and ensuring compatibility with screen readers.
- Recommendations for communicating with people with disabilities rather than about them, engaging them as experts, sources, and collaborators.
- Encouragement to avoid narratives of pity or "inspirational" framing that reduce individuals to their disability (so-called "inspiration porn").
- The need to consider intersectionality, recognizing that people with disabilities may experience layered discrimination, especially in DV/GBV contexts.

Section 12: Addressing Intersectionality – Gender, Disability, and Migrant Experiences in DV and GBV Reporting

DV and GBV affects people across all backgrounds, but not equally. Women and girls who are marginalized due to disability, migration status, ethnicity, or other factors often face compounded risks of violence and systemic barriers to safety, justice, and recovery.

This section focuses on how journalists can responsibly report when gender intersects with other identities, creating layered vulnerabilities.

1. Disability and Intersectionality

Women and girls with disabilities face heightened risks and barriers to justice, often compounded by other aspects of their identity such as migration status, ethnicity, class, or age. These overlapping forms of discrimination can shape the type, severity, and consequences of violence they experience, as well as their access to safety, services, and justice. For example, a migrant woman with a disability may face not only gender-based stigma but also language barriers, inaccessible services, and fear of deportation if she reports abuse.

For detailed disability-inclusive reporting guidance, including respectful language use, consent practices, and accessibility considerations, see Section 11: Disability-Inclusive DV and GBV Reporting.

2. Migrant Workers, Gender, and Violence

In the Maldives, most domestic carers and household workers are migrant women from countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Philippines. Because they live in the employer's household (or share the same residence) and their role is explicitly included in the legal definition of a domestic relationship, they are covered under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act's protections (Law No. 3/2012, Article 3(5)). Abuse perpetrated by an employer or any household member against a domestic worker is therefore classified as domestic violence under Maldivian law, not merely workplace abuse.

Understanding the Unique Vulnerabilities of Migrant Workers

Migrant women may face:

- Violence from employers, supervisors, or partners
- Isolation due to language, migration status, or limited access to justice
- Fear of deportation or job loss if they report abuse
- Social stigma and lack of access to legal protection, essential services such as health care and support services such as counseling

Avoiding Dehumanizing Media Practices

- Avoid reducing individuals to nationality or job title (“Bangladeshi maid” → “a woman working in domestic service”).
- Avoid framing migrant survivors as helpless or “illegal”.
- Use active language to place accountability (“employer assaulted the worker” instead of “she was abused”).

Inclusive Storytelling for Migrant Workers

- Include migrant voices directly in stories.
- Highlight structural barriers (translation, legal aid) impacting access to justice and services.
- Reflect agency, resilience, and the survivor’s voice.

Avoiding Derogatory or Stereotypical Terms

Avoid	Why the term is problematic	Use Instead
“Illegal worker”	“Illegal” criminalizes the person rather than describing their migration status. It dehumanizes and stigmatizes workers, framing them as criminals instead of focusing on systemic or legal barriers	“Undocumented worker”, “migrant worker”
“Housemaid”	“Housemaid” is outdated and diminishes the value of domestic labor, often implying servitude.	“Domestic worker”. This is a recognized, professional, and respectful term that affirms dignity.
“Runaway girl”	“Runaway” blames and infantilizes the worker, suggesting fault or irresponsibility, while “girl” strips her of adulthood and agency.	“Woman who left her employer due to abuse”. This centers her agency and highlights the abuse that often drives her to leave.
“Foreigners” (as a blanket term)	“Foreigners” is vague, alienating, and othering. It erases workers’ diverse identities and experiences. “Migrant workers”	“Migrant workers,” with specificity and care, is more accurate, and specifying nationality or occupation when relevant shows respect and nuance.

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Making Content Accessible for Migrant Worker Audiences

- Translate key information into common migrant languages (e.g., Bangla, Tamil, Hindi, English). Provide links to material already translated to common languages of the migrant communities. For example, translations of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act by Family Protection Authority.
- Use audio-visual formats for communities where literacy may be a barrier.
- Partner with CSOs and migrant-led groups, while cross checking information and data with state bodies, to ensure accuracy and clarity.
- Collaborate with High-Commissions, Embassies and well-known and trusted migrant community members to help share information in ways that are accessible and resonate with the intended audience.

3. Online Harassment and Responsible Moderation

- Actively moderate comments to prevent ableism, racism, or harassment.
- Use filters, blocklists, and community guidelines.
- If moderation capacity is low, close comments on sensitive stories.

4. Engaging with Expert Civil Society Organizations

- Consult Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and migrant rights groups.
- Ensure stories are respectful, contextual, and safe.
- Only quote survivors with informed, voluntary consent.

Example Highlight 1: "Women with disabilities fear government response to domestic violence threat will leave them behind" – ABC News, May 2024

Link: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-05-06/disability-domestic-violence-ndis-labor- government-australia/103803700

This investigative report spotlights how women with disabilities, who face nearly double the rates of physical or sexual violence compared to other women, may be excluded by government support systems intended to help survivors. It highlights key failures in the NDIS system, particularly how financial assistance meant for those fleeing violent partners doesn't extend to women attempting to escape abuse by careers or family members. Paralympian Marayke Jonkers powerfully states: "We're not vulnerable because we're having a disability, we're vulnerable because of the situations we're put in." The report underscores how policy design often overlooks the specific needs of individuals with disabilities, calling for inclusive co-design and representation.

Why This Works:

- **Centers Intersectional Risk:** Emphasizes that disability, but not disability alone, but the systemic environment, drives vulnerability to violence.
- **Elevates Survivor Voice & Agency:** Features direct testimony from a survivor-leader, affirming lived experience as expertise.
- **Exposes Structural Gaps:** Analyzes how support mechanisms fail due to narrow eligibility criteria, reinforcing marginalization.
- **Advocates Inclusive Policy:** Highlights the importance of including people with disabilities in designing responses that affect them.
- **Avoids Sensationalism:** Maintains factual tone, focusing on policy rather than pathos, and positioning survivors as rights-holders.

"We're not vulnerable because we're having a disability, we're vulnerable because of the situations we're put in."
— Marayke Jonkers, Paralympian and advocate

Example Highlight 2: Gulf States Urged to Protect Migrant Workers - Al Jazeera

Link:https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2014/11/23/gulf-states-urged-to-protect-migrant-workers

This investigative report exposes systemic abuses faced by migrant workers in Gulf states, many of them women employed as domestic workers. It details physical violence, unpaid wages, and coercive conditions perpetuated under the kafala (sponsorship) system. Drawing on credible sources such as Human Rights Watch and over 90 international rights organizations, the piece highlights how intersecting vulnerabilities of gender, nationality, and legal status place migrant women at severe risk of exploitation and violence. The article calls for urgent legal reforms to safeguard workers' rights, linking structural labor conditions to broader human rights and GBV concerns.

Why This Works:

- **Centers systemic accountability** – Frames the issue as a structural rights crisis rather than isolated abuse cases.
- **Avoids stereotyping** – Depicts migrant workers as rights-holders, not as passive victims or cultural tropes.
- **Grounded in credible evidence** – Uses authoritative sources, avoiding unverified anecdotes.
- **Reveals intersectionality** – Shows how gender, migration status, and labor systems combine to heighten vulnerability to DV and GBV.

Section 13: Responsibilities of Advertising and Entertainment Media

Advertising, films, and entertainment media strongly influence how societies understand gender roles, relationships, and violence. When carelessly constructed, they reinforce harmful stereotypes, trivialize abuse, or portray women and marginalized groups as weak, submissive, or expendable. In contrast, media that challenges these patterns can shift norms, promote equality, and support long-term change.

This chapter outlines key considerations for professionals working in **advertising, entertainment, and media content creation,** with a focus on **gender-sensitive and socially responsible** storytelling in the Maldivian context.

Identifying and Avoiding Gender Stereotypes in Advertisements

Gender stereotypes in ads are often subtle but powerful. Common examples include:

- Women portrayed as passive, emotional, or dependent on men
- Men shown as dominant, aggressive, or emotionally detached
- Women used to sell unrelated products through objectification
- Assigning household or caregiving roles to women only

To avoid perpetuating these stereotypes:

- Review scripts, visuals, and voiceovers for **implicit gender messages**
- Avoid using **physical attributes or sexualization** to sell products
- Ensure both women and men are portrayed in **diverse and balanced roles** such as leaders, parents, professionals, and agents of change
- Include women of **different ages, appearances, and backgrounds,** not only those that conform to conventional beauty standards

Reviewing Content for Depictions of Violence, Victimhood, and Objectification

Entertainment and advertising often romanticize or normalize violence, particularly against women, in the name of drama or humor. This includes:

- Glorifying possessiveness or control as love
- Using rape or abuse as plot devices without consequences
- Depicting women as helpless victims or prizes to be won
- Treating gender-based violence as a punchline or spectacle

Producers and directors must:

- Avoid **trivializing or aestheticizing** violence
- Show **the real-life impact** of abuse on victim-survivors and communities
- Represent **survivors with dignity**, not as passive characters
- Use **survivor-informed input** when portraying sensitive topics like DV and GBV

Accountability Measures for Ad Content Producers and Media Buyers

Everyone involved in content creation and distribution bears responsibility for what is aired or streamed. This includes:

- **Production houses, creative teams,** and **marketing agencies**
- **Media buyers**, who decide which content and ads appear on TV, radio, and online platforms
- **Broadcast regulators** and **media outlets**, who approve or reject content

Recommendations:

- Develop internal **ethical content review policies**
- Include **gender-sensitive checklists** in campaign approvals
- Encourage media buyers to **reject ads that objectify or stereotype**
- Work closely with **regulatory bodies** to align with standards such as the **Broadcasting Code of Practice** and advertising codes under the **Maldives Broadcasting Commission**

Promoting Counter-Stereotypical, Empowering Messaging

Producers and advertisers have the power to reshape social narratives. Promoting empowering content benefits not only women and girls, but all audiences.

Examples include:

- Portraying men as **emotionally aware,** nurturing, and non-violent
- Showcasing women as **leaders, experts, and survivors with agency**
- Representing **equal partnerships** in family life, parenting, and decision-making
- Highlighting diverse gender roles in **education, sports, politics,** and workplaces

Encourage brands to support **positive social change** through storytelling, and to treat **gender equality not as a trend, but a core value.**

International Advertising: Best Practices and Cautionary Examples

Do This (Best Practice Examples)	Avoid That (Problematic Examples)
#LikeAGirl – Always (Procter & Gamble) **Link:** https://youtu.be/dxrPeFKtUwQ Challenged and reclaimed the phrase "like a girl" as empowerment, showing girls confidently running, throwing, and leading. **Why it works:** Challenges stereotypes, creates cultural shift.	**Calvin Klein Ad featuring FKA twigs (UK, 2025)** Banned for sexual objectification and focusing on the model's body rather than the product. **Why harmful:** Reinforces objectification and distracts from the intended message
This Girl Can – Sport England **Link:** https://youtu.be/dxrPeFKtUwQ Celebrated diverse, real women being active in sport, showing sweat, jiggles, and joy. **Why it works:** Relatable, inclusive, empowering, challenges stereotypes.	**"Model Mother" and "Pretty Face" Ads (Australia, 2022)** Ads portraying women only as caregivers or ornaments, stripping away agency. **Why harmful:** Reduces women to stereotypes and reinforces narrow gender roles.
Gillette "The Best Men Can Be" **Link:** https://youtu.be/UYaY2Kb_PKI Addressed toxic masculinity, promoting respect and accountability. Included inclusive male role models. **Why it works:** Pushes for cultural change around masculinity.	**"Boys Will Be Boys" Taglines** Common in toy and lifestyle ads, excusing aggression and misbehavior in boys. **Why harmful:** Normalizes harmful gender norms and dismisses accountability.

Responsible Storytelling in Dhivehi Films and TV Shows

The narratives and character portrayals in Dhivehi films and shows significantly influence social attitudes. It is therefore essential that those involved in the creative process such as writers, directors, producers, and editors, approach storytelling with a strong sense of social responsibility and gender sensitivity.

The following guidance is intended to support more ethical and constructive portrayals of DV and GBV, relationships, and gender norms:

Avoid glorifying harmful behaviors

- Storylines should avoid depicting jealousy, control, or coercive behavior as expressions of love.
- Content that romanticizes harassment or violence may contribute to harmful social norms and should be approached with caution.
- Narratives that present female silence or suffering as virtuous can reinforce damaging ideas about gender roles.

Depict the impact of violence realistically

- When DV or GBV is part of a storyline, it is important to show the real-life consequences of such violence, including the emotional, psychological, legal, and social impacts.
- Sensationalized or dramatized portrayals of violence for entertainment value can minimize the seriousness of these issues and should be avoided.
- Whenever possible, storylines should reflect the broader systemic nature of violence, not just isolated incidents.

Portray women and girls with agency

- Female characters should be represented as individuals with depth, autonomy, and complexity, beyond traditional or stereotypical roles.
- Storylines should reflect the participation of women in diverse spheres, including leadership, professional life, and decision-making.
- Where stories involve adversity, characters can be shown as resilient and empowered, rather than solely as victims.

Include diverse and thoughtful portrayals of men

- Male characters can also challenge stereotypes by demonstrating respect, emotional intelligence, and non-violence.
- Depictions of masculinity should not be limited to dominance or aggression; rather, they can explore alternative forms of strength and care.

Seek informed input when developing sensitive storylines

- For content involving DV or GBV, consultation with subject matter experts, psychologists, or survivor advocates can support responsible and respectful storytelling.
- Violence should not be used merely as a plot device or for shock value. When included, it should be handled with care, purpose, and authenticity.

Model values of safety and equality

- Storytelling has the capacity to challenge societal norms and offer new models of respectful relationships, shared power, and justice.
- Productions that promote equality, consent, and accountability can contribute meaningfully to changing harmful perceptions and behaviors.

Section 14: Responsible Digital Media and Social Media Practices

In the age of instant publishing, viral content, and 24/7 engagement, digital media and social platforms have become powerful tools for shaping public perception around DV and GBV. While these platforms offer opportunities to raise awareness, amplify survivor voices, and drive public discourse, they also come with significant risks: from privacy violations and victim-blaming, to the spread of misinformation and online harassment.

This chapter outlines the responsibilities of digital content creators, including influencers, bloggers, and social media administrators, when engaging with content related to DV and GBV. It also provides practical guidance for ethical storytelling, audience management, and harm prevention in digital spaces.

1. Responsibilities of Influencers and Online Content Creators

- **Use your platform responsibly:** When posting about sensitive topics like DV or GBV, ensure your content is accurate, respectful, and prioritizes protection of the victim- survivors from harm.
- **Avoid sensationalism or triggering content:** Do not post graphic details, reenactments, or provocative imagery for engagement.
- **Credit responsibly:** If amplifying a survivor's story or advocacy campaign, ensure that you have permission or are sharing with sensitivity and accuracy.
- **Understand your influence:** Your words shape public opinion. Avoid perpetuating harmful stereotypes (e.g. victim-blaming, "false accusations", or gender norms).
- **Verify the accuracy of AI-generated or AI-enhanced content:** Deepfakes, AI-edited images, or synthetic audio can misrepresent survivors or events. Do not share AI-generated content that could distort facts, fuel misinformation, or compromise survivor safety.

2. Ethical Use of Content from Victim-Survivor's Public Profiles

- **Public doesn't mean permissible:** Even if content (photos, posts, or videos) is publicly available, it does not automatically mean it's ethical or legal to republish. For example, Maldivian laws prohibit sharing of children's identities and information that may make them identifiable.
- **Seek permission wherever possible,** especially if the content involves sensitive disclosures, or could lead to the person being identified.
- **Avoid reposting images of survivors** without context, consent, or understanding of their situation. Sharing old or out-of-context content can retraumatize or endanger survivors.
- **Blur, anonymize, or use symbolic imagery** when visuals are needed but consent isn't possible.
- **Avoid using AI tools to enhance, unblur, or analyze survivor images:** AI-powered image tools can unintentionally reveal identities or sensitive details meant to remain anonymous.

3. Managing Online Harassment and Hate Speech

- Have a plan for backlash: Journalists, creators, and survivors often face online harassment. Prepare for this by:
    - Using privacy settings wisely
    - Pre-moderating comments
    - Setting boundaries for engagement
- Recognize hate speech and misinformation: Remove or report content that targets survivors, uses hate slurs, or spreads false narratives. Support affected individuals: If a survivor or advocate is being harassed, provide emotional support and report the abuse to platform moderators.
- Train staff on internet safety: Ensure journalists and content teams are equipped with the knowledge to protect their digital security, manage privacy settings, and respond effectively to online threats.
- Address Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV): Female journalists, in particular, may be targeted through doxxing, online stalking, non-consensual image sharing, or coordinated harassment campaigns. Media organizations should have policies, protocols, and support systems to respond to TFGBV[13].
- **Be aware of AI-amplified misinformation:** False narratives, AI-generated screenshots, or deepfake "evidence" can spread rapidly. Verify sources and report manipulated content promptly.

4. Strategies for Comment Moderation on Sensitive Topics

- **Set community guidelines** before publishing content on DV and GBV.
- **Actively monitor comments**, especially in the first 24–48 hours after posting.
- **Delete or hide harmful comments**, particularly those that:
    - Blame the victim-survivor
    - Make jokes or dismiss the issue
    - Share identifying information
    - Encourage violence or discrimination
- **Use filters and blocklists** for harmful keywords.
- **Consider turning off comments** on extremely sensitive stories, especially if moderation capacity is low.
- **Use AI moderation tools cautiously.** Automated systems can miss harmful comments or mistakenly hide supportive ones. Always combine AI tools with human review to ensure nuanced, survivor-sensitive moderation.

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[13] For more on TFGBV and protective strategies, see https://techsafety.ca/resources/toolkits/what-is-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence

5. Crisis Response: When a Victim-Survivor Is Harmed by Online Publication

- **Take swift action:** If a published post could lead to harm (e.g. threats), remove or unpublish the content immediately.
- **Reach out to the survivor** (if known) to acknowledge the harm and offer support.
- **Issue a public apology** if appropriate, without repeating harmful language.
- **Conduct an internal review** of how the content was developed and published, and what steps will be taken to prevent future harm.
- **Update guidelines and moderation policies** to address identified gaps.
- **Check whether harmful content is being replicated through AI tools.** Deepfake versions, AI-generated reposts, or algorithmic recommendations may continue circulating even after original content is removed.

6. Using Trigger Warnings in Digital Content

Trigger warnings (also known as content warnings) prepare audiences for potentially distressing material, giving them the choice to engage on their own terms. When posting DV or GBV-related content, clearly label the beginning of posts, videos, or articles with a brief warning (e.g., “Content Warning: This story contains descriptions of domestic violence”).

- **Be specific:** Indicate the type of sensitive content (e.g., physical violence, sexual assault, child abuse) rather than using a generic “sensitive content” label.
- **Place warnings upfront:** Position them before any graphic detail, image, or video begins — including in captions or thumbnail text on social platforms.
- **Use platform tools:** Many platforms allow you to blur or hide images by default until a viewer clicks to reveal them.
- **Balance awareness with dignity:** Avoid overly graphic language in the warning itself — the goal is to inform, not shock.
- **Review AI-assisted content:** If AI tools are used to generate captions, summaries, thumbnails, or auto-posts, ensure that trigger warnings remain intact, accurate, and placed at the beginning. AI can omit or shorten warnings, so human oversight is essential to prevent accidental harm.

Example Highlight 1: "Trial by Twitter" by Ariel Levy, The New Yorker (July 29, 2013)

Read the article: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/08/05/trial-by-twitter

This article explores how the 2012 Steubenville, Ohio rape case was transformed into a global spectacle by social media. Activists, bloggers, and hacktivists amplified disturbing online evidence, forcing national attention but also exposing the survivor's identity, sensationalizing her trauma, and stigmatizing the accused, who were minors, beyond the legal process.

Why this works as a cautionary example:

- **Amplification with risk:** Shows how survivor safety can be compromised when intimate details are broadcast online.
- **The dangers of digital vigilantism:** Demonstrates how viral outrage can bypass due process and create new forms of harm.
- **Ethical responsibility of media and influencers:** Illustrates the need for careful framing, privacy protection, and moderation when engaging in online spaces.

Quote:

"The Internet is uniquely qualified as a venue for public shaming… a town square big enough to put all the world's sinners in the stocks."

Example Highlight: Our Wave – Anonymity-First Survivor Platform

Visit the online platform: https://www.ourwave.org/en/

Our Wave is an innovative digital space designed for survivors of sexual harm to share stories anonymously, reflect on their healing journeys, and connect with community support. Published case study details reveal strong privacy controls, secure storytelling architecture, and moderation protocols that prioritize survivor safety and agency.

Why this works as a positive example:

- **Empowers survivors:** Offers agency and self-expression while protecting identity.
- **Ethical design model:** Built with privacy, anonymity, and respect at its core, countering impulsive digital voyeurism.
- **Facilitates healing and solidarity:** Encourages sharing as a step toward support and communal empathy.
- **Inspirational for media practice:** Serves as a template for platforms or newsroom-hosted social features, highlighting how to safely amplify survivor voices.

Additional Resource: Internet Safety – The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Link: https://www.thehotline.org/plan-for-safety/internet-safety/

This online guide offers clear, practical digital safety advice for survivors and anyone reporting on DV or GBV content. It covers key areas such as safeguarding browsing history, recognizing potential digital surveillance (like GPS tracking or email interception), using trusted devices (library or shelter computers), and safeguarding social media presence by managing tagging and personal information exposure. The hotline also emphasizes entering safety-sensitive websites securely and erasing traces that could reveal access, while reminding users that privacy online is never absolute.

Why this is helpful for digital responsibility:

- Provides actionable guidance for reducing digital exposure and monitoring risks.
- Journalists and digital creators can adapt these tips to safeguard sources and content.
- Encourages technologically aware storytelling without compromising emotional safety.
- Authored by a trusted, survivor-oriented organization with deep understanding of DV contexts.

"Your computer and cell phone use can be monitored without you knowing it… Email can be intercepted like physical mail… Social media posts are never truly private."

Section 15: Looking After Yourself

Covering stories of DV and GBV is deeply meaningful work, but it can also be emotionally and psychologically draining. Journalists, editors, producers, illustrators, photographers, and social media teams are often exposed to distressing personal narratives, images, or interviews that can linger long after a story is published. Over time, this exposure can affect wellbeing, decision- making, and the ability to remain present and effective in the work.

It is also important to recognize that people working in media are not immune to violence themselves. Some may have experienced DV or GBV in the past, or may be experiencing it in their own lives. For them, covering such stories can be especially triggering and may intensify emotional distress.

Wellbeing is not only an individual responsibility. Newsroom leaders and management play a critical role in creating supportive systems, through supervision, reasonable workloads, and opportunities to debrief, so that no one carries the emotional burden alone. This is especially important in small media teams, where one or two individuals often handle most DV/GBV-related reporting. Even when rotation is not possible, supervisors should consciously check in and help manage emotional load.

People across all roles deserve this support. Not only reporters, but also those who regularly work with sensitive visuals, such as photographers, videographers, designers, or editors reviewing CCTV or graphic material. They can also be impacted by repeated exposure.

Finally, safety is an essential part of wellbeing. Journalists should not enter volatile or high-risk environments, especially where alleged perpetrators may be present, without proper risk assessment or support. Physical safety must always take priority over obtaining a story

In trauma-informed journalism, mental health is a professional responsibility, rather than a luxury. Protecting your own wellbeing is essential to ethical, accurate, and sustainable reporting.

Understanding the Impact of Trauma Exposure

Secondary trauma is defined as **indirect exposure to trauma** through first-hand accounts or vivid narratives shared by survivors[1]. Journalists may begin to experience symptoms that resemble post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), such as:

- Intrusive thoughts or re-experiencing survivors' stories
- Avoidance of certain topics
- Hyper-arousal or heightened emotional sensitivity

This can occur after just **one powerful interview**, especially if it is unexpected or intense.

Vicarious trauma (VT), on the other hand, is a cumulative process. It results from **ongoing exposure** to stories of pain, violence, grief, and injustice[2]. It is not limited to one person, one story, or one event. Instead, it builds up over time and can gradually **alter a journalist's worldview**, leading to:

- Deep cynicism or hopelessness
- Emotional numbing
- Disconnection from one's own feelings
- A loss of faith in systems or institutions

Compassion fatigue refers to the **emotional and physical exhaustion** experienced by people who regularly support or listen to those affected by trauma. When you consistently give emotional energy without time to recover or "refuel," it can result in:

- Emotional withdrawal
- Feelings of being overwhelmed or helpless
- Detachment from others or apathy toward future stories

Burnout, while different, often overlaps with the effects of trauma exposure. It is caused by chronic stress, overwork, and unrealistic expectations—not just the nature of the content but the sheer volume and pressure of the job. Signs include:

- Physical exhaustion
- Irritability, pessimism, or disillusionment
- Trouble sleeping or concentrating
- Feeling ineffective or disengaged

Why This Matters in DV and GBV Reporting

When working on stories of violence, abuse, or injustice, you are not just gathering information. You are holding emotional space for survivors' pain. Without safeguards, this can lead to emotional depletion, disengagement, or even ethical missteps. It can also affect your relationships, your physical health, and your ability to remain present in your work.

Being aware of these risks allows you to put proactive strategies in place—so that you can continue doing this work ethically, sustainably, and with compassion for yourself.

Preventive Strategies for Journalists Covering DV and GBV

1. Set Emotional and Professional Boundaries

- Be clear about **how much time and energy** you can devote to a difficult story.
- Avoid immersing yourself in distressing material outside of work hours.
- Give yourself permission to say **no** to a story if you are emotionally overwhelmed or unsupported.

2. Limit Repeated Exposure

- Be mindful of how often you're covering trauma-heavy topics. Ask editors for **rotation** or variation in assignments when possible.
- Avoid re-watching graphic footage or rereading emotionally charged transcripts unless absolutely necessary for the piece.

3. Debrief After Difficult Assignments

- Talk to a **trusted colleague, editor, or mentor** after emotionally heavy interviews.
- Normalize "checking in" with each other after tough stories—not as a sign of weakness, but as professional good practice.

4. Create a Self-Care Plan

- Identify activities or routines that help you **ground yourself** after reporting—this could include walks, journaling, creative hobbies, spending time with loved ones, or quiet reflection.
- Keep a personal list of **"emergency supports"** such as trusted contacts, mental health apps, grounding techniques for days when you're struggling.

5. Build Trauma Awareness

- Learn to recognize signs of **vicarious trauma** and **burnout** in yourself and others: exhaustion, irritability, avoidance, or emotional numbness.
- Consider taking courses or workshops on **trauma-informed journalism** or **psychological first aid.**

6. Take Breaks (Guilt-Free)

- Schedule intentional breaks between difficult stories. Even short breaks—an afternoon off or a day to reset—can help protect your resilience.
- If needed, advocate for a temporary shift in assignments to avoid emotional overload.

7. Maintain a Healthy Routine

- Prioritize the basics: **sleep, hydration, movement, nutrition.** These are foundational in regulating emotional responses.
- Limit consumption of distressing news or content during downtime. Protect your personal mental space.

8. Use Professional Mental Health Resources

- If your organization offers access to counseling or employee wellness services, use them.
- If not, keep a list of local mental health providers or hotlines for journalists. Confidential support can make a huge difference.

Remember: Preventive strategies about building emotional resilience. By taking care of your own wellbeing, you are better positioned to report with clarity, compassion, and ethical responsibility.

Additional Resource: Media Helping Media – "Journalism, Trauma and Stress"

Link: https://mediahelpingmedia.org/advanced/journalism-trauma-and-stress/

A concise and thoughtful overview exploring how reporting on trauma can impact journalists' well-being and emphasizing the importance of newsroom training, peer support, and institutional awareness.

"Recognizing and addressing the potential for trauma and stress is crucial for maintaining both professional integrity and personal health."

Section 16: Recommendations for Implementation and Monitoring

Robust implementation strategies and continuous monitoring are essential for this guideline to create meaningful change in the reporting of domestic violence and gender-based violence. This requires the active participation of regulatory bodies, media institutions, civil society organizations, and individual journalists, and involves ongoing dialogue, institutional commitment, and support systems. Below are key recommendations for ensuring the sustained impact of this guideline.

1. Role of Regulatory and Oversight Bodies

The Maldives Media Council (MMC), Maldives Broadcasting Commission (MBC), Family Protection Authority (FPA), and the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSFD) should play a central role in institutionalizing and promoting the use of this guideline.

Recommended actions:

- Conduct regular training and refresher sessions for media professionals on ethical reporting of DV and GBV.
- Integrate the guideline into media ethics curricula, professional development programs, and relevant university journalism and other related courses to ensure early exposure for future media professionals.
- Develop internal capacity within these institutions to monitor compliance and advise on sensitive cases.
- Ensure that all media units under state institutions and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) fully adhere to the principles outlined in this guideline.
- Support media houses in creating in-house **"Gender-Sensitive Reporting Champions[14]"**- focal points trained to uphold and guide others on ethical standards in reporting DV and GBV.
- Ensure effective implementation of existing regulations and policies to hold violating news agencies accountable, including clear procedures for addressing breaches and mechanisms for increasing transparency and accountability.

2. Aligning Media House Policies

Encourage media outlets to revise their internal editorial policies and codes of ethics to reflect the principles outlined in this guideline.

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[14] Other alternatives- Gender and Ethics Lead, Survivor-Centered Reporting Lead, or simply Ethics Champion.

Recommended actions:

- Introduce checklists, consent protocols, and headline guidance into newsroom practices.
- Facilitate the creation of **institution-specific reporting protocols** tailored to sensitive stories involving survivors.
- Promote peer-to-peer mentorship and support structures within newsrooms.

3. Establishment of an Expert Resource Group

A national-level Resource Group composed of experienced journalists, DV/GBV experts, legal professionals, survivors' advocates, and representatives from CSOs should be established to support ethical reporting.

Functions of the group could include:

- Providing advisory support to journalists working on high-risk or complex stories.
- Reviewing difficult cases or media content upon request.
- Developing new tools or updates to the guideline as needed.
- Offering confidential guidance to journalists seeking to navigate ethical dilemmas.

4. Positive Incentives

Positive incentives can play a key role in strengthening ethical journalism.

Recommended actions:

- Encourage MSFD, MMC, FPA and civil society partners to formally recognize media outlets and individual journalists who consistently apply best practices.
- Create public platforms (e.g. websites, newsletters, media events) that highlight exemplary coverage, amplifying good models for others to follow.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

To ensure the guideline remains relevant and effective, a structured M&E process should be embedded from the outset.

Recommended actions:

- Develop both short-term and long-term M&E plans to track the adoption and application of the guideline.
- Conduct periodic assessments (e.g., annually) to evaluate the quality and sensitivity of DV/GBV reporting across different media outlets.
- Gather regular feedback from journalists, editors, and other media personnel on the practicality and effectiveness of the guideline.
- Use M&E findings to inform updates, training priorities, and public awareness strategies.
- Share results transparently to build trust with the public and demonstrate accountability.

Appendix A: Glossary of Key Terms

Child Sexual Abuse

Any sexual activity with a child under the age of consent, including touching, penetration, exploitation, or involving them in the production of sexual material. Children cannot legally give consent, so any sexual act involving a child is abuse.

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Coercive Control

A persistent pattern of controlling, threatening, or manipulative behaviors by an abuser that limits a person's freedom and autonomy. Coercive control may include emotional, psychological, financial, or physical tactics to exert dominance on a partner.

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Consent

The ability and freedom of a person to make a voluntary, informed decision about what they want. In the context of sexual activity, consent must be freely given, clearly communicated, ongoing, and can be withdrawn at any time.

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Domestic Violence

As defined in the Maldives' Domestic Violence Prevention Act, domestic violence includes physical, sexual, psychological, economic abuse, stalking, intimidation, destruction of property, or confinement, when committed by one person against another in a domestic relationship. It also includes actions that create fear of harm or attempt to assert control over the victim. Both one- time and repeated acts may constitute domestic violence.

ގެވެށި އަނިޔާ

ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ގެވެށި އަނިޔާ ހުއްޓުވުމުގެ ޤާނޫނުގައި މާނަކޮށްފައިވާ ގޮތުގައި، ގެވެށި އަނިޔާގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނެނީ ގެވެށި ގުޅުމެއްގައި ހުރި މީހަކާ އަނެއް މީހަކާދެމެދު ހިންގާ ޖިސްމާނީ، ޖިންސީ، ނަފްސާނީ، އިޤްތިޞާދީ އަނިޔާ، ފާޑުކިޔުން، ބިރުދެއްކުން، މުދާ ހަލާކުކުރުން، ނުވަތަ ބަންދުކުރުމެވެ. މީގެ ތެރޭގައި ގެއްލުން ދިނުމުގެ ބިރުވެރިކަން އުފައްދާ ނުވަތަ އަނިޔާ ލިބޭ ފަރާތުގެ މައްޗަށް ބާރު ފޯރުވުން [illegible] ހިމެނެއެވެ. އެއްފަހަރު ހިންގާ އަމަލުތަކާއި ތަކުރާރުކޮށް ހިންގާ އަމަލުތައްވެސް ގެވެށި އަނިޔާގެ ގޮތުގައި ބެލެވިދާނެއެވެ.

Gender-Based Violence

An umbrella term used to describe harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. GBV includes psychological, physical, sexual, and economic abuse, forced marriage, harassment, and violence targeting gender identity or expression. It recognizes that women and girls face increased risks due to gender inequalities.

ވަކި ޖިންސަކަށްވީތީ ކުރާ އަނިޔާ

މިއީ މީހެއްގެ ޖިންސަކަށް އަމާޒުކޮށް ހިންގާ ގެއްލުންދެނިވި އަމަލުތަކެއް ބަޔާންކުރުމަށް ބޭނުންކުރާ ފުޅާ ބަހެކެވެ. ވަކި ޖިންސަކަށްވީތީ ކުރާ އަނިޔާގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނެނީ ނަފްސާނީ، ޖިސްމާނީ، ޖިންސީ، އަދި އިޤްތިޞާދީ އަނިޔާ، މަޖުބޫރުން ކައިވެނިކުރުވުން އަދި ފުރައްސާރަކުރުން، ފަދަ އަމަލުތަކެވެ. މިބަހުން ފާހަގަކުރަނީ ޖިންސުގެ ހަމަހަމަނުކަމުގެ ސަބަބުން އަންހެނުންނާއި އަންހެން ކުދިންނަށް އިތުރު ނުރައްކާތަކެއް ކުރިމަތިވާކަން ދެނެގަނެއެވެ.

Informed Consent

The clear, voluntary, and informed agreement of an individual to participate in an interview, media production, or activity. Informed consent requires that the person understands the risks, benefits, and purpose of their participation and has the freedom to decline or withdraw at any time.

މަޢުލޫމާތު ދީގެ ރުހުން

މީޑިއާ އުފެއްދުމުގައި، އިންޓަވިއުއެއްގައި ނުވަތަ ހަރަކާތެއްގައި ބައިވެރިވުމަށް އަމިއްލަ އިޚްތިޔާރުގައި، އަދި މަޢުލޫމާތު ލިބިގެން ދޭ ސާފު އެއްބަސްވުމެވެ. މަޢުލޫމާތު ދީގެ ރުހުމަށް ބޭނުންވަނީ އެމީހަކު ބައިވެރިވުމުގެ ނުރައްކާތަކާއި، ފައިދާތަކާއި، އަދި ބޭނުން ދެނެގަތުމާއި، ކޮންމެ ވަގުތެއްގައިވެސް އިންކާރުކުރުމުގެ ނުވަތަ ފަހަތަށް ޖެހުމުގެ މިނިވަންކަން އޮތުމެވެ.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

A form of domestic violence that occurs between people in a romantic or sexual relationship, including spouses, partners, and ex-partners. IPV can involve physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse.

ގާތް ގުޅުމެއްގައި ތިބޭ ފަރާތްތަކުގެ މެދުގައި ހިނގާ އަނިޔާ

މިއީ ގެވެށި އަނިޔާގެ ބާވަތެއް ކަމުގައިވާ، ލޯބީގެ ނުވަތަ ޖިންސީ ގުޅުމެއްގައި ތިބޭ މީހުންގެ މެދުގައި ހިނގާ އަނިޔާއެވެ. މީގެ ތެރޭގައި އަނބިން، ފިރިން، ބައިވެރިން، އަދި ކުރީގެ ބައިވެރިން ހިމެނެއެވެ. ގާތް ގުޅުމެއްގައި ތިބޭ ފަރާތްތަކުގެ މެދުގައި ހިނގާ އަނިޔާގެ ތެރޭގައި ޖިސްމާނީ، ޖިންސީ، އިމޯޝަނަލް، އަދި އިޤްތިޞާދީ އަނިޔާ ހިމެނިދާނެއެވެ.

Intergenerational Trauma

The transmission of trauma effects from one generation to another. This may result from violence, abuse, war, or systemic oppression experienced by earlier generations. The trauma is passed through behavior, social environment, or biological mechanisms, and can influence the health and well-being of descendants.

އިންޓަޖެނެރޭޝަނަލް ޓްރޯމާ

މިއީ ޓްރޯމާގެ އަސަރުތައް އެއް ޖީލުން އަނެއް ޖީލަކަށް ފޮނުވުމެވެ. މިކަން ގެދުރުވެރިވާނީ ކުރީގެ ޖީލުތަކުން ތަޖުރިބާކުރި އަނިޔާވެރިކަން، އަނިޔާ، ހަނގުރާމަ، ނުވަތަ ނިޒާމީ އަނިޔާވެރިކަމުގެ ސަބަބުންނެވެ. ޓްރޯމާ ފޮނުވެނީ އުޅުމުގެ ތަރީގާއިން، އިޖްތިމާޢީ ތިމާވެށިން، ނުވަތަ ބަޔޮލޮޖިކަލް ނިޒާމުތަކުގެ ތެރެއިންނެވެ. އަދި މިކަމުގެ ސަބަބުން ދަރިންގެ ސިއްހަތާއި ދުޅަހެޔޮކަމަށް އަސަރުކުރެއެވެ.

Intersectionality

A concept that explains how overlapping identities, such as gender, race, class, disability, or migration status, can create compounded experiences of discrimination or disadvantage. Intersectional analysis is critical to understanding why some groups face heightened vulnerability to violence.

އެކުއެކީ ގިނަ ބާވަތްތަކަކުން ނުވަތަ ސިފަތަކަކުން ނިސްބަތްވުން (އިންޓަސެކްޝަނަލިޓީ)

[illegible]

Perpetrator

An individual who commits an act of violence, abuse, or harm.

ކުށްކުރި/ އަނިޔާވެރިވި ފަރާތް

އަނިޔާވެރިކަމުގެ، އަނިޔާގެ، ނުވަތަ ގެއްލުމުގެ ޢަމަލެއް ހިންގާ ފަރާތެކެވެ.

Power and Control

A dynamic that underpins most domestic and gender-based violence, where the abuser uses strategies to dominate, manipulate, or restrict the victim’s autonomy. These tactics can include fear, isolation, threats, or financial dependence.

ބާރާއި ކޮންޓްރޯލް

[illegible]

Rape

The Sexual Offenses Act (17/2014) defines rape as the insertion, however minimal, of a person's sexual organ into another's sexual or non-sexual organ without consent, where the individuals are not married. The Sexual Offences Act also recognizes a husband having sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent as marital rape in certain exceptional circumstances, that are included in the Article 20 of the law.

ރޭޕް ކުރުން

ޖިންސީ ކުށުގެ ޤާނޫނު (17/2014) ގައި ރޭޕްކުރުން މާނަކޮށްދީފައިވަނީ، ދެމަފިރިން ކަމުގައި ނުވާ ދެމީހުންގެ ތެރޭގައި، މީހެއްގެ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަނެއް، އަނެއް މީހާގެ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަނަކަށް ނުވަތަ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަން ނޫން ގުނަވަނަކަށް، ކިތަންމެ ކުޑަ މިންވަރަކަށް ނަމަވެސް، އެމީހެއްގެ ރުހުމާ ނުލާ، ވައްދުމެވެ. މީގެ އާންމު އުސޫލުން ދެމަފިރިންގެ ދެމެދު ޖިމާޢުވުން ކުށެއް ނޫންކަމުގައި އޮތްނަމަވެސް، އަނބިމީހާގެ ރުހުމާނުލާ ޖިމާޢުވުމަކީ ރޭޕްކުރުން ބަލާނެ ހާލަތްތަކެއް މި ޤާނޫނުގެ 20 ވަނަ މާއްދާގައި ހިމެނިފައިވެއެވެ.

Re-victimization

When survivors are further harmed after the original abuse, often by systems, institutions, or media. This includes public exposure, victim-blaming narratives, or insensitive interviews that cause psychological distress or reinforce stigma.

އަލުން އަނިޔާއަށް ހުށަހެޅުން

[illegible]

Secondary Trauma

Emotional or psychological effects experienced by those exposed to stories of trauma, especially over time. Journalists, editors, and others reporting on DV and GBV may develop symptoms similar to PTSD through repeated exposure to survivors' experiences.

ދެވަނަ ދަރަޖައިގެ ޓްރޯމާ (ސެކަންޑަރީ ޓްރޯމާ)

[illegible]

Sexual Act

Any act, including fornication, touching, or behavior toward a person's sexual organ, that is reasonably interpreted as sexual in nature. This includes acts done with sexual intent or in circumstances where sexual intention is clear.

ޖިންސީ ޙަމަލު

މިއީ، ޖިންސީ ސިފައެއް ހިމެނޭގޮތަށް އާންމު ވިސްނުމުގެ މިންގަނޑުން ބޭރުވާ އަމަލުތަކެވެ. މިގޮތުގައި، ޖިސްމާނީ އަތްލުން، މީހެއްގެ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަނެއް ހިއްސާކުރުން ނުވާ ކަސްކުރުން، ނުވަތަ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަނަށް ނިސްބަތްވާގޮތަށް ކޮށްފައިވާ ކަންކަން ހިމެނެއެވެ. އަދި މިދެ ބޮޑުކަމުގައި ޖިންސީ ނިޔަތުގައި ކުރާ އަމަލުތަކާއި ޖިންސީ ނިޔަތް ސަމާލުކަން އަނގާ ބާރުއަޅާފައިވާ ހިނގާ އަމަލުތައް ހިމެނެއެވެ.

Sexual Assault

Any unwanted or non-consensual touching or exposure involving a sexual organ, including forcing someone to reveal their body or causing injury to sexual organs, that does not meet the legal definition of rape but is a serious form of sexual violence.

ޖިންސީ ގޯނާ

މިއީ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަނާ ގުޅޭގޮތުން ރުހުމެއްނެތި ހިފުން ނުވަތަ ހާމަކުރުމެވެ. އޭގެ ތެރޭގައި މީހަކު މަޖުބޫރުކޮށް އަނގާ ހަށިގަނޑު ހާމަކުރުމަށް ނުވަތަ ޖިންސީ ގުނަވަނަށް ގެއްލުން ދިނުން ހިމެނެއެވެ. މިފަދަ އަމަލުތަކަކީ ގާނޫނީގޮތުން ރޭޕްގެ ތަޢުރީފާ ނުހިމެނުނު ނަމަވެސް، ޖިންސީ އަނިޔާގެ ސީރިއަސް ބާވަތެކެވެ.

Sexual Harassment

According to the Sexual Offences Act, sexual harassment includes any sexual behavior (e.g. speech, gestures, drawings, messages, physical acts) that a reasonable person would perceive as sexually inappropriate or offensive. It must occur without the other person's consent and can take place in any setting, including online or in public.

ޖިންސީ ފުރައްސާރަ ކުރުން

ޖިންސީ ކުށުގެ ގާނޫނުގައިވާ ގޮތުން، ޖިންސީ ފުރައްސާރަކުރުމުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނެނީ ހަރަކާތް ހުރި މީހަކު ޖިންސީގޮތުން އެކަށީގެންނުވާ ނުވަތަ ކުރެވިދާނެފަދަ ކަމަށް ދެކޭ ކަމެއް ޖިންސީ އަމަލުތަކެވެ (މިސާލަކަށް: ވާހަކަ، އިޝާރާތްތައް، ކުރެހުންތައް، މެސެޖުތައް، ޖިސްމާނީ އަމަލުތައް). މިފަދަ އަމަލުތައް އަނެއް ފަރާތުގެ ރުހުމެއްނެތި ހިނގަންވާނެއެވެ. އަދި މިފަދަ އަމަލުތައް ކޮންމެ ޖާގައެއްގައިވެސް ހިނގައިދާނެއެވެ. އޭގެ ތެރޭގައި އޮންލައިންކަމާއި އާންމު ތަންތަނުގައިވެސް ހިމެނެއެވެ.

Sexual Injury

The non-consensual insertion of a body part or object into a sexual or non-sexual organ in a way that does not constitute rape. This includes invasive actions done with force, manipulation, or coercion.

ޖިންސީ ގެއްލުން

ރޭޕް ކަމުގައި ގާނޫނުގައި ބުނެފައި ނުވާ އަމަލުތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ރުހުމެއްނެތި ހަށިގަނޑުގެ ބައެއް ނުވަތަ އެއްޗެއް ޖިންސީ ނުވަތަ ޖިންސީނޫން ގުނަވަނަކަށް ވައްދުން. މިގޮތުން ބާރުބޭނުންކޮށް، މަކަރުހެދުމުގެން ނުވަތަ މަޖުބޫރުކުރުމަށް ނުވަތަ އުފެއްދިގެން ހިންގާ އަމަލުތަކާއިވެސް ޖިންސީ ގެއްލުން ދިނުމެވެ.

Sexual Intent

The mental purpose to fulfill a carnal desire through a specific act. This intention defines whether a behavior is considered sexually abusive under the law.

ޖިންސީ [illegible]

ވަކި [illegible] ތެރެއިން [illegible]. މި [illegible].

Survivor-Centered Reporting

A journalistic approach that prioritizes the safety, dignity, and agency of survivors of violence (such as domestic violence and gender-based violence). It avoids harm and re-traumatization by using respectful language, protecting privacy, and steering clear of sensationalism or victim- blaming. This approach also recognizes the long-term impacts of violence, and ensures survivors' voices, experiences, and resilience are at the center of the story.

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތަށް އިސްކަންދީ ރިޕޯޓުކުރުން

މިއީ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކުގެ (މިސާލަކަށް ގޭތެރޭ އަނިޔާ އަދި ވަކި [illegible] ކުރާ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކުގެ) ރައްކާތެރިކަމަށް، ކަރާމާތަށް އަދި އަމިއްލަކަމަށް އިސްކަންދޭ ނޫސްވެރިކަމުގެ އުސޫލެކެވެ. މި އުސޫލުގެ ދަށުން އިޙްތިރާމްކުރާ ބަސްބޭނުންކޮށް، ޚާއްޞަ ދިރިއުޅުން ރައްކާތެރިކޮށް، އަދި [illegible] ނުވަތަ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތް ކުށްވެރިކުރުމުން ދުރުހެލިވުމުގެ ސަބަބުން އިތުރު ގެއްލުން ލިބުމުންނާއި އަލުން ޓްރޯމާ ކުރިމަތިވުމުން ރައްކާތެރިކޮށްދެއެވެ. މި އުސޫލުން އަނިޔާގެ ދިގު މުއްދަތުގެ އަސަރުތައް ފާހަގަކޮށް، އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކުގެ އަޑު، ތަޖުރިބާތަކާއި، އަދި [illegible] ވާހަކައިގެ [illegible] ބަހައްޓައެވެ.

Trauma-Informed Journalism

A method of reporting that recognizes how trauma affects individuals and adapts journalistic practices to avoid further harm. It includes empathy, careful language, safe interview practices, and efforts to ensure the survivor's well-being.

ޓްރޯމާއަށް ސަމާލުވާ ނޫސްވެރިކަން

މިއީ ޓްރޯމާއިން މީހުންނަށް ކުރާ އަސަރު ދެނެގަނެ، އިތުރު ގެއްލުން ނުލިބޭނެ ގޮތަކަށް ނޫސްވެރިކަމުގެ އާދަތައް ބަދަލުކޮށް ރިޕޯޓުކުރުމެވެ. މީގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނެނީ [illegible] (އިންޓަވިއު)، [illegible] އަދި އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުގެ [illegible] ކަށަވަރުކުރުމަށް ކުރާ މަސައްކަތްތަކެވެ.

Trigger Warning

A brief notice provided at the start of content that may cause emotional distress or re- traumatization, especially for survivors. Used to prepare audiences for potentially triggering material and give them the option to disengage (to stop reading or watching).

ޓްރިގަރ ވޯނިންގ (ހިތްދަތި ނުވަތަ ނާޒުކު މައުޟޫއުތައް ހިއްސާކުރުމުގެ އިންޒާރު)

މިއީ ޚާއްސަކޮށް އަނިޔާ ލިބިފައިވާ ފަރާތްތަކަށް އިޙްސާސީ (އިމޯޝަނަލް) ގެއްލުން ނުވަތަ އަލުން ޓްރޯމާ [illegible] ކުރިން، ދައްކާ/އިއްވާ ކުރު އިންޒާރެކެވެ. މިއީ އަޑުއަހާ ނުވަތަ ބަލާ ފަރާތްތަކަށް [illegible] ނުވަތަ ބަލުން ހުއްޓާލުމުގެ ފުރުޞަތު ދިނުމަށް ބޭނުންކުރާ އިންޒާރެކެވެ.

Victim-Blaming

Assigning responsibility for violence to the survivor rather than the perpetrator. Examples include questioning what the victim was wearing, why they didn't leave sooner, or implying they "provoked" the abuse.

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތް ކުށްވެރިކުރުން

މިއީ އަނިޔާކުރި ފަރާތުގެ ބަދަލުގައި އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތަށް އަނިޔާގެ ޒިންމާ އުފުލުވުން. މިގެ މިސާލުތަކުގެ ތެރޭގައި ހިމެނެނީ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުން ލައިގެން ހުރި ހެދުމާމެދު ސުވާލުކުރުން، އެފަރާތުން އަވަހަށް ނުފިލީ ނޫނީ ސަލާމަތްނުވީ ކީއްވެތޯ ސުވާލުކުރުން، ނުވަތަ އެފަރާތުން "އަނިޔާ ކުރުމަށް ހިތްވަރުދިނީ" ކަމަށް ދޭހަކޮށްދިނުމެވެ.

Appendix B: Checklists for Interviewing Victim-Survivors

Checklist: Before the Interview

1. Research and connect

Do your homework, learn about DV/GBV and the context of the story without invading anyone's privacy. Reach out to survivor support organizations, as they can offer insights and may help connect you with someone who's open to speaking.

2. Build trust and set expectations early

Be transparent about your role, and how the story will be used. Let the survivor know what the media can and cannot do, especially if they hope it might lead to justice or institutional action.

3. Prioritize safety and consent from the start

Make it clear the interview is entirely voluntary. They can say no, stop, or change their mind at any time. Talk through possible risks, like being recognized, and offer options like anonymity, pseudonyms, or blurred visuals if applicable.

4. Prepare mindfully

Draft open-ended, respectful questions ahead of time and share them with the interviewee. Let the interviewee choose a time and location where they feel safe and comfortable. Limit surprises as much as possible.

Set up a safe and calming interview environment. Choose a quiet, private space with minimal distractions, ensure comfortable seating and gentle lighting, and have water and tissues available.

Ensure that the space is secure and safe.

5. Plan for emotional support

Ask if they want a trusted person to be present. Have contact details on hand for a counselor or support service, just in case they need it.

6. Assess your own safety before the interview.

Avoid conducting interviews in locations where a perpetrator or hostile individual may be present, or where tensions may escalate. If the environment feels unsafe or unpredictable, relocate the interview to a neutral, secure space or postpone it.

Additional Steps for Broadcast and Filmed Interviews

☐ 7. Ask yourself: Do we really need video?

Sometimes audio or written stories with photos or footage from other organizations can be just as powerful, and less stressful for the survivor.

☐ **8. Prepare your gear**

Check your equipment beforehand, such as camera, audio, batteries.

Avoid filming injuries or anything that could re-traumatize. If possible, offer to have women interviewers and camera operators.

Additional Considerations for Interviewing Persons with Disabilities and Migrant Workers

☐ **9. Identify the interviewee's preferred language early. If needed, hire a qualified** interpreter who understands DV/GBV contexts and confidentiality requirements.

☐ **10. Consider language needs:** Ask the interviewee what would be the most comfortable and convenient way for them to share information (e.g., in person, online, through written responses).

☐ **11. Consider accessibility needs:** confirm physical accessibility of the location, provide preferred communication formats (e.g., verbal, written, sign language), and ensure assistive devices or supports are available.

☐ **12. Allow extra time and flexibility for scheduling** to accommodate work hours, transportation needs, or personal circumstances.

☐ **13. For migrant workers, be mindful of cultural context, immigration status, and any fears related to speaking out.** Provide clear information about confidentiality and the limits of what the media can protect.

Checklist: During the Interview

☐ **1. Confirm informed consent clearly**

Start by recording or signing the consent agreement. Reassure them they can skip any question, take breaks, or stop at any point.

☐ **2. Be fully present and patient**

Let them talk without interruption. Use gentle, non-verbal cues, like nodding or eye contact, to show you're listening. Stay calm and grounded, even when the story is heavy.

☐ **3. Respect their emotional pace**

Some parts of the story may take time to emerge, or may not be shared at all. That's completely okay. If the interviewee becomes overwhelmed, pause. If they need to stop, gently offer the option to continue another day, without applying any pressure.

Additional Steps for Broadcast and Filmed Interviews

☐ **4. Film with care and respect**

Keep your camera steady. Avoid panning or zooming mid-sentence. Never film someone's injuries unless it's fully consented to and is necessary for the story. Focus on visuals that show the survivor's strength, resilience, and humanity.

Checklist: After the Interview

☐ **1. Check in with your interviewee**

Ask how they felt about the interview. What helped? What could be better next time? Offer space for them to reflect and share thoughts.

☐ **2. Revisit privacy and safety**

Double-check if there's anything they shared that they now want to leave out or keep anonymous. Respect and honor their decision fully.

☐ **3. Clarify what happens next**

Let them know where and when the story will be published or broadcast. Be honest about what can be controlled (and what can't). Stick to your promises and update them if plans change.

☐ **4. Moderate public responses thoughtfully**

If the story will appear online, let the interviewee know whether comments will be allowed. Moderate comment sections closely. Remove anything that's harmful, judgmental, or re-traumatizing. If in doubt, turn comments off entirely.

☐ **5. Share support options**

Let them know it's normal to feel emotionally drained after sharing their story. Provide contacts for mental health services or support organizations.

☐ **6. Take care of yourself, too**

Dealing with heavy stories can affect your own mental health. Be aware of signs of secondary trauma. Talk to a supervisor, peer, or counselor if you need to decompress.

☐ **7. Share the final story**

If possible, let the interviewee see the final piece before it's published or aired. Make sure they're comfortable with how they are represented.

☐ **8. Store materials securely**

Safeguard the footage, notes, or recordings. Keep clear records of consent and make sure personal information is handled responsibly.

އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކާ އިންޓަވިއުކުރުމުގެ ޗެކްލިސްޓް

ޗެކްލިސްޓް: އިންޓަރވިއުގެ ކުރިން

1. ދިރާސާކޮށް ރޭވުން ބަދަހިކުރުން

ރަނގަޅަށް ތައްޔާރުވެ، އެއްވެސް މީހެއްގެ ޒާތީ ދިރިއުޅުމަށް ހުރަސްނާޅާގޮތަށް މަޢުލޫމާތު އެއްކުރުން، ވާހަކައިގެ ސިޔާޤު ބަލާ މަޢުލޫމާތު ދަސްކުރާށެވެ. ގެވަރި އަނިޔާ ނުވަތަ ވަކި ޖިންސަކަށްޓަކައި ކުރާ އަނިޔާއާ ގުޅޭގޮތުން ދިރާސާކުރާށެވެ. އަދި އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތްތަކަށް އެހީތެރިވާ ޖަމްޢިއްޔާތަކާ ގުޅުން ބަދަހިކުރާށެވެ. އެފަރާތްތަކުގެ ތަޖުރިބާއާއި ޚިދުމަތް ހިއްސާކުރުމުގެ އިމްކާން، އަނިޔާ ލިބިފައިވާ، މީހާގެ ވާހަކަދެއްކުމަށް ބޭނުންވެފައިވާ މިންވަރާ ގުޅުވައިދިނުމުން މިފަދަ ޚިދުމަތްތަކާ އެހީތެރިވެދެވޭނެގޮތް.

2. އިތުބާރު އާލާކޮށް ކުރިއާލާ އުސޫލުތައް ކަނޑައެޅުން

ތިބާގެ ދައުރާއި، ވާހަކަ ބޭނުންކުރާނެ ގޮތް އިންޓަވިއުގައި ބައިވެރިވުން އެއްބަސްވާ ފަރާތަށް ސާފުކޮށްދޭށެވެ. ހުއްޓާލަން ދޭދީގައި މިފަދަ ހިސާބަކުން ސުވާލުތަކުގެ އިންސާފު ލިބޭނެކަމަށް ނުވަތަ މުޢާމަލާތްކުރާ ފޯރުކޮށްދޭނެ ގޮތް އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުން އުނދަގޫކަމާ، އެފަރާތަކީ ކުރިއަށް ކުރިއަށްދާނެ ކަމެއްނަމަ ސުވާލަކަށް ޖަވާބުދެއްވުން.

3. ޓްރޯމާއިން ރައްކާތެރިކަމާއި ހުރުމަތުން އިސްކަންދިނުން

އިންޓަވިއުގައި ބައިވެރިވާމީހާ ދެކޭގޮތް އަދި އެއްބަސްވުމުގައި ކުރަނާތީއާއި ސަލާމަތާ ހިފެހެއްޓުމާ ގުޅިގެން ބަލަހައްޓާށެވެ. އެފަރާތަކަށް އިންޓަވިއުގެ ކޮންމެ ވަގުތެއްގައި ނުނިންމަވާ ހުއްޓާލުމުގެ ޙައްޤު ދޭށެވެ. ކުރެވިފައިވާ ޖަވާބަށް އަދި ވިސްނުމުގެ ބަދަލުތަކާ ބަލާހެއްދެވި ފާހަގަކުރުން ބޮޑުކުރާށެވެ. ދިރާގުތަކާއި ޒިޔާރަތަކާ އަދި ހިތްހަމަޖެހޭގޮތުން ސާފުކޮށް ކުރާނޭގޮތްތައް ބެލުމަށް ވިސްނާށެވެ. މިސާލަކަށް ހިތާމަވެރި ސުވާލުތަކުގެ ސަބަބުން ތަކުރާރުކޮށް ހުރިހާގޮތެއްގައި ނަފްސާނީ ގޮތުން ނުރައްކާތެރި ބިރުވެރިކަމާ ހުރި ބަދަލުތަކަށް ފަރުވާ ދިނުން، ނަތީޖާ ފިޔަވަޅު ސާފުކޮށްދޭން ފަދަ އެހެނިހެން ކަންކަމާ ކުރިމަތިލާށެވެ.

4. ވިސްނުންތެރިކަމާއެކު ތައްޔާރުވުން

ކުރިއާލާ ހުށަހަޅާފައިވާ، ކަރުދާސް ހުރިހާ ސަލާމަތުގެ ކަންކަން އިންޓަވިއުކުރާ ފަރާތާ ހިއްސާކުރާށެވެ. އިންޓަވިއުކުރާ ފަރާތް ރައްކާތެރިކަމާއި ހިމާޔަތްދިނުން ލިބޭ ވަގުތާއި ތަނާއި ހިތްހަމަޖެހޭގޮތުން ފަރުވާތެރިވުން ދޭށެވެ. ވިޔަސް ބޭނުން ކަންތައްތައް ދައްކާ ގޮތް ކަށަވަރު، ކައިރިކަމާ ނުލަފާކަމެއްނެތް ގޮސްފައިނުވާ ފުރުސަތުގައި މަޢުލޫމާތު ކަށަވަރުކުރާށެވެ.

5. ނަފްސާނީ އެހީތެރިކަމަށް ތައްޔާރުވުން

އެފަރާތުން އިތުބާރުކުރާ މީހަކާ ހާޒިރުވުން ބޭނުންތޯ އަހާށެވެ. ބޭނުންވެއްޖެނަމަ ތައްޔާރުކުރެވިފައިވާ، ކައުންސެލިންގައި ނުވަތަ އެހީތެރިކަން ފޯރުކޮށްދިނުމުގެ ގޮތުން ނަފްސާނީ ހިތްވަރު އެދިގެން ބަލައިލާށެވެ.

6. އިންޓަވިއުގެ ކުރިން އަމިއްލަ ސަލާމަތާ ތައްޔާރުކަމާއި ސަލާމަތްކަން ދިނުން.

ކުއްލިއަކަށް ނުވަތަ ދެކޮޅުވެރި ފަރާތްތައް ހުރިނަމަ ތަނުގެ ސަލާމަތުގައި ވަރަށްބޮޑު ސަމާލުކަން ދީ، ތަނުގެ ސަލާމަތީ އިންތިޒާމުތައް ބަލާށެވެ. މާހައުލު އެކަށީގެން ނުވާނަމަ ޚާއްޞަ ނުވަތަ އެހެން ތަނަކަށް ބަދަލުކުރުމަށް އެދޭށެވެ. އަދި ވާހަކަ ދެއްކުމަށް ފަސޭހަ ތަނެއް ހޮވާ، ޒަރީޢާ ސަލާމަތީ ކަންކަމަށް ސަމާލުވެ އިންޓަވިއު ބަދަހިކުރާށެވެ. ނުވަތަ އެކަމަށް ކަނޑައަޅާފައިވާ ހިމާޔަތް ލިބޭ އިންޓަވިއު ފަސޭހަކުރާށެވެ.

ޕޮޑްކާސްޓް އަދި ވީޑިއޯތަކާ އިންޓަވިއުތަކުގައި އަޅަން އިތުރު ފިޔަވަޅުތައް

7. މިވަރަކަށް ތައްޔާރުކުރުމުގައި ރަޖިސްޓަރީގައިވެސް ބަޔާންކުރަންޖެހޭ ވިސްނާލާށެވެ.

ބަޔަކު ހާލަތުތަކުގައި، އެހެން ފަރާތްތަކުން ނަގާފައިވާ ފޮޓޯގްރާފު ހަވާލާދީ ޢާއިލާ/ ވޮއިސް ބޭނުންކުރުމުގެ ތަޢާރަފުކުރުމުގައިވާ ވީޑިއޯ، ނުވަތަ ދުވަހު، ވީޑިއޯ އިންޓަވިއުއާއި ބާރުގަދަކަން ހުށަހަޅައިދޭނެއެވެ. އަދި މިފަދަ ގޮތްތައް ޒާތީކަމުގެ އަނިޔާ ލިބިފައިވާ ފަރާތަށް ގެނައުމަށް ނުވަތަ ސަލާމަތް ކަށަވަރުކުރާށެވެ.

8. އިންޓަވިއުއަށް ބޭނުންވާ މަޢުލޫމާތު ތައްޔާރު ކުރާށެވެ.

ކަމާ، ވޮއިސް، ބަޔާނު ފަދަ މަޢުލޫމާތު ކުރިއާއި ގުޅުންހުރިގޮތަށެވެ.

އަނިޔާގެ ނުވަތަ އަޑުން ޖިސްމާނީ ކުރިމަތިކުރެވޭފަދަ އެއްވެސް އެއްޗެއް ފިލުވުމަށް ދުރުހެލިވާށެވެ.

އިންޓަވިއުކުރާ އަންގަން ފަރާތްތަކުގެ ކަމާ އުޅުނުޖެހުން ހަމަޖެއްސުން ތެރޭގައި، މިއީ އިންޓަވިއުދޭ ފަރާތުން ބޭނުން އެދޭ ޝަރުތުތަކެއް ހަމަވާނެއެވެ. އަދި އިންޓަވިއުކުރުން ދޫކުރާށެވެ.

ނުކުތުމުގެ ކުރިން ފަރާތްތަކާ ޕޮޑްކާސް މަސައްކަތްތެރިންނާ އިންޓަވިއުކުރުން އިތުރު ވިސްނުންތައް

9. އިންޓަވިއުދޭ ފަރާތުން އިންޓަރވިއު ކުރިއަށް ގެންދަން ބޭނުންވަނީ ކޮންބަޔަކަށްތޯ ދެނެގަންނާށެވެ.

ބޭނުންވާނަމަ، ގޮތަކީ އަނިޔާ/ ތަދު ދިނުމަށްފަހު މިއީ ކުރާ އަނިޔާގެ ސިއްރުކުރުމަށްޓަކައި ސިއްރާތްއި، މުސްތަޤްބަލަށް ދެނެގަނެވެނީ ގޮތުގެ ތަސްވީރު ތަމްރީނުކުރާށެވެ.

☐ **10. ބަހުގެ ބޭނުންކުރަން ވިސްނުން:**

އިންޓަރވިއު ކުރާއިރު އިންޓަރވިއުދޭ މީހާ މައުލޫމާތު ހިއްސާ ކުރަން އެދޭ ކަމަށް މަސައްކަތެއް ކަނޑައެޅި އާދޭސް ފުރުޞަތެވެ. (މިސާލަކަށް ބައްދަލުކުރުމުގެ އެންމެހާ ނުތަކެތި ނުވަތަ ދުރުހުރުން)

☐ **11. ޑިސްއެބިލިޓީގެ ބޭނުންކުރަން ވިސްނުން:**

ބައްދަލުވުން ބޭރުގެ ތަނަކަށް ވަނުމުން ނުވަތަ ނިކަމެތިން ހުރި ފަސޭހަކަން ކަނަވަރުކުރުން، ބޭނުންވާ މުއާމަލާތްކުރުމުގެ ފުރުޞަތެއް (މިސާލަކަށް: އަނގަބަހުން، ދުރުމުން، އިޝާރާތުގެ ބަހުން) ފޯރުކޮށްދީ، އަދި އެހީވާ ވަސީލަތްތައް ނުވަތަ އެހީތެރި ލިބުނުކުރިކަން ކަށަވަރުކުރާށެވެ.

☐ **12. މަސައްކަތުގެ ގޮތުން، ދަރުބާރުގެ ބޭނުންތަކަށް، ނުވަތަ އަމިއްލަ ޚާއްސަ ބޭނުންތަކަށް ބަލައި ތާވަލުކުރުމަށް އިތުރު ވަގުތާއި ލުއިތަކާއި ފުރުޞަތު ދޭށެވެ.**

☐ **13. ޕޮޑްކާސްޓް މަސައްކަތްތެރިންނަށް، ސަލާމަތީ ގޮތުން ދިމާވާ ގޮންޖެހުންތައް، އިމްޕެކްޓްސް ބަލާލާ، އަދި ވާހަކަދެއްކުމުގެ ޓްރިގަރުތަކަށް ދެނެގަން، މިކަންކަމަށް ސަމާލުވާށެވެ.**

ސިއްރިއްޔާތު ދިޔައުން ތަޖުރިބާކުރާފަދަ ކަންތައްތަކުގެ ދިރާސާކުރާ ސާފު ސިފަ ހައްދަވާ ދޭށެވެ.

ޗެކްލިސްޓް: އިންޓަވިއު ކުރަމުންދާއިރު

1. ސާފުކޮށް ރުހުން ކަށަވަރުކުރުން

ރުހުމުގެ އެއްބަސްވުން ތަކުރާރުކޮށް ނުވަތަ ސްޓޯރީގެ ބައިތައް ކަށަވަރުކުރާށެވެ. ސުވާލު ދޭތެރޭގައިވެސް ހުއްޓާލެވިދާނެކަން، ނުވަތަ ކޮންމެ ހިނދަކުގައިވެސް ހުއްޓާލުމުގެ ހައްޤު ލިބިގެންވާކަން ޔަޤީންކޮށްދޭށެވެ.

2. ފުރިހަމަކަމަށް ހާޖަތުވާ ކަމެއްތަކުރުން

އަޅުގަނޑު މުޅިކަންމަތީގައި ވާހަކަދައްކާލުމާއި ފުރުސަތު ދޭށެވެ. ވާހަކަދައްކަމުންދާއިރު ހުރަސްއަޅައި ނުލާށެވެ. ވާހަކަ ކިޔުމުގައި ވަގުތު ދީ، ބުނާ ވާހަކަ ރަނގަޅަށް އަޑުއަހާށެވެ. ވީމާ އަޅުގަނޑު ދެކެ ބޭނުންވާ ގޮތަކަށް ވާހަކަދެއްކުމުގެ ފުރުސަތު ދޭށެވެ. ވާހަކަ ދައްކަމުން ހާސްވާނަމަ ހުސްތަނެއް ދީ، ހަމަޖެހުމަށް އަދި ސަލާމަތްކަމާއި ހިތްހަމަޖެހުން ދޭށެވެ.

3. އަޅުގަނޑުގެ އިޙްސާސްތަކާއި ދިފާއުކުރުން އިޙްތިރާމްކުރުން

މާހައުލުގެ ބައެއް ބައިތައް ހިފެހެއްޓުމަށް ދާދި ދަތިވެދާނެކަން ދެނެގަންނާށެވެ. ނުވަތަ ބައެއް މާހައުލުގައި އެއްވެސް ވާހަކައެއް ހިއްސާ ނުކުރަން ބޭނުންވެދާނެތީ ބަލާ ދެނެގަތުމަށް ސަމާލުވާށެވެ. އެއީ މައްސަލައެއް ނޫނެވެ. އިންޓަވިއުއެއް މިހާރު ވަޒަނާ ވަރަށް ފަހުން އެކަމުގެ އިހުސާސްތައް ދިރާސާކުރާށެވެ. ކުރިޔަށް ބަލާފައި ކަނޑައެޅޭނެ ހިސާބުތަކެއް ޔަޤީންކުރާށެވެ. އެއްވެސް ގޮތަކުން ފުރަތަމަ ނުކުރާށެވެ.

ބްރޯޑްކާސްޓް އަދި ޕޮޑްކާސްޓްތަކާ އިންޓަވިއުތަކަށް ޚާއްޞަ ފިޔަވަޅުތައް

4. ފަރުވާތެރިކަމާއި އިޑިޓްކުރާއިރު ޑިޒައިންކުރުން

ކެމެރާ ސްކްރީނާ ދަނޑިއެއްގެ ބަދަލުގައި ބަޔަކު ޖެހިގެން ބޭނުންކުރާ ނޫސްވެރިން، ފޮޓޯގްރާފަރުން ޖަޒުބާތުން ދުރުގައި ހުރުމަށް ގަސްދުކުރާށެވެ. ފުރިހަމަ ދުރުމަކީ ނަމެއް އަދި ކުރިއަށް ބާރުއަޅާ ބައެއް ބަދަލުކުރާށެވެ، އެއްވެސް މީހެއްގެ އަޑުއަހައި ފިލުވާލުމަށްވެސް.

އަޑާއި ފޮޓޯ ފަރާތުގެ ބަޔަކަށް، ވިޑިއޯތަކާއި އަދި އިންސާނުންގެ ފަރާތުން ޖަނަރޭޓްކުރާ އަޑުތައް ޖަހާލާށެވެ.

ޗެކްލިސްޓް: އިންޓަވިއު ކުރުމަށްފަހު

1. އިންޓަވިއުކުރެވުނު ފަރާތާ ފަހުން ގުޅާ ހާލު ބެލުން

އިންޓަވިއުއާއި ގުޅިގެން ދުވަސްތަކެއް ހޭދަވުމާއި، އިންޓަވިއުގެ ތަޖުރިބާ ގޮތް ވީ ގޮތާއި، ނޫސްވެރިޔާ ސޮއި ކޮށްފައިވާ ފަޔާ ބަދަލު ކަމަށް ކަނޑައެޅޭނެ ކަންތައްތަކާ ގުޅިގެން އެހީތެރިކަމެއް ބޭނުންވެދާނެކަން ދަނޑިވަޅު ހުރިހާ ސަލާމަތުން ބަލާށެވެ.

2. ޗާޕު ދިރިއުޅުމުގެ ޙައްސާސިކަން އަލުން ބަލާލުން

އަޅުގަނޑު ހިއްސާކުރި އެއްވެސް އެއްޗެއް ވިއްކާ ކިޔަވަނީ ބޭނުން ނުވާ ތަފާސް ކޮށްފައިވާނެއެވެ. އަޅުގަނޑުގެ ނިންމުމަކީ ފުރިހަމަ އިންޓަވިއުގައި ބަދަލުކުރާށެވެ.

3. ދީން މާނަކުރާގޮތް ސާފުކޮށް ކިޔައިދިނުން

ވާހަކަ ޝާއިޢުކުރުމުން ނުވަތަ ބްރޯޑްކާސްޓްކުރުމުން ތަނާއި ވަގުތު އެފަރާތްތަކަށް އަންގައިދޭށެވެ. ކޮންޓްރިބިއުޓަރުން ކަންތައްތަކާއި (އެއީ ސްޕީކަރުން ކޮންޓްރިބިއުޓަރުން) ބަހައްޓާން ތަރުތީބުކުރާށެވެ. އެފަރާތާ އެއްބަސްވުމަކަށް ފީޑްބެކް ކަންކަން ކުރިއަށް ގެންދާށެވެ. އަދި ފޮނުވާލައި ބަލަހައްޓާ އެފަރާތަށް ދީ އެންމެ އަވަހަށް އަދާހަމަ ދޭށެވެ.

4. އާންމުންގެ ރައްދުތަކާއި ވިސްނުންތެރިކަމާއި ބަލައިގަތުން

ވާހަކަ އަންނަރިޔާކަތް ޝާއިޢުކުރުމުގައި، އާ ޝާއިޢުކުރުމަށްފަހު ކޮމެންޓް ހުށަހެޅުމަށް ހުއްދަ ދިނުން ނުވަތަ އިންޓަރެކްޝަން ފުރުސަތު އަންގައިދޭށެވެ. ކޮމެންޓް ސަލާމަތްތެރިކަމާ ގުޅުން ބެލެހެއްޓުމަށް. ގައިޑްލައިން ކުރިމަތިވެދާނެ ކޮމެންޓްތަކާއި، ޖެންޑަރ ކޮމެންޓް ކޮމެންޓްތަކާއި އަދި ނެގެޓިވް ހުރިހާ ވާހަކަ ކޮމެންޓް ދޫކުރުމުގައި ކޮމެންޓް އާންމުކަމާ ފަހަރުން ބެލުމަށް ގަވާއިދު ކޮމެންޓް ބަހައްޓާ ނުކުރާނެ ގޮތް ޝާއިޢު އަތުގައި ކޮމެންޓް ބަލަހައްޓާ ބެލެހެއްޓުމަށް.

5. އިޞްލާޙީކަމުގެ ފުރުސަތުތަކާއި ހިއްސާކުރުން

އަޑުއަހާގޮތް ވާހަކަ ހިއްސާކުރުމުގެ އިރުޝާދުތަކާއި ބަރުވަރުގެ އާދަޔާއި ކަމުގެ ކަނޑައަޅާށެވެ. ނަފްސާނީ އިޖާބީކަން ފުރުސަތުކުރުމުގެ މައުލޫމާތު ގެނެސް ނަންބަރުތައް ފުރުސަތުދޭށެވެ.

6. އަމިއްލަ ނަފްސަށް ސަމާލުވުން

މީޑިއާ ހިންގުމުގެ ބަރުދަށްވާ ވާހަކައާއި އަޑުއަހާފައިވާ ވީޑިއޯ އަމިއްލަ ނަފްސަށް ސިއްރުކުރެވިފައިވާ އަސަރުކުރަނީ. ދެކޮޅު ދެރަކުރާގެ ޖިސްމާނީ އަދިފާނީއްޔާތަކުން ސަމާލުވާށެވެ. ބޮޑުބޮޑު އަޑުއިވޭނެ ސައިކޮލޮޖިކަލް، ނަފްސާ އެކަހެރި މަސައްކަތްކުރާ ކުރިޔާ ނަޒާރު ރައްކާތެރި ވަކިކުރަންވާނެ ވާހަކަ. ނަފްސާނީ ގޮތުން އިތުރު އެހީތެރިކަމަށް ކާއްސަތްތެރިކަމާ ވަކިކުރަންވާނެ.

7. ވާހަކައިގެ ފައިނަލް ވާޝަން ހިއްސާކުރުން

ޝާއިޢު ކުރުމުގެ ކުރިން ވާހަކައިގެ ފައިނަލް ވާޝަން އިންޓަވިއު ދިން ފަރާތަށް ދައްކާލާށެވެ. އިންޓަވިއުދިން ފަރާތް ހުށަހަޅާ ގެއްލުމެއް އަދި ހިފެހެއްޓޭ ޙަޤީޤަތް ކަށަވަރު ކުރާށެވެ.

8. ރައްކާތެރިކަމާއި ދޭހަކުރުމުގެ ރައްކާތެރިކުރާށެވެ.

ވާހަކަ ތައްޔާރު ކުރުމުގައި ބޭނުންކުރި މީޑިއާ ފައިލްތައް ނުވަތަ ރެކޯޑިންގ ނޯޓްތައް އަދި ނޯޓްބުކް ރައްކާތެރިކޮށް ސިއްރު ކޮށް ރައްކާކުރާށެވެ. އޭގެތެރެއިން ނަމާ ކަމުގެ މަޢުލޫމާތު ފަރާތްތަކާއި ބަހައްޓާށެވެ. އަދި ޑާޓާ މައުލޫމާތު ރައްކާކުރާ ބަހައްޓާނީ ހުއްދަ ސަލާމަތް ދޭށެވެ.

Appendix C: Sample Media Consent Form for Interviews, Photos, Audio or Video

The document below is a sample form that can be used by various types of media organizations to see informed consent from their interviewees. The form can be adapted to meet the specific needs of the organization.

Consent Form

This form helps us make sure you understand how your story or image will be used, and aims to give you control over your participation.

Project/ Story Title: ________________________________
Media Outlet or Organization: ________________________
Interviewer Name: ________________________________

1. Understanding Participation

Please read the statements below and check the boxes you agree with:

1. Your Participation

☐ I agree to take part in this interview, photo, or recording.
☐ I understand my participation is voluntary.
☐ I can skip any question or stop the interview at any time.
☐ I understand there is no payment for this interview.

2. Use of Media

☐ I give permission for my photo/ video/ voice/ words to be used for:
(You can tick as many as you're comfortable with.)

☐ Print news stories (e.g. newspapers, magazines)
☐ Online platforms
☐ TV, Radio or podcast
☐ Social media
☐ Presentations, reports, or awareness campaigns
☐ Other: __________________________

3. How You Want to Be Identified

☐ Please use a pseudonym (fake name)
☐ Please only use my first or last name
☐ You may use my full name
☐ Please blur my face / hide my identity
☐ Please alter my voice
☐ Please avoid including any identifying details (like my workplace, home, etc.)

4. Privacy and Safety

☐ I have been told how my identity and story will be protected (if I request it).
☐ I understand that once my story or image is shared publicly, others might see it.
☐ I have had the chance to ask questions before signing.
☐ I have been offered support contact information in case I feel upset or need help after the interview.
☐ I would like to see or hear the final version before it is published.

5. Sign Below to Confirm Your Consent

Name of Interviewee: _______________________
Signature: ___________________________________
Date: ________________

Name of Interviewer/ Media Staff: _______________________
Signature: ___________________________________
Date: ________________

މީޑިއާ އިންޓަވިއު، ފޮޓޯ، އޮޑިއޯ ނުވަތަ ވީޑިއޯ ރުހުން ދިނުމުގެ ނަމޫނާ ފޯމު

ތިރީގައިވާ [illegible] އެހެނިހެން ބާވަތުގެ މީޑިއާ ޖަމާޢަތްތަކަށް [illegible] އިންޓަވިއުކުރާ ފަރާތްތަކުން މަޢުލޫމާތު ލިބިގެން ރުހުން ހޯދުމަށް ބޭނުންކުރެވިދާނެ ނަމޫނާ ފޯމެކެވެ. މި ފޯމު ޖަމާޢަތުގެ ވަކި ބޭނުންތަކަކަށް ފިޓުވާގޮތަށް ބަދަލުގެނެވިދާނެއެވެ.

ރުހުން ދިނުމުގެ ފޯމު

މި ފޯމުން އަޅުގަނޑުމެންނަށް ލިބޭ ޖަވާބު ވާހަކަ ނުވަތަ ފޮޓޯ ބޭނުންކުރެވޭނީ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. އަދި މިބާގެ ބައިވެރިވުން [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ނިންމުމަކީ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

ޕްރޮޖެކްޓް/ ވާހަކައިގެ ސުރުޚީ:..

މީޑިއާ އައުޓްލެޓް ނުވަތަ ޖަމާޢަތް:..

އިންޓަވިއުކުރާ ފަރާތުގެ ނަން:..

1. ބައިވެރިވުން ދެނެގަތުން

ތިރީގައިވާ ބަޔާންތައް ކިޔައި ތިބާ އެއްބަސްވާ ޗެކްބޮކްސްތަކުގައި ފާހަގަކުރައްވާ:

1. ތިބާގެ ބައިވެރިވުން

☐ މި އިންޓަވިއު، ފޮޓޯ، ނުވަތަ ރެކޯޑިންގައި ބައިވެރިވުމަށް އަހަރެން އެއްބަސްވަމެވެ.

☐ އަހަރެންގެ ބައިވެރިވުމަކީ އަމިއްލަ އިޚްތިޔާރުގައި [illegible] އަހަރެންނަށް އެނގެއެވެ.

☐ އަހަރެންނަށް ކޮންމެ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

☐ މި އިންޓަވިއުއަކީ އެއްވެސް ފައިސާއެއް ނުލިބޭކަން އަހަރެންނަށް އެނގެއެވެ.

2. މީޑިއާ ބޭނުންކުރުން

އަހަރެންގެ ފޮޓޯ/ވީޑިއޯ/އަޑު/ބަޔާން ތިރީގައިވާ ކަންކަމުގައި ބޭނުންކުރުމުގެ ހުއްދަ އަހަރެން ދެމެވެ. (ތިބާ ހިތްހަމަޖެހޭ ހުރިހާ ބޮކްސްއެއްގައި ފާހަގަކުރައްވާ):

☐ ޗާޕުކުރާ ނޫސްތަކުގައި ޝާއިޢުކުރުމަށް (މިސާލަކަށް: ނޫސްތައް، މަޖައްލާތައް)

☐ އޮންލައިން ޕްލެޓްފޯމްތަކުގައި ބޭނުންކުރުމަށް

☐ ޓީވީ، ރޭޑިއޯ ނުވަތަ ޕޮޑްކާސްޓްތަކުގައި ބޭނުންކުރުމަށް

☐ ސޯޝަލް މީޑިއާގައި ބޭނުންކުރުމަށް

☐ ޕްރޮޑަކްޝަންތައް، ރިޕޯޓުތައް، ނުވަތަ ޑޮކިއުމެންޓަރީގެ ކޮމްޕައިލޭޝަނުގައި ބޭނުންކުރުމަށް

☐ އެހެނިހެން: ....

3. މީބާއަކީ ކާކުކަން ހާމަކުރަން ބޭނުންވާ މިންވަރު އަދި ގޮތް

އަސްލުނަން ނޫން ނަމެއް ބޭނުންކުރާނެވެ.

ހަމައެކަނި އަހުރެންގެ ފުރަތަމަ ނުވަތަ ފަހު ނަން ބޭނުންކުރާނެވެ.

☐ އަހުރެންގެ ފުރިހަމަ ނަން ބޭނުންކުރެވިދާނެއެވެ.

☐ އަހުރެންގެ މޫނު ފުސްކޮށް ކާކުކަން ނޭނގޭނެހެންދައްކާނެވެ.

☐ އަހުރެންގެ އަޑު ބަދަލުކުރާނެވެ.

☐ އަހުރެން ދެނެގަނެވޭނެ އެއްވެސް ތަފްސީލެއް (މިސާލަކަށް: އަހުރެންގެ އޮފީސް، ދިރިއުޅޭ ގެ/ރަށް) ނުހިމަނާނެވެ.

4. ޚާޞީ ދިރިއުޅުމާއި ރައްކާތެރިކަން

☐ އަހުރެންގެ އައިޑެންޓިޓީއާއި ވާހަކަ ރައްކާތެރިކުރުމަށް ބޭނުންވާނަމަ، އެކަން ކުރެވޭނެގޮތް އަހުރެންނަށް ބަޔާންކޮށްދީފައެވެ.

☐ އަހުރެންގެ ވާހަކަ ނުވަތަ ފޮޓޯ [illegible] ހިއްސާކުރުމުން، އެކަން [illegible] [illegible] އަހުރެންނަށް އަންގާނެއެވެ.

☐ [illegible] ކުރިން [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] އަހުރެންނަށް [illegible]

☐ އިންޓަވިއުއަށްފަހު އަހުރެންނަށް ނަފްސާނީ ގޮތުން އަސަރުކޮށްފިނަމަ ނުވަތަ [illegible] ބޭނުންވެއްޖެނަމަ އެހީތެރިކަން ހޯދަން ގުޅޭނެ ތަންތަނުގެ މަޢުލޫމާތު އަހުރެންނަށް ދެވިފައިވެއެވެ.

☐ ޝާއިޢުކުރުމުގެ ކުރިން ފައިނަލް ވާހަކަ ބަލާލަން ނުވަތަ އަޑުއަހާލަން އަހުރެން ބޭނުންވެއެވެ.

5. މީބާގެ ރުހުން ކަށަވަރުކުރުމަށް ލިޔުމުގައި ސޮއިކުރާށެވެ

އިންޓަވިއުދޭ ފަރާތުގެ ނަން:

ސޮއި:

ތާރީޚު:

އިންޓަވިއުކުރާ ފަރާތް/މީޑިއާ މުވައްސަސާގެ ނަން:

ސޮއި:

ތާރީޚު:

Appendix D: Crisis Response Checklist

Crisis response is not about assigning blame. It is about minimizing harm, restoring trust, and drawing lessons for the future. At all stages of response, the autonomy, dignity, and safety of survivors must remain the guiding principle.

This checklist is designed for media professionals and outlets to use when a published story on domestic violence (DV) or gender-based violence (GBV) results in harm, backlash, or distress, whether to the survivor, the audience, or the reporting team.

1. Immediate Response

Check in with the survivor (or their representative) to assess any physical, emotional, or reputational harm

Offer to update, remove, or revise the story, depending on what the survivor requests, or what is possible

Ensure the survivor has access to support services, including counseling

2. Public Communication & Accountability

If the harm involves misinformation or ethical breach:

Issue a public correction, retraction, or apology

Clearly explain what steps are being taken to prevent similar incidents

If backlash occurs on social media or online:

Post neutral messages and avoid engaging in arguments

Temporarily disable or restrict comment sections if necessary

3. Internal Review & Support

Hold a debrief with the editorial team (What went wrong? What could have been done differently?)

Document the incident for internal learning and future training

Facilitate mental health support for team members experiencing distress

4. Collaborate with Stakeholders

If the harm involves community outrage, threats, or reputational risks:

☐ Consult with relevant stakeholders (e.g., civil society organizations, legal counsel, MMC, MBC), for advice or to support mediation with the public.

ކުއްލި ހާލަތެއް އިޖާބަދިނުމުގެ ޗެކްލިސްޓު

ކުއްލި ހާލަތެއް އިޖާބަދިނުމަކީ ވަކި މީހަކު ކުށްފިޔަކުރުމުގެ ކަމެއް ނޫނެވެ. މިއީ ގެއްލުން ކުޑަކުރުމާއި، އިތުބާރު އަޅުން ބިނާކުރުމާއި، އަދި މުސްތަޤްބަލުގައި ކަންކަން ރަނގަޅަށްކުރުމުގެ ފުރުޞަތު ނުވަތަ ކުރުމަށްދެވޭތޯ. އިޖާބަދިނުމުގެ ހުރިހާ މަރުޙަލާއެއްގައިވެސް، އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުގެ އަމާންކަމާއި ޝަރަފާއި ވާޖިބާއި ހުޅުވާލެވިފައިވާ ރައްކާތެރިކަން އަދި ޝަރުޢީ ހައްގުތައް އަސާސަކަށް ވާންޖެހެއެވެ.

މި ޗެކްލިސްޓަކީ ޝާއިޢުކުރެވުނުފަހުން ގެވެސް އަނިޔާ ނުވަތަ ވަކި ޖިންސަކަށްވުރެ ކުރި އަނިޔާގެ ވާހަކައާކުން އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތަށް، އަމުދަލާ ފަރާތަށް، ނުވަތަ ރިޕޯޓަރ ޗެނަލް ގެއްލުމާއި، ނުރައްކާއި، ނުވަތަ ނުރައްކާވެސްކާމުގައި ކުރިމަތިވެއްޖެނަމަ، މީޑިއާ ޚަބަރު ފަތުރަންފަތުރާއި މީޑިއާ އެޖެންސީތަކުން ބޭނުންކުރަން ފަރުމާކުރެވިފައިވާ ޗެކްލިސްޓެކެވެ.

1. ވަގުތުން ރައްދުދިނުން

☐ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތާ (ނުވަތަ އެފަރާތް ތަމްސީލުކުރާ ފަރާތާ) ގުޅައި ޓީމްސާއި، އިމެއިލް، ނުވަތަ އަޑުގެ ގެއްލުމެއް ލިބުނުތޯ ބަލާލުން

☐ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތުން ބޭނުންވާނަމަ ހުރި، ނުވަތަ ކުރެވުނު އެއް މިންވަރަކުން ކޮންޓެންޓް. މިސާލަކަށް ވާހަކަ އަޕްޑޭޓްކުރުން، ފޮޓޯގުރާފް ނުވަތަ އިސްތިހާރުކުރުން ހުއްޓުވުން.

☐ އަނިޔާ ލިބުނު ފަރާތަށް ކައުންސެލިންގ ހިދުމަތްތަކާއި އެހީތެރިކަމުގެ ޚިދުމަތްތަކަށް ލިބެން ހުރިކަން ކަށަވަރުކުރުން

2. އާންމު މުއާމަލާތްކުރުމާއި ޒިންމާދާރުވުން

ގެއްލުމުގައި ސަމާލުކަން މަޢުލޫމާތު ނުވަތަ ސުވާލު ހިއްސާކުރެވުމާ ހިތްހަމަނަމަ:

☐ އިސްލާހު، އަނބުރާ ގެނައުމާ، ނުވަތަ މަޢާފަށް އެދުމުގެ އާންމުކޮށް ނުކުތް

☐ މިފަދަ ހާދިސާތަކާއި ހަމަޖެހުމުގެ ކުރިން ރަސްމީ ނުވަތަ/ އަސާސީ ތަރުތީބާ ސާފުކޮށް ބަޔާންކުރުން

ވާހަކައިގެ ސަރަހައްދު ޝަރުޙަ މިޑިއާގައި ނުވަތަ އޮންލައިންގައި ނުރައްކާތެރި ހިތްހަމަޖެހުން އުފެދިއްޖެނަމަ:

☐ ކޮމެންޓްސް ކުރިމަތިލާނަމަ، ވަކިފަރާތެއް ނުޖެހޭ މަސައްކަތެއް ފުރަތަމަ ފާސްކުރުން. އަދި އޮންލައިން ބަލިވެރިކަމުގެ ދުވަސްވީ ފަރާތްތަކުން

☐ ބަސްތަކާއި ދެނިދެދުން ކޮމެންޓް ސަލާމަތްކުރުމާ ބަންދުކުރުން

3. ޗެކް ގެ ފަރުގައި މުރާޖަޢާކުރުމާއި އެޑިޓަރުކަން ފޮލޯއަޕްކުރުން

☐ އެޑިޓަރުންގެ ޗީފަށް ޕޮލިސީއާ ބައްލަވުން (ރަސްމީގޮތުން ކުރަމުން ކަންކަމާއި، ގެސްޓަށް ދިޔަ ކަންކަމާއި ދަސްވެފައިވާ ތަރުތީބުތައް ކުރާނެ ކަންކަން ބެލުން)

☐ ކުރިމަގު ތަމްރީނުކަންތައް، އުނގެނުމަށް ހާދިސާ ލިޔުން ބަލާއިރުގެ

☐ ނުތަނަވަސްކަން ތަޖުރިބާކުރި ޗީފް ގެންބަރުނަން ނަފްސާނީ ސިއްޙަތުގެ އެހީތެރިކަން ފޯރުކޮށްދިނުން

4. ސްޓޭކްހޯލްޑަރުންނާއެކު ގުޅިގެން މަސައްކަތްކުރުން

ތިބުނު ގެއްލުމުގައި މުޖުތަމަޢުގެ ރުޅިވެރިކަން، ބިރުދެއްކުން، ނުވަތަ އަބުރުގެ ނުރައްކާތަކެއް ހިނގާނަމަ:

☐ ކަމާގުޅުންހުރި ސްޓޭކްހޯލްޑަރުން (މިސާލަކަށް: މަދަނީ ޖަމްޢިއްޔާތައް، ޤާނޫނީ ލަފާދޭ ފަރާތްތައް، އެޑްވޮކަސީ، އޮމްބުޑްސްމަން) ގެ ލަފާ ހޯދުމަށް ނުވަތަ އާންމުންނާ މިކަމުގައި މައުލޫމާތުތަކުން އިޖުތިމާޢީ ޚިދުމަތްތަކަށް ފޮނުވުން މަޝްވަރާކުރުން.