



INDIA ALTERNATIVE CARE NETWORK (IACN)

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY AND GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

To outline the guidelines for depiction of children, youth, families, CCIs, and stakeholders¹ on the IACN website, social networking sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogs, etc.), resources, newsletters, partner communications, and general media (reporting, broadcasting, publication of news, programs, documentaries, etc.).

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

IACN's guiding principle is to protect the privacy, dignity, and physical/emotional development of children and families. IACN takes into consideration long-term consequences, always envisioning how the children/families themselves might perceive the exposure, both now and in the future.

IACN's purpose is to facilitate the exchange of learning, dissemination of knowledge and forming partnerships on the issues related to children without parental care or at risk of separation. We believe that every child has the right to thrive in a family environment.

For this purpose, IACN uses photographs, films, and stories for raising awareness, knowledge dissemination, and advocacy. **This material may be used in print, broadcast, or online visibility on social media and IACN website, resources published on IACN website, IACN newsletter, learning sessions, and research proposals or any other documentation.**

We are dedicated to protecting and promoting children's rights. In line with our Child Safeguarding Policy and Photography/Videography Policy and Guidelines, we endeavour to protect all children and families from harm, a) in their experience of being filmed or photographed and, b) in the subsequent use of the images, recordings or case studies.

We are determined to carry out our work in a manner that keeps children's and families' safety, privacy, and dignity as the top priority. Since IACN relies on its partner organisations and the Internet as a primary source for photographs/videos, we commit (and expect our partner organisations to commit) to the following:

- ❖ Ensuring that all the photographs/videos that are used have due permission obtained from the child and his or her guardian. When possible and appropriate, this permission should be in writing. Permission must be obtained in circumstances that ensure that the child and guardian are not coerced in any way and that they understand that they are part of a story that might be disseminated locally and globally. This is usually only ensured if the permission is obtained in the child's language and if the decision is made in consultation with an adult the child trusts. The concerned child/adult must have the information as to where the photographs/videos would be used.
- ❖ Refraining to reveal the identity of any of the subjects used in the photographs/videos. We must always change the names of children/adults portrayed in the photographs/videos used and make sure not to include any information that would enable people to identify and locate the children/adults.

¹ Stakeholders- CSO personnel, State functionaries

- ❖ If we intend to use photographs of the participants (children, adults, stakeholders) in our case studies, research, and other documentations, we will make sure that the faces of participants are not visible (clicked either from the back, or the faces are blurred/masked). We will also make sure that we do not include any information that would enable people to identify and locate the children/adults to maintain confidentiality.
- ❖ Avoiding the portrayal of subjects in a bad light, or in vulnerable and destitute situations. If it is compulsory to highlight such a condition, we will make sure to use photographs/videos of children/adults where the faces are not visible (clicked either from the back, or the faces are blurred/masked), using pseudonyms and vague geographical locations, and by non-disclosure of personal information.
- ❖ Photographs/videos depicting children with disabilities, refugees and those in situations of conflict and disasters will be dealt with extra caution and care to accurately portray the context and maintain dignity.
- ❖ Any recorded photograph/video must primarily focus not on the subject but on the activity, and, where possible, feature groups of children/adults rather than an individual.
- ❖ The dignity of children from diverse backgrounds and cultures should be upheld while depicting them in photographs/videos. In countries where children wear few items of clothing, we will be particularly careful about the images we choose. Children should not be in poses thought to be sexual in any sense.
- ❖ Keeping in mind that children and families may see the communications in the future, we must share stories that reflect them positively. We will avoid gratuitous use of images of extreme suffering.
- ❖ When posting on social media sites using a smart phone, location services must be disabled by going into the settings and privacy options on the phone.
- ❖ Images and videos should not be edited in a way which misleadingly distorts the reality of the situation.
- ❖ All communications surrounding children, youth, families, CCIs, and stakeholders should abide by local laws. For example, in many countries it is prohibited to take pictures of state-run institutions.
- ❖ The photographs should avoid reinforcing any stereotypes and uphold the dignity of a child and those around them.

Partner organisations or individuals submitting their resources to IACN are requested to abide by the above guidelines in case of using any visuals in their reports or documentations. These guidelines will be applicable to all the communications (website, resources, newsletters, social media, broadcast, presentations, etc.) related to IACN.