

Get a gold medal
in reporting on children safely





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It's going to be great! Olympic fever will hit the globe. Children around the world will be inspired and families will bond over the celebrations

Make sure you don't put the children of Brazil at risk during your stay. Reporting on Brazil and the games should be just as inspiring as the sport, and leave no harm in its wake.

In order to 'Do no harm' please take a short moment to review the following advice for reporting from Brazil. Whether you are a journalist, filmmaker or photographer there is advice in here you need to know. Remember a child is any person under the age of 18.

Advice from the International Federation of Journalists

www.ifj.org

The International Federation of Journalists recommends that journalists and media organisations strive to maintain the **highest standards of ethical conduct** in reporting children's affairs and, in particular, they shall:

1. strive for standards of excellence in terms of accuracy and sensitivity when reporting on issues involving children
2. avoid programming and publication of images which intrude upon the media space of children with information which is damaging to them
3. avoid the use of stereotypes and sensational presentation to promote journalistic material involving children
4. consider carefully the consequences of publication of any material concerning children and minimise harm to children
5. guard against visually or otherwise identifying children unless it is demonstrably in the public interest
6. give children, where possible, the right of access to media to express their own opinions without inducement of any kind
7. ensure independent verification of information provided by children and take special care to ensure that verification takes place without putting child informants at risk
8. avoid the use of sexualised images of children
9. use fair, open and straightforward methods for obtaining pictures and, where possible, obtain them with the knowledge and consent of children or a responsible adult, guardian or carer
10. verify the credentials of any organisation purporting to speak for or to represent the interests of children
11. not make payment to children for material involving the welfare of children or to parents or guardians of children unless it is demonstrably in the interest of the child

Source: *Putting Children in the Right – Guidelines for Journalists*, published 2012 by International Federation of Journalists, elearning-events.dit.ie/unicef/html/unit2/2_1_9.htm

Personal conduct

Never:

- » Use language, make suggestions or offer advice that is **inappropriate, offensive or abusive**
- » Behave physically in a manner that is inappropriate or **sexually provocative**
- » Condone or participate in behaviour with children that is **illegal, unsafe or abusive**
- » Act in ways intended to **shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade** children or engage in any form of emotional abuse
- » Develop physical and/or **sexual relations** with children
- » Develop relationships with children that could in any way be deemed **exploitative or abusive**
- » Spend **time alone** with children away from others
- » **Fondle, hold, hug, kiss or touch** children in a culturally insensitive way
- » Offer children the chance to visit you
- » Arrange to **stay overnight** with a child or their family

Informed consent

A full explanation should be given to all interviewees both in advance of requesting their participation (where possible), and again at the time of interview.

Written and verbal explanation should include details of:

- **the project** and who you are
- **the process** – what will happen, where, who will be present
- **the outputs** – what will happen to the information disclosed by child respondents, how will this be recorded, kept, accessed, disseminated
- **safety and support** – the risks involved and your commitment to keep respondents safe and to assist them as far as possible/as required
- **consent** – based on the information provided, consent should be obtained

Where possible the child should be consulted before contacting parents/carers, to check if approaching them may cause difficulties. Should a child indicate for any reason that this would increase risks for him/her, then a judgement will need to be made on whether the child is capable of providing their own consent (based on age, maturity and capacity) and if it is reasonable to proceed on this basis.

Some children move into and are maintained in exploitative situations as a result of parental actions. Consenting to their children participating in research may be seen as a threat to these arrangements by parents/ carers and there is also the possibility that they may alert those who control child sex workers to the fact that children are participating, for instance, which could put children as well as you at risk.



Interviewing children checklist*

Abuse is based on an imbalance of power, and in an interview the media professional has far more power than the child.

NEVER:

- » ask questions which **put the child in danger** or expose him/her to possible humiliation
- » **force discussion** on subjects which are painful for the children when the child does not want to discuss these
- » **discriminate against** children when choosing who to interview
- » **label children** or describe them in a way that might attract a hostile response, particularly physical and psychological abuse, or discrimination or ostracism by their communities
- » **stage a story** or ask children to tell a story that they have not experienced
- » add to the **stigmatisation** of a child
- » **harm children** in any way
- » publish a story that could **endanger a child**, those around him/her or his/her community
- » be in contact with children on social networks for personal reasons
- » take a child's contact details (email address, address, telephone number) or give him/her yours

* Code of Conduct of the Child Safeguarding Policy for photographers and journalists
(não publicado) Terre des Hommes 2014



Film and Photography

In general, the following key points apply to everyone that might film or photograph children:

- » **Obtain consent** of the child and his/her parents or carers before taking photographs and images. Ensure that the children and their parents/carers **fully understand** why the photographs are being taken and how they will be used.*
 - » Take and use photographs and images of children that are **dignified and respectful** and that do not present them as victims, vulnerable or submissive
 - » Ensure children are **adequately dressed** in photographs and images and not in poses that could be interpreted as sexually suggestive
 - » Protect the safety and privacy of children and their families by **not using their images on the Internet without explicit consent**, or using them in any way that reveals their identity or location
 - » Use images that **tell a story** and that will enable the public to discuss the subject
- » **Change the name and disguise the appearance** of any child presented as:
 - a victim of sexual abuse or exploitation
 - a victim of trafficking or ill treatment
 - a perpetrator of sexual abuse or acts of physical violence
 - HIV-positive, living with AIDS or whose death was caused by AIDS, unless the child, a relative or a guardian has given his/her authorisation
 - accused, suspected or guilty of a crime
 - an armed child soldier or gang member
 - a former child soldier or gang member who is not holding a weapon but who could be in danger
 - » Try to take photos from a **child's height** and when they are not obviously aware of the presence of the camera
 - » Comply with **local traditions** and restrictions relating to pictures or find out about them from local teams
 - » Make sure the pictures are an **honest** representation of the situation and facts

* Where there are no parents or guardians i.e. street children, ensure the children fully understand the purpose of the photograph and if in doubt do not take their photograph.

Laws in Brazil

In Brazil, the Constitution decrees that the law must severely punish any abuse, violence, and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. According to the Brazilian Penal Code, it is a **crime to benefit or profit from the prostitution** of a third party, which is punished with up to four years in prison and a fine, and if the victim is older than fourteen and less than eighteen years of age, or if the perpetrator is the victim's ancestor, descendant, spouse, partner, sibling, tutor, guardian, or a person responsible for the minor's education, treatment, or custody, the punishment is increased to up to six years in prison and a fine. If **violence or a serious threat** is used, the punishment increases to up to eight years and a fine, plus the corresponding punishment for the violent act.

Additionally, giving an offspring under eighteen years of age to a person in whose company the parent knows, or should know, the minor is morally or materially in danger, is punished by up to two years in prison. If the parent **carries out the offense to obtain profit**, the punishment is increased to up to four years in prison.

In general terms, no child or adolescent should be the object of any form of negligence, discrimination, exploitation, violence, cruelty, or oppression, and any

attempt, by action or omission, to violate the fundamental rights of a child or adolescent must be punished according to the law.

The presentation, production, sale, supply, disclosure, or publication, by any means of communication, including the Internet, of **photographs or images of pornography** or sex scenes involving a child or an adolescent is punished with up to six years in prison and a fine.

Additionally, to subject a child or an adolescent to **prostitution or sexual exploitation** is punishable with up to ten years in prison and a fine. The same punishment is also applied to the owner, manager, or person **in charge of a location** at which a child or an adolescent is prostituted or sexually exploited. In Brazil, mandated reporting of child abuse only applies to certain professionals.

Reporting immediately

If you are faced with a child safeguarding issue, you must immediately report any concerns to the police. Dial 100.

Illustrations:

The illustrations on pages 5 and 8 are artworks submitted to the international cartoon contest "#DrawAttention to Human Rights around Mega Sporting Events" launched in the framework of the Children Win Campaign in April 2015

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Terre des Hommes International Federation



Keeping
Children
Safe

This pocket guide was produced in the framework of the Children Win campaign of Terre des Hommes www.childrenwin.org and @ChildrenWin

Terre des Hommes launched the Children Win campaign in February 2014 to ensure that leading sports bodies mitigate risks and enhance opportunities of Mega Sporting Events on children, both direct and indirect.

Keeping Children Safe is a dynamic and growing global network working to keep the world's most vulnerable children safe from abuse and exploitation.

www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk

For any communication: info@childrenwin.org or info@keepingchildrensafe.org.uk

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Download the full guide:

Child Safeguarding Guidance for Journalists
www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk or
www.terredeshommes.org or
www.childrenwin.org



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