

TEAM TALKING POINTS

Activity: Exploring your organisation's own consent-gathering practices

Using a cross-section of photos from your website and social media (we suggest using photograph and images from fundraising, news articles, programme reports and not just from one 'section' of your digital communications)

Note: This activity works best for photos from programmes in which the child's face is visible and a case study/case history is available, and not a stock photo (Please see Q&A section on stock photos) We would recommend using a cross section of case studies to encourage your team to consider as many contexts as possible.

- Who is this child?
- What is the setting/context of this picture?
- What programme are they part of?
- What year is this taken?
- Where is the consent form?
- In the event that this child contacted me to ask for this picture to be removed, how would I identify them and remove the image?
- Does the child know how to ask for the image to be removed?

Ask the team to read the case history of the child and their family. Ask the team to consider why they may have given full informed consent.

Some ideas you may want to explore...

- Knowledge of social media
- Have they seen the organisation's social media page so they understand how stories are being told
- Have posts been translated to them?
- Is the consent process done in their first language?
- Have they got any concerns about the process of photos being taken in community?

Activity: Removal of informed consent

We often talk about people being able to withdraw consent but what do we really need to do to achieve that?

Revisit the case studies from the exercise above. Discuss:

- What information would that child and their parent/carer need to know when their photo is taken to withdraw consent?
- What barriers face them to withdraw consent.

- What as an organisation can you do to reduce those barriers?

Share ideas as a whole team about changes that can be made in your consent process

Q&A

Where can I find guidance on putting together an informed consent process?

Please see the resource listed below to guide you in this process. Please feel free to share any exercises you have found helpful in approaching this topic on your own practice with us: overexposed@chanceforchildhood.org

Do I need an informed consent process if the photograph is non-identifiable ie. of the back of a child's head, featuring their hands, or in which identifiable aspects have been blurred?

At Chance for Childhood, we continue to go through the informed consent process even though you cannot identify a child in a photo. This is because the child and their parent/carer are actively engaging in the process of having their picture taken or sharing their story. They should play a part in deciding to be part of the process and be given all the information they need before they engage even if they can't be identified.

What about stock photos?

Charities may avoid using identifiable imagery of children from their programmes, and instead opt for stock imagery of children. You will likely recognise the same stock images of children you use in other charity websites and publications. Ownership, and the relationship and rights between photographer, subject and the law are complex and confusing: For example, in the UK, there is no law preventing people from taking photographs in public, which includes taking photos of other people's children - the subject of the photograph holds no rights or ownership over the photograph. This will differ per country, but meaningful and fully informed consent practices are **not** commonplace for photographers taking these photos, nor are they a requirement for upload to popular sites. Additionally, this practice can replicate and perpetuate the tired narrative of 'Africa as a country' when these stock images are not linked to the context or even country in which the image is illustrating.

In situations where there is an exchange of money directly to the photographer for these images, an additional layer of complexity and power is added.

Whilst we are not suggesting a solution here, we ask you to consider the issues stock images can bring when you discuss revising your practice with your team.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING POINTS

Facilitators Note:

This session is discussion based and is focused on centring child and young people's experiences, reflections and ideas. To do this, a safe space with trusted adults needs to be created – think about who will lead this session to ensure the children and/or young people feel as comfortable as possible.

There is more support about setting up sessions in our Introduction to the Resource Hub document here: <https://chanceforchildhood.org/starttheconversation/>

- *Do you understand how your photograph and/or story is used by organisations?*
- *How do you feel about the fact that strangers in other countries can see your picture or read your story?*
- *Do you understand why we take your pictures and write your stories? And how does it make you feel?*
- *What do you want to know about the photos that are taken of you?*

You may want to adapt these questions based on your own reflections of your organisations informed consent process.

When looking at answers, consider whether children and young people are aware of the risks of the digital world (more on this in Week 4 – risk!)