

Chab Dai | Media & Communications Policy



Chab Dai is a coalition of more than 50 Christian organizations working in Cambodia with victims and those vulnerable of being abused, exploited or trafficked. Our vision is to facilitate effective collaboration, and to empower & build the capacity of national staff and community leaders.

Chab Dai wants to raise the standard of care for children, women, & men who have already experienced abuse, as well as focus on preventing abuse within villages. We offer training in child protection to our member organizations, partners, orphanages, shelters, & schools. We also have three prevention projects focused on empowering community leaders, teachers, NGOs, pastors, & government officials to know about trafficking & abuse, and how to report cases.



Chab Dai Coalition

Christians Working Together to End Sexual Abuse and Trafficking

Introduction

Chab Dai believes that each person is created in the image of God, regardless of the life experiences they have previously encountered, and that they should be portrayed with **dignity** and **respect** in this regard. These guidelines are also reinforced by our commitment and adherence in the UNCRC, which promotes rights and respect for all children. <http://www.childrensrights.ie/index.php?q=childrens-rights-ireland/un-convention-rights-child>

We believe that media & communications has the ability to be used as a positive tool for advocacy, but can also be used to inflict a "second victimization" upon victims or survivors by re-enhancing their feelings of violation, shame, disorientation, & loss of control. The following minimum standards are outlined to ensure that human dignity and the right to personal privacy are **respected** when reporting stories or taking photos & videos of those with whom Chab Dai works, especially children.

Chab Dai believes that the best interests of the child are to be protected over any other consideration, including raising funds for children's projects, awareness raising & education, advocacy for children's issues, and the promotion of children's rights. We also believe that all individuals have the right to tell their *own* story. The stories & images of all individuals belong to *them* – not Chab Dai or its visitors.

Scope

This policy is for all Chab Dai staff, board members, volunteers, interns, & consultants, as well as all media representatives working with Chab Dai.

Related Chab Dai Policies & Guidelines

Please refer to the following documents for further background & context:

- Chab Dai's Child Protection Policy [June 2010]
- Chab Dai's Visitor Policy
- UNICEF's Principles for Ethical Reporting & Interviewing Children
- UNIAP's Guide to Ethics & Human Rights in Counter-Trafficking (Khmer/Eng)



Guidelines for Collecting Story & Photo Material

- **Ask for written consent.** Communication of any form (including but not limited to written, photos, or video) must NOT identify any child, even if those shown have not been sexually exploited, unless the child and guardian/caretaker give written consent with the understanding that people outside of those present will be viewing/ reading the material.
- **Give informed consent.** Children, parents, & other community members who become subjects of text, photo, and/or video resource gathering should be clearly explained the purposes and intentions for which all material will be used.
 - A thorough explanation of the widespread nature of the Internet, mass media, etc.
 - Written and/or oral translations for informed consent and/or written permission must be provided in the subject's native language
- **Explain usage.** At a minimum, the subject should understand that his or her story and/or photo will be known and seen by others outside their community, and possibly by those inside their community as well.
- **Be sensitive!** Keep in mind a person's vulnerability at times of trauma & grief, and always assess how a photo/story will impact on the rights, especially the safety, dignity, and well being of the person being portrayed.

Guidelines on Consent

- **Educate about widespread usage.** Chab Dai will take extra care to educate subjects about the proliferation of electronic media and that information may be reprinted on-line in multiple sources and even translated into other languages. Also, that people all over the world, including people from the subject's home country, may have access to the electronic information.
- **Consent should be time bound.** Distribution should be restricted because using images and stories for years is highly inappropriate knowing that the client's situation may have changed with time.
- **Permission to withdraw consent.** Subjects always have the recourse to withdraw permission, even after a story or photo is published.



Guidelines for Communications

- **All communications should respect human dignity.** Do not portray people as helpless victims. Balance human needs with positive language about human resilience and **hope**.
- **Do not re-exploit.** Publications, including fact sheets and annual reports, which portray vulnerable populations or victims of exploitation, will include only decent and respectful images & descriptions that do not seek to exploit their circumstances.
- **Create a complete picture.** All reporting should represent a complete picture of both internal & external assistance, and the partnerships that often result between local and international NGOs.
- **Avoid exaggeration.** All publications and the website will not contain exaggerated and/or sensationalized text and/or images, discriminatory and/or degrading language, or images in which children are inappropriately clothed.
- **Use accurate language.** Rape or assault is not “sex.” A pattern of abuse is not an “affair.” Women in prostitution who are not trafficked are not “willing victims.” Avoid language that suggests the interviewee is somehow to blame for the crime.
- **Do not mention names or places!** Do not disclose the name/s and/or specific geographic location of the subject.



Photo + Video Guidelines

- Chab Dai will take special care to protect the identity of children and their specific geographical location.
- **Guarantee anonymity.** The anonymity of the child must be guaranteed in order to protect the privacy, identity, and **dignity** of the child and his/her community. Accordingly:
 - **Obscure a child's identity.** Don't photograph/video a child's face, unless all identifying features are hidden or obscured so that the child is not identifiable, recognizable and/or traceable.
 - **Use natural censorship.** Concealing identity ideas: hair across the child's face; the child holding his/her hands over his/her face; an object obstructing the face; or the face being shadowed only or backlit with no front lighting
 - **Don't blur faces of black out eyes.** People can still be identified through this methodology and it is not dignifying.
 - **Do not take images of a sexualized nature.**
 - **Do not list names or specific places.** Ensure that nothing in the photograph (ie. background, environment, etc) or its caption or other description (ie. name of the child, parent, school, social circle, etc.) may lead to the identification, recognition, and/or tracing of the child.
 - **Be creative!** Take photographs of the back of the child's head and/or other body parts (ie. hands, feet, etc) provided that they do not include identifying features (ie. distinctive scarring, tattoos, etc.)
 - **Group shots are best!** Due to the threat of Internet child pornography, Chab Dai will only post pictures on its websites & in its publications that show groups of children, rather than an individual child.
- The final consideration of whether a photograph is "anonymous" will be made by Chab Dai, in its sole discretion.
- **See Chab Dai's 'Photography + Protecting Dignity' Guide** for more ideas about concealing identity.



Media Access Guidelines (for journalists, photographers, videographers)

- Media access to any child or community within Chab Dai's care, for the purpose of interviewing, photographing or filming, will only be granted if the subject agrees, and after careful consideration of the individual's best interest by Chab Dai staff.
- **Guidelines for GATHERING information.** To ensure media does not consciously or unconsciously cause distress to anyone, media will only be given access to children & communities within Chab Dai care if they agree to:
 - **Disclose all interview questions before.** All questions which will be asked of subject(s) must be given to Chab Dai before the interview takes place. Chab Dai staff have the right to modify or delete any questions they deem necessary.
 - **Stop if causing distress.** Halt interviewing, filming, or photographing at the request of the individual concerned or Chab Dai staff, if they feel the media activity is inappropriate or causing distress.
 - **Give opportunity for counseling after interview.** Subjects should receive information & details of whom they could consult or complain should they have concerns during or on completion of an interview.
- Media representatives should understand that many people who have been victims of exploitation prior to the interview or photo shoot, may have been filmed for pornography, and therefore may experience trauma when seeing a camera again.
- **Guidelines for DISRIBUTING information.**
 - **Provide Chab Dai copies first.** Media will provide Chab Dai with copies of the publication, broadcasts, and photographs after the visit, and BEFORE distribution.
- All journalists, photographers, videographers, and media representatives will agree to read + follow the ***Chab Dai's Media & Communications Policy*** in its entirety.



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Applicable Laws + Conventions

Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation (Cambodia, 2008)

Article 49

- Newspapers and all other mass media shall be prohibited from publishing or broadcasting or disseminating any information which can lead to public knowledge of identities of victims in the offenses [human trafficking and/or sexual exploitation] stipulated in this law.

Regime of the Press (Cambodia, 1 Sept 1995)

Article 15

- Unless there is permission from the court, the press may NOT publish information, photographs or drawings that may make it possible for the readers to identify and know the name of:
 - parties in any civil suit involving paternity, marriage, divorce or child custody;
 - youth under the age of 18 in any civil or criminal suit; or
 - a woman who is a victim of molestation or rape.
- If concerned person or custodian has agreed in writing, the press may publish this information, except only when such publication may effect the investigation of the court.
- Any individual whose rights under this Article are violated by the press, may file a civil action in court for damages.

Prakas on Minimum Standards on Residential Care for Children (Cambodia, 2006)

Article 9

- Special attention is taken to protect children's identities, their location or any other information that could identify them.
- In all circumstances, communication about and disclosure of child victims' information shall **respect** and protect the best interest of the child and make it clear that child abuse is wrong, and the child shall not be presented as a victim except when it is in the best interest of the child and the child allows to do so.

UNCRC (1991)

Article 16

- Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their life, their good name, their families, and their homes.



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References

Behavioral Media Protocol, (Hagar, 2009).

Child Protection Policy, (CaterHelp, 2009).

Child Protection Policy, (Love146).

Code of Conduct on Images & Messages (Dochas, 2006).

Collaborating with the Media: Guidelines for Social and Legal Service Providers Working with Survivors of Human Trafficking (Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program, 2008).

European Code of Conduct for Photographing Children (Liason Committee of Development NGOs to the European Union on 1 Apr 1989).

Factsheets: Crime Victims Rights in the News Media (New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, 1997).

Guidelines for Taking Photographs of Cambodian Children in Vulnerable Situations (IOM, 2009).

Hagar Cambodia: Communications Policy (2010 Draft)

Press for Change: A Guide for Journalists Reporting on the Prostitution and Trafficking of Women (Julie Bindel, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women).

Standards for Gathering Story & Photo Resources, (World Vision, 2004).

UNICEF's Principles for Ethical Reporting and Interviewing Children

Victims of Human Trafficking or Victims of Research? Ethical Considerations in Research with Females Trafficked for the Purposes of Sexual Exploitation by Deborah L. Harrison (2006).