WHO Photography Expectations

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PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Photographs represent the WHO to the public. Photos must be of the highest technical and artistic quality, include all information needed to explain the public health message behind the photo and make it accessible in the database and appropriately depict the public health issue at hand.

- People centered photos are the most helpful photos for public health advocacy
- Photos depicting the solution to problems are also particularly helpful for health advocacy
- Digital images are most useful, preferably in jpeg format
- Images should be of high resolution (at least 300 dpi at A4 size)
- As much as possible images should be in focus, good composition, showing people’s faces
- Captions must include: photographer’s name, date of photo, location including nation, city and building (if building known, ex. Country WHO office), people’s names, description of WHO activities, reason for the photo shoot as a whole and information specific to the individual photo. This information will be used for cataloguing the photos in a useful format.
- Captions/information for captions should preferably be imbedded in the photo by IPTC. If unable to imbed the information a Word document with the information is acceptable.
- Consent forms should be filled out and accompany the photos in transfer

1 Revised by MCA July 2013
ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Taking Photographs for WHO

Photographs taken should respect human dignity and ensure the rights, safety and well-being of the person or people being portrayed.

- Consent forms should be filled out and accompany the photos
- Individuals should always be photographed with respect and compassion
- Comply with local traditions or restrictions in taking or reproducing images
- Inquire into national laws related to photography and privacy rights
- Gain appropriate verbal or written consent before taking photographs
- Respect a person’s right to refuse to be photographed
- If you sense any reluctance or confusion, refrain from taking the photo
- Accept no payments or other form of compensation in exchange for participation or consent

The value of the photograph should always be weighed against the regard for the photographic subject’s privacy, reputation and integrity
- Do not use photos of nationals from one country to denote nationals from another country
- Collect complete caption and crediting information (date, specific location, description of subject(s), what are they doing, WHO programme, names)

Photographing Children and Adolescents

All efforts should be made to cover children in an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive manner. Standards for children adapted from UNICEF’s guidelines and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- The best interest of the child must always be paramount, including over advocacy for children’s issues and the promotion of child rights
- Before photographing or filming a child or adolescent, obtain consent from the child or a parent or guardian as appropriate per social, cultural context and child’s age
- Before photographing or filming a child/adolescent, the child should have the purpose of the photo/film and how the photograph or film will be used explained and children must participate as able in decisions affecting them
- Children/adolescents should always be adequately clothed and not in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive
- Do not publish an image which might put a child, sibling or peer at risk even when identities are changed, obscured or not used
- Pay attention to where and how the child is photographed. Ensure the child’s comfort and consider the effects of surroundings on the child during the photo and after its publication
- Consider changing the name and obscuring the image of current or former child combatants, asylum seekers, refugees or internally displaced persons
Consent

Obtaining Consent:
Obtaining verbal consent is always encouraged. Whenever possible, establish a relationship before taking photographs.

Informed Consent:
Reasonable attempts should always be made to obtain informed consent of the individuals portrayed. Consent includes ensuring the individual understands the implications, purpose and potential use of the photograph. The aim with consent is to do your best to ensure respect for the individual’s autonomy and privacy and to avoid harming the individual through inappropriate publication of their image or their story. Consent is voluntary and can be revoked at any time.

Written consent:
Written consent is required for every individual photographed if:
- Private or personal information is revealed in the photograph or accompanying caption or story. In particular: health status, health behavior or activities, employment, personal history, status as a survivor or perpetrator of gender-based violence
- Individuals or small groups in clinical or educational settings
- Survivors of sexual abuse, exploitation or gender-based violence
- Persons engaged in politically sensitive or socially marginalized activities
- Persons in private settings i.e. in areas or undertaking activities which they could reasonably expect to be private
- Photographs of individuals in the context of culturally sensitive, politically sensitive, taboo or high-stigma issues
- If individuals may be put at risk of reprisal, violence or rejection in their communities as a result of exposing their identity
- Whenever the photograph or accompanying story clearly identifies and provides substantial information about a particular individual

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Copyright & Ownership of Photographs
Photographers of winning images will attribute non-exclusive rights to the WHO for use in its publications and web site. WHO will not sell these photographs nor will it financially gain from trading these photographs.

By submitting a photograph for entry in the competition, the photographer acknowledges that he/she took the photograph and is its rightful owner, and that the photograph has not been previously published in any other medium.

The photographer also certifies that the photograph does not infringe upon the rights of any third party and that it does not violate any copyright.
The name of the person submitting the photograph will be identified along with the photograph when placed on the WHO GOe and the U21 web sites or in widely disseminated material, thereby giving appropriate credit to the photographer.

By submitting an entry, the contestant grants the World Health Organization non-exclusive rights to use the submitted photograph(s). This includes, but is not limited to, publishing the photograph(s) in print or electronic form for use in promotional and/or display purposes, catalogues, exhibitions, the media, electronic image libraries, and public websites without further compensation. The photographer will be credited.

The contestant certifies that the photograph(s) submitted to this contest are original works created and owned by him or herself, and have not been copied or reproduced from any third party source. Furthermore the contestant certifies that he/she has obtained from any identifiable people in the photographs submitted, permission to use their pictures for the uses described above.

For questions, please contact: Chris Black <blackc@who.int>

The draft document from April 2013 is a document adapted from the guidelines developed by AusAID, UNICEF, UNAID and John Hopkins School of Health. This version is adapted by MCA dept, WHO HQ in July 2013.