

RESOURCE HUB GUIDE

Chance for Childhood have been on a long journey to get to this point. We do not intend to position ourselves as experts, nor do we want to criticise your approach. We want to start a conversation, and we understand what works for us might not work for your organisation at this point.

We know that talking about the way you use images and tell stories can be challenging within your teams. We have created these resources to support conversations and actions within your organisations, designed around each individual campaign pledge.

Please feel to reach out to us at overexposed@chanceforchildhood.org during the process or if you have any questions.

Talking Points

On each pledge, we have included talking points to help guide you in this conversation both within your team, and for practitioners to include and centre children and young people in this discussion. We will be adding to these exercises as the campaign develops. Please feel free to share any exercises you have found helpful in approaching this topic in your own practice with us: overexposed@chanceforchildhood.org

Team Talking Points

These are designed as conversations or 'session plans' for you to approach this topic with your team and adapt as you see fit. It might be that you haven't thought about this before as an organisation, or that you are further along in your thinking and want to improve your current practice.

Adapting these sessions is also important depending on your existing standpoint: Do you create your own content? Do you position yourself as a child-rights organisation, a child-centred organisation, or neither? Are you a grant-making organisation, or grant receiving organisation, or both? Do you set the tone for communications, or do you respond to a contractual obligation about this tone?

There also maybe conflicting ideas and priorities within the team, and these are heightened by legitimate concerns about resourcing. Where possible, we have indicated activities or talking points that are suitable for each level to help you navigate this. It is important to gain as much team 'buy in' as possible as you commit to these pledges.

We understand that there may be existing tensions and priorities between 'departments' on how best to approach responsible portrayal. As such, we encourage you to take a values and ethics approach to this conversation: The values and ethics

that ground your programming should not be separate to other departments such as advocacy, marketing, and fundraising teams. We also encourage you to have this conversation with Trustees, particularly those from outside the sector.

Children/Young People Points

These talking points and activities are designed for practitioners to have conversations directly, where appropriate, with the children and young people that your organisation supports directly or through partners and for the content of these pledges. We recommend that these activity ideas and talking points are adapted by your team to ensure they are accessible and appropriate to the context you are working in, including the ages and literacy needs of the children you work with.

As a child-centred organisation, Chance for Childhood believe it is vital to not only include children and young people in these conversations but to centre their voices and opinions. After all, it is their stories, and not ours, we are telling and their lives, not ours, we are representing: Shouldn't they have a say in how we do that?

These sessions should be led by the adults that children and young people know and trust. These adults should create a safe space for children and young people to be honest about their experiences and thoughts. Children and young people can use drawing, role plays or other creative methods to explore their feelings and/or opinions on subjects you are exploring. If the group is large enough and you have enough time, they can do a few different methods.

It is important to note that any of the above methods, when designed to 'storytell' can bring up previous situations that may have been traumatic for the children and young people you work with. It is vital that you are aware of your group dynamic and any trigger points for certain individuals. We cover more on trauma-informed approaches in our 4th Pledge 'I will actively ensure that no child is put at risk by the way I share their story online'

Below are eight things to ensure before you start conversations with children and young people, as adapted from Tdh (2018), Child Protection Good Practice Framework:

1. Participation is safe
2. Participation is voluntary
3. Children are informed about the purpose of their participation in discussions
4. The discussions with children are meaningful and necessary
5. Participation is inclusive and non-discriminatory
6. Participation is developmentally appropriate, gender sensitive and culturally relevant

7. Participation is ensured by professionals having the required competencies
8. In all situations, the best interest of children is the paramount consideration

Resources

During our organisational journey to get to this point, we have pulled on lots of existing resources and organisations and want to make sure they are all in one place for organisations going on similar journeys. On external links, we have aimed to not recreate the advice and resources already available to better practice, and we welcome any additional resources and learning materials you may recommend. As before, please get in touch with us on overexposed@chanceforchildhood.org with any recommendations.

Before you start these conversations, we suggest reading the below three key guides:

- **Dignified Storytelling Handbook** (2022) Available here:
<https://dignifiedstorytelling.com/handbook/>
- **Bond** (2019) 'Putting the People in the Picture First: 'Ethical Guidelines for Collection and Use of Content' Available here:
<https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/bond-ethical-guidelines-for-collection-and-use-of-content.pdf>
- **DOCHAS** (2014) Illustrated guide to the DOCHAS Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. Available here:
https://www.dochas.ie/assets/Files/Illustrative_Guide_to_the_Dochas_Code_of_Conduct_on_Images_and_Messages.pdf