MURAD CODE RIGHTS TOOL FOR SURVIVORS

# 10 important things to remember

## before, during and after an in-person interview

MURAD CODE PROJECT
IICI Institute for International Criminal Investigations
In partnership with Canada

## This tool addresses survivors of systematic and conflict-related sexual violence and of other crimes.

It was requested by and co-created with survivors of sexual violence and is based on the Murad Code.

The Murad Code is a global code of conduct that every interviewer should know and respect.

If someone who wants to interview you has not heard of the Code, you can ask them to read it online and say that you expect them to follow the Code to ensure they are respectful and uphold your rights.

This tool helps you understand your rights before, during and after an in-person interview about your experiences with anyone who asks you for your information.

Sometimes, officials such as the police, prosecutors or judges have the legal power to make you speak with them.

However, even in these cases, you can ask them to respect the Murad Code's minimum standards for your and their benefit.

**www.muradcode.com**

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# 1) You can say no to the interview



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- Saying no to an interview should not cause you any trouble.
- Don’t let anyone pressure you to give an interview. You don’t have to explain your reasons for saying no.
- You do not have an obligation to your community, country or anyone else to share your story.

# 2) Take your time to decide



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- You can say that you want to think about the request for an interview and indicate when you want the interview to happen.
- Ask any questions, anytime until you fully understand why, how and for what purposes your information will be used. Ask with whom they may want to share your information, and what that would mean for you.
- If relevant, you can ask whether the interviewer has familiarised themselves with information that you have already shared with other people who asked for your story.
- You should ask about what do to and whom to contact if, after the interview, you change your mind about having agreed to do the interview.

# 3) You can change your mind at any time



IF YOU DECIDE TO DO THE INTERVIEW – REMEMBER

# 3) You can change your mind at any time

- You can ask the interviewer to sign a commitment that they will act with integrity, respect your wishes and follow the Murad Code.
- Even if you agree before, you can change your mind at any moment—before or during the interview.
- If you change your mind right after the interview, you can tell the interviewer you don't want your story to be used, and they should respect that. In some circumstances it might be too late as your information may have already been shared or published.

# 4) You can choose where, when, and with whom it takes place



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- You can ask who will be in the room and if the interviewer will use an interpreter. If you are not comfortable with the interpreter or anyone else who the interviewer may like to be present, you can ask that they be replaced by someone else.
- You should be able to bring someone you trust with you to the interview.
- You can ask if someone who can support you emotionally or who you may otherwise need can be present during the interview

# 5) Think of a way to stop the interview if you feel uncomfortable



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- If anything makes you feel uncomfortable, or if you feel too tired, you can decide to stop and leave or ask them to leave.
- If you don't feel free to stop an interview or feel pressured to continue, you can say that you need to stop for health or well-being reasons.
- Sometimes having a support person with you can help as they can stop an interview for you, based on a pre-arranged signal from you.

# 6) Your story belongs to you. Share what you want, in your own words

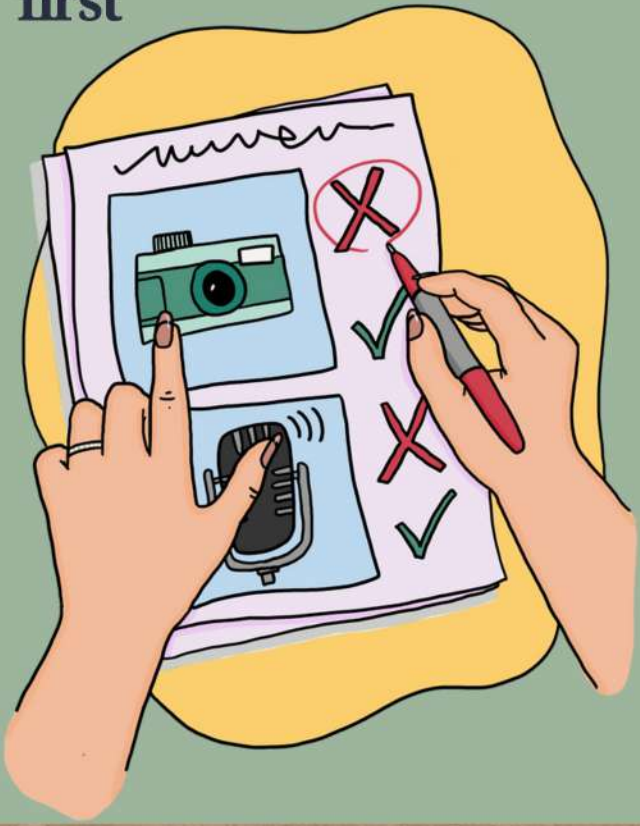


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## 6) Your story belongs to you. Share what you want, in your own words

- Before beginning, you can tell the interviewer if there are details you don't want to talk about.
- You can decide how to tell your story and how long the interview should be. Don't let anyone rush you or exhaust you.
- You do not have to respond to any questions you don't want to answer.
- It's perfectly normal not to remember everything and it is okay to say so.

# 7) Safety and confidentiality come first



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- If they ask you to sign any document, or if you ask to sign a document, make sure that you fully understand what it says. You can ask for a copy if you want and if it is safe for you to have a copy.
- You can say no to photos, videos or sound recordings being taken.
- Think carefully about allowing them to use your real name and identity. For example, you may have decided not to tell members of your family, including your children.
- Think about what might happen if information is published, shared by accident, or leaked. Information published on the internet can be impossible to remove.

# 8) Costs and support



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- You should not have to pay for your transport or childcare. Your expenses should be covered.
- You can ask the interviewer which medical, legal, livelihood or emotional support services you can access. They should help you get in touch with them if you want that.

# 9) Ask about how your information will be kept and shared



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- You should ask how the interviewer will safely store all your information, including - if you had agreed to it - any photos and recordings, for as long as may be necessary.
- You should ask them to commit that they will not share your information with anyone else unless you clearly agree.
- You should ask whether your information can be deleted or removed, and how to request it to be deleted.

# 10) Review and right to be informed



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- You should ask to see what the interviewer wrote, filmed or audio-recorded about you and change it if you want to.
- You should be kept informed about what happens next with your information and if not, it you can ask.

# Remember : You are in charge.

Your information about what happened to you belongs to you – it is your story and you can decide whether or not to share it, and how you wish to share it. You can stop at any time. Your safety and comfort come first.