

# Guidelines for representatives of the press when dealing with survivors of right-wing violence

This guide is aimed at journalists and media professionals who report on right-wing violence. Insensitive reporting can re-traumatise those affected and make their situation worse. Sensitive reporting, on the other hand, can help those affected to process the experience, create recognition and mobilise support. You can also contact the Neue Deutschen Medienmacher\*innen (New Media Makers), who support media professionals in discrimination-sensitive media work.

The following points are based on the brochure VBRG Guide for Relatives. (VBRG: Association of Counseling Centers for Survivors of Right-wing, Racist and Antisemitic Violence in Germany). We would like to point out that these instructions can of course be adapted for your own use according to your needs or different circumstances and are only intended to provide assistance or food for thought.

- Bear in mind that media reports can be an additional burden for those affected.
- First look for press contacts or publicly available contacts (e.g. the campaign groups) before contacting those affected directly.
- Find out all relevant information about the case in advance, the interviewee's point of view and the correct pronunciation of names to avoid misunderstandings and redundant questions.
- Reflect on power differences, i.e. asymmetrical relationships between journalists and those affected, for example in terms of social position, experience with media or trauma experiences, and adapt your project and methods accordingly.
- Send your questions to the person concerned and their supporters in advance so that they can prepare themselves mentally.
- Make it clear that the public visualisation of the traumatic experiences of the person concerned can also be anonymised.
- Do not share sensitive data of the data subjects with third parties unless the data subjects expressly consent to this.
- Respect the wishes of the person concerned to be accompanied by a support person.
- Be flexible in scheduling and take into account the needs of the person concerned.
- Clarify in advance whether the conversation may be recorded and let the person concerned choose the location.
- Inform the person concerned if other people, e.g. photographers, are to take part in the interview.
- Do not pressurise the person concerned to talk about details of the crime if it is upsetting for them.
- Give the person concerned the option of not answering questions or pausing the conversation at any time.
- Send the finished article to the person concerned or their support group so that they can approve it.
- Ensure that all materials and conversations are in a language that they can understand, with qualified translation if necessary.
- If the person concerned wants to break off the conversation, accept this without pressurising them.
- Do not name the perpetrators.
- Listen to the stories of those affected.
- Ask about the needs of the person concerned and the desired framework conditions in advance.