

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

Rahab welcomes the important role the media plays in raising social awareness and influencing change, and regularly receives interest from media professionals who want to make a difference by giving an opportunity for the women's stories to be heard. We will work with those who are committed to:

- Humane and intelligent reporting;
- Challenging stereotypes / not using clichés or labeling;
- Sensitive and respectful coverage;
- Respecting a code of ethics;
- Cooperation;
- Authenticity and accuracy.

### **Interviewing the women**

Recounting their story to a stranger can be a very difficult experience for the women, and rarely do they agree to communicate with the media, especially if there is a history of exploitation, abuse, violence or shame.

If a woman is willing to take part in an interview, we will support her by ensuring the experience is safe, healthy and empowering, and therefore ask journalists to agree to

- Discretion and consideration i.e. 'getting the story' is not more important than the individual.
- Being mindful of the need for confidentiality/anonymity e.g. use of voice overs and back of head shots, not using real names and/or photographs that can identify the women or Rahab staff and volunteers without permission.
- Questions to be agreed in advance to ensure the interview process meets ethical standards and avoids potential risks of re-traumatisation,
- Interviews to be conducted in locations where the women feel safe, and interpreters used where needed.
- Provide a female interviewer and where possible a female crew.
- The woman should be allowed someone present to support her if she wishes.
- Be clear when and where the information will be used and confirm that the woman understands and agrees to this.
- Use a pre-record and agree to delete answers that the woman might want to take back and re-record a different response.
- Not introducing new questions during the interview.
- If the woman doesn't want to answer a question, taking her 'no' as a 'no' and not pushing her on the subject.
- If the woman provides her real name, replacing this with an agreed pseudonym or not using a name at all unless permission has been granted.
- If accompanying Rahab staff or volunteers on visits, to have been fully briefed by the team in advance and agree to follow Rahab's policies and procedures.

Thank you for your understanding.

**Contact** [mediaenquiries@rahabuk.com](mailto:mediaenquiries@rahabuk.com)

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