

Policy of the Field Hearings Global Steering Committee on Media Coverage of Field Hearings

We are extremely pleased to receive the attention of journalists and other media representatives, because it helps the *Equity & Sustainability Field Hearings* accomplish our goal of giving a voice to those who generally remain unheard. The Field Hearings are designed to provide a safe and effective platform for community members to express their thoughts on the topics addressed in the current Questionnaire, as modified by local partners. Therefore, it is essential that all community members who participate in the Field Hearings are individually protected from any unwanted attention or publicity, so that they are free to express their views without any harmful social, economic or political repercussions.

In order to ensure these protections, we require the following:

- (1) All media representatives (“reporters”) must receive permission from the applicable local Partner conducting the Field Hearing, as well as the Regional Coordinator (or Global Coordinator if there is not Regional Coordinator) before attending a Field Hearing.
- (2) Any reporter present at a Field Hearing must receive positive permission from each individual before that particular individual may be photographed. If individuals who did not give permission do appear in any photos or videos, even as background, they must be edited out before the photography is used in any media application.
- (3) No article, story, film, or book section concerning a Field Hearing may give the name, or any combination of personal details (age, gender, occupation, etc.), sufficient to identify particular individuals who participated in the Field Hearing. This is true regardless of the source of the story – whether it comes from a reporter, a Field Hearings Partner, or a community member participant in a Field Hearing.
- (4) Notwithstanding the above, if a reporter establishes a separate relationship with one or more community members who participated in a Field Hearing, those individuals are, of course, free to speak with the reporter after the Field Hearing, and may give their name if they wish. This does not mean that the reporter may ask those individuals to name other individuals who did not give their permission.

Adopted by a full vote of the Steering Committee – October 2013.

For permission to report on a Field Hearing under these terms, please contact the Global Coordinator at deborah.rogers@initiativeforequality.org in order to receive contact information for the relevant Regional Coordinator and Field Hearing Partner.