

Managing Media Interests



We understand that this is an extremely difficult time to be speaking about your experiences in the public domain. Unfortunately, given the sensitive nature of this topic journalists may still publish articles in the absence of your comments. The aim of these guidelines is to provide clarity on how to effectively deal with press enquiries in the hope that families can reclaim autonomy over their stories and minimize overall distress. It is simply a guide for you at a time when press pressures may cloud clarity in thinking and in making judgements.

- **You may find it helpful to have a trusted person who is not directly connected to your story to act as a mediator between you and the press. This may include taking calls or speaking directly to the media.**
- **You do not have to make a comment straight away. Families may need some time to gather their thoughts before they face a public audience. You could consider nominating a trusted person to speak on your behalf or releasing a written statement.**
- **When engaging with the press always request the journalists name and which publication or agency they represent; take a business card for future reference.**
- **You do not have to be forced into making any comments on the phone. You can take down the details of the journalist and ask to speak to them later or you can choose to ask them to e-mail you the relevant questions. The latter allows you to make a considered response in the privacy of your own home and without additional stresses and pressures.**
- **You can be selective about which publications you choose to engage with. This can be based on your personal preferences and instinct on who you trust.**
- **Request to see a copy of the article before it is published to give you the opportunity to make any changes.**
- **Remember that if the article fails to convey your comments accurately, you can choose to put out a statement or correction on your social media accounts or through a web-site that you may have access to.**
- **You can temporarily privatize or deactivate any social media accounts connected to the family to protect against in depth scrutiny of your past and general online harassment.**
- **Some people may find speaking out about their traumatic experiences a powerful part of the recovery process. Your story can help by raising awareness and advocating for change in countering violent extremism.**
- **Last but not least, remember, you do not have to be pressured into a response.**

For more information and advice on dealing with the press or to submit a complaint, please see the Independent Press Standards Organization (IPSO) website <https://www.ipso.co.uk/> or search for the individual publications Editorial Guidelines.