

## 1.15 Guiding principles

### Objective:

To review and deepen understanding of the survivor-centred principles.

### Time:

30 minutes

### Resources required:

Printouts of the statements or powerpoint of the statements.

Scissors (to cut each statement individually)

Flip chart or board (optional)

Tape or sticky tack (optional)

### Prepare:

Read and review beforehand to adapt based on the local context and culture and add any additional relevant, appropriate statements. Print out the following statements and cut into individual statements.

### Facilitators instructions

Ask participants to tape or place the statements into one of two columns on a flip chart or board: "Do" or "do not", "true" or "false", "correct" or "incorrect".

At the end, read together as a group and correct any incorrect answers or misunderstandings.

*Or*

Ask participants to come to the front of the group, read their statement, place in one of two columns on a flip chart or board: "Do" or "do not", "true" or "false", "correct" or "incorrect" and explain why. Correct any incorrect answers or misunderstandings.

*Or*

Make a sign and tape "Agree/True" or "Disagree/False", read out the statements from the printout or powerpoint and ask the participants to stand on either side of the tape or string close to the sign "Agree/True" or "Disagree/False". After each statement ask participants from either side why they chose that side, what their belief or opinion is, and facilitate a discussion about each statement. Summarize the key points and provide the correct answer. However, facilitating the activity this way will take longer and may not allow time to get through all statements.

### Statements:

Tell a survivor that sexual violence is their fault and they are to blame.

A woman went out late at night to the bar, she wore very revealing clothes and got very drunk. She was raped by a man she met at the bar. Tell her that she was irresponsible and made bad decisions.

Do not judge a survivor for anything that they did before, during or after the sexual violence.

If a patient chooses not to take HIV PEP, tell them that they have made the wrong decision, and try to convince them to change their mind.

A woman has sex with her neighbor in exchange for food. You do not judge her; you understand that she was forced to have sex because of poverty.

Ask a survivor “Why did you go collect firewood alone?”

Show understanding, empathy and compassion.

Ask “why” questions.

Tell a young girl that she should not have gone to her teacher’s house, it is her fault for being raped by him.

A 14 year old does not want her parents to know what happened to her because she is afraid they will harm her. You maintain her privacy.

If the community leader asks for the results of a pregnancy test, we must provide them.

A health worker can keep general anonymous statistics about the number of survivors that consulted after sexual violence, without asking the survivors for their consent.

Your organization wants to make sure more perpetrators of sexual violence are arrested to prevent more women being harmed. You share a copy of the medical certificate with the police for every survivor who comes.

A husband comes to you asking the HIV status of his wife. His wife was raped by a stranger and he is concerned he will get HIV. You do not tell him his wife’s HIV status.

A health care provider can ask a close family member of a survivor to take care of her without informing the survivor.

A cleaner overhears a health care worker talking to a survivor about her sexual assault. The cleaner recognizes her... and decides he had better tell a few people from their neighborhood so that the community can offer her support.

Provide medical and psychosocial care to all survivors of sexual violence, it does not matter what ethnic group or religion they belong to.

An adult man comes and asks to see the midwife after sexual violence. You tell him he cannot come, this is a place for women and girls only.

A refugee without registration papers comes to you and tells you they have been raped. You say “Welcome. We provide health care to anyone regardless of ethnicity, religious or registration. Do not worry, you do not need registration and all health care is free. Come in.”

A sex worker comes and tells you that she has been raped. You tell her “We are here to help people in need, to help real victims of rape, we are not a service for immoral women. We cannot help you.”

A counsellor needs to ask the permission of a survivor when she/he wants to talk about her to a colleague.

Tell a survivor of rape that it is best for her to marry her perpetrator, it is her only chance for marriage and to live without stigma, shame, dishonor and scandal.

A student tells a teacher that she experienced sexual abuse from her uncle. The teacher tells her that she must talk to a counselor, the teacher tells her that she has to go to the counsellor.

Explain to a parent why you cannot force a child to do a genital examination.

It is better not to tell a survivor about the possibility to report to the police if she is too upset.

Empower a survivor to make decisions about her medical care.

Tell a survivor that if she does not tell you the whole story, you cannot help her.

Tell a survivor that they can stop the genital examination at any time.

Tell a survivor that they must take the STI prophylaxis, they were raped and they are at risk of STIs.

Encourage the survivor to ask questions throughout their medical care.

You are busy. It takes too long to explain the reasons to take ECP, just tell a survivor that it is best for her and she should take it. This will save time.

A survivor can decide to only get medical treatment from a nurse, without doing a medical examination or having to tell her full story.

Give advice or opinions, survivors are often overwhelmed and don't know what to do.

**Answers:**

	Do	Do not
Respect and compassion	Tell a survivor that sexual violence is not their fault and they are not to blame.	A woman went out late at night to the bar, she wore very revealing clothes and

		got very drunk. She was raped by a man she met at the bar. Tell her that she was irresponsible and made bad decisions.
	Health care providers should not judge a survivor for anything that they did before, during or after the sexual violence.	If a patient chooses not to take HIV PEP, tell them that they have made the wrong decision, and try to convince them to change their mind.
	A woman has sex with her neighbor in exchange for food. You do not judge her, you understand that she was forced to have sex because of poverty.	Ask a survivor "Why did you go collect firewood alone?"
	Show understanding, empathy and compassion.	Ask "why" questions.
		Tell a young girl that she should not have gone to her teachers house, it is her fault for being raped by him.
Privacy and confidentiality	A 14 year old does not want her parents to know what happened to her because she is afraid they will harm her. You maintain her privacy.	If the high committee asks for the results of a pregnancy test, we must provide them to the high committee.
	A health worker can keep general anonymous statistics about the number of survivors that consulted after sexual violence, without asking the survivors for their consent.	Your organization wants to make sure more perpetrators of sexual violence are arrested to prevent more women being harmed. You share a copy of the medical certificate with the police for every survivor who comes.
	A husband comes to you asking the HIV status of his wife. His wife was raped by a stranger and he is concerned he will get HIV. You do not tell him his wives HIV status.	A health care provider can ask a close family member of a survivor to take care of her without informing the survivor.
		A cleaner overhears a health care worker talking to a survivor about her sexual assault. The cleaner recognizes her... and decides he had better tell a few people from their neighborhood so that the community can offer her support.
Non-discrimination	Provide medical and psychosocial care to all survivors of sexual violence, it does not matter what ethnic group or religion they belong to.	An adult man comes and asks to see the yellow flower midwife. You tell him he cannot come, this is a place for women and girls only.
	A refugee without registration papers comes to you and tells you they have been raped. You say "Welcome. We provide health care to anyone regardless of ethnicity, religious or registration. Do not worry, you do not need registration and all health care is free. Come in."	A sex worker comes and tells you that she has been raped. You tell her "We are here to help people in need, to help real victims of rape, we are not a service for immoral women. We cannot help you."

Informed consent	A counsellor needs to ask the permission of a survivor when she/he wants to talk about her to a colleague.	A student tells a teacher that she experienced sexual abuse from her uncle. The teacher tells her that she should talk to a counselor.
	Explain to a parent why you cannot force a child to do a genital examination.	It is better not to tell a survivor about the possibility to report to the police if she is too upset.
	Empower a survivor to make decisions about her medical care.	Tell a survivor that if she does not tell you the whole story, you cannot help her.
	Tell a survivor that they can stop the genital examination at any time.	Tell a survivor that they must take the STI prophylaxis, they were raped and they are at risk of STIs.
	Encourage the survivor to ask questions throughout their medical care.	You are busy. It takes too long to explain the reasons to take ECP, just tell a survivor that it is best for her and she should take it. This will save time.
	A survivor can decide to only get medical treatment from a nurse, without doing a medical examination or having to tell her full story.	Giving advice or opinions, survivors are often overwhelmed and don't know what to do.
		Tell a survivor of rape that it is best for her to marry her perpetrator, it is her only chance for marriage and to live without stigma, shame, dishonor and scandal.

*Adapted from MSF OCA 2019 Field training curriculum for sexual violence and intimate partner violence*