
DECISION-MAKING MATRIX: PROMOTING AUTONOMY AND AGENCY



The answer to the following questions should be “yes”.

Making editorial decisions before a story is gathered:

- Are we preparing a process that actively facilitates story ideas and development from the people and communities we work with?
- Have we considered the motivations of each team member, and created a working environment in which the agency and autonomy of girls and young women is prioritised?
- Am I/are we the best person/people to be gathering this story and is there nobody else who may be better placed to do this based on the intersection of who they are and who they work with?
- When we want to talk about a specific issue, have we asked our Girls and Young Women Communications Advisory Group, personnel based in that context or equivalent what is important to understand about this situation from their point of view?
- Have we researched the relevant regional information needed to run a content gathering process that considers cultural sensitivities and is in line with the guidance on the production of communications materials on [p. 43 of our guidelines for ethical communications around child marriage](#).
- Have we researched the potential risk involved in creating a story about this issue for the people involved, and planned how to protect them (for example hiding identities)?
- Have we left sufficient flexibility and time to ask our contributor(s) what story they wish to share, and – if they wish to tell a different story, and we agree it is appropriate for our purposes – change our plans?
- Where possible, have questions been shared in advance for contributors to review?
- When sourcing stories, have we asked for volunteers rather than selecting contributors ourselves?
- When sourcing stories, have we asked contributors if they would rather share their stories as a group or individually?

Selecting or creating content after collection:

- Have the contributor’s wishes about what or how a story is portrayed – as communicated during content collection – been considered in the creation of content?
- Has the contributor been shown the content and consulted for sign-off on the content created, and have amends been made based on their input?

Full guidance and other tools are available in our [Guidelines for ethical communications around child marriage](#)