

TIP SHEET



SEE IT
FILM IT
CHANGE IT

VIDEO DOCUMENTATION:

ELECTIONS & HUMAN RIGHTS

FILMING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE DANGEROUS: BE SAFE. BE ETHICAL. BE EFFECTIVE.

DOCUMENTING DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL RALLIES AND POLLING QUEUES

BE PREPARED

Know your rights before you turn on the camera. Always assess risks to yourself, interviewees and communities before you film. Develop a security plan to protect your safety as well as the safety of those you are filming.

VERIFICATION

Your media is easier to verify if you document the date, time and location of your footage. If possible, turn on automatic date, time and GPS location capturing features. Alternately, film newspapers, street signs or landmarks. Document who is filming by saying your name into the camera or keeping a written record.



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FILM WITH INTENTION

Hold shots for at least 10 seconds. Keep the camera steady and move it slowly when changing positions. Avoid jerky movements and zooming. Film from various angles to show the size of the crowd or the length of the voting queue. If safe, document incidents of hate speech, confiscation of communications devices like mobile phones or radios, or the tampering of ballots.

DOCUMENTING VIOLENCE AND INJURIES

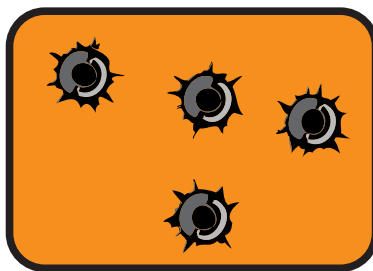
DOCUMENT THOSE AFFECTED

When possible, film incidents of voter intimidation, harassment, arrest or violence. Show if the victims were carrying weapons, wearing uniforms or acting peacefully. If victims were members of a targeted group, film identifying details like badges, flags, or stickers.



CAPTURE DETAILS

If safe, get close-up shots of police vehicles, uniforms, badge numbers, indications of police rank and methods of communication. Capture other visual records such as bullet holes, tear gas canisters, and who was involved in the incident. When filming injuries, get close to the body, ensure good light and hold your shot steady, or take photos.



WORK AS A TEAM

If possible, work with a partner or a team to capture multiple angles of the same incident. A partner can also help keep you safe and watch for developing situations. If you are at risk of arrest and want to keep filming, consider giving your used media card to someone who can guard it and replace it with an empty card.



TELLING THE STORY

CONTEXTUALIZE WITH INTERVIEWS

Get permission from people before you film. Ask consenting individuals to describe the events taking place or relay their personal experience. Through their interviews you can expose irregularities in the voter registration process, the persecution of activists or civil society groups, stories of sexual or gender based violence, or incidents of voter intimidation within the community or workplace.

PROTECT IDENTITIES

Ensure those you film are fully aware of how and where the video will be used. Discuss potential safety risks if the video is to be shared publicly, online or with authorities. If anonymity is needed, film interviewees' hands while they speak, have the subject wrap their face in a scarf, or adjust the focus to blur the image.



FILM HANDS



COVER FACE



BLUR FOCUS

SAVING AND SHARING

Always keep your original media files in a secure location. When sharing your video online, include the date, time and location in the video's title and tags. Note additional details and contextualizing links in the description of the video. This will make your media easier to find and verify.