



Updated 2/2017

Taking Photos

Video Outline

CENTRAL IDEA

Photos can be easily misinterpreted and repurposed, despite the context or intent you had when taking the photo. There are several general rules that you can use to ensure that you are practicing responsible photography.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify the steps for responsible photography.
- Identify a poverty photo.
- Describe the general rules you can use for responsible photography
- List questions to ask yourself before you photograph someone or something.

DEFINITIONS

Viral: a term used to describe any form of media (e.g. pictures, comics, memes, articles, videos, etc.) that is rapidly shared from person to person, usually by social media on the internet, thus gaining almost instantaneous notoriety across many different countries and cultures.

Poverty Photos: photos highlighting scenes of poverty, misery, despair, negative stereotypes. These photos tend to elicit feelings of pity, helplessness, apathy, fear, or superiority.

RULES & TECHNIQUES FOR RESPONSIBLE PHOTOGRAPHY

- Photos can be easily repurposed and go viral.
- Legal cases are now arising where individuals can be sued for damages on the use of images.

STEPS FOR RESPONSIBLE PHOTOGRAPHY

- 1) Ask First
- 2) Show Photos
- 3) Think About Audience
- 4) Protect Privacy

GENERAL RULES FOR RESPONSIBLE PHOTOGRAPHY

- No compromising photos
- Set privacy settings for posting or sharing (restrict access to photos)
- No nudity
- No bathroom, bedroom, or bathing photos
- Carefully Consider attire, especially in swimming photos
- Do not use children's real names
- Do not disclose too many personal details of children which make them easily identifiable
- Avoid "poverty" photos [a.k.a. poverty porn]
 - Poverty Photos are photos highlighting scenes of poverty, misery, despair, negative stereotypes. These photos tend to elicit feelings of pity, helplessness, apathy, fear, or superiority.

BEFORE YOU PHOTOGRAPH, ASK YOURSELF:

- How would the people in the photos feel about themselves?
- How would I feel if it were me in the photo and this was being shared?
- Who is my audience?
- Can this be easily repurposed?
- Is this likely to become sexualized?
- What story am I telling with this photo?
- Am I telling a story of hope, triumph, or potential?
- Is this photo perpetuating negative stereotypes?
- Can these photographs put people in danger?
- Can the photo hurt the child's relationships, future relationships, or future job opportunities?
- Is the photo violating the subject's privacy?

USE CAUTION:

- Taking pictures in crowded places, esp. markets, streets, demonstrations
 - Groups can become angry mobs
- Some people will expect money in exchange for their photos.