

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR STORYTELLING

We believe in the power of stories to shape our future, which is why we want everyone involved to be informed about the opportunities and risks that come with storytelling. As a reminder, GICP members and GI recipients are not expected to be able to share all the key messages around GI or represent the entire field in their own story.

The Bill of Rights for Storytellers is an essential part of cultivating an ethical storytelling practice. We recommend sharing the bill of rights via email to story sharers 2-3 days prior to their interviews or events, and briefly reviewing it with them before they begin. Make sure to document in your process who has reviewed and agreed to the terms and share how you as the interviewer will also be held accountable to your agreements.

When sharing or being asked to share my story, I have the right to:

- Choose when, where, how and if to tell my story based on the request, without any negative impact on my relationship with GICP staff or participation in a guaranteed income program
- Ask for training and guidance before and after accepting invitations, referrals, etc.
- Ask who the audience is, how the story will be used, and purpose of having my story told
- Ask for safety and physical security in an open environment when I speak
- Answer only questions that I am comfortable with *Note: When speaking to journalists, if you do not feel comfortable answering a specific question, you can pivot to provide a response to the significant point you want to make*
- Use discretion in order to protect myself, my loved ones and our personal information
- Be recognized and identified as I choose
- Build my own brand and promote myself
- Ask for editing rights over my story and how I am identified *Note: When speaking to journalists, you may not get access to their story before publication, but you do have the right to request a correction if you are misquoted or information is inaccurately written*
- Share any and all aspects of my story
- Not be expected to represent experiences that are not my own

Ask that my story not be shared without my explicit consent *Note: When speaking with a reporter, it is safest to assume that anything you say in the interview could be used for the piece. Check in with a GICP member if you have questions about this.*

→ Ask for fair compensation. Note: reporters are not allowed to offer compensation but organizations that are requesting your time may have an option for compensating you for your time.

→ Opt out at any time

When asking people to share their stories, I promise to:

→ Encourage and promote a wide spectrum of experiences and stories

→ Ask about availability and comfortability to establish healthy boundaries and create room for storytellers to step away

→ Frame stories from a position of strength not victimization

→ Be transparent about why people are being asked to share their stories as well as any expectations and goals for their story sharing

→ Request prior approval from storytellers before sharing their personal information and stories, and before referring to a third party

→ Provide training in public speaking and/or interviews

→ Hold others, particularly media, accountable for sharing stories with accuracy and respect for storytellers

→ Assess and share any potential risks or safety concerns in advance

→ Respect storytellers' right to say no or opt out at any point

→ If possible, send the storyteller a draft of the story to review

→ Provide a link to see the finished story upon its publication or release by our organization or the outlet

→ Create ways to receive feedback and suggestions for nurturing story sharers' mental health and well being

→ Provide ample support before, during, and after the story sharing process

→ Encourage opportunities for healing through the story sharing process