



# Checklist

## Shaping your testimonial as a Victim of Terrorism

Victims of terrorism often speak in public about what happened to them. They share (part of) their biography with specific target audiences by delivering testimonials. Getting information first hand and making a terroristic atrocity more than an anonymous number of casualties are increasing the impact of a story. The purpose and occasion for delivering a testimonial vary. It could be to pay tribute to those who were inflicted, to not forget what has happened (remembrance) or to warn against the dangers of violent extremism.

Victims of terrorism are either asked or feel the urge to speak. Especially in the initial phase, this is not easy. To give some guidance, this checklist has been made. The primary target group is victims of terrorism and their organisations. Second, it can be of use for people who work with testimonials of victims of terrorism, such as schools or youth centres. It was tested for the first time during the meeting of RAN RVT – 'Delivering Effective Testimonials' in Amsterdam on 20 and 21 September 2018. In this version, some suggestions for improvement have been included. Should every testimonial match all the criteria stated in this list? No. The aim is to make you think about what you, as a victim, want to share, how to do this and how to safeguard your own safety. For further suggestions you can contact the RAN Centre of Excellence.

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## WHAT I WANT TO TELL

- a. What is the core message you want to share with your audience?
- b. How are you going to translate this into a story that people can relate to?
- c. How explicit are you going to be about what happened to you?
- d. With whom do you discuss what is good to tell, and what rather not?
- e. Where is the limit of what you want to share, and/or what do you want to keep for yourself?
- f. To what extent is your testimonial referring to preventing violent extremism?

## HOW I WANT TO DELIVER MY TESTIMONIAL

- a. What tone of voice do you envisage?
- b. What emotions do you want to provoke?
- c. What kind of non-verbal communication (e.g. expression or body language) supports your message, and what kind of non-verbal communication doesn't?
- d. Your choices: telling it by heart, reading a text, having some notes or key words to structure?
- e. Do you want to use illustrations, videos, music or poems? If so, how? As an illustration? To tell a part of the story?
- f. How do you feel most at ease when delivering a testimonial? What would be your ideal position in the room? Sitting or standing, behind or next to a lectern or desk?
- g. How would you, your audience and the moderator ideally be seated or standing?
- h. For how long would you like to have the floor?
- i. Do you foresee interaction, such as posing questions to the audience, receiving questions or having discussions? If so, at what point is the audience allowed to step in? During the testimonial or after? Is a facilitator present in the room?
- j. Do you have an exit plan in case of difficult or unpleasant situations (e.g. being overwhelmed by emotions, rude remarks or forgotten text)?

## THE TARGET GROUP

- a. What target group would fit best for you? Why?
- b. How do you make your testimonial fit for your target group?
- c. Are there any groups you do not want to speak for or are hesitant about? What is the reason for that? What would help you to speak nevertheless?

## PREPARATION

- a. What do you want to know in advance, when it comes to:
  - I. Characteristics of the target audience, such as age, gender, background, religion, culture or language.
  - II. Previous experiences of the target audience. Have they discussed the topic before? Have they seen more/other speakers? How did they react and how was it evaluated? Have some dramatic incidents occurred in the lives of pupils that will require anticipation?
  - III. The hosting organisation. Are they experienced in organising event like this? Do they have a certain political or ideological background?
  - IV. Location. Will there be a stage? Do you get a microphone?
- b. Who will you need to assist you in the preparatory phase?
- c. Who is doing what in the preparation?
  - I. Your own role
  - II. Role of family, friends and/or the victims organisation
  - III. Role of hosting organisation, such as a school or youth centre
  - IV. Role of the target group
- d. Will your testimony be filmed/recorded? If so, with what goal (limited dissemination or online)? Do you want it to be filmed for self-evaluation?

## AFTERMATH

- a. From whom would you like to have feedback? The audience, the hosting organisation, the victims organisation you work for, or other victims? From yourself (self-report)?
- b. What kind of feedback do you look for? Do you want it verbally, by mail, face to face, by telephone?
- c. What topics need reflection in the aftermath regarding:
  - I. Your own role. Was your message understood? Did it have an impact/after-effect? What were you happy about and what went right/wrong? What will you do in the same way or differently on the next occasion? How did you feel at the beginning, later on, at the end? Was it a clear and well-spoken testimonial?
  - II. Role of family, friends, victims organisation. What was helpful, what less helpful, great? What helped you in a practical / emotional way, content-wise and with regard to the presentation?
  - III. Role of hosting facility, like a school or youth centre, concerning the preparation/ communication/ reception on the spot, location / room, water, facilitator and so on. What was helpful, what less helpful, great? What helped you in a practical / emotional way, content-wise and with regard to the presentation? What kind of obstacles did you encounter/ what was painful and how did you deal with that?
  - IV. Role of the target group. How did they react? What was their behaviour? How did they interact with you and amongst each other?