

Safe Harbor Values for Engaging Subject Matter Experts

1. Individuals with lived experience should have their voices sought after and included. Every story matters.
2. Individuals with lived experience are the owners of their story and they decide when and how they share it.
3. Individuals with lived experience should be given ample time to review documents and decide how they want to participate. (contracts, work groups, provide written or verbal feedback on projects, etc.)
4. Individuals with lived experience have a right to privacy and confidentiality and should be provided with sufficient detail to give informed consent about participation. Privacy and confidentiality are essential to the safety and emotional well-being of the individual.
5. There should be a diversity of voices from those with lived experience. Participation should be meaningful and include opportunities for leadership.
6. While Safe Harbor values the voices of minors who have experienced exploitation, no minor will be asked to publicly identify themselves as survivors of trafficking or exploitation on behalf of Safe Harbor sponsored activities. However, if a minor does disclose in a Safe Harbor setting, appropriate support and referrals should be provided. Further, if a minor is considering disclosure outside of a Safe Harbor setting they should be advised about the potential short- and long-term consequences of doing so.
7. Individuals with lived experience should be equitably compensated for their time and expertise in a timely manner. They should know ahead of time what the compensation is and when it will be received.
8. The contracting partner should be transparent about all aspects of the agreement with the individual with lived experience. This includes review of the contract before signing to ensure mutual understanding of all terms and allowing time for the individual to receive outside advice the contract.
9. Individuals with lived experience can expect to have Safe Harbor give them opportunities for feedback to Safe Harbor before, during (if applicable), and after the planned activity. Safe Harbor will provide support and response to feedback as appropriate.

10. Recognize that a person with lived experience comes to the table with professional expertise and should be treated as a professional colleague. They may not identify as a “survivor” or “victim.” Safe Harbor recognizes input from individuals with lived experience as professional work.
11. Safe Harbor will be proactive and intentional in not perpetrating or supporting exploitation of people with lived experience through its activities. Safe Harbor welcomes feedback if it has failed to meet this requirement and will work to address any problems.
12. Safe Harbor should recognize the value of professional development in whatever field people with lived experience are interested in and support opportunities for growth.

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