



# **Uncensored Voices Ethical Safeguarding and Anonymous Documentation Framework**

**for Survivor-Centered Narrative Collection**

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## **1. Purpose:**

Uncensored Voices is a safeguarding-centered digital documentation platform collecting anonymized lived experiences of gender-based and social harm.

As the platform grows, we recognize the ethical tensions inherent in handling sensitive human experience data. This framework outlines the safeguards implemented to ensure contributor safety, narrative integrity, and responsible institutional engagement.

## **2. Core Principles:**

Uncensored Voices operates under five foundational principles:

Contributor Agency First:

Participation is voluntary and revocable at any stage.

Non-Extraction:

Stories are not collected for institutional leverage, but preserved with contributor ownership.

Safeguarding Over Verification:

Safety and psychological well-being take precedence over evidentiary validation.

Transparency of Limits:

The platform does not claim legal adjudication or factual verification of submitted narratives.

Responsible Policy Interface:

Lived experiences may inform dialogue, but are never presented as legal determinations.

### **3. Anonymity & Verification Tension:**

Concern: How can anonymous submissions maintain credibility without exposing contributors?

Our Approach:

All submissions are clearly labeled as self-reported lived experiences.

The platform does not assert investigative verification.

Patterns are identified through thematic recurrence, not individual claim validation.

Any future tiered verification (if introduced) will be strictly consent-based and optional.

We prioritize integrity of process over forced substantiation.

### **4. Retraumatization Risk**

Concern: Requests for additional engagement after submission could unintentionally retraumatize contributors.

Our Approach:

Uncensored Voices does not conduct mandatory follow-up with contributors.

Contributors are never required to provide additional details after submission.

Where follow-up options exist, the framework distinguishes between internal follow-up and external follow-up:

#### **Internal Follow-Up (Platform Communication):**

The platform may offer optional, consent-based communication if contributors wish to clarify aspects of their submission or adjust consent preferences.

Such engagement is:

- strictly opt-in
- withdrawable at any time
- framed around narrative clarity and contributor control
- conducted using trauma-informed communication practices.

#### **External Follow-Up (Third Parties):**

Uncensored Voices does not facilitate or authorize direct follow-up with contributors by external actors, including journalists, investigators, civil society organizations, or researchers.

Contributor anonymity and safety take precedence over external inquiry.

All communication practices are designed to remain non-invasive, trauma-informed, and contributor-controlled.

The platform does not function as an investigative or verification body.

### **5. Misuse & Bad-Faith Risk:**

Concern: Narratives could be misappropriated, politicized, or distorted.

Our Safeguards:

Clear Narrative Use Policy:

Stories cannot be republished without consent.

Extracted excerpts require contextual integrity.

Public-facing content avoids identifying political targeting.

Pattern analysis is presented cautiously, avoiding generalized accusations.

We actively discourage sensationalization or instrumentalization of survivor accounts.

## 6. Narrative Ownership

Contributors retain moral ownership of their narratives.

Uncensored Voices acts as a custodian, not proprietor.

Stories are hosted, not claimed.

## 7. Policy & Legal Interpretation Boundaries:

Uncensored Voices is a narrative documentation platform and does not perform investigative or legal functions.

The platform does not:

- conduct investigations
- determine whether a crime has occurred
- assign criminal liability
- identify alleged perpetrators
- designate acts as specific legal crimes based on individual anonymous submissions.

Submissions are presented as self-reported lived experiences, not verified accounts.

Where broader themes or patterns are discussed, they are framed as analytical observations, not legal conclusions.

The platform does not present narrative documentation as evidence or legal determination.

References to legal or human rights frameworks are provided only as contextual analytical tools to support responsible dialogue.

## 8. Data Governance:

Minimal data collection beyond submission content.

No sale, transfer, or third-party commercialization of narratives.

Secure hosting infrastructure.

Future plans include independent advisory oversight.

## 9. Long-Term Governance Direction:

As the platform formalizes legally, planned structures include:

Advisory board with safeguarding expertise

Clear documentation protocols

Public transparency reports

Periodic ethical review updates.

## 10. Conclusion:

Uncensored Voices acknowledges the inherent ethical tensions of survivor documentation.

Rather than avoiding these complexities, we are intentionally designing safeguards to ensure that:

contributor safety is never compromised,

narratives are not extracted for institutional gain,

and policy dialogue remains responsible and grounded.

We welcome continued dialogue from legal scholars, human rights practitioners, and governance experts to strengthen this evolving framework.