

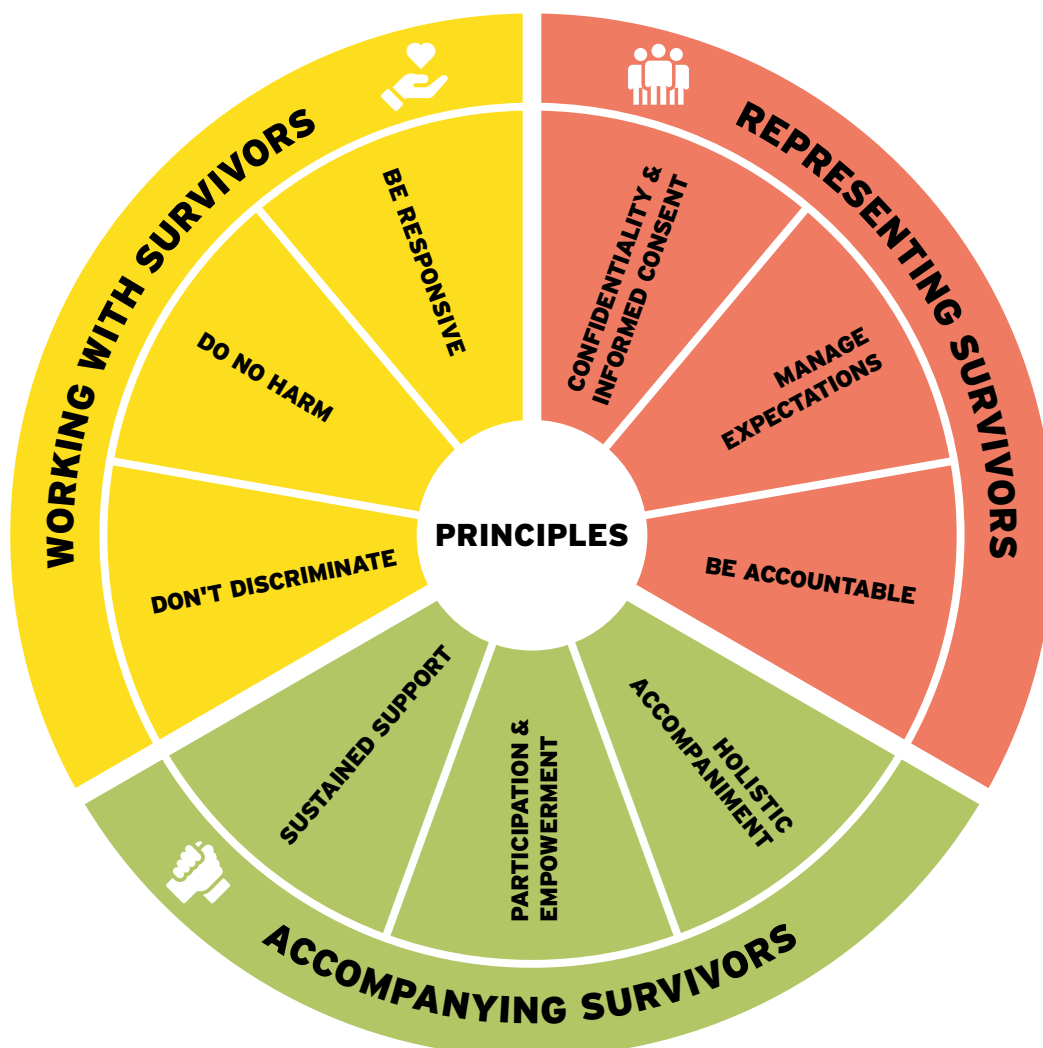
REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

BEING SURVIVOR-CENTRED

PRINCIPLES FOR A SURVIVOR CENTRED APPROACH TO JUSTICE AND REPARATION FOR TORTURE

Each survivor of torture is different. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to achieving justice and reparation. REDRESS has developed nine key principles that underpin its commitment to being survivor-centred across all work areas, including the three main techniques used to challenge torture and deliver impact: (1) strategic litigation, (2) policy advocacy, and (3) media and communications. These principles fall into three categories: working with survivors, representing survivors, and accompanying survivors.



1 Be responsive to the needs of survivors

Our work seeks to respond to the justice needs and priorities of survivors of torture that are in line with our mandate. As we represent survivors in legal claims and advocacy, we support their right to make choices, which may change over time, and to achieve personally desired outcomes where possible. We are also bound by an ethical framework which requires us to act in the best interests of the client.

2 Do no harm

Our work is delivered in a compassionate manner, as well as being gender and culturally sensitive. We will adhere to the principle of “do no harm” which includes context-specific due diligence, analysis and mitigation of relevant social, political and security risks to prevent retaliation, re-victimisation, and re-traumatisation.

3 Do not discriminate

Every survivor, irrespective of their race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language, religion, age, political beliefs, or any other identity or characteristic, will be treated in a fair, dignified, and compassionate manner. A survivor’s choice and expression of identity (such as gender and pronouns) should be respected.

4 Ensure confidentiality and informed consent

A survivor’s right to privacy, which includes control and autonomy over their personal testimony, identity, and image, should be respected. We will seek a survivor’s explicit authority to represent them and will obtain their informed consent before sharing their information publicly. Survivors should be made aware of their ability at any time to stop instructing us to represent them, and to withdraw any specific consent given. We will be transparent about the implications of authorities or consents being withdrawn.

5 Provide clear information and manage expectations

We will be transparent with survivors about potential justice outcomes, including providing information on external factors that can influence these. We will have honest conversations about survivors’ expectations, support them to make decisions based on realistic expectations, be clear on what we can and cannot do, and where our personal and professional limitations lie.

6 Be held accountable by survivors

We will develop and implement processes to receive and address feedback from survivors and partner organisations. We will also make survivors and partners aware of any mechanisms for feedback and how to raise any concerns or grievances they may have.

7

Provide survivors with holistic accompaniment

We recognise the important role that trusted community-based groups and support services have in rehabilitation. We will support survivors by facilitating referrals to other services, including medical, psychological, legal, and social support, where possible.

8

Facilitate survivors' participation and empowerment

We will work with survivors to identify their preferred mode of participation in legal and advocacy initiatives and empower those who are keen to participate in decision-making. Survivors are experts by experience and our interactions should promote mutual learning. We will continually reflect on our interactions with survivors, including taking measures to minimise power imbalances.

9

Strive to provide long-term and sustainable support

We will strive to ensure that we have sufficient funding to work on cases throughout their duration. For projects, we will strive to ensure adequate planning for residual phases and create resources and tools that are available after funding has ended.