

## **USEFUL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHEN INTERACTING WITH THE MEDIA**

After experiencing acts of violence, and in some specific cases (such as homicides, sexual crimes, among others), the Media may make efforts to tell the story in as much detail as possible. Interacting with these outlets to provide testimony, if you have closely experienced such events (as a victim, survivor, or family member), can have both positive and negative effects. This document gathers some points to help you decide whether to participate and provides some advice to consider when giving interviews.

### **ADVICE FOR PREPARING FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

- Plan the interview – to convey your message effectively, establish two or three key points you wish to reinforce during the interview. You can introduce these points by saying something like "What I would like to convey..." or "What I want to make clear is...". Throughout the interview, you can reiterate these points by restating them.
- Relax and be sincere – your honesty and genuine feelings are crucial to the success of the interview.
- Listen to the entire question before responding and ask for clarification if necessary.
- Speak slowly, clearly, and concisely.
- Avoid going on for too long – once you have communicated the essential information, stop talking.
- If you feel uncomfortable with a particular question, you do not need to answer it – politely refuse, saying something like "I don't feel comfortable answering that question".
- Never make "off the record" statements – assume that everything you say will be on the record.
- Correct misunderstandings and misinformation if they arise during the interview.

