

FFI Social Media Policy

Ensure the Safety of Many

What is often seen as harmless social media posting for friends and family can potentially jeopardize the lives of individuals working in sensitive mission fields. There are various ministries in Thailand that depend on anonymity and sensitivity in order to ensure the longevity of the ministry as well as the safety of both workers and clients, especially in regards to women in the sex industry. It is therefore of utmost importance to review this document carefully to ensure the safety of yourself and the people you will be interacting with in Thailand.

Communication

Safety: With public and private monitoring of various media and communication, it is critical to refrain from using certain terms and phrases when talking about the type and location of FFI's work. Please review the buzz words below that we as an organization avoid using. We ask that you omit these terms from your social media before and after your time in Phuket.

Terms to avoid:

Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking - These terms are used a lot right now in North America for human rights and describes the selling of men, women, and children for various exploitation purposes. Human trafficking is one of the largest industries in the world. Stay away from saying "trafficking" in general in public because it carries a lot of political implications, baggage, and can be a buzz word for violence or intimidation. Because of this and in order to protect FFI, this is a term that will not be used in our written communication or in our social media. A good alternative term when referring to sex trafficking is "sexual exploitation" or "women working in the sex industry."

Sex Slavery - This is a term that generates immediate emotional response and should be used with extreme caution. It sends a strong message on sexuality as opposed to violence, abuse, and exploitation. Although it can be accurate to an extent, it only touches the surface of what most women in the sex industry have experienced. A more responsible word that we should be implemented is "sexual abuse," "sexual exploitation," "commercial sexual exploitation," or even "those trapped in the sex trade."

Thai Monarchy - Avoid ALL remarks about the royal family in Thailand. The Thai people love their king and still mourn the loss of His Majesty King Bhumibol. This is a very sensitive topic, and it is advised that you refrain from any public comment, positive or negative, about the royal family or the government in Thailand.

As long as we are not associated with these terms, you are free to talk about FFI, Phuket, Thailand, God, Jesus Christ, the Church, etc.

Visual Images of Sexually Exploited, Impoverished, or Underage People

Would you work abroad if you had no camera with you? When people encounter something on the mission field that is extremely different from their home culture/comfort/surroundings, it's common that the first reaction is to take a picture. Yes, we come from a technological and "share easy" culture, but we would like to challenge your impulse to physically capture a moment to take home with you. Instead, we encourage you to put yourself in the shoes of the people you observe and interact with. Take this opportunity to attempt understanding and connection with these people that God has made.

For Freedom International is committed to ensuring that all photos, video, and other visual images of sexually exploited people, children, and impoverished situations, as well as information from interviews, are obtained and used in communications with sensitivity in order to safeguard the people's right to dignity, confidentiality, and privacy. Visual images, and the capturing of those images, should always be appropriate, respectful, and decent.

FFI is committed to protecting the anonymity of **children (everyone below the age of 18)**. Therefore, personal information, facial images, and details of children that may identify them and subsequently increase any potential risk of harm may not be used. Without first obtaining informed consent from the child (according to their age and comprehension) and from the parent or guardian, in social media situations, the child's face must be concealed, a pseudonym used, and the location undisclosed.

Similarly, when using images or information about **sexually exploited human beings**, FFI holds that the risk of harm or stigma to the individual is high. In social media situations, faces of exploited people must be concealed, pseudonyms are to be used, and locations are to be vague or concealed.

Two general rules apply: Permission and Discreet Social Media Use

- Informed consent should be obtained
- Personal information, images, and details that may identify people and subsequently increase potential risk of harm should not be used in social media

In the use of visual images, visitors of FFI should aim to:

- Respect the dignity of the subject
- Ensure the subject is not exploited
- Provide a balanced portrayal of reality
- Use all images truthfully
- Maintain standards of decency
- Respect the view of local partners
- Maintain high technical standards
- Keep secure at all times visual images and personal information of women

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

to the For Freedom International Social Media Policy

I, _____ (name), have received, read, and understood the For Freedom International Social Media Policy. I agree to abide by the policy and principles therein.

I understand that I must raise any concerns I may have about social media during my role as a/an _____ with For Freedom International in a confidential manner.

(Print your full name)

(Signature)

(Date)

Note: This Statement of Commitment is to be signed by all For Freedom International staff, volunteers, or those who are representing For Freedom International Short Term Missions in any way.