

Safe storytelling and controlling your narrative

Our Race - Story Holder Guide

Transformational Ethical Story Telling

***A guide for Story Holders
working with organisations***



Have you been asked to tell your Story?

***Before sharing your Story,
here are some questions you
may want to consider.***



Listen

Educate

**Speak
up**

Collaborate



**Stories have power.
Your Stories are important.
Your Stories have value.
You are the expert.
Stories can be harmful.
Stories can trigger.
Stories can heal.
You and your Stories have the
power
to create change and reclaim
power.**



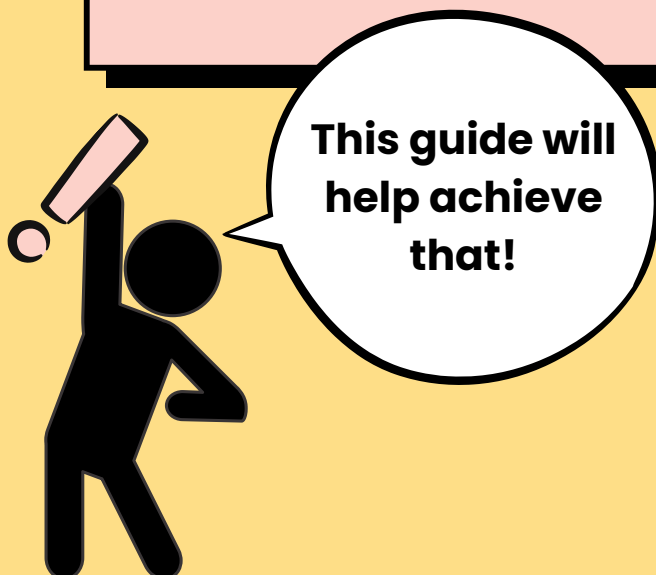
You may be asked...

to share a Story by different people, groups or organisations.



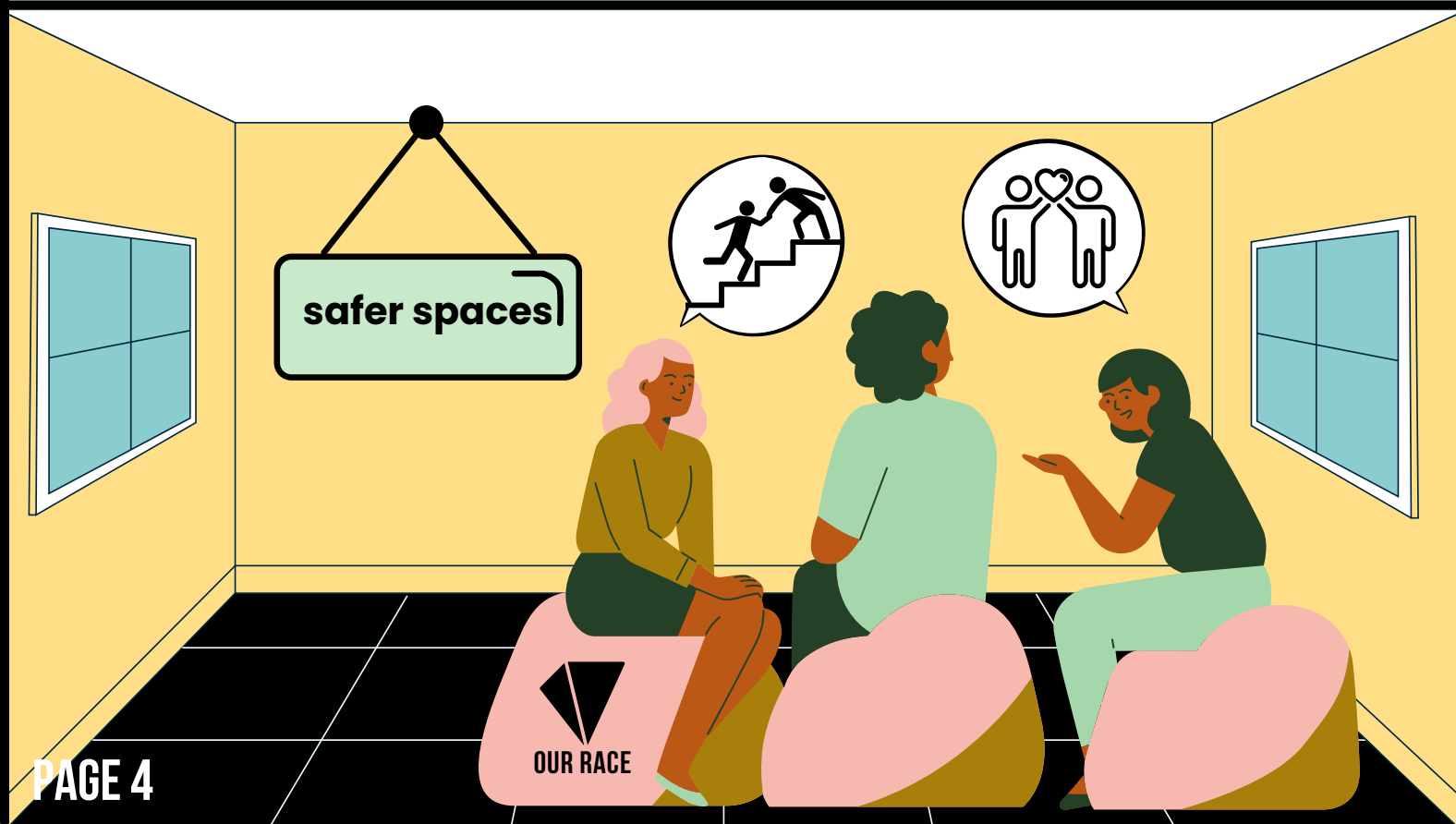
Our aim...

is to empower you to share your Story in the way you choose.



What is TEST?

Transformational Ethical Story Telling (TEST) aims to create safer spaces for Story Holders, allowing them to be empowered to create and control their Stories on their own terms.



Who is a Story Holder?

A Story Holder is a person who has lived experience of the Story. They own the Story and may choose to share it or not.



Who is a Story Teller?

A Story Teller is the person telling the Story Holder's Story. It may be the Story Holder or it may be an organisation, another person, a media company or anyone re-telling the Story.



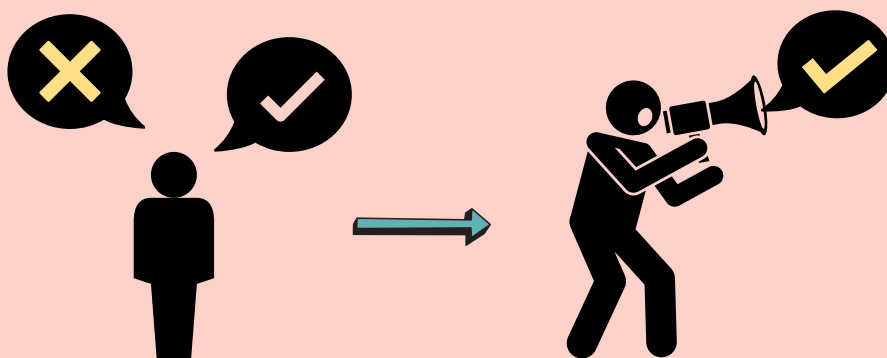
Who is a Story Partner?

A Story Partner is a person or organisation who engages a Story Holder to share their Story and commits to the TEST Principles.



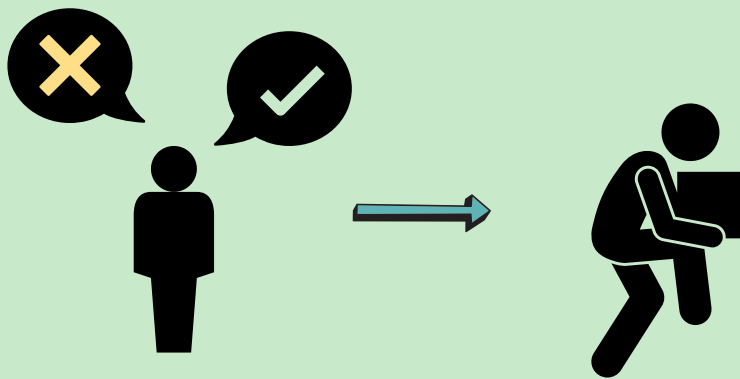
Who is a Story Interpreter?

A Story Interpreter is a person or organisation who does not value the Story Holders' creative control and ownership of their Story.

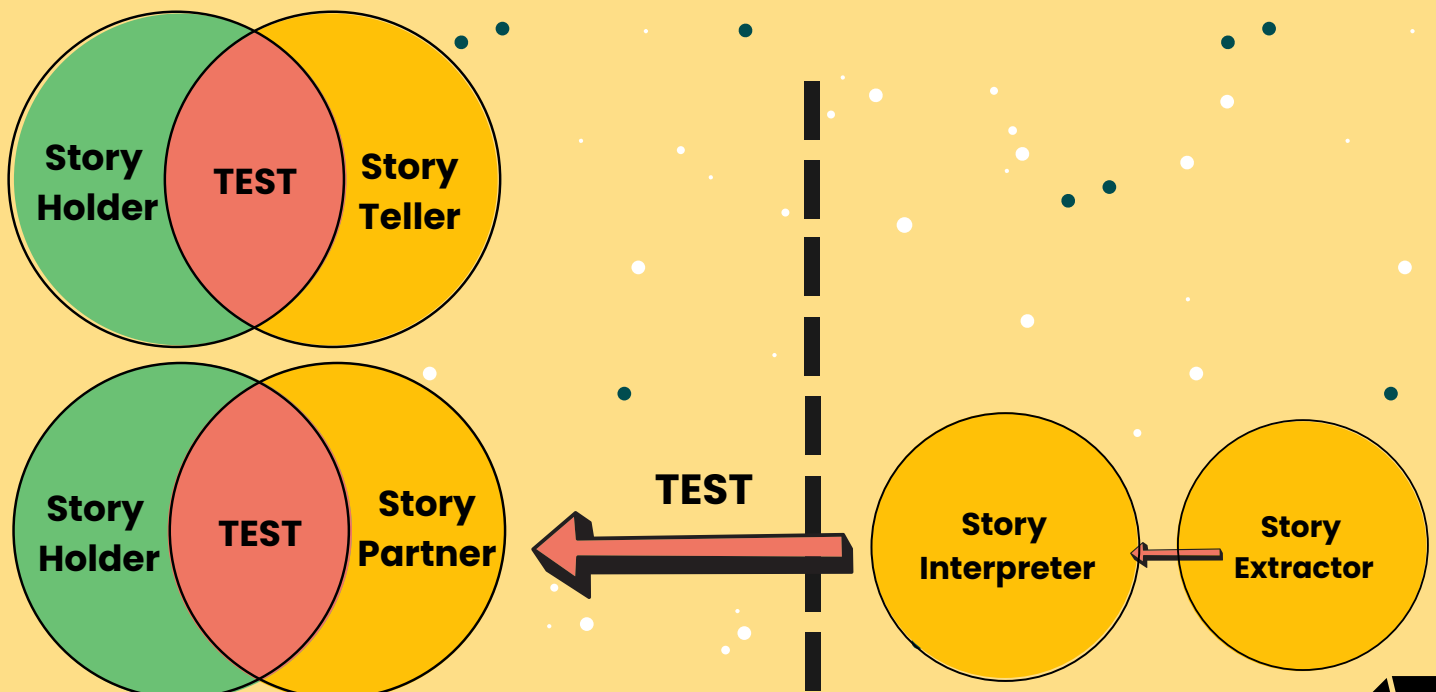


Who is a Story Extractor?

A Story Extractor is a person or organisation who takes a Story Holder's Story and uses it for their own benefit, without any concern for the Story Holders' creative control or ownership.

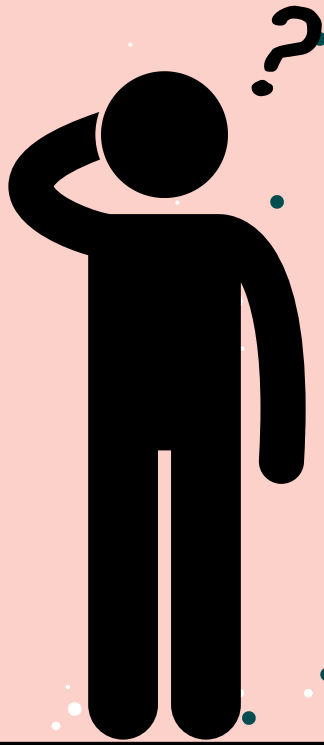


TEST Space



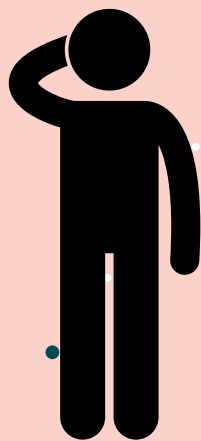
***Some questions you
may wish to ask yourself
or the organisations you
work with...***





Should I share my Story?

- *Is it clear why you are being asked to share your Story?*
- *Do you feel safe/comfortable sharing your Story? What conditions do you need for you to feel safe?*



What do I need?

Are there adequate systems in place, including contact people to talk with, such as:

- Where and when will you tell your Story?*
- Who will be hearing or watching your Story?*
- How will your Story be captured?*
- Do you have a written contract or agreement?*
- Do you understand the contract or agreement?*



Ask for a contract before you share your Story. Some of the major things to look for in a contract are:

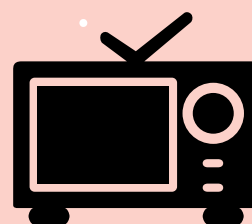
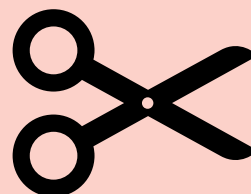
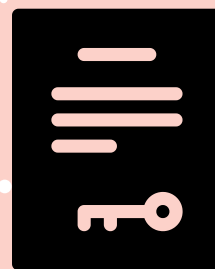
a. Ownership: Do you or the organisation own the rights to the recorded Story (if it doesn't say, it's likely the organisation does)?

b. Remuneration: Is fair remuneration offered in return for you sharing your Story (money or otherwise)? Does it give you other resources (e.g. a translator)?

c. Editing: Do you have a right to view/edit the Story and how it and you are presented prior to publication?

d. Veto: Do you have a right to refuse permission if you decide you no longer wish to allow the Story to be published?

e. Distribution: Does it tell you what channels the Story may be distributed to and what purpose the Story can be used for? Does it limit how long your Story may be used/distributed?



Will I be recorded?

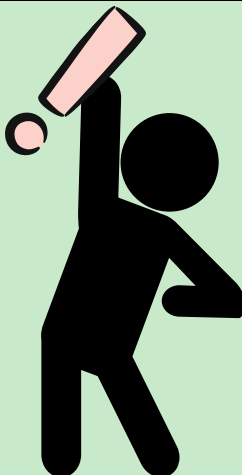


- Will your Story be recorded or filmed?
- Will you have creative control of how your Story will be recorded, edited and shared?
- Are you aware of the potential consequences of sharing your Story?

Will I be paid?



- Are you being appropriately remunerated for your time, experience and expertise?
- Have you spoken about payment and do you feel it is fair?
- ***How much should I charge?***



Your Story is valuable.
Ask yourself who is benefiting from your Story? Because if you are not, someone else probably is!



The construction of your Story starts here. Your Story is sacred and this is where the power lies.



I want to share (pre-brief)



- Have you spent time and reflected on the Story you want to share?
- Have you been offered the chance to practise telling your Story?
- Have you got a network to support and practice telling your Story?

Do I feel safe/ comfortable on the day?

- Do you have a support person with you?
- Do you feel safe/comfortable?
- Does the space you're telling your Story in feel safe?



How do i feel afterwards? (de-brief)



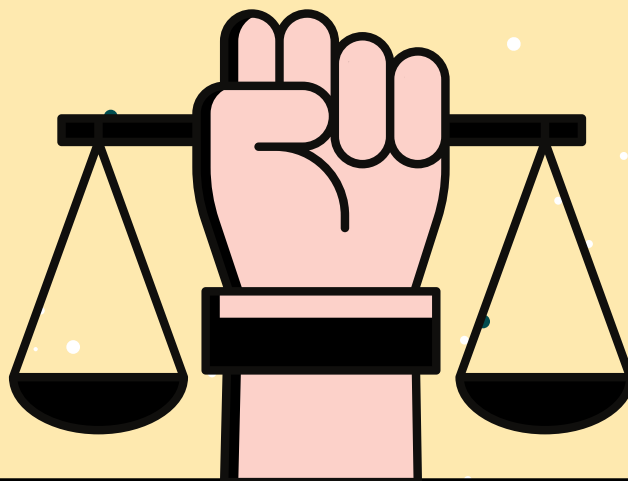
- Will the organisation you are sharing your Story with provide a support person to talk to you afterwards about how you feel?
- If there were any issues, who can you raise them with?
- Do you have a supportive network to talk about your experience?
- What systems are there for ongoing support?

What if i no longer want my Story to be public?

- Do you know what the process of removing the recordings or images from the public is?
- Do you understand/know the limitations of removing the Story given current technologies?



Don't forget your rights!



- You are an expert of your own Story, and you have a right to decide if, when and how it is shared.
- If you decide later you no longer want to, that's OK too!
- Make sure your contract gives you these rights. If you don't have a contract you may lose your rights!

Flipping the power of the Story!

“

No matter what our intentions, everything we say and do in the pursuit of justice will one day be outdated, ineffective, and yes, probably wrong. That is the way progress works. What we do now is important and helpful so long as what we do now is what is needed now.

— Ijeoma Oluo

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