



Translators without Borders (TWB) is a non-profit organization offering language and translation support for humanitarian and development agencies, and other non-profit organizations globally.

INTERPRETATION TIP SERIES FOR INTERPRETERS

TIP 4

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT AND ITS CHALLENGES

Interpreters must know and always uphold the humanitarian principles, core humanitarian standards, international humanitarian law and human rights law.

What is humanitarian assistance?

Humanitarian assistance is

- Given after a Crisis**
 - Conflict
 - Natural disaster
- Aid to persons who need help**
 - Medical
 - Material
 - Logistics
 - Social
 - Educational
- Given by**
 - National organisations
 - International organisations
 - Government
 - UN
 - Who else?

What are the humanitarian principles?



Humanity: Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found.

Neutrality: Humanitarian actors must not take sides.

Impartiality: Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone.

Independence: Humanitarian action must be autonomous from political, economic, military or other objectives.

Core Humanitarian Standard

Communities and people affected by crisis receive assistance appropriate and relevant to their needs.

- Communities and people affected by crises have access to the humanitarian assistance they need at the right time.
- Communities and people affected by the crisis are not negatively affected and are more prepared, resilient, and less at-risk because of humanitarian action.
- Communities and people affected by crisis know their rights and entitlements have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them.
- Communities and people affected by crisis have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints
- Communities and people affected by crisis receive coordinated, complementary assistance
- Communities and people affected by crisis can expect delivery of improved assistance as organizations learn from experience and reflection.
- Communities and people affected by crisis receive the assistance they require from competent and well-managed staff and volunteers.
- Communities and people affected by crisis can expect that the organizations assisting them are managing resources effectively, efficiently, and ethically

The Importance of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law



Interpreters may have to manage conflicts in the process of interpretation

1. Interpret what is being said without judgement
2. Don't get involved in the conflict
3. Try to remain calm
4. If the situation is not safe, end the meeting

For more information about this tip sheet or to find out how Translators without Borders is supporting humanitarian action in northeast Nigeria, visit our website or contact: nigeria@translatorswithoutborders.org



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