

SESSION 2

KEY PRINCIPLES OF DOCUMENTATION WITH FOCUS ON RISK ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION

International Protocol on Documenting Violations of Religious Freedom

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THIS SESSION

1. Four key principles
2. Focus on risk assessment and risk mitigation
3. Small group exercise

We will be starting to use the DP in this session.

FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES

Harm
reduction

Informed
consent

Confidentiality

Manage
expectations

“The safety and security of victims, witnesses, and documenters should always take priority over documentation”

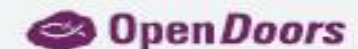
DP, p. 62

HARM REDUCTION

pp. 61-62, 65-69

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**Obtaining information
through deception may
be an offence under
domestic law.**

INFORMED CONSENT

pp. 46-47

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INFORMED CONSENT

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CONFIDENTIALITY

pp. 47-48 DP

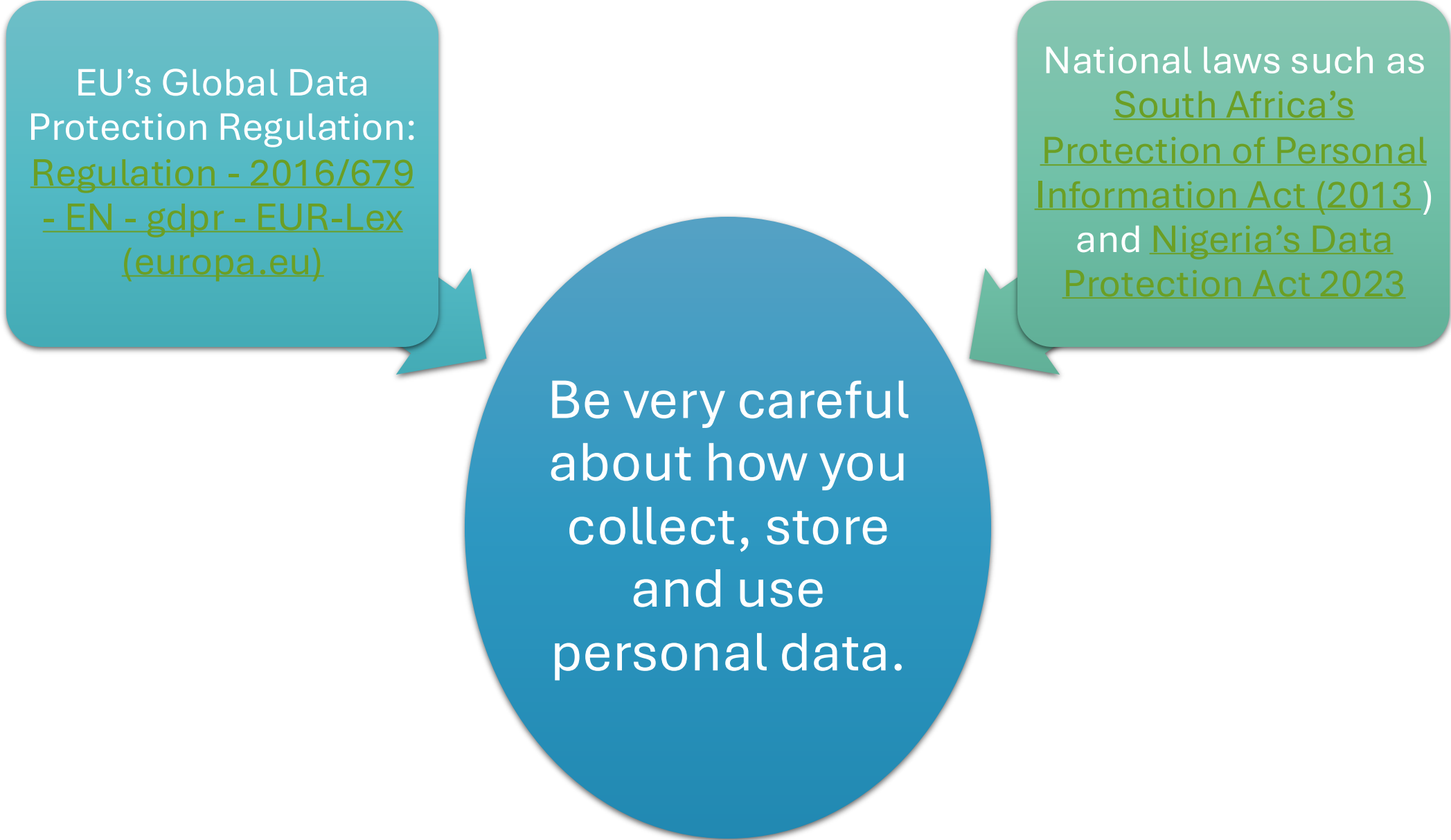
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DATA PROTECTION OBLIGATIONS

EU's Global Data Protection Regulation:
Regulation - 2016/679
- EN - gdpr - EUR-Lex
(europa.eu)



National laws such as
South Africa's
Protection of Personal
Information Act (2013)
and Nigeria's Data
Protection Act 2023

Be very careful
about how you
collect, store
and use
personal data.

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

pp. 48-49 DP

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RECAP THE FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES

Harm reduction

Informed consent

Confidentiality

Manage expectations

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FOCUS ON RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT/MITIGATION



ASSESSING AND MITIGATING RISK

- Documenters should assess risks the documentation could have to:
 - All participants who will contribute information
 - All members of documentation team
- Assessment should include:
 - Nature of the risk
 - Person(s) affected by risk
 - Reason why the person is affected
 - Measure(s) documenters can take to mitigate risk.
- Risk should be assessed continuously, and for every incident documented.

- **Informed Consent:** inform participants of the risks.
- **Harm Reduction:** safety always comes before documentation.

Sources of risk for documenters

pp. 63-65

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Sources of risk for interviewees

pp. 54-68

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The risk of vicarious trauma

pp. 63-64

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RISK MANAGEMENT /MITIGATION



Mitigation: develop your base and field mission security protocols and keep them constantly updated

See Documentation Protocol pp 145-151

**Risk
management/
mitigation:**

Confidentiality

pp. 65-67

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Risk management/ mitigation:

Protecting Physical Information

pp. 70-71

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Vicarious Trauma

pp. 63-65

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Where risks cannot be brought to an acceptable level and remain too high, the documenting activity should not take place. Instead, collect as much information as possible under an acceptable level of risk and be prepared to pass on such information to the competent national or international investigative authorities at the earliest opportunity.

ACTIVITY

**WARNING: GRAPHIC
CONTENT**

Exercise on conducting risk assessment & management/mitigation

Lhubiriha secondary school in Mpondwe, Uganda

[use DP pp 145-151]

You will be assigned to one of two teams. One team is an NGO based in the village, and one is an NGO based in Kampala.

<https://youtu.be/WywqjAw-fbM>

Uganda News Today | Rebel Attack In Ugandan School Near Congo Border Claims Many Lives | News18 [4.42 mins]

The questions: *1. What are the risks of doing documentation in this situation? 2. How would you mitigate?*

Use the DP pp 145-151: 20 mins

Feedback: 10 mins each group = 20 mins

UGANDA HORROR SHOCKS WORLD

