



## Media and Video/Photo/Note-taking Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in YouthSpeak and for your support in helping us expand our reach and build support for achieving our vision and mission. As an organization that trains youth to be leaders, YouthSpeak is in the communication and empowerment business by creating a safe space for youth to have a voice so that none live alone in their own silence. Youth who have personal experience are trained to share their stories in assemblies that inspire a strong message of respect, hope and tolerance and to lead workshops that help build character, self-esteem and resilience. YouthSpeak programs help to prevent the problems associated with mental health and bullying that can lead to long term impact on the quality of life for the individual, their family and the community. As such, we appreciate the opportunity to work with the media. The following guidelines provide the framework to be respectful of the youth who are willing to share their stories.

1. Interviews with and/or photos of our youth speakers may be arranged with permission from the individual youth. All interviews are conducted in the presence of the YouthSpeak staff support person. Youth speakers will be informed prior to giving permission of the nature and use of the material such as the general content and headline of any accompanying written material.
2. **As a standard practice we do not allow any videotaping or note-taking by media personnel or others of the youth speakers while sharing their stories.** Special requests may be made to the YouthSpeak support staff person who will make arrangements with the youth speakers for permission.
3. If media personnel attend a YouthSpeak presentation, the organizers for the event must inform the YouthSpeak support staff person who will provide these guidelines with the media personnel.
4. Youth speakers have the right to decline their participation at any time.