

Seeking consent to display memorial objects

Learning Objective

Explore the purpose, value, and challenges in securing consent to publicly display memorial objects

Identify and map out appropriate lines of communication

Scenario Summary

LOCATION: IN THE ARCHIVE

The first year anniversary of a terrorist attack is approaching and your organisation is looking for ways to mark the event. Among other activities, you are hoping to display some images of memorial objects that were collected from the spontaneous memorial site that formed after the attack. These images relate to photographs that were taken by members of your team at the time of collection, as a way to document the process.

Your proposal is to print several large vinyl banners depicting some of these photographed objects, and to display them throughout the town centre and at the site where the memorial site began.

Key Considerations

- How do you intend to communicate these plans to the public?
- Do you need to secure consent? If yes, who from and how will this line of communication be established and maintain?
- What level of involvement could you offer to, say, family members of the victims?
- Do you have a take down policy in place? What happens if a member of the public comes forward once the posters are displayed and expresses to have banners showing an object they left at the site removed?

Further training, support, and key readings

The National Archive, Archives and GDPR: frequently asked questions

Community Archives and Heritage Group. 2017. Cataloguing guidelines for community archives

Museums Copyright Group, Information about copyright issues and consent

Collections Trust (NPOP Guidance) Guidance for exhibiting archive and library materials