

Speaking with Victims
in FACT FINDING: the Importance of Testimonials

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WHY TESTIMONIALS?

- **allegations can lead to the finding of objectifiable facts**
- **facts alone do not prove anything (including physical marks)**
- **only the combination of allegations and found facts can lead to trustworthy evaluations**

OBJECTIVES in TESTIMONIALS

- information finding: as precise as possible
as «ecological» as possible
- taking seriously the affected
- opening traumatic silence / shame
- giving back hope for «justice» and redress

DANGERS

- opening of the story may retraumatise
- telling the story might activate false expectations («justice, vengeance, compensation» etc.)
- listening to the story might affect

CONSEQUENCES

- fact finding through interviewing of victims is an essential part of work
- respecting the needs of the victims is a matter of HR (protection of Health)
- knowing how to speak / listen to victims has to be taken seriously – learned
- informed consent is crucial