

How to ethically document your immersion.

In today's connected world, it is easy to share images with hundreds of people, but when you are in an Immersion, it is even easier to fall into some well intentioned traps, from the photo to the caption to the hashtags, can perpetuate stereotypes and rob the subject of dignity or privacy, which actually does more harm than good to the community you are immersed in.

Arrupe Immersions provide students, with short-term opportunities to live, work, and reflect in a socioeconomic environment that is different from their own and to begin asking difficult questions, we have developed deep relationships with the communities students engage, and continue to dialogue with them. The purpose is for students to further develop their critical thinking and start thinking of themselves as ethical global citizens. Arrupe Immersions are not volunteer, service or charity trips.

To minimize the possibility of creating harmful media we have put together a list of resources and advice to keep in mind when documenting your trip:

- Familiarize yourself with the concepts of "[Poverty Porn](#)" and "[White-saviour complex](#)"
- Follow these IG: [Barbie Saviour](#), [No White Savoirs](#),
- Always ask before taking a picture, even better if you can get a [signed waiver/consent form](#).
- **Never** take/post pictures of kids, they can't consent to their image being taken.
- Focus on actions not people, if you are doing an activity document that, you don't always have to focus on faces, hands are a powerful image too.
- Don't center yourself, or your group. It is ok to take group photos (we love them) but be cautious and mindful of your surrounding. For example, if you are walking on the beach, or visiting a center, by all means take the shot, but if you are in an orphanage or a historical/sacred site, maybe skip it.
- Take pictures/record, but always remember to tell a story, talk to people and share that. Don't rely on stereotypes, and keep in mind your intentions. [This is a great guide](#).
- Some images to avoid:
 - Photos of volunteers giving candy/clothes or high fives to people
 - Photos of children on playgrounds.
 - Photos of sick people in hospital beds.

Additional readings on *Poverty Porn* and *White-Saviorism*.

- [Holding up the Mirror: Recognizing and Dismantling the “White Savior Complex”](#)
- [#INSTAGRAMMINGAFRICA: THE NARCISSISM OF GLOBAL VOLUNTOURISM.](#)
- [Yes, charities want to make an impact. But poverty porn is not the way to do it](#)
- [SNL brilliantly and hilariously breaks down the problem with "poverty porn"](#)
- [5 Reasons ‘Poverty Porn’ Empowers The Wrong Person](#)