

AUSCAPE'S JOURNALIST AND FILMMAKING POLICY

From time to time, Autscope is approached by people (amateur and professional) wanting to write an article about the conference for publication or, make a film at Autscope for public viewing.

Publicity for Autscope is very welcome as we aim to increase access to the conference. Articles and films about Autscope also support our goal of creating a positive and accepting environment for autistic people.

However, to protect the Autscope organisation as well as the enjoyment and experience of our participants, particularly at the conference, we request that everybody who wants to film, record or write about Autscope complies with the policy.

Our policy is:

To provide a fair policy which is clear and easy to use

To publicise the existence of our Journalist and filmmaking policy

To ensure that everyone who wants to do journalism or filmmaking at Autscope is aware of and complies with the procedures in this policy.

To gather information which helps us to improve what we do

This policy includes information about:

1. What constitutes as journalism or filmmaking in terms of this policy
2. Gathering information to include in your article or film
3. Finished articles, recordings or films

4. How we manage requests to film, record or write at Autscope
5. Responsibility
6. Monitoring and learning

1. What constitutes as journalism or filmmaking in terms of this policy

Journalism applies to any person who wants to write about Autscope, whether that is as an article or as part of another publication or book and by either an amateur or a professional. This includes writing about an event they are attending or writing about Autscope in general. It does not include writing on personal webpages eg. Blogs, Facebook, Twitter

Filmmaking applies to any person who wants to film or record activities at Autscope, either an amateur or a professional, and make available the film or recording to the wider public. This does not include films or recordings made of friends who have given prior consent for private use.

2. Gathering information to include in your article or film

If you want to write about Autscope in general the board will decide if this is something they want to take part in and make arrangements to do so if they do.

If you attend Autscope personally, it is very important that you are aware that in order to keep Autscope a safe, comfortable space for participants we have rules to protect people who do not wish to interact and those who do not wish to be photographed/filmed.

We have a general rule that anyone wishing to speak to people at Autscope with the intention of gathering material for publication, should do so on an 'opt in' basis. Individuals should be invited to approach you, having already been made aware of your wish to use their interaction in a publication, recording or film. It is not acceptable to initiate approaches to individuals for these purposes.

Autscope also has a policy that participants do not have to disclose any diagnosis. Autscope is open to anybody including neurotypical people and those that self identify as neurodivergent and are possibly waiting for a diagnosis. Please respect the fact that some participants may also not wish to disclose their diagnosis outside of Autscope.

We hope that you understand the need for these stringent rules to protect our participants, some of whom have strong needs in this area. That said, however, there

are usually other participants who are quite happy to be photographed and to talk 'on the record' about their experiences and views.

If Autscope agrees to your request they will discuss any requirement you may have eg. A room or a place to interview or record people.

3. Finished articles, recordings or films

We ask that you make it clear that you are writing about Autscope, but not on behalf of Autscope.

Please make your readers aware that Autscope is run by autistics for autistics (unique amongst UK autism conferences) and is a non-profit organisation with all work carried out by volunteers.

Please include our website address (www.autscope.org) which will allow people to find additional information or contact us. You may also find this a helpful source of information for yourself, particularly the frequently asked questions (www.autscope.org/faq).

Most Autscope members dislike 'people first' terminology as in 'people with autism'. We prefer that you refer to us as 'autistic'. Our reasoning is that being autistic is a core part of who we are which cannot be separated from us as people. A more detailed explanation (not written by Autscope) is available at: tinyurl.com/personfirst (external site)

We also have strict rules about confidentiality. No photographs, recordings or films from Autscope are permitted to be published (including online) without the permission of every individual in the picture. We also ask that you do not write about individuals in a personally identifying way without their explicit consent.

The Autscope board would also like to see a copy of any article or film and may use it or link to it on our website.

4. How we manage requests to film, record or write about Autscope in general or whilst at an Autscope event.

Anybody who wishes to film, record or write at Autscope and falls into the definition above should apply to the board for permission. Applications should be made to

info@autscape.org and include as much detail as possible about what you propose to do.

The board will look at your request and decide if it can allow the request and if any parameters, contract needs to be agreed in advance.

You will also be asked to agree to abide by this policy

5. Non compliance/withdrawing of consent

If it comes to the board or the Event Managers attention that you are not abiding by this policy then consent will be withdrawn.

The board and Event manager also reserve the right to withdraw their consent at any time should they become aware of any further information which might show that you are not compatible with our ethos or due to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to give you the space you require.

6. Responsibility

Overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation lies with the board of trustees.

6. Monitoring and Learning

This policy will be reviewed periodically to identify any changes in law and regulations

Review

This policy is reviewed regularly and updated as required.

Adopted on 31st July 2024

