

## **Filming an interview: top tips**

### **Lighting**

- Daylight is better than fluorescent lighting
- Try to find a location with even lighting
- Don't shoot with the sun (or another strong light source) directly behind them

### **Sound**

- Keep headphones on throughout the entire interview
- DO NOT start the interview until you are completely happy with the sound
- If at ANY point during the interview the sound becomes unclear (dodgy connection / loud noise nearby / they brush the microphone etc), stop and repeat that section
- If you are using a clip microphone ensure it isn't touching their clothes, or in a position where they might brush it with their hands.

### **Background**

- Branding: useful to brighten up a dull background, ideally something related to the message
- Movement can be good, regular movement far away from the camera is better than the occasional person wandering past
- If the interviewee has dark skin, try to avoid filming them against a white background

### **Cutaways**

- If you are only using one camera, use the time before the interview to get cutaways
- A cutaway can be any shot that doesn't include the mouth of the person being interviewed
- Examples include – their hands as they are speaking, their eyes, campaign materials, a shot from side on / slightly behind them, the face of the interviewer (if they are included in shot)

### **Framing the interview**

- Remember that the shot can be tightened in editing
- On the zoom, if you can only see their face, you're too close. If you can see their entire body you are probably too far away (unless there is more than one person in shot).

### **Camera position**

- The camera shouldn't ever be higher than the head of the interviewee
- If not in shot, the interviewer should sit to one side of the camera, with the interviewee diagonally across, so that they are looking across the shot
- If they are appealing directly to the viewer they should look into the camera, if not they should look at the interviewer.

### **Including the interviewer**

- If the interview is likely to be more of a conversation, then it is probably worth including both the interviewer
- If not it is good to ensure the questions from the interviewer are loud and clear on the tape. You may decide to remove them afterwards, but it can often be fine to have questions coming from out of shot