

Interview Guide- Human Rights Activists

- *Before the camera is rolling*
 - Do you have any questions for us?
 - Chat!

- *The Beginning – the Life Story*
 - Can you introduce yourself?¹
 - What is your name?
 - What organization are you involved with?
 - Where are you from?
 - (What do you see as being ‘your cause’?)
 - Can you tell us about your childhood?²
 - What was your family like?
 - What was your neighbourhood like?
 - Why did you come to Canada?
 - When did you first decide to come to Canada?
 - How long have you been in Canada for?
 - What is your current immigration status?
 - How did you come to be in Canada? (Tailor follow-up to their particular experience)
 - What was your immigration experience like?
 - What, to you, does it mean to be Canadian?
 - Tell us about your life here in Montreal
 - Where is your family now? What is your family life like now?
 - What communities do you identify as being a part of?
 - What’s your favourite sport?

- *The Middle – Life in Activism (re-examining the Life Story)*
 - What is activism?
 - What are human rights?
 - Do you consider yourself a human rights activist?
 - What do you *do* as an activist?
 - Why are you an activist?
 - How did you get involved with your cause?
 - What was your first political experience?
 - What was your first experience as an activist?
 - How did you get involved with your organization?
 - How are you sharing, or do you share, your life story with your children? Your family?
 - More generally, how do you teach people about human rights? Your cause?
 - Have any events or people influenced you, either positively or negatively?
 - Are you an “activist” on a volunteer basis? Or are you paid?
 - How do you balance your life and profession/volunteer?
 - How do you remain connected to your community or to the cause you represent?

¹ Allow interviewee to self-identify

² Life towards activism OR life with activism as a part of it?

- *The End? – General Reflections/Dreams for the Future*
- What did you want to be when you were young?
- Do you drink coffee? What's your favourite coffee shop?
- If you could, would you return home?
- What's important in your life today?³

general life story -> questions about activism -> looking back in more detail -> where they want to be this will allow the interviewee to re-examine their life as an activist, their conceptions of activism and human rights, and their 'formative' experiences. They may choose to trace a trajectory from their past experiences to their present conception as a human rights activist, to their dreams of what their life will become – or maybe they won't.

- *Questions for Steve*
- How do you negotiate between having structure and leading the interview?
- Comments? Suggestions?

³ Views interviewee as a whole being – not essentializing them as 'activists'