



The Role of Rapporteurs

1. A Rapporteur is the person who **listens to the witness stories and then prepares a report on his/her observations**. The Rapporteur lends integrity to the process of the Hearing through linking what is heard to the implications of what is heard and how it relates to the overall objectives for the Hearing.
1. Ideally, Rapporteurs are **formal or informal civic and religious leaders** who are open to learn more about the lived experiences of those in poverty. It is hoped that the role of the Rapporteur will move the individual to use their leadership positions to advocate for real change in systems which support/cause poverty.
1. The Rapporteur **listens without asking questions** except for the purpose of clarification. This is an active listening role where the listener is not only paying attention to what is heard but also to what the story evokes within.
4. The role of the Rapporteur is to **write a report, which integrates observations and impressions**. This summary should reflect and interpret how the stories heard reflect not only individual circumstances but also the structural realities of poverty. This report should be completed and submitted by the end of the Hearing day to the Convenor of the local Planning Committee. The Rapporteur is free to submit additional comments after further reflection no later than two days following the Hearing.
5. The role of the Rapporteur is **essential for ensuring accuracy along with the ethical and moral integrity of the final report**. Findings and recommendations from these reports will be used to focus the attention of decision makers on the emerging issues identified at the Hearings.
6. The role of the Rapporteur is **essential for the day of the Hearing**. The Rapporteur may also be included on the delegation that meets with local MPPs and MPs when the final report is released.



Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition – ISARC
P.O. Box 25067 – SDM
Kitchener, ON N2A 4A5
info@isarc.ca
www.isarc.ca



Handout for Rapporteurs

What is a Rapporteur?

A Rapporteur is a person who listens and then reports his or her observations. These functions are accomplished in the following manner:

1. The Rapporteur listens with ears, eyes, heart and mind.

The role of the Rapporteur is to listen; not to reply. The Rapporteur listens with all senses to gain a full appreciation of the story being told. Listening is more than hearing the story with your ears. It is paying attention to the body language of the storyteller, paying attention to the emotions the story raises within you, and listening for what remains unspoken.

2. The Rapporteur is focussed.

The role of the Rapporteur is to remain focused on the storyteller. It is not always easy to tune out the distractions around you and the distractions from within yourself. The Rapporteur strives to remain focused on what is being said and not on how he or she wishes to respond. The focus is on the story being shared and its implications as they relate to the overall objectives for the Hearings.

3. The Rapporteur records and reports findings.

The role of the Rapporteur is to write a report which integrates observations and impressions from the stories heard. This summary should indicate how these stories relate to the objectives for the Hearings. Notes should be completed and submitted within two hours of the completion of the Hearing.

4. The Rapporteur ensures integrity of the final report.

The role of the Rapporteur is essential for ensuring accuracy along with ethical and moral integrity of the final report. Findings and recommendations from their reports will be used to focus attention of decision makers on the emerging issues, which will result from the Hearings.

Sources:

European Law Monitor. (2009). European Union parliament: What is a Rapporteur? Retrieved September 24, 2009 from <http://www.europeanlawmonitor.org/EU-Information/What-Is-Guide-to-Key-EU-Terms/EU-Parliament-What-Is-a-Rapporteur.html>

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2007). Guidelines for chairpersons, speakers, panelists, Rapporteurs, drafters, delegates and observers. [Electronic Copy]. Retrieved September 28, 2009 from <http://www.uneca.org/codi/codi5/content/E-ECA-CODI-5-INF-5-EN.pdf>