



CONCLUSIONS OF HINTS MEETING IN ROME 10 - 12 October 2019 ON INTERPRETER CONFIDENTIALITY

In our capacity as Chief Interpreters and Managers at international and national organizations and institutions, we underscore the importance of upholding the universal principle of confidentiality for professional interpreters.

Trust and confidentiality between interpreters and their clients is what allows clients, from Heads of State or Government to persons of every rank and position to trust interpreters unreservedly. This trust and confidence in interpreter confidentiality is a cornerstone of the profession enabling clients to speak freely, secure in the knowledge that the interpreters owe a duty to their clients not to reveal any confidential information.

Universally, interpreters are bound by the professional code of ethics and a duty of confidentiality, which they must strictly apply towards all persons and all information disclosed in the course of the practice of the profession. In addition, most international and national employers of interpreters have established their own ethical framework defining duties, obligations and professional conduct and upholding the need for discretion and confidentiality in the work of interpreters.

Trust is key to transactions in general and international negotiations in particular. Were the principle of confidentiality to be threatened or eroded by legal, political or moral demands placed on interpreters to disclose information provided in confidence, the bonds of trust between interpreters and their clients would be undermined with detrimental consequences for the profession and clients' ability to communicate freely.

Therefore, without prejudice to applicable internal rules, we call upon all concerned to recognize and respect the universal principle of interpreter confidentiality and the bond of trust conferred upon the interpreter.