

- Created by Unknown User (tammi\_bramlett), last modified on Aug 14, 2015

Dear SIL colleagues,

Since the Global Review Panel facilitated by the World Evangelical Alliance completed their review of SIL's translation practices and released their recommendations, we have been working hard to develop processes to implement them. Many of you around the world contributed to this effort. Thank you. We are pleased that representatives of the Panel have approved our Processes for Accountability and Accuracy in Bible Translation of Divine Familial Terms and related documents. One wrote: "I want to express deep appreciation for the way (SIL) has not only taken the recommendations seriously but has engaged in a significant process to ensure compliance. May God give you all grace and wisdom as you continue to move forward through this process!"

I am also grateful to you for your efforts to communicate according to guidelines provided. This joint commitment to careful communication has helped prevent further unhelpful inflammation of the controversy. Also, we have also learned a great deal about what it means to be an international organization operating in an increasingly global, digitally connected world.

You will see from the attached Communications Protocols for Publications and Presentations that we aim to contribute to the public discussion of these important issues in managed and accountable ways. I trust that you will receive these Protocols in the spirit that they are intended: to facilitate constructive dialogue that further understanding in various academic and public relations settings, and contribute to better service to language communities.

Serving together,

Freddy Boswell

## Communication Protocols for SIL Publications and Presentations on Divine Familial Terms or Other Controversial Topics

Revision as of June 2014 | **These protocols apply to all SIL staff and are intended for INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY. Please do not forward them outside of SIL, or post or redistribute them.**

We work in an increasingly global and digitally connected world. This context brings both great opportunities and great challenges for how we communicate. Risks are heightened when dealing with controversial topics such as divine familial terms. Content intended for a local or specific audience can easily be re-broadcast to global audiences with differing levels of understanding of the issues. Each staff person has the potential to communicate globally about SIL and must accept the responsibility that comes with that. The following principles and protocols have been developed to help each of us steward this responsibility well. These guidelines provide specific protocols for SIL publications and presentations about controversial topics such as divine familial terms and insider movements. Controversial topics are defined as those topics which are the subject of public debate (not just academic debate) and for which public statements could endanger SIL's image or credibility or those of our close partners.

For guidance regarding publications and presentations for Wycliffe audiences (e.g. material used in a staff member's partnership development activities), please contact the appropriate Wycliffe organization.

### **Protocols for SIL publications and presentations about divine familial terms, insider movements, or other controversial topics:**

The following principles and processes will guide our engagement. Our goal is to optimize SIL's contribution to discourse on these topics in a professional and ethical way. These guidelines apply to both verbal and printed presentations and publications, including newsletters and online postings.

- Publications and presentations will be consistent with common, international standards for academic and research publications, including ethical standards.
- Unless the publication or presentation is officially representing the position of SIL, it must include a statement that it is the author's opinion and not an organizational position.
- Authors must make their supervisors aware of publications and presentations on which they are working and get their approval beforehand. If supervisors do not have the needed technical expertise, they will consult with an appropriate expert.
- Authors/presenters must affirm their acceptance of and commitment to compliance with SIL Standards and Processes for Translation of Divine Familial Terms.
- Authors or presenters must consult with anyone cited in a publication/presentation to ensure that that person's views are being accurately represented. If SIL staff or SIL-related projects are being addressed the relevant Area Director will also be consulted.
- Authorization for publication and presentations will be given collaboratively by SIL, seconding organizations, and any appropriate partner organization in the country in which it will be published or presented.
- Previously published articles will not be withdrawn, but republication will be subject to these protocols.
- Should any SIL staff member be involved in a publication/presentation which does not conform to these guidelines, then appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

**The following chart attempts to outline types of communication opportunities and the processes intended by the principles defined only for "Protocols for publications and presentations about divine familial terms, insider movements, or other controversial topics." It is not intended to describe the general approval guidelines for all academic publications and presentations.**

It is not possible to anticipate every variation of opportunity that may present itself, therefore these are intended to expand on the principles expressed above and guide the individual to seek the appropriate input in whatever specific situations presents itself.

The chart was revised for clarity following feedback from initial readers. Additional comments or questions are welcome.

**Abbreviations used in this chart:**

**ED - Executive Director**

**AED - Associate Executive Director**

**AD - Area Director**

**PRESENTATIONS**

<b>Type of event</b>	<b>Nature of opportunity</b>	<b>Approval process</b>	<b>Additional steps or notes</b>
Large / high profile conference	Official SIL representative	Appointed to present by ED or his designee.	
Professional conference (1)	Staff receives an invitation to make a presentation.	Processed with operational unit and/ or area domain coordinator.	Invitation passed on to operational unit leader for processing with Area Director or Services team leader. Area Director or Services team leader to approve, in consultation with AED & AD, staff member's seconding organization, and the Wycliffe organization in the country where the conference will take place.
Professional conference (2)	SIL sees an opportunity to constructively engage.	Domain coordinator relevant to the request contacts staff to consider attending.	Opportunity passed on to operational unit leader for processing with Area Director or Services team leader. Area Director or Services team leader to approve, in consultation with AED & AD, staff member's seconding organization, and Wycliffe organization in the country where the conference will take place.

Member of staff desires to attend a conference/consultation/open meeting	Staff personal interest.	Staff consults operational unit / region leader and relevant domain coordinator.	Area Director or Services team leader to approve in consultation with AED & AD, staff member's seconding organization, and Wycliffe organization in the country where the conference will take place.
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PUBLICATIONS/ BROADCAST

<b>Type of event</b>	<b>nature of opportunity</b>	<b>approval process</b>	<b>additional steps or notes</b>
SIL invited to write for or be interviewed by the media.	Public / official statements	Appointed to respond by ED or his designee	Passed to SIL Global Communication Coordinator as well as respective Wycliffe organization where publication originates.
Journal asks for a submission by "someone" in SIL.	Opportunity to partner with academic journal.	Domain coordinator relevant to the request contacts a staff member to consider writing.	Passed to operational unit leader for processing with Area Director or Services team leader. Approved by AD or Services team leader in consultation with the AED, staff member's seconding organization, and Wycliffe organization in the country in which the journal originates.
Staff member desires to publish an article or be interviewed in any type of publication.	Staff's personal interest and/or interest of staff member's partners.	Staff member submits abstract to operational unit / region leader and relevant domain coordinator for initial comment and approval in concept. Final paper submitted to same leaders for review and recommendation to AD.	Approved by Area Director or Services team leader in consultation with the AED, staff member's Wycliffe sending organization, and Wycliffe organization in the country in which the print publication originates.
Staff member desires to, or is requested to, be interviewed in any type of broadcast media.	Staff's personal interest and/or interest of staff member's partners.	Staff member informs operational unit / regional leader of opportunity and seeks input into pros and cons of being interviewed. Written talking points clarified and approved.	Interview and talking points approved by Area Director or Services team leader in consultation with the AED, SIL Global Communication Coordinator, staff member's seconding organization, and Wycliffe Participating organization in the country

			where the interview will be conducted.
--	--	--	----------------------------------------