FILMING VIOLATIONS on POLLING day in NIGERIA
PREPARE

Know your rights before you turn on the camera. In Nigeria, mobile phones are not permitted inside the voting cubicle; however, voters and observers can use their phones in the polling unit.

Always respect voter privacy and assess risks to yourself, interviewees, and communities before you film. Make sure your equipment is charged and in working order. Have an emergency contact number on hand at all times.
VERIFY

Your media is easier to verify if you document your footage's date, time, and location. Turn on automatic date, time and GPS location capturing features.

Alternately, film street signs, landmarks, or nearby surroundings. Document who is filming by saying your name to the camera or keeping a written record.

This tactic would make it harder for your footage to be discredited or re-purposed to mislead.
FILMING TIPS

Film from various angles to show the crowd's size or the voting queue's length. Hold shots for at least 10 seconds. Keep the camera steady and move it slowly when changing positions.

Avoid zooming – this will blur your focus. If safe, document incidents of hate speech and election offenses.
WHO

When possible, film incidents of voter intimidation, arrest, attack, and harassment.

Also important is to show if candidates and supporters were peaceful, inciting violence against minority groups or carrying weapons.

If violators were members of a group film details such as badges, flags, or stickers.
WHAT

If safe, get close-up shots of police vehicles, uniforms, badge numbers, indications of police rank, and methods of communication.

Capture other visual records of any election offenses and who was involved. These details help establish who is accountable for the violation.
WORK AS A TEAM

Work with a partner or a team to capture multiple angles of the same incident. A partner can also help keep you safe and watch for developing situations, such as whether the polling station opened on time or if there was disorganisation on the part of INEC - the electoral commission.
TELL THE STORY

Do no harm. Please get permission from people before you film them. Ask consenting individuals to describe the events or relay their personal experiences.

Through their interviews, you may be able to expose irregularities during polling day, the persecution of activists or civil society groups, stories of sexual or gender-based violence, or the non-inclusion of persons with disabilities.
PROTECTING IDENTITIES

Ensure those you film know how and where the video will be used. Discuss potential safety risks if the video is to be shared publicly, online, or with the authorities, if anonymity is needed.
PRESERVE YOUR MEDIA

Always keep your original media files in a secure location. Do not edit the original file – only edit from a copy. This will help retain the authenticity of the video evidence. When sharing your video online, include the date, time, and location in the video's title and tags.

Add details and contextualising links in the description of the video. Keep one copy of your footage in a secure format to be relied upon in pursuing justice.