A quick guide to...

Safety & Security
in humanitarian responses

First off, it's important to understand the difference between a few concepts

SAFETY:

Freedom from risk or harm as a result of **unintentional** acts (accidents, natural phenomenon or illness)

SECURITY:

Freedom from risk or harm resulting from **violence or other intentional acts** (crime, terrorism, kidnapping)

THREAT:

Any safety, security or other form of challenge to your staff, assets, organisation, reputation or programming that **exists in the context where you operate**.

RISK:

How a threat could affect your staff, assets, organisation, reputation or safety and security
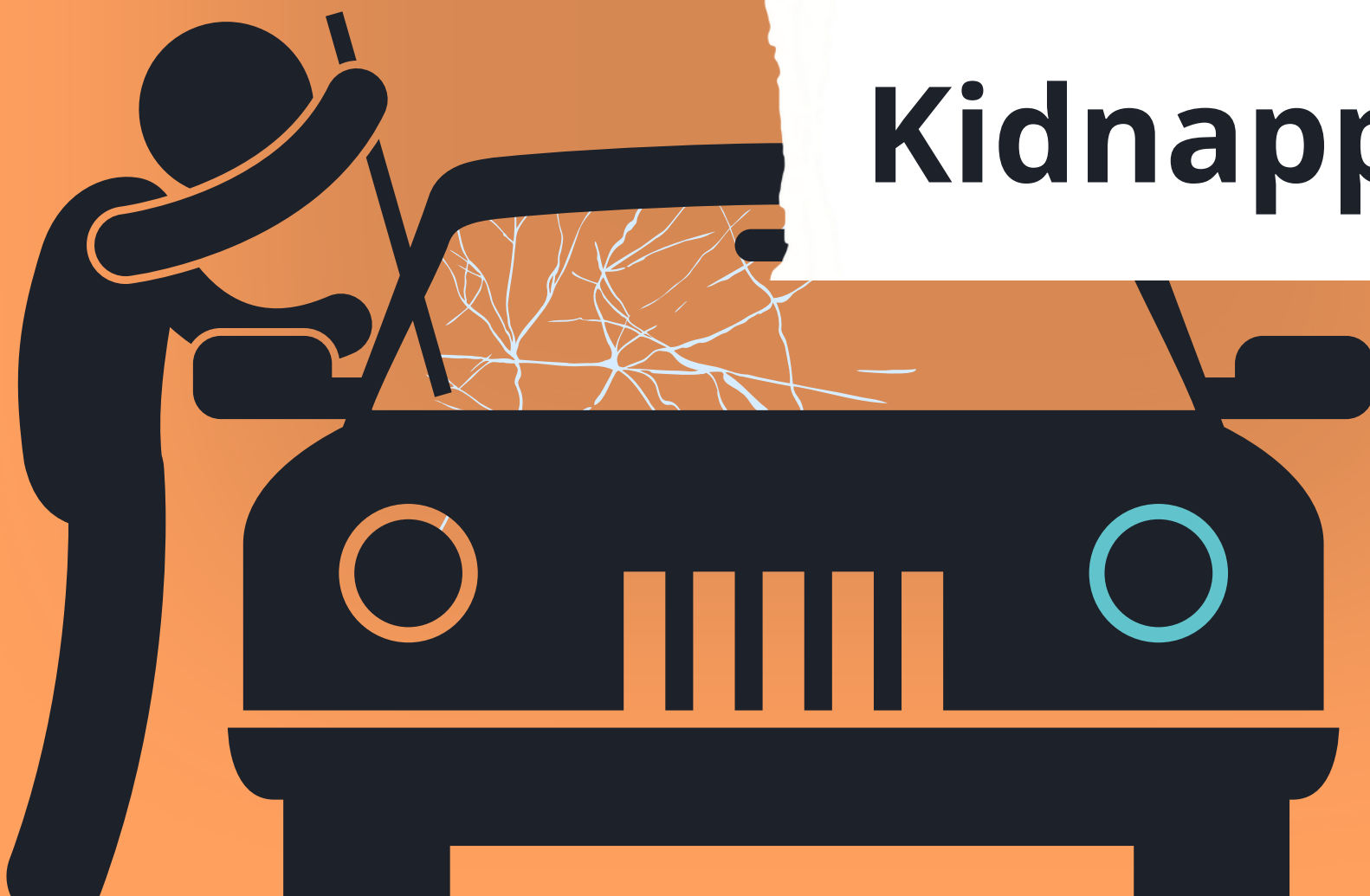
So, what threats can you face as a humanitarian worker?

Physical threats:

Crime
Terrorism
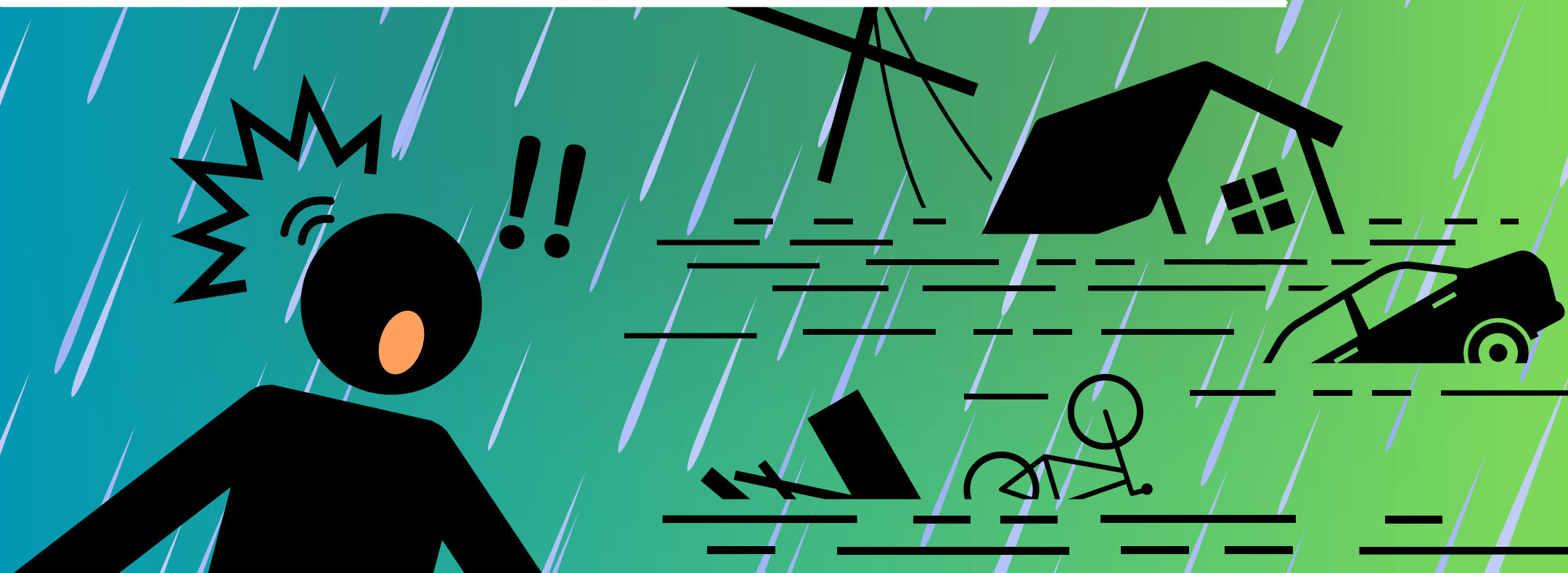Kidnapping

Organisational threats:

Environmental threats:

Natural disasters

Stress

Health/medical problems

There are different security strategies to mitigate these:

Protection:

Reducing the risk, but not the threat by **reducing the vulnerability** of your organisation and its staff.

Acceptation:

Building a safe operating environment through consent, approval and cooperation from individuals, communities and local authorities.

Deterrence:

Reducing the risk by **containing the threat with a counter threat**. In humanitarian contexts, this strategy should be implemented very carefully.

Conducting a thorough **risk assessment** and adopting **appropriate security strategies** before the start of a response ensures the safety of everyone involved.

Security is everyone's responsibility!

Explore more safety and security tips with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy

https://kayaconnect.org/