



Call for World Hearing Forum Changemakers Stories

OVERVIEW

The Champions Working Group of the World Hearing Forum (WHF) on behalf of the WHF aims to create greater awareness of hearing loss, of challenges faced by those with a hearing loss and solutions created by individuals and organizations to ensure people who are deaf or who have hearing loss live full and included lives. This document provides guidance on the format in which a story should be submitted for promoting these aims and outlines the consent process. A separate Declaration of Consent Form must be completed by a story submitter.

Individuals, families and not for profit organizations who may have overcome barriers through their own tenacity and advocacy efforts or may be working for the benefit of hard of hearing and deaf persons are invited to submit their stories. Organizations, communities, and primary health care providers who are taking steps to advance the World Hearing Forum's aims at the grass-root level may also submit their stories. Such stories should be based on real-life experiences that can inspire and influence others with the aim to improve conditions for persons who are deaf or have hearing loss.

This project is inclusive of people of all age groups from babies through to seniors, genders, cultural backgrounds, and countries. We are looking for a range of stories which include a broad spectrum of communication modalities, support, and approaches such as captioning, sign language use, cochlear and hearing implants, hearing aids and other assistive technologies. Success stories from people who have accepted their hearing loss and found strategies for managing hearing loss in daily life are welcomed.

The content may be used by the Champions Working Group and the World Hearing Forum (WHF) through social media platforms (e.g. The World Hearing Forum Changemakers Facebook page) and members of the WHF or the World Health Organization in internal and external communications including digital, electronic and print media. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be able to be used nor a guaranteed timeline for when the story will be posted.

CONSENT

Submissions should be accompanied by a signed WHF Declaration of Consent Form, which will be emailed to all those interested in contributing after their proposed story is received. The Consent Form should be signed by the person/representative of the organization contributing the photo/story content. The contributors will be responsible for ensuring that all those visible in the photo/s or named in a story have given permission to make use of their story, photographs videos, or voice. Submitters and story participants will be expected to comply with

WHO standards i.e. no links to tobacco and weapons industry.

By providing consent, individuals or organizations that give permission to use the provided content and photograph/s in all WHF/WHO materials, as considered appropriate. Uses will be relevant to the aims outlined above and/or consistent with the WHO World Report on Hearing. Story submitters are free to withdraw their consent at any time prior to the posting of the information.

No material or photos will be used without having received the signed Consent Form.

Story Contribution guidelines

TEXT SUBMISSION

Each text should be accompanied by a photo(s), with details as below:

Suggested Length: Up to 300 words or less for the final version (initial submissions may be longer).

Language: English

Style: Paragraph format using full sentences is greatly appreciated

Medium/Format: Microsoft Word (or other editable format) document, or in the body of an email. If possible, please avoid submitting as a PDF file.

VIDEOS SUBMISSION

If a video is submitted, it should be accompanied by relevant text, with details as below:

Suggested Length: 1-3 minutes

Language: English (or with English subtitles)

Style: All videos must be captioned. For advice on how to caption videos please contact info@ifhoh.org

Filming guidelines

1. Keep your video to a maximum of 1-3minutes.
2. Film in landscape mode. This can be achieved by flipping your phone or iPad onto its side.
3. Make sure you're in the centre of the screen making sure to not crop off your head or shoulders.
4. Film in a quiet space and avoid busy areas.
5. Make sure there is good lighting. For example, consider filming near a window with the light falling onto your face.
6. Film where there's a plain background. Ideally a wall.
7. Use a clear and loud voice when answering the questions.
8. Take a pause between each thing you say. For example, "my name is Natasha" (pause). "I live in Sydney, Australia" (pause) and so on.
9. Consider having someone ask you the questions. If you're on your own say the question and then answer it. Alternatively, include the question in your answer, for example:
 - *Saying the question: "What is your name and where are you from?"*

- Including the question: *“My name is Natasha and I’m from Sydney, Australia.”*

CONTENT GUIDANCE

Please consider the following suggestions in your story or video:

- Only information suitable for sharing on a public domain should be submitted.
- Keep it positive; stories should inspire. Conversely, stories should not be a vehicle for criticism of specific individuals, communication modalities or organizations.
- Include contact details for the person at the center of the story, or the correct person to contact for more information.
- Relevant background information such as your
 - name, age, geographic location and type of hearing loss
 - type of ear and hearing care service and/or intervention received, or being provided
 - age the intervention or technology was received *
- Describe specific daily challenges and how you approach them. If a treatment or support has become available to you, describe that support e.g. provision of captioning, learning sign language, access to assistive devices, hearing aids or cochlear implants and access to rehabilitation supports. Describe the positive impacts
- Address how your life has changed because of the treatment or support you received.
- What do you want the world to know about what it is like to be deaf or live with a hearing loss? What are new things you can do as a result of overcoming a barrier?
- What advice would you give to other people with lived experiences of hearing loss?
- If you are an organization, describe a barrier that your organization addressed and how this is helping prevention, diagnosis, early intervention, and treatment of hearing loss in your community.

The story must focus on hearing loss as a central component of the story and not secondary to the story. See attached for more on content that should be avoided.

*Reference to brand names and commercial organizations should be avoided.

Please note, once you have submitted your photos/stories and videos, a member of the WHF Champions Working Group team may get in touch with you to ask for further details or to clarify any points. Personal stories may be edited, and edited stories will be sent to the original contributor for confirmation prior to the publishing of the story.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Number of photos: Contributors are encouraged to include between 1 to photos per story.

Formats: The following formats are preferred: JPEG, PNG

Photo Quality: Photos taken by an amateur are perfectly acceptable; however, contributors should ensure that the photograph is in focus, is of high resolution.

Orientation: Landscape or Portrait

Photo details:

For each photo submitted, please include:

- A quote/captions to accompany the photo
- Credit line i.e. the name of photographer and/or organization that should be credited
- Any other relevant information

Submissions: Text and photos should be emailed to whfchangemakers@gmail.com using the heading of Changemakers Story. Following submission, contributors will be sent a consent form, which should then be signed, scanned, and emailed to the same whfchangemaker@gmail.com address.

Thank you in advance for your contributions. We will inform you if you or your organizations story has been chosen, prior to its publication.

Champions Working Group of the World Hearing Forum

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Stories cannot be accepted for publication if:

- Specific individuals or organizations are named in a way that criticizes or defames a person/organization (It is beyond our capacity to check for veracity of such stories/claims.)
- Stories that promote one viewpoint to the exclusion of other viewpoints must be carefully weighed. This is not a platform for advocacy of a particular viewpoint.
- The language is offensive i.e. swear words are used.
- The story lacks respect for inclusivity and diversity, and has racial, sexist, and disrespectful undertones.
- The goals of amplification of the WHO World Hearing Report messages are not served.
- The submission does not meet the Guidelines in the Call for World Hearing Forum Changemaker Stories.