

# **WOMEN WITH VOICES**

## **An Anthology of Resilience and Recovery**

Compiled & Curated by

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*“A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman.” – Melinda Gates*

### **BACKGROUND**

The paths of Louisa—a native of the UK, long-term resident in Asia, semi-retired—and Erin—born, bred and living in the USA, having worked as a writer, editor, and educator in many states—recently crossed when Erin was assigned as the content editor for a book submitted by Louisa to an American publishing house. Louisa’s story resonated with Erin, who shared some of her own complex circumstances. Not only was a sisterhood born but, in the belief that many women have their own stories of struggle and courage to tell, the concept of “Women with Voices” was conceived.

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

“Women with Voices” will be a compilation of true, original stories written by ‘ordinary’ women, for other women, in order to inspire and strengthen them in their own encounters and experiences. The concept will be further developed and crafted as submissions are received and accepted. This includes the exploration by the co-curators of publication in various formats, including, but not limited to, online and book/e-book.

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

The curators are therefore now seeking articles for inclusion in the anthology under the following guidelines:

- The author must be a woman, have been a woman, or be a nonbinary or agender person who feels that they’ve lived through female experiences. That is so say, the understanding of gender will be expansive rather than restrictive.
- The article must be original and, to avoid copyright complications, not have been previously published elsewhere.
- The article must be in English, or have been translated into English.

- The article should be submitted in Word format, ideally Times New Roman 12pt., 1½ line spacing.
- There is no proscribed length *per se* although as a general guide it should range from between 500 and 5,000 words. Longer articles will be reviewed on merit.
- The content should deal with the author's confrontation with and surmounting of a major obstacle, tragedy, or trauma. These could include, but are not limited to, sexual, physical or emotional assault/abuse; physical or mental illness; bereavement, particularly in distressing circumstances; miscarriage; divorce; prejudice in achieving career or other life goals; negotiating gender identity; and so on. Stories of joy are also welcomed! The goal of this anthology is to console women who are struggling, just as Erin and Louisa have been consoled through their journeys. You choose your own vulnerability—share as much as feels safe to you, but also protect yourself.
- The articles should be written in the first person.
- The author can choose to remain anonymous and use a pen name if she wishes.
- It is preferable, although not compulsory, for the author to reveal their age/ethnicity/citizenship/other relevant aspects of their identity in order to present the wide demographic range of women affected by such issues, and to highlight the intersectional struggles of gender, race, age, region, religion, sexuality, economic status, and all the other institutions women have to struggle under in order to have a voice.
- The curators reserve the right to:
  - decline submissions on various grounds including inappropriateness of style or content
  - request revisions by the author
  - edit and abridge accepted submissions
- The curators will work with all authors to ensure they're portraying their story in the way they want to, with guidance as to how to make it the best possible version of itself
- In a co-written Introduction, Erin and Louisa will share their own struggles as they've walked through the world female, in solidarity with the vulnerability the contributors have chosen to share.

## **SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE**

- All articles should be submitted as attached Word files in the format proscribed above (Times New Roman 12pt., 1½ line spacing) to both of the following email addresses:

louisa@louisakamal.com & erin.editor.freelance@gmail.com

- The curators will respond to submissions as soon as possible, usually within 2 to 4 weeks.

## **TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE**

- Submissions are accepted on the understanding that they may be edited by the curators.
- Copyright: after publication, copyright reverts to the author, and the work may be republished, on the condition that the co-curators are credited with first publication.
- The curators reserve the right to quote from accepted submissions/publish them in their entirety on other platforms, both pre- and post-publication of the anthology, for the purposes of promotion and creating awareness of the issues raised.
- Authors should not expect any financial remuneration from publication: any profits accrued after publication expenses are covered will be donated to verified appropriate charities or NGOs, the names and details of which will be circulated among all contributors.
- A contract outlining these and other pertinent issues will be signed by the author and one/both of the curators once a submission has been accepted.