USE YOUR VOICE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

How to craft your story

Purpose:

Crafting your story allows you to show up as vulnerable and powerful, your experiences become a bridge between lived reality and policy impact.

Core Principles:

- Authentic: Your story doesn't need to be perfect. It needs to be real.
- Purpose-driven: Speak to your "why". What changed you? What moved you to speak up?
- Respect boundaries: Know what parts you're ready to share, and what can stay in private.
- Connect the dots: Link personal experience to policy/systematic gaps.
- Empower, don't diminish: Share lessons, not just losses. This is your time to shine on what's going on in your experience.

Basic Flow:

1. Introduce yourself: Just enough to set context
2. The challenge: What issue or experience shaped your perspective?
3. The turning point: When did you realize it needed to change to speak up?
4. The action: What did you do next (advocate, join WA-SEN, etc.)?
5. The vision: What change do you want to see?

Pro Tip:

"Lead with the heart, land with the point"

Start with something emotionally grounding, then circle back to the larger message or policy shift you're calling for.

Use these resources:

- Storytelling worksheet
- Strong advocacy stories
- Trauma-informed storytelling practices