

Not invisible.



video



audio



photo



written



drawn

Call for STORIES

AE is looking for stories from the autism community for the Not invisible campaign

Deadline: receiving some stories by the end of January would be appreciated, however we will collect the stories on a rolling basis

Within the context of the [multi-annual #AutismNotInvisible campaign](#), Autism-Europe is looking for stories from the autism community. In the context of the campaign, it is critical to share the lived experiences, concerns and expectations of the autism community. We will share these stories via the campaign website to illustrate our call for a society that values autistic people.

We will build the website around the production of video content, but, of course, all sorts of expressions and means of transmission are welcome and will be featured.

➔ [Read the call in EASY TO READ here.](#)

About the campaign:

‘Not invisible’ is a multi-annual campaign that seeks to draw attention to the fact that autistic people’s needs are often made invisible. Autism-Europe and our members want to raise awareness of the barriers and discrimination autistic people face, and how to overcome them.

We advocate for the realisation of our human rights in all areas of life, in line with the UN CRPD. We call for a society where autistic people are fully recognised, and get the understanding, acceptance, and full enjoyment of their rights they deserve. Nothing about autistic people should be done without autistic people.

Ideas or inspiration:

- You are welcome to record a short video, see the next page for some recording tips, including questions to answer.
- You may send us one or multiple pictures/photographs; they can be a portrait or a self-portrait or a different type of representation depending on what you want to express and represent. These pictures can be supported by a caption.
- You record a vocal message, telling your story. Please find the questions for inspiration on the following pages.
- You write a blog/text, based on the same questions as mentioned above.
- You create or help someone create an artwork. We need to digitize this for the website, so a picture would be great.

Please send your material to communication@autismeurope.org

Please fill out and sign [this consent form](#)

Please clearly state your name with your contribution (the same name you use for the consent form)

Thank you so much, we look forward to hearing from you!

QUESTIONS TO INSPIRE THE STORIES

- Could you please introduce yourself, and explain your connection to autism?
- Do you consider yourself to be an advocate for disability rights? Can you tell us more about why you decided to become a disability rights advocate?
- Autistic people's needs are often made invisible in society. Why do you think it is important for autistic people (and their needs) to be visible?
- What is the biggest change that you would like the campaign to make in society to improve autistic people's life?
- Can you tell us in a few words what our campaign hashtag #AutismNotInvisible means to you?

VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preparation

A. Choose a setting you feel comfortable in

- Quiet location: Pick a space where you won't be interrupted or distracted. A quiet room will help ensure your voice comes through clearly.
- Natural light: Position yourself near a window or soft light source. Avoid harsh lighting, which can create shadows. If you do own a ring light or lighting equipment – perfect!
- Tidy background: Choose a simple, clutter-free background so the focus stays on you. You don't need a fancy setup, just a calm space.

B. Prepare your story

- Consider your story in advance or keep some notes: You don't need to write a script, but it helps to have a basic outline in mind. Consider using the questions provided above.
- Keep it simple: Focus on one aspect of your story at a time. You can always record additional videos later if you want to share more and send us a pack.
- Ideally each individual story should be kept brief (up to 3 minutes), but it can be more – this is indicative.

C. Practice before recording

- Do a practice run: Try speaking about your story out loud before you start recording. It will help you get comfortable and find your rhythm.
- Rehearse key details: You don't need to memorize everything but rehearse important details to help you feel more confident while recording.

2. Setting up the camera

A. Use what you have

- Smartphone or camera: You can use your phone, tablet, or any camera you have. Most smartphones today have excellent video quality.
- No need for equipment: If you have a tripod or other tools, great but feel free to just use what you have at home, like a stack of books or a shelf to prop your phone up at eye level. Some kind of stabilizer is essential for good quality.

B. Position the camera

- Eye level: Position the camera so it's at your eye level. This makes the video feel more natural and engaging.
 - Record in landscape (horizontal).
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3. Lighting and Sound

A. Lighting tips

- Face the light: Position yourself facing a light source (e.g., a window or lamp) to ensure your face is well lit. Avoid sitting with your back to bright lights or windows.
- Natural light works best: If possible, use natural daylight for a softer look. Set up in front of a window if possible.

B. Sound considerations

- You can speak at your own volume and pace. If you're using a phone, hold it steady so the microphone picks up your voice clearly. If possible, use a microphone, connected to your mobile device.
 - Limit background noise: Try to avoid areas with too much background noise, like loud appliances or traffic. If you can, close windows or doors to reduce sound interference.
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4. Recording your story

A. Start with an introduction

- Introduce yourself: Begin by saying your name and a brief introduction: *“Hi, I’m [Your Name], and I will tell you about [topic/experience].”*

B. Share your story

- Speak from the heart: Don't worry about being perfect. The most important thing is sharing your truth.
- Keep it simple: You don't have to overthink it. If you make a mistake, just keep going. The story is meaningful.
- Take breaks if needed: If you need a moment to gather your thoughts or calm your nerves, pause, take a deep breath, and then continue.
- Embrace what you feel: Feel free to express how you feel, whether that's happiness, sadness, or anything in between.

C. Conclude your story

- Once you've shared your story, end by reflecting on what you've shared. You can say something like, "*To finalise...*" or "*I've learned that...*" or "*I would like the Not invisible to...*".
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5. Finishing Up

A. You may edit or leave it raw

- Keep it real: Don't worry about making everything perfect. AE can do final cuts and edits if needed.

B. Review the video

- Rewatch: If you feel comfortable, you can watch the video afterward just to check the quality of the lighting and sound. If you're happy with it, you're done!
 - Don't overthink it: If you don't like how something looks or sounds, remember that your story is what matters most.
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6. Tips for feeling comfortable

A. Take it easy

- It's *your* story: There's no right or wrong way to tell your story. Speak naturally, and don't worry about how you look or sound. What matters is your personal experience.
- Don't stress over perfection

B. Take your time

- Relax and breathe: If you're nervous, take a few deep breaths before starting. It's okay to take your time.
- Take breaks: If you need to pause during your recording, that's perfectly fine. You're in control, and it's important to feel comfortable.