

ETHICAL STORYTELLING

**WE'RE A
COMMUNITY OF
NONPROFIT
PRACTITIONERS &
STORYTELLERS
LEARNING HOW
TO INTEGRATE A
NEW STANDARD
OF STORYTELLING.**

RESOURCES

For many organizations, story is currency.

This is especially true in the nonprofit and social impact world. We tell stories to amplify awareness. We tell stories to raise money – to do the good we want to do. And when we've done that good, we tell stories about it so donors, volunteers, and supporters can participate in the good their gifts make possible. We tell stories to invite others in.



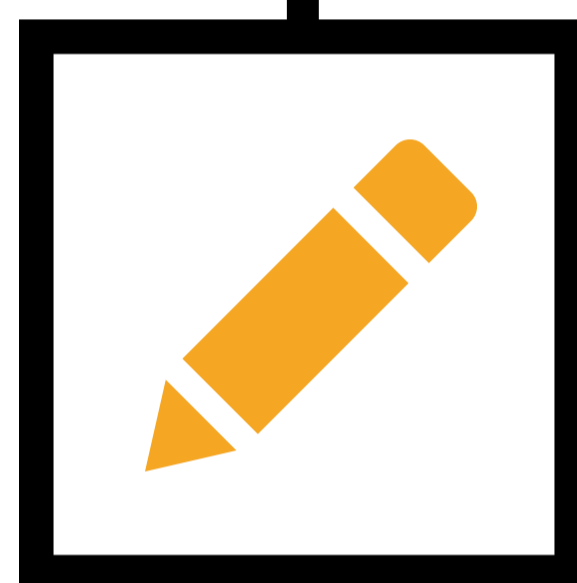
PODCAST

Listen to storytellers, non-profit practitioners and others as they share what ethical storytelling is to them.



WEBINARS

Visit our website to listen to past Ethical Storytelling webinars and sign up for future ones.



SIGN THE PLEDGE

Visit ethicalstorytelling.com/pledge to read and sign the pledge to tell more dignifying story.

STORIES MATTER.

So why is it that we continue to tell the stories of those we serve as if they're one dimensional? Why is it that we continue to consume one dimensional stories?

As a diverse group of nonprofit employees and activists, survivors and social workers, researchers and storytellers, we know we can tell better stories. And we know we can learn to expect more from our storytellers. We're an open sourced, nuanced, constituent first, donor second collective seeking to change the way we tell and consume stories.

We pledge to:

- Tell others' stories the way we want our story told.
- Always put people first.
- Explain to constituents the purpose of the story, where it will be used and answer any questions they might have before photographing, filming or recording.
- Find an able translator if we speak different languages.
- Ask the constituent if they wish to be named or identified and act according to their wishes.
- Use all images and messages with the full understanding, participation and permission of the constituent or the constituent's legal guardian.
- Uphold the dignity of our constituents through empowering imagery and messages that motivate engagement and inspire hope.
- Truthfully represent a situation or story to educate our audiences of the realities, complexities and nuances of the issues we advocate for.
- Not use images, footage or words that sensationalize or stereotype a person or a situation.
- Ask for feedback from our constituents and incorporate this feedback into the final story.
- Abide by international law, standards and protocols related to vulnerable persons, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Listen to our constituents' voices and respect their decisions, story and journey.
- Hold a posture of humility and learning, recognizing that failures can be our biggest educators.
- Seek advice if we question whether a particular story, message or image is not in alignment with ethical storytelling practices.
- Not tell the story, despite the resources invested, when the story cannot be told with the integrity of this pledge.
- Take ownership of our responsibility to uphold integrity in our storytelling and messaging.

As a community of nonprofit practitioners and storytellers we commit to learning from the past and integrating a new standard of storytelling as we journey together into the future.



Sign the pledge at ethicalstorytelling.com/pledge