



Survivors' Voices Changemakers

Who are Survivors Voices Changemakers?

Changemakers are people who want to use their experience as a survivor and/or supporter to help create change and improve things for people affected by abuse. In our experience this kind of survivor activism has a massive impact.

As a **Changemaker**, you will join a group of people connected to Survivors Voices who would like to get involved in activities that can help change how society responds to people who have been abused.

You can choose what, if any, activities you join and take part anonymously if you want to. You can take a break or stop being a Changemaker at any time. Joining the group does not commit you to taking part in anything until you choose to.

What kind of activities do Changemakers do?

At different times, a variety of opportunities may be offered. These include:

- **Providing quotes and experiences** that can be used in our reports, training etc..
This could be on a wide range of topics e.g. what services have you found helpful/unhelpful? How easy was it to find a therapist?
- **Writing or recording (anonymously unless you request otherwise) your experiences** and your journey out of abuse towards well being (any aspect of this, good or bad) for our shortly to be launched online "**Survivor Experiences Open Space**" (a (moderated) place where anyone can record their experience of abuse so that it is not forgotten, and could be used to help change things)
- **Being involved in research** through sharing your views and experience (e.g. completing a survey, attending a focus group etc...)
- **Being involved in research as a peer-researcher**, which could include helping to shape research (e.g. what questions should be asked, what is investigated etc...) undertaking research (e.g. doing interviews, analysing results) , or supporting researchers (e.g. reading/reviewing things that have been written)
- **Writing for us** e.g. guest blogs, short articles, information sheets, contributing to publications etc and editing or reviewing our publications
- **Helping us to gather research** about survivor issues for our website
- Connecting to other organisations who have requested **survivor representation/voice** (e.g. advisory groups, co-production projects)
- **Speaking /presenting** at conferences and workshops
- Joining the **Survivors Voices training team**
- Taking part in **campaigns and advocacy** projects (e.g. preparing or delivering campaign reports or materials for better services, consultations etc.)
- help behind the scenes with Survivors Voices **organising, communications, administration** etc
- **Your own ideas** - let us know what your passion is!

Do I need any qualifications or experience?

No, your experience as a survivor and/ or supporter is the only qualification you need! We do ask all Changemakers to affirm a commitment to working to the principles in our



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Charter and to basic safe practice. This includes a willingness to work relationally, building your relationship with other Changemakers and members of the Survivors Voices team.

Some specialist opportunities may ask for particular experience e.g. leading training. We will always make this clear and offer training if you want to develop your skills.

What support will I get as a Changemaker?

We will send you regular mailings with details of all the opportunities.

We are planning to develop a Changemakers resource area on our website. This will have links to resources and a forum where we can share ideas, opportunities and support each other in creating change.

We can provide training and support for peer research, presenting, writing and training roles. We are piloting peer support networks for survivors who are researchers, therapists and trainers.

You will be welcome at our bi-annual Gatherings for survivors. In 2019, we piloted a gathering/training session for Changemakers and we will hold a virtual Changemakers gathering later in 2020.

We are piloting a peer support group for survivor-researchers, and will start one for survivor-activists later in 2020.

Most Changemaker opportunities are voluntary, where possible we will offer expenses. We are building our research, training and events team and this includes some paid commissions, in which case we will invite applications and follow a fair recruitment process. Some research projects or opportunities from other organisations may be paid, or offer an honorarium/voucher.

How do I become a Changemaker?

There are just three easy steps, which can be taken in any order!

1. **Send an email** to connect@survivorsvoices.org and ask for the Changemaker information. We will send you a copy of the Charter and our safe practice guidance.
2. **Complete a short on-line registration form.** This asks for your contact details and permission for us to contact you. We also ask you to say what kind of opportunities you are most interested in, and any relevant experience you want to tell us about. You will find the form here: <https://survivorsvoices.org/changemakers/>
3. **Have a chat** with one of the Survivors Voices team, about how we can best work together. We place safe and supportive relationships at the heart of all we do. We want to get to know you and build a mutually supportive relationship. We will invite you to our gatherings and relevant peer network meetings, and add you to our general newsletter and specialist Changemaker mailings, to help you to get to know us.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our community!

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