

Youshare Project by Ashlee Blewett

In January 2015, my husband, Nick, and I launched an online global community of writers and readers like no other. We were tired of the negative, divisive, and fear-based rhetoric we heard and saw every time we flipped on the news or read popular websites (especially the comments sections)—so we decided to stop complaining about it and start being the change we want to see in the world. We launched the Youshare Project (www.youshareproject.com) with the dream of creating a more conscious and thoughtful global society.

At Youshare, we publish true, personal stories about life-shaping events and experiences (from writers of all skill levels) and offer a safe space for people to engage in meaningful dialogue about the story topics.

To date we have published more than 275 stories from people living in 40 countries and territories on all 7 continents. Some of our most cherished feedback comes directly from our Youshare authors:

"Maybe you have a story that could help others. If so, tell it on Youshare. It's a great place to be yourself." – Sam Marie Engle (U.S.A.)

"I was honored to be part of the first group of writers to post an article when the Youshare Project first launched. It has helped me in so many ways become a better person, and I am so happy and feel lucky to be a part of the Youshare Project community." – Jasmine Pollard (U.S.A.)

"This project has made immense changes on people which the creators may not be aware of. The platform is therapeutic, through it souls are healed." – Mariama Kande (Sierra Leone)

This is only the beginning. Together with our nearly 400 community members, we've created the beginnings of a global movement. Stories from the community have generated over 200,000 views and hundreds of comments across the website and social media. Soon we'll be launching new community features to promote even more engagement on the site, including a forum, the ability to create groups based on different topics, and private messaging among community members.

We invite you to come check out the community, meet other writers and thinkers from around the world, engage in dialogue on the website, and submit your own personal story for publication. The stories we publish are around 800 to 2,000 words, and as long as a story meets our broad guidelines (<http://www.youshareproject.com/submission-guidelines/>), we'll publish the piece, and you'll join a growing movement to change the world.

Have questions? Please email Ashlee at ashlee@youshareproject.com. I look forward to hearing from you!