

Building Bridges Word by Word

Invitation to Participate

Concerned about the deep divides in our country, **Building Bridges Word by Word** offers a safe space where we can step back from these rifts, read each other's stories and discover what we may have in common. And, with that realization, begin to build bridges across our divides.

We invite you to be a part of this important bridge building effort by writing a short reflection on a favorite saying, quote, song, or poem that is meaningful to you. By posting these **stories** side by side, Building Bridges Word by Word reflects the rich diversity of our country and our common humanity. For more information, please check out the Building Bridges Word by Word **website**.

We hope you will consider participating in this effort. Here are four ways you can do so.

1. **READ** the **stories** posted on the Building Bridges Word by Word website and meet the interesting people behind them. Their reflections may remind you of something that happened to you or something that's been on your mind. Perhaps *their* song, the one they wrote about, is also *your* song. That's okay. It can be enlightening to hear another person's perspective on the same words.
2. **WRITE** a short reflection (up to 250 words) about a saying, quote, song, or poem that is meaningful to you. Think about a line or two that speaks to who you are and what you believe. For instance, it could be a popular saying or one your mother always told you that seems particularly relevant these days. It might be a quote that you've taped to your refrigerator or tacked on to your emails because it captures how you feel about the world. Or perhaps it's a song that helps you get through tough times or a poem that challenges you to think or act differently.

We will be delighted to work with you to post your story. As you consider what you want to write, read the **stories** on our *website* and review the **guidelines**. The project is ongoing so there are no due dates.

To ensure that this is a safe space, please refrain from commentaries on others. We will not accept malicious content, hostile language, or anonymous reflections.

3. **SHARE** this invitation with others. The success of this effort depends on engaging people from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives, including gender identity, age, race, and ethnicity, as well as geographic, political, religious, cultural, and social backgrounds. Please help broaden our outreach by sharing the **Call for Stories** and the Building Bridges Word by Word **website** and this Substack with your family, friends, colleagues, community and networks.
4. **HELP** us get out the word by sharing the Building Bridges Word by Word Substack and following the **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** pages and by liking and sharing the posts. The more interactions among site visitors, the more visibility we'll get from the algorithms. If you have other ideas for sharing the project, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please contact us at buildingbridgeswbw@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.