



HOW TO BECOME A HUMAN BOOK?

WHAT IS THE HUMAN LIBRARY?

The Human Library is a safe space for dialogue and curiosity through personal conversation. It is based on the idea that we all have prejudices and we all judge. From this point of view, the Human Library publishes humans as Open Books who engage in personal and honest conversations. The Human Library facilitates voluntary-basis Reading events, where the community can come to take out a Book and become Readers.

WHOM DO WE PUBLISH?

We typically and foremost publish people who belong to groups in society exposed to stigma, stereotyping or prejudices. These are typically based on occupation, ethnicity, religious belief, gender, cultural background, health, social status, lifestyle, or disability. We also publish topics subject to heavy taboos, including victims of incest, sexual abuse, domestic violence, or grief-related topics. Yet, there is no exhaustive list of topics that can be published at the Human Library.

Our Books provide Readers with insight, personal experience, and perspective. Books should also beware that many potential Readers may be highly unfamiliar with their topic. Therefore, the Reader might come from the point of prejudice but with the will to understand and explore topics they are curious about.

Books can receive difficult questions related to their Book Topics from Readers. These questions are often taboo or challenging to talk about, but necessary to thoroughly understand the topic. Each Book decides on the boundaries of the publication. No Book is endless, and there might be chapters that should be kept private and met with a polite "I am sorry, but that is a chapter that has not yet been published."

Librarians roam around the venue to see if all parties of the Readings are in comfort and peace. As a Book, you always have the right to refuse a Reading or interrupt a Reading and report any problems to Librarians if the Reader is not behaving appropriately or you feel uncomfortable with the situation.



HOW TO DECIDE ON THE TITLE AND CONTENT OF AN OPEN BOOK?

In the Human Library, every Book is unique and can choose its own Titles based on their experiences. Our Books have succinct and easy-to-grasp Book Titles which are hardwired to their personal experiences of stigma, stereotyping, or prejudice.

GETTING READY FOR PUBLICATION

As your publisher, it is our responsibility that your content is vetted and prepared for publication. This means we train our Books and prepare them to become a resource to Readers. Once your Book Title and content have been decided and you feel ready to meet Readers, you will join the Human Library Bookshelf and be invited to different events.

WHERE DO BOOKS AND READERS GET TOGETHER?

The Human Library events take place at many different locations and in various formats. The classic setup is an event in a public library or similar where Books are waiting on a Bookshelf for Readers to join the front desk and request a loan.

We also offer conference events organized as "Reading Hall" sessions with groups of Readers sitting at tables. Every 30 minutes, the Book will end their conversation and move on to the following designated table to meet a new group of Readers.

We visit high schools, colleges, universities, festivals, and workplaces and offer online sessions named Public Online Reader's Corners, where we bring Books and Readers from around the world.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In our classic setting, we facilitate the loan through our Librarians, facilitators of the loaning. They will explain the rules of the Reading and present the different topics we carry on our Bookshelf to the Readers.

The Human Library prepares the Librarians on skills such as matching techniques, safety procedures, taking great care of our Book collection and ensuring everyone has the necessary conditions for optimal participation. If you need something, the Librarians will always be there to help you at any time.