



I Survived Ed Reform

Submission Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the "**I Survived Ed Reform: Lessons in Leadership from Women of Color and a Playbook for Reforming Ed Reform**" book project. This initiative aims to amplify the voices of women of color in education reform leadership by sharing personal narratives and providing actionable strategies for systemic change. Below are the guidelines to help you craft your submission:

Personal Narrative Focus:

Share a personal experience related to your role as a woman of color in education reform. This could encompass challenges, trauma, triumphs, and/or pivotal moments that shaped your leadership journey.

What is workplace trauma? Workplace trauma for women of color refers to the cumulative psychological, emotional, and sometimes physical distress experienced due to systemic inequities, discrimination, microaggressions, and exclusionary practices in professional environments. It is shaped by intersecting factors such as race, gender, and cultural identity, often manifesting in feelings of isolation, burnout, and chronic stress.

Chapter Alignment:

Identify the chapter that best aligns with your narrative:

- **The Weight of the Cape & the Myth of the Black Superwoman**
- **Strange Bedfellows:** Navigating Alliances in Education Reform
- **Making Bricks with No Straw:** Resource Challenges & Innovations
- **No Room to Fail:** The Pressure of Perfection & Representation
- **Board Trauma:** Navigating Governance & Power Dynamics
- **You Won't Break My Soul:** Resilience in the Face of Adversity

- **All My Skin Folk...:** Intra-community Challenges and Supports
- **So What Now?:** A Playbook for Reforming Ed-Reform

Length and Format:

Aim for a narrative between 5 to 10 pages; size 11 font; 1.25 line space; ½ inch margins. Use a clear, authentic and concise writing style, ensuring your story is accessible and engaging. We want your story to demonstrate *your* voice!

Content Structure:

Make sure your story includes the following structural elements:

- **Introduction:** Set the context of your experience; draw your readers into your story.
- **Body:** Delve into the details, highlighting challenges, decisions, and outcomes. Be sure to try to address as many senses as possible and capture the emotion of the story.
 - Be as vulnerable as you see fit. Try to use the essence of your voice, humor, sarcasm, joy, pain, trauma, disgust-- any and all emotions are valid.
 - Be clear about your identity and what role your identity (and the identities of those around you) played in the experiences you are writing about
- **Conclusion:** Reflect on the lessons learned and offer deep insights or recommendations for the future of ed reform: essentially, how should the sector be operating in regards to the theme of your chapter? What disruptions need to be made to pave the way for emerging leaders of color

Confidentiality and Sensitivity:

If discussing specific individuals or organizations, consider using pseudonyms or general descriptions to maintain confidentiality.

Be mindful of sharing sensitive information that could inadvertently harm you or others. Those who submit chapters have the option of submitting with their name or anonymously.

Submission Process:

- Prepare your narrative in a Word document or PDF format using the aforementioned structure.
- Include a brief bio (150 words) highlighting your background and involvement in education reform. Also include a high quality color headshot or cool candid.
- Submit your document via email to isurvivededreform@gmail.com by **MARCH 8, 2025**.

Selection and Feedback:

- Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial team.
- Selected contributors will be notified by **APRIL 5, 2025**.
- Due to the volume of submissions, individualized feedback may not be possible for all entries.
- Contact our team at isurvivededreform@gmail.com if you have questions.

Documentary Participation:

Select contributors will be invited to be featured in our mini-documentary, media reels, and social media interviews. Contributors will be notified after their submissions for the book have been selected for inclusion in the project.

Healing Cohort Participation:

Contributors whose narratives are selected may be invited to participate in a healing experience/cohort facilitated by a nationally renowned leader specializing in helping women of color heal from workplace trauma.

Additional Information:

For more details about the project, including the documentary and healing components, please visit www.isurvivededreform.com. For more information about the founder, Dr. Maya B. Faison, visit www.mayafaison.com.

If you have questions or need further clarification, contact us at isurvivededreform@gmail.com.

We appreciate your willingness to share your story and contribute to this transformative project. Your experiences are invaluable in shaping a more equitable future in education reform.



