

I Survived Ed Reform

FAQ

I Survived Ed Reform: Lessons in Leadership from Women of Color & A Playbook for Reforming Ed Reform

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is the purpose of the project?

The project aims to amplify the voices of women of color in education reform leadership by sharing personal narratives and offering actionable strategies for systemic change. It includes a book, a documentary, and healing cohort opportunities.

What are the main goals of this initiative?

- Highlight the trauma, experiences and leadership journeys of women of color in education reform
- Provide a platform for systemic critiques and innovative solutions
- Facilitate healing and empowerment for contributors and readers

How do you define “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.

Who can contribute to the book?

Women of color who have served in leadership roles in education reform are encouraged to contribute.

Stories should focus on personal experiences that highlight challenges, trauma, triumphs and/or pivotal moments in their leadership journey.

What themes does the book cover?

The book is organized into the following chapters:

1. *The Weight of the Cape & the Myth of the Black Superwoman*
2. *Strange Bedfellows: Navigating Alliances in Education Reform*
3. *Making Bricks with No Straw: Resource Challenges & Innovations*
4. *No Room to Fail: The Pressure of Perfection & Representation*
5. *Board Trauma: Navigating Governance & Power Dynamics*
6. *You Won't Break My Soul: Resilience in the Face of Adversity*
7. *All My Skin Folk...: Intra-community Challenges and Supports*
8. *So What Now?: A Playbook for Reforming Ed Reform*

What is the deadline to submit?

The submission deadline is **MARCH 8, 2025**.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

What should my narrative focus on?

Your submission should share a personal experience as a woman of color in education reform, highlighting challenges, decisions, outcomes, and lessons learned. Vulnerability, authenticity, and emotional depth are encouraged.

What structure should my story follow?

Your narrative should include:

- **Introduction:** Set the context and engage readers.
- **Body:** Dive into details, including emotions, challenges, and outcomes. Highlight the role of identity in your experience.
- **Conclusion:** Reflect on lessons learned and provide recommendations for systemic change in education reform.

What are the formatting requirements?

- Length: 5–10 pages
- Font: Size 11
- Line spacing: 1.25
- Margins: ½ inch

What if I want to remain anonymous?

Contributors have the option to submit their narratives anonymously. Also, all organizations and people referenced in your narrative should be given pseudonyms.

How do I submit my narrative?

Prepare your narrative as a Word document or PDF. Include:

- A 150-word bio about your background in education reform.
 - A high-quality color headshot or candid photo.
- Email your submission to isurvivededreform@gmail.com by **MARCH 8, 2025**.

AFTER SUBMISSION

How will submissions be reviewed?

Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial team. Selected contributors will be notified by **APRIL 5, 2025**. Due to the volume of submissions, not all entries will receive individualized feedback.

Will selected contributors participate in other parts of the project?

Yes, selected contributors may be invited to:

- Be featured in a mini-documentary, media reels, and social media interviews.
- Join a healing cohort facilitated by a nationally renowned leader specializing in workplace trauma for women of color.

Can I participate in the documentary even if my submission isn't selected for the book?

Only contributors whose stories are selected for the book will be considered for participation in the documentary.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Where can I learn more about the project?

Visit www.isurvivededreform.com for additional details about the project and its components.

Who is leading the project?

The project was founded by **Dr. Maya B. Faison**. You can learn more about her work at www.mayafaison.com.

Who can I contact for questions?

For questions or clarifications, email isurvivededreform@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest in contributing to this transformative project!