



MEDIA VOLUNTEER FORM: We want to hear your story!

The Down's Syndrome Association is looking for your stories to support our campaigning, fundraising and media work. We are often asked by journalists to hear the actual, real life stories of families/carers and people with Down's syndrome. We aim to share the joys and the realities of caring for someone with Down's syndrome with a wider audience, in the hope that sharing will help shape and change future policies for the better. We also hope sharing stories may help others, and provide education and knowledge for further families.

We are looking for a range of Media Volunteers with all types of experiences. These may be positive, or they may focus on some of the challenges you have faced and how you have/haven't been able to overcome them. We are asked for families to talk about a range of subjects, so if you are interested in registering, please read on.

What's the process?

We aim to collate a database of Media Volunteers that we may be able to call on in the future. We don't need too much information at this stage, but if you are able to complete the below, we can save your story and details for a time that suits.

Please email completed forms to: Andrea.Bishop@downs-syndrome.org.uk

We will not use your details or story anywhere without checking with you first.

How may your story be used?

- *We receive many enquiries from journalists (TV, radio, newspaper, magazines) wishing to speak to people with Down's syndrome, and families that have a child or adult with Down's syndrome.
If your story suits (it often relies on being in the 'right' area/age range/availability) we may contact you and ask if a journalist can speak with you directly.*
- *We may use your story to pitch feature ideas to the media.*
- *We may publish your story on our website, or in our Down2Earth magazine or the DSA Journal.*
- *We may feature your story in our fundraising applications to help support a campaign.*
- *We may share your story with Government departments who sometimes request real life examples when discussing future policies.*

We will always agree a final version of your story with you before it is used, and will not pass your details on to anyone without checking with you first. Please be aware, stories may be subject to the editing process of the publication using it. In order to deal with media enquiries quickly, we will usually contact you via email or phone.

Tell us your story *(feel free to write as much/little as you want)*

Background: *(Tell us about your family / living arrangements / general story)*

Subjects you feel you may want to talk about:

(Tell us if there is a particular issue/area/focus you feel strongly about or have experience in)

Challenges: *(Tell us about any difficulties you/your child has faced. How did you feel? What action did you take? How hard was it to get help? What is the situation now?)*

Positive news: *(Tell us about anything you would like to shout about, or like to be an advocate about in the media)*

Anything else: *(Tell us any other ideas you may have, subjects you may want to talk about, links to social media/blogs)*

Personal information:

Full name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Mobile:

Landline:

Email:

I confirm that I would like to be a
Media Volunteer for the Down's Syndrome Association.

Signature: