

Guidance for Written Stories

The more detail you can provide, the better picture we will get of your experiences. Therefore, when writing your story please read and consider the following:

- **Context** – Include some information about your religious background as well as the conversion process you have been through. This helps to put your story in context. Feel free to include as much information as you think is relevant.
- **Story** – The main bulk of your story should focus on one or more life stage changes (e.g. gaining a child, getting married, death of a loved one) that you have gone through since your conversion.
- **Faith / Religion** – When telling your story(s) please think about the religious or spiritual elements of the experience you had. In what way did this life change relate to your faith and / or relationship with God? What role did you believe God to play in this life change? Did you feel that this was a spiritual experience?
- **Conflicts** – Were there any conflicts with family members, friends or church leaders (from any religion) when deciding how to mark your life stage change? Did you feel that there were any expectations that you would include particular rituals from one religion / culture or another? In what ways did you feel that your religious and cultural identities were compatible / incompatible during this experience? Are there any ways that the Church or other Christians supported you well during this time of life stage? Are there any ways that you feel that the Church or other Christians could have supported you better?
- **Rituals** – Did you choose to mark the occasion with any particular rituals? Please describe these and how you decided which rituals to choose (from any religion or culture). Did you feel any pressure (internal or external) to choose some rituals over others? Did you feel that Christianity provided you with the kinds of rituals that you wanted to mark this special occasion?
- **Feelings** – please be as creative with your writing as you would like to be and think about not only what happened but also how you felt at the time. If you do not want to go into detail about your emotions then please do not feel any pressure to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to read these guidance notes and THANK YOU for submitting your story to the Hyphen Project at hyphenstories@gmail.com.