

**RESTORATIVE  
STORYTELLING**

Amplifying **Voices**, Inspiring **Change**



**VOICING THE VOID**



# HELLO

At Voicing the Void, we believe in the transformative power of storytelling. In today's world, where media often focuses on devastation - be it through natural disasters, acts of violence, or terrorism - stories of hope, resilience, and recovery are frequently overlooked. Yet these narratives, which showcase how individuals and communities overcome adversity, are crucial for fostering empathy, healing, and societal progress.

We are dedicated to amplifying the voices of marginalised communities in Northern Ireland, including young people, individuals seeking international protection, victims and survivors of serious crime, and the LGBTQIA+ community. Many individuals in these groups encounter significant challenges that can lead to feelings of isolation and exclusion.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the rising cost of living, has only intensified these challenges, adversely affecting the mental health and well-being of these communities. Additionally, the recent increase in racially motivated incidents and hate crimes, as highlighted by PSNI reports, highlights the urgent need for initiatives that promote mutual respect and understanding.

---

**VOICING  
THE  
VOID**

**‘Amplifying Voices,  
Inspiring Change’**

# AND WELCOME,

This strategic plan reflects our mission to address these challenges through restorative storytelling, creating spaces where voices are heard and healing can begin. Together with our dedicated steering group, board members, and the many stakeholders who contributed to shaping this strategy, we aim to create impactful change that strengthens communities and fosters inclusivity.

We extend special thanks to our principal funders – The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, UnLtd, and the National Lottery Awards for All - whose support is invaluable in enabling us to continue our work.

Together, we've identified four key priorities that will guide our efforts: education, community healing, advocacy, and capacity building. These priorities will be explored in greater detail in the following pages.

This strategy is a testament to the power of storytelling to connect, heal, and inspire change. I am excited about the journey ahead and confident that together, we can build a more inclusive society where every voice is valued.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to bringing this vision to life with you.

Warm regards,  
Rory Doherty  
Founder, Voicing the Void

**VOICING  
THE  
VOID**



# OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

## Restorative Storytelling for Change

### Our Vision –

To inspire personal and societal change through the power of storytelling.

### Our Mission –

To Empower, Enable and Encourage the most marginalised groups in society to find and share their story.

# S

# T

# O

**Storytelling** – Harnessing the power of personal narratives to foster empathy, understanding, and societal change, bridging gaps within our community.

**Truth** – We will speak truth to power. Sometimes it hurts, heals and frees us from self-defeating beliefs, attitudes and behaviours.

**Open** – We are open-minded and real. We endeavour to be warm-hearted, open and honest. We take time to listen to each other and our communities in which we work, because that is how we learn, grow and make change.

# R

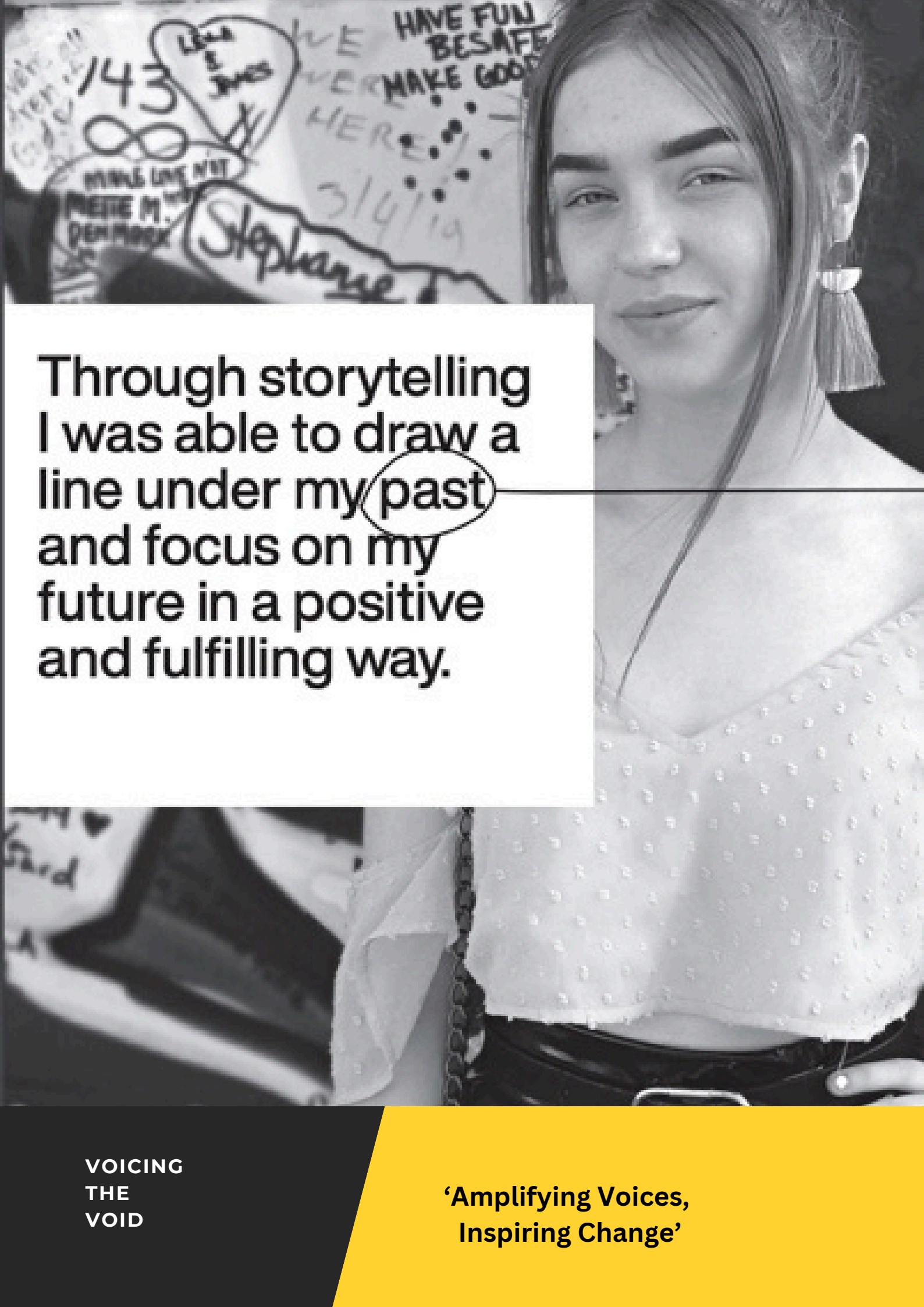
# Y

**Restorative Practices** – We create spaces for individuals to share their stories and engage in empathetic dialogue, fostering healing, building trust, and promoting an inclusive society where every voice is valued.

**Youth-led** – We will invest in youth-led and youth-centred projects. These projects will advocate for change identified by the young people themselves.

# V

## VOICING THE VOID



Through storytelling  
I was able to draw a  
line under my past  
and focus on my  
future in a positive  
and fulfilling way.

VOICING  
THE  
VOID

‘Amplifying Voices,  
Inspiring Change’

**Our strategic plan focuses on three core pillars:  
Support, Storytelling, and Civic Engagement,  
which guide our work.**

---

- **Support:**

We provide alternative therapy, resilience workshops, mentorship, and educational resources to build confidence and resilience. These initiatives ensure that marginalized voices are heard and align with our goals of **Education and Awareness and Capacity Building**.

- **Storytelling:**

Storytelling is central to our mission. Through workshops and digital platforms, we help individuals craft and share their stories, fostering inclusivity and understanding. These efforts support our goals of **Community Healing and Advocacy**.

- **Civic Engagement:**

We translate personal stories into societal impact by facilitating participation in community and political processes. Through advocacy training and partnerships, we amplify marginalized voices in decision-making, supporting **Partnerships and Resource Management**.

---

Each pillar plays a crucial role in ensuring our mission leads to tangible impacts on both individuals and communities.

**‘Amplifying Voices, Inspiring Change’**



# EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

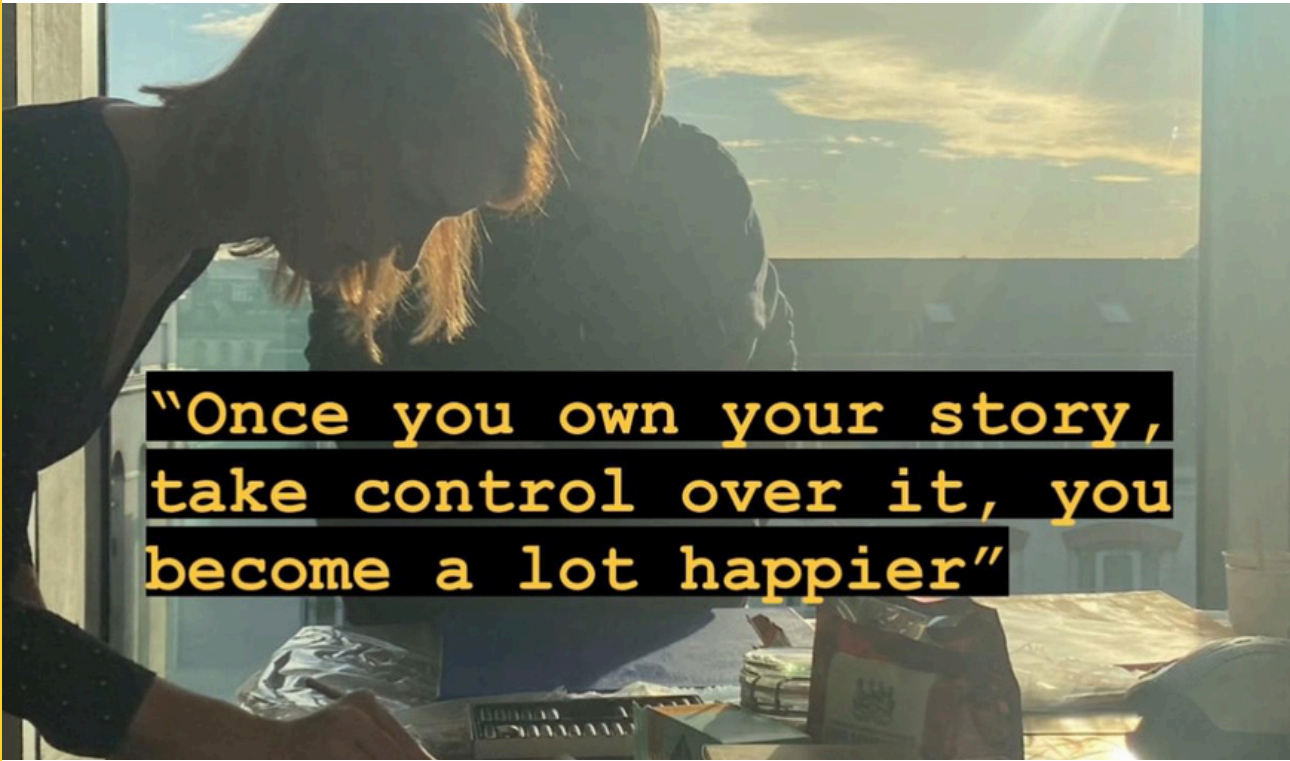
- **Objective:** Implement accredited storytelling programs to foster understanding, cultural empathy, and inclusion.
- **Curriculum Development**
- **Empathy and Restorative Storytelling:** Teaching storytelling for empathy and community understanding.
- **Crafting Inspiring Narratives:** Helping participants shape personal stories to inspire change.
- **Program Implementation:**
  - Partner with schools, community centers, and civic organisations.
  - Train facilitators to deliver restorative storytelling programs.



‘Amplifying Voices, Inspiring Change’

# COMMUNITY HEALING AND CONNECTION

## Key Priority 2:



"Once you own your story, take control over it, you become a lot happier"

- **Create safe, inclusive spaces** for storytelling and dialogue, guided by the principle that healing comes through connection, not perfection.
- **Community Events and Workshops:** Host events to promote cultural sensitivity and facilitate ongoing dialogue, allowing participants to express their experiences and connect with others.
- **Storytelling Resources:** Develop materials that support restorative storytelling practices, equipping individuals with the tools they need to articulate their narratives.
- **Digital Library:** Create a digital library featuring storytelling resources and success stories to enhance accessibility, ensuring that voices from marginalized communities are heard and valued.



### Key Priority 3:

# ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

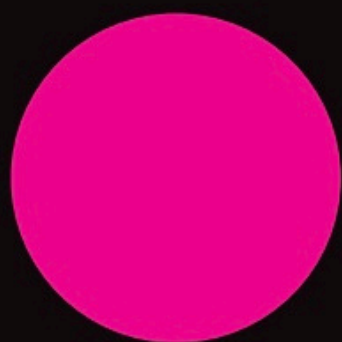
- **Objective:** Use storytelling to empower advocacy and political engagement.
- **Partner with Organisations:** Establish partnerships with organisations with a similar ethos / mission
- **Collaborate on Initiatives:** Work together on joint initiatives or campaigns to amplify advocacy efforts.
- We will empower participants with civic and political engagement skills through expanded workshops and advocacy training, while collaborations with partner organisations will cultivate a community that actively influences policy and societal change through storytelling.



# CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

- **Objective:** Strengthen organisational capacity for long-term impact.
- **Develop a Diverse Steering Group:**
  - 6/8 members from diverse backgrounds to ensure a broad range of perspectives and experiences.
- **Continuous Training and Support:**
  - Organise regular training sessions on leadership, strategic planning, and restorative practices to build the skills and capabilities of the steering group and community members.
- **Strategic Planning Sessions and Workshops:**
  - Facilitate strategic planning sessions and workshops to align the organisation's direction and objectives, fostering growth and sustainability.
- **Implement Adaptive Feedback Mechanisms:**
  - Develop and implement a comprehensive feedback system that includes input from various stakeholders including, staff, volunteers, and program participants to continuously improve our processes and impact.

**VOICING  
THE  
VOID**



**The planet does not need  
more successful people. The  
planet desperately needs  
more peacemakers, healers,  
restorers, storytellers and  
lovers of all kinds.**

**Dalai Lama**

[voicingthevoid.com](http://voicingthevoid.com)

[E\\_rory@voicingthevoid.com](mailto:E_rory@voicingthevoid.com)

**TikTok – @Voicingthevoid**

**Facebook – @VoicingTheVoidNI**

**Instagram – @VoicingTheVoidNI**