

January 20, 2021



Press Release

## **Stuttering Organisations Unite to Congratulate Joe Biden 'You Stutter, we stutter, it's how we talk'**

**Joe Biden is the first president of the USA who stutters. One per cent of all adults stutter, about 7.77 million people worldwide. Self-help organisations of people who stutter have now joined together worldwide to congratulate Joe Biden on his inauguration on 20 January 2021. The 31 organisations from 29 countries signed a joint letter of congratulations with the words: "Your achievement stands testament to the fact that having a stutter is no reflection upon brains or talent. This is an empowering message for young people who stutter here, and in every continent around the world". The letter ends with, 'You stutter, we stutter, it's how we talk'.**

Stuttering is a neurologically caused disorder of speech and does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about a person's intelligence, character or personal environment. The Signatories hope that Biden's position will help the media and the public have a more positive and insightful understanding about what it means to have a stutter. Stuttering is no reflection on talent and should be no bar to ambition, it is just how some people talk. People who stutter, from young to old, are just as capable to live a successful life and act as role models and leaders in our world. There is no limit, no border. Because important is not HOW someone says something, but WHAT someone says. We just say it in our own way, summarises Anja Herde, Chair of the International Stuttering Association (ISA).

Founded in 1995, the International Stuttering Association (ISA) is a not-for-profit, international umbrella association made up primarily of national self-help associations for people who stutter. This association seeks to provide a means whereby the voices of people who stutter can be heard at the international level.

### **Further Information**

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### **Full Text of the Letter**

Dear Mr President

Warm congratulations on your inauguration today from the stuttering community from across the globe.

As someone with a stutter, your achievement stands testament to the fact that having a stutter is no reflection upon brains or talent. This is an empowering message for young people who stutter here, and in every continent around the world, and a powerful message to all those who don't stammer. Stammering should be no bar to success.

You stutter. We stutter. It's how we talk.

**Overview of the signatory associations and federations:**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| International Stuttering Association                     | Global association |
| Burkina Faso Stuttering Association                      | Burkina Faso       |
| Asian Association for Stuttering Organizations (AASO)    | Asia               |
| Australian Speak Easy Association                        | Australia          |
| Oesterreichische Selbsthilfe-Initiative Stottern         | Austria            |
| Botswana Stuttering Association                          | Botswana           |
| Bulgarian Stuttering Association                         | Bulgaria           |
| Canadian Stuttering Association                          | Canada             |
| Foreningen for Stammere i Danmark                        | Denmark            |
| The Dominican Stuttering Foundation                      | Dominican Republic |
| Bundesvereinigung Stottern und Selbsthilfe e.V           | Germany            |
| Ghana Stammering Association                             | Ghana              |
| Malbjorg   | Iceland            |
| The Indian Stammering Association                        | India              |
| Irish Stammering Association                             | Ireland            |
| Japan Stuttering Genyukai Association                    | Japan              |
| Shoqata Kosovare per Belbezim                            | Kosovo             |
| Lithuanian Stuttering Problem Club                       | Lithuania          |
| Nepal Stutters Association                               | Nepal              |
| Nederlands Stottervereniging 'Demosthenes'               | Netherlands        |
| Pakistan Stammering Foundation, SAY Global Foundation    | Pakistan           |
| Habla Libre Peruvian Association                         | Peru               |
| Russian Stuttering Association                           | Russia             |
| Speakeasy Stuttering Association of South Africa         | South Africa       |
| VERSTA   | Switzerland        |
| Youth Action for Mutual Aid and fight against Stuttering | Togo               |
| Stamma, 50 Million Voices                                | United Kingdom     |
| National Stuttering Association, Friends                 | United States      |
| Stuttering Association of Zambia                         | Zambia             |

• A Message to U.S. President Joe Biden •

TODAY IS A TESTAMENT TO WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN

◀ *There is no limit* ▶  
*to what people who stutter can achieve.*

President Biden, the stuttering community across the globe celebrates your accomplishment. This achievement is an empowering message for people who stutter in every continent around the world, and a powerful message to all those who do not stutter.

YOU STUTTER. WE STUTTER. IT'S HOW WE TALK.

