

THE PLANET HAS SPOKEN

Global campaign, [The World From My Window](#) collects ONE THOUSAND stories from across the world



A global project, **The World From My Window (TWFMW)** has collected **1,000 individual accounts of citizens** from over 70 countries experiencing lockdown.

From Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Italy, Argentina to New Zealand; TWFMW has seen an outpouring of stories from people sharing their experiences during the COVID-19 crisis.

The project encourages anyone to share up to 300 words through the website and has received submissions from a diverse assortment of individuals with a variety of life experiences; coronavirus patients in the hospital, women staying in refuges, front-line workers, popstars and public figures have all made a contribution.

Starting as a way to share stories of lockdown, TWFMW has grown alongside the changing societal landscapes of 2020, becoming a space to share how you see the world and learn from the experiences of others.

During Mental Health Awareness Week (18-24th May), partnerships with the UK's leading youth homelessness charity Centrepoin and a series of Instagram Lives with celebrities Jade Thirlwall, Ortise Williams and writers including Bristol-based spoken word poet Dizraeli have also encouraged more people across the world to take part.

Little Mix stars Jade Thirlwall and Leigh-Anne Pinnock both penned stories - as did JLS member, Ortise Williams. Thirlwall's poem, [Lockdown Word Vomit](#), gathered viral momentum and was widely reported in the press (even crashing the TWFMW website!).

Here is a snapshot of some of the latest words from around the world, including Jade's poem: :

*"Social influencers compete for who's doing lockdown best while nurses and carers use masks as bulletproof vests." - **Jade Thirlwall, London, UK***

*This silence is peaceful, Karachi has never been this clean before. The air is less polluted, almost like the world is healing itself. It's good to find some positivity in these uncertain times even when the world is full of negativity. **Khadija, Karachi, Pakistan***

My neighbour's cats are fighting again. Locked in a cage, they are forced to commune all day. No more roaming on the streets. Just like me. An involuntary hermit. There is more consistency in meal times with family. We even pray together daily now, a congregation in a tiny cloister. I am getting used to this. **Angelina, Kota Samarahan, Malaysia**

Every day I feel accomplished after my workout, shower, and home-cooked dinner. However, when my body stops for the evening thoughts of loneliness come rushing in. I am a single woman without a hand to hold or someone to hug. **Kori, Orlando, USA**

TWFMW was founded by two Dans who met at school and both went on to have careers in the arts. Discussing the lockdown, they both quickly realised that the **global community was leaning heavily on the creative arts** to help process and make sense of our emotions during this time of crisis. After setting up the Instagram account and shouting out into the void (not knowing what, if anything might come back!), they've been amazed and encouraged by the response so far, and are excited to see what comes next.

International Creative Director and TWFMW co-founder, Dan Shipton said:

"We hope that TWFMW can become a medium through which people can harness their own creativity to make sense of their experiences, as well as take comfort and solace in the accounts of others, knowing that they're absolutely not alone."

TWFMW Co-founder Dan Boyden, a theatre practitioner, consultant and Director of [The Change Collective](#) added:

"When we launched The World From My Window, our hope was that these stories might capture a broad range of experiences from around the world and across the social spectrum."

What we didn't imagine was the overwhelming response we would get. People have been telling us that the process of writing, and also reading the stories from the different windows of the world, has been moving, hopeful and cathartic. People are feeling more connected to each other, they're enjoying having a creative way of processing and sharing their experiences."

To tell your story visit <http://theworldfrommywindow> / Instagram @the.world.from.my.window and share your view from isolation in less than 300 words. All stories will be read with as many as possible being shared across our platforms The World From My Window platforms.

- ENDS -

For more information, to speak to the founders, read more the stories and see videos and readings from some of the international contributors please contact Carolanne Bamford-Beattie at commsandcopy@gmail.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

The World From My Window was founded by two Dans who went to school together over twenty years ago and have a shared passion for using the arts to bring about social impact.

Dan Boyden has built a career designing and delivering creative projects, often with marginalised groups and communities, in the U.K and Internationally. Dan is a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow and a Global Master Facilitator for the British Council's Active Citizens Social Leadership programme. He is Director of The Change Collective and recently did a [2017 Ted X talk](#) about the work he does.

Dan Shipton is a world-class creative director and co-founder of Black Skull Creative. From stadium tours for Take That and the globally renowned ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and Sochi 2014 games, Most recently Dan co-directed Jurassic World Live Tour; a live arena spectacular developed with NBC Universal and the original filmmaker, Steven Spielberg.

Where did the idea come from? Dan B – 'I was talking to a friend in Kampala who told me a story that got me thinking; Uganda was in total lockdown, no movement allowed after 7pm. She had left the house to get some medicine and at 6.55pm she found herself 15-minute walk from home still. No cars are allowed on the roads, so she ran - faster than she'd ever run before because she knew that if she got caught on the road after 7pm she would have been beaten. No fine, no talking to, no second warning but a beating nonetheless – this time in history is unique; one third of the world is unable to leave their homes and are sat looking up at the same night sky through their windows. While these windows will be different, some of the feelings we're experiencing will be the same. We need to capture these stories.'