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**We have set up a change.org petition, ‘No Diversity without Disfluency’ to push to hear voices of people who stammer on tv, film and radio. So that those who stammer and those who don't are used to hearing stammering voices and aren't surprised by it; so that we can create an environment where people who stammer are normalised.**

**KEY MESSAGE**

Diversity must include disfluency. It is time to end the zero visibility of stammering. Until we hear and see people who stammer in the media, society will continue to respond inappropriately when they hear stammering.

**Link to petition** [**here**](https://www.change.org/p/bbc-we-need-to-hear-and-see-people-who-stammer-on-tv-radio-all-year-round-not-just-a-day?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=bae215b0-e862-11eb-8a49-dbd148ad1079)

While everyone has their own story about their stammer, this is a side issue to this year’s campaign. 50-70 Million people stammer – we need to see ourselves in the media. So that others growing up with a stammer feel normal and are able to fully participate in society.

**STAMMERING FACTS**

1. Stammering normally starts in early childhood, affecting 8% of children, most of whom will go on to talk fluently.
2. It appears to be passed down in families, possibly affecting more men than women.
3. It will affect 1-3% of the adult population. Academics believe it affects 1% of the population; our polling shows 3% of the UK adult population believe they have a stammer.
4. Some people find ways around not being heard to stammer, which can be physically and mentally exhausting. Others can’t.
5. Therapy can help, especially in childhood, but there isn’t a cure.
6. Stammering is unpredictable, from sentence to sentence and across a lifetime, everyone is different.
7. Stammering has nothing to do with intellect. Many brilliant communicators stammer: Lewis Carroll, Winston Churchill, Henry James, Thomas Carlyle, Peter Straub, John Updike, Owen Sheers, David Mitchell.

**HOW WE’LL USE THE PETITION**

Over the next year, STAMMA will track how the media will include disfluent voices in their programming and what efforts they take to ensure that stammering is accounted for in all their recruitment and HR policies.

**USEFUL RESOURCES**

[**Working with someone who stammers****.**](https://stamma.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Resources/Working%20with%20someone%20who%20stammers.docx.pdf)

**[Working with the public](https://stamma.org/about-stammering/talking-someone-who-stammers)**

[Recruitment & Stammering](https://stamma.org/resources/professionals/recruitment-agencies)

[**Supporting a partner, family member or friend**](https://stamma.org/about-stammering/partners-family-friends)