

## PRESS RELEASE

January 20, 2021

### **Stuttering Organizations Unite to Congratulate Joe Biden** **'You stutter, We stutter, It's how we talk'**

Organizations representing those who stutter have come together from around the world to congratulate Joe Biden on his inauguration. The first President of the United States of America to have a stutter.

Twenty nine national and international organizations signed a 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: "You stutter, We stutter, It's how we talk."

"It's time to change the way the world thinks about stuttering," says Eeva Stierwalt, National Coordinator, Canadian Stuttering Association (CSA).

"It's just how some people talk and what is important is not how someone says something, but what they say. On behalf of the Canadian Stuttering Association, welcome and congratulations to you, President Joe Biden."

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 stutter. Stuttering is no reflection on talent and should be no bar to ambition, it is just how some people talk.

Signatory organizations come from: Australia, Austria, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Kosovo, Lithuania, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zambia.

**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 stutter. Stuttering should be no bar to success.

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

Signed by:

International Stuttering Association	
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
Habla Libre Peruvian Association	Peru
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
Pakistan Stammering Foundation, SAY Global Foundation	Pakistan
Russian Stuttering Association	Russia