

That's No Longer My Ministry: Essays on Radical Healing

Hi! We're journalists, editors and content creators [Foram Mehta](#) and [Nadia Imafidon](#). And we're teaming up to publish a first-of-its-kind anthology that aims to tell a different story about healing. As an extension to the [evocative podcast series](#) of the same name, the collection will tell the stories of marginalized folk in their own words about how they're actively purging years of conditioning and the consequences of never being centered.

These stories acknowledge and move through trauma; they hold space for radical self-liberation and using "No." as a complete sentence. They remind us: We don't have to hold onto the things that no longer serve us because that's no longer our ministry.

Publication Details

Accepted essays will be edited by us (Foram & Nadia) and curated together for a book that will be available for purchase as an e-book or as a paperback. **Print copies of the book and one-hundred percent of proceeds from subsequent sales will be donated to [Aakoma Project](#)**, an organization that aims to build the consciousness of youth of color and their caregivers on the recognition and importance of mental health. They do this by offering free therapy and workshops to youth and their families, helping to influence systems and services to receive and address the needs of youth of color and their families.

Compensation

Writers whose essays are accepted for final publication will be credited with a byline in the book and a complimentary paperback copy of the completed anthology.

A note about writing for free: As writers ourselves, we know writers are highly underpaid and undervalued, but we also know the joy of contributing to a collaborative body of work for the sake of storytelling, for the sake of healing together. Everyone on this project (including us) is a non-paid contributor donating their time and work for the benefit of Aakoma Project.

We say this while also acknowledging that we live in a world that operates on money, and spending time to write for free is not a privilege afforded to everyone. That's also why we're asking for non-exclusive rights only to contributors' essays (more details to be provided in the contributor's agreement).

Pitching Guidelines

We are seeking pitches for non-fiction first-person essays from people of color who hold identities that are marginalized. This includes but is not limited to:

1. LGBTQIA+
2. Immigrant/First-generation
3. Refugee
4. Indigenous
5. People with disabilities

When submitting your pitch, please include a brief bio and a link to your portfolio and/or first-person writing samples. We understand that not everyone will have a portfolio, so please send us something to give us an idea of your writing style.

Your pitch should include:

1. Working title
2. A summary of your story. (Tell us why *you're* the person who needs to tell this story.)

We aim to get back to everyone who submits a pitch, but please allow us some time to respond, as we anticipate a full inbox! We will send contributor agreements to writers whose pitches we accept. Please, do not submit fully written essays.

Submit pitches to nolongermymistry@gmail.com.

Sample Pitch

Below is an example of a pitch Forum wrote to give you an idea of what we're looking for in a pitch.

The Life of a 'Motel Kid': Lessons From the Lobby

([published Huffington Post essay here](#))

It's estimated that about half all U.S. motels are owned by Indian Americans, and most of those are owned by Gujaratis. My parents are a part of that group, and I'm what we call in the South Asian community a "motel kid." I grew up in various small mom-and-pop hotels in Texas, in an apartment attached to the hotel property itself. I've never lived in a suburban neighborhood or in a "real house," but I've invited more strangers into my home, cleaned more rooms, and answered more calls than any of my friends growing up. The life of a motel kid is strange, at times completely abnormal. It's not nearly as glamorous as Zach and Cody, but it's chock-full of life lessons I wouldn't have gained anywhere else.

I'd like to write a personal essay about growing up as a 'motel kid' in small towns across the South, the responsibilities I took on as a child, and how they've shaped me into a scrappy, entrepreneurial hustler (isn't that what journalists are these days?). Beyond that, I'll shed a light on a character rarely heard about but commonly known in the U.S. — an Indian kid whose parents ran hotels.

Editorial Guidelines

After we accept your essay pitch, writers should use the following writing guidelines:

- First-person reflections
 - Use this [creative, non-fiction writing guide](#) for reference
- Non-fiction
- English (with creative use of language)
- 8th grade reading level (When in doubt, keep it simple!)
- 1,500-3,00 words recommended
- AP Style ([reference guide](#))

We're interested in *your* story, but we acknowledge that your story will likely include other people in it. For that reason, we ask that if you're mentioning someone by their name that you get their permission to do so or change the name.