



**WITNESS  
STAND**

# Filming Guidelines for Self-Shot Videos







# WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE WITNESS STAND?

Stories from the frontlines of the climate crisis need to be heard by the judges of the International Court of Justice.

These judges will soon deliver an advisory opinion on [a historic Pacific-led case](#) that links the climate crisis with human rights. Their legal ruling could help hold governments and corporations accountable for the damage they cause to people and the planet.

We need the ICJ judges to understand the very real consequences of their actions and power they hold. We need the judges to protect present and future generations.

We need them to hear our stories and messages.



## Represent!

The Witness Stand is the ideal platform for you to represent your community and country in this historic climate case.



## Demand!

It is also the time for you to make your call for climate justice to the world's highest court.





# WHERE WILL THESE STORIES AND MESSAGES BE PLAYED?



The stories will be primarily located on our [website](#), which launched on September 17th.

At the bottom of the landing page, you can find the section “stories” which contains a Social Wall, enabling us to collect videos that have been uploaded to Instagram and other Social platforms.

They may be also used for social media advocacy, public screenings, and displays at the Peace Palace (seat of the ICJ) and other exhibitions as part of the ClimateICJAO Campaign.

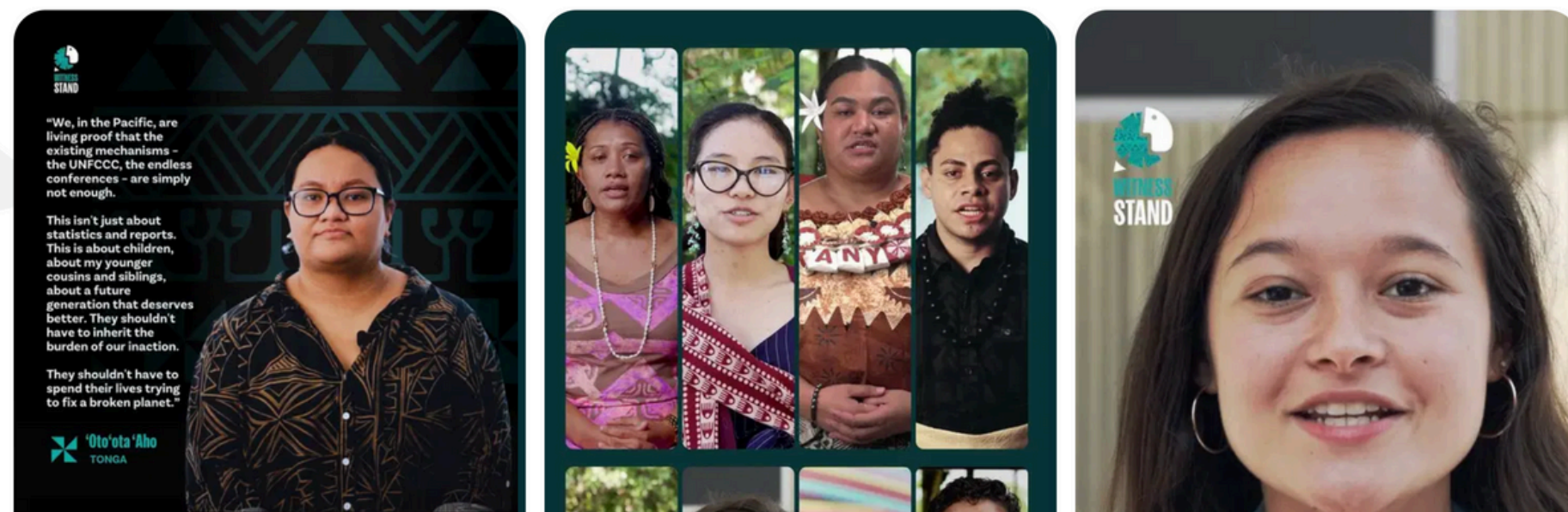
This is a growing database, consisting of climate change user generated videos from all over the world.

## STORIES

In the **#ClimateWitness** community

**To Appear on the #ClimateWitness  
community...**

**use the hashtag  
#WitnessStand and #ClimateWitness  
in your captions.**







## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Record short video testimonies of either yourself or others. Share your experiences of the climate crisis and its impact on your life, family, friends, and community.

Even if you haven't faced it directly, you can still share your hopes and fears, and stand in solidarity with those who are living through it.

Every voice counts in the fight for climate justice!

We have already launched a few stories from this series, which you can find on our Instagram channel, such as [this one](#) by Ayisha Siddiqi or this one by [Dylan Kava](#).



# NOTES TO TAKE IN WHEN DRAFTING YOUR STORY OR MESSAGE

The Witness Stand Script follows a specific structure.

Each story or message shouldn't be **longer than 5mins**.

The aim of the video is to directly address the judges of the ICJ and convey your message and demand to them.

1. Intro: "Dear Judges of the International Court of Justice, my name is x, I am a x and come from x . [As per the examples](#), this is also an opportunity to speak in your mother tongue, too.

2. Main Statement: Examples of how the climate crisis is affecting you/country/community or what you are doing to fight it (These are questions for your inspiration: When and how did you first experience climate change? Who are you fighting for? How is climate change affecting your communities? What gives you hope in the fight for climate justice? What is the most surprising thing for you about climate change? How are you working to protect your community or fight for climate justice?).

3. Outro: "Dear Judges, answer our call to action" or a bespoke final statement. For instance most witnesses end their statement with the question: "Dear judges, will you hear my call?"

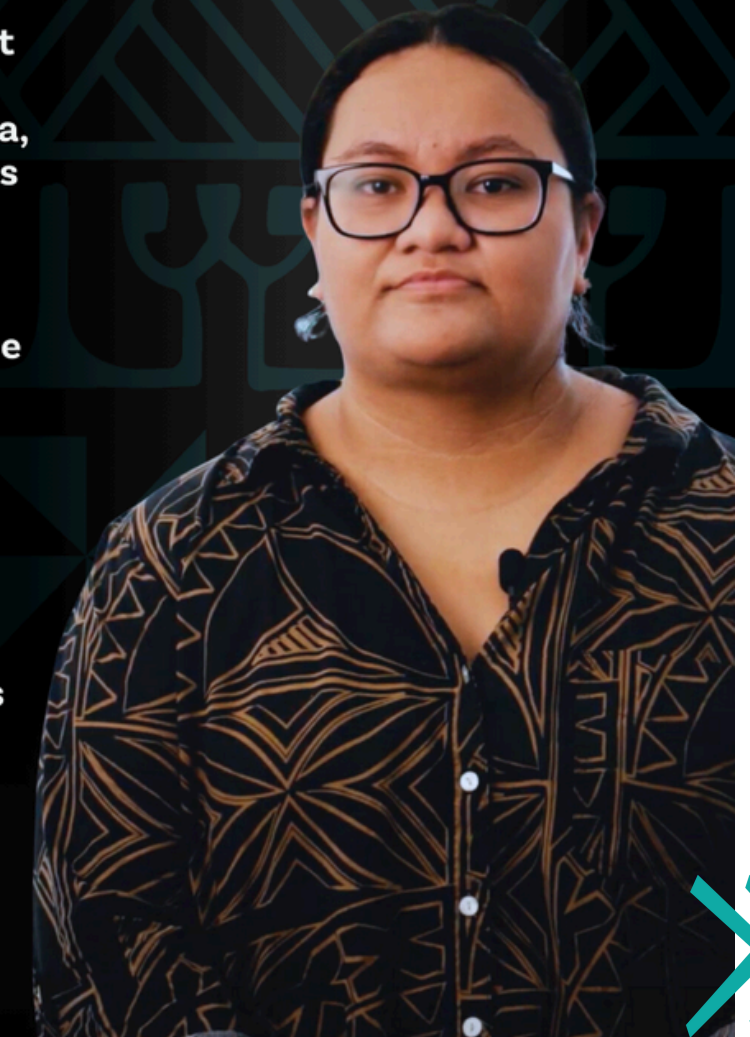


Make sure you use the Hashtag [#ClimateWitness](#) and [#WitnessStand](#) in your captions when you upload the video to your socials, which allows us to integrate your video into the Social Wall on our website.

Dear Judges of the International Court of Justice,  
My name is Ootoa Aho, I am from the village of Fasi moe afi in Tongatapu, and I am currently studying in the University of the South Pacific in Fiji as a law student with the aim to one day give back to my family and country.

I stand today not as a diplomat or a politician, but as a voice from the island nation of Tonga, a voice from the very frontlines of the climate crisis. We, in the Pacific, are living proof that the existing mechanisms – the UNFCCC, the endless conferences – are simply not enough.

We have seen countless promises, pledges, and funds: they haven't translated into real solutions on the ground. Every day, the news bombards us with the brutal reality – droughts, floods, heatwaves, rising sea levels, and the devastating loss of life and biodiversity.





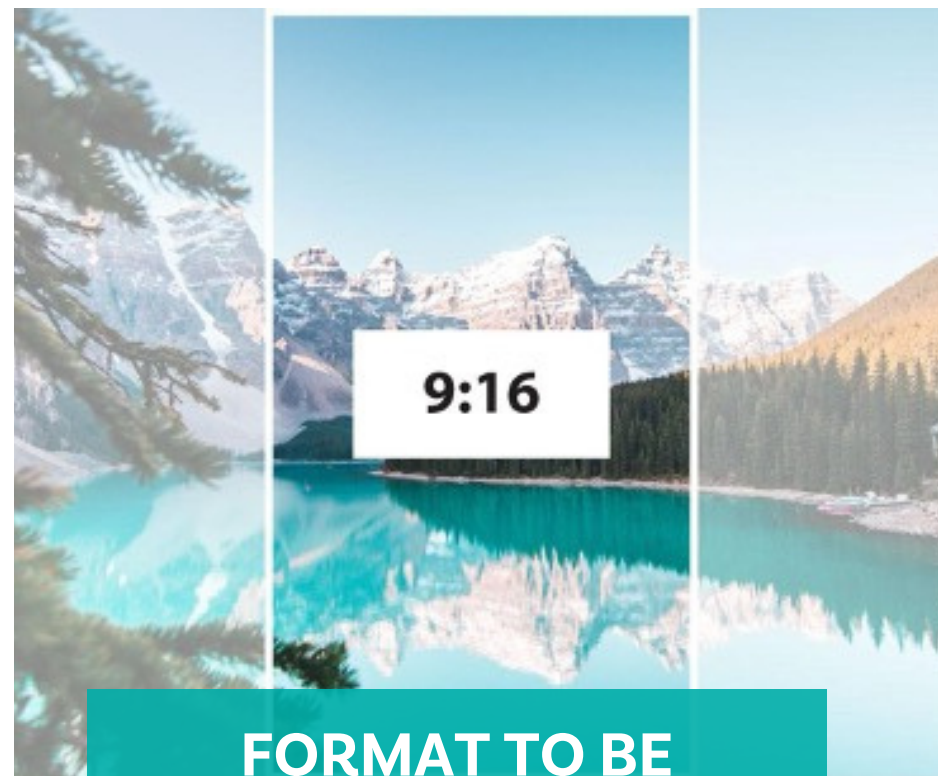
# NOTES ON CAMERA SET-UP

The user-generated content which will be collected on the Social Wall of the website aims to make the Witness Stand more accessible and inspire more people to share their climate messages and stories.

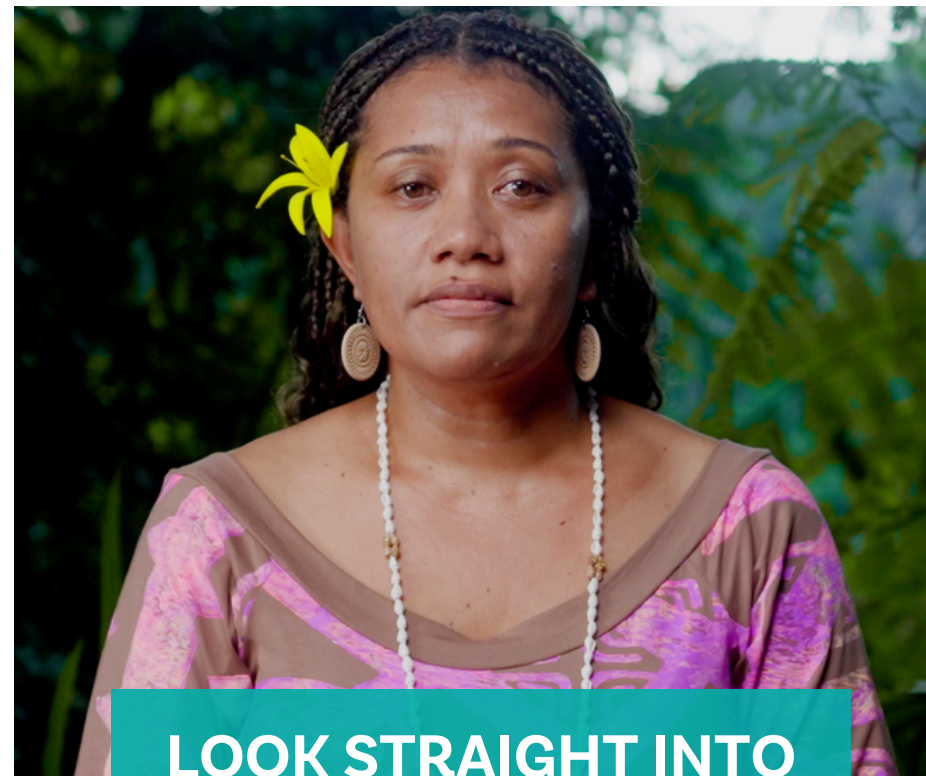
That means, we want you to feel comfortable and let your message or story be as authentic as possible - there are no strict rules on how to film or how your video should look like, simply ensure the camera is steady and has minimal background noise.

Here are some suggestions:

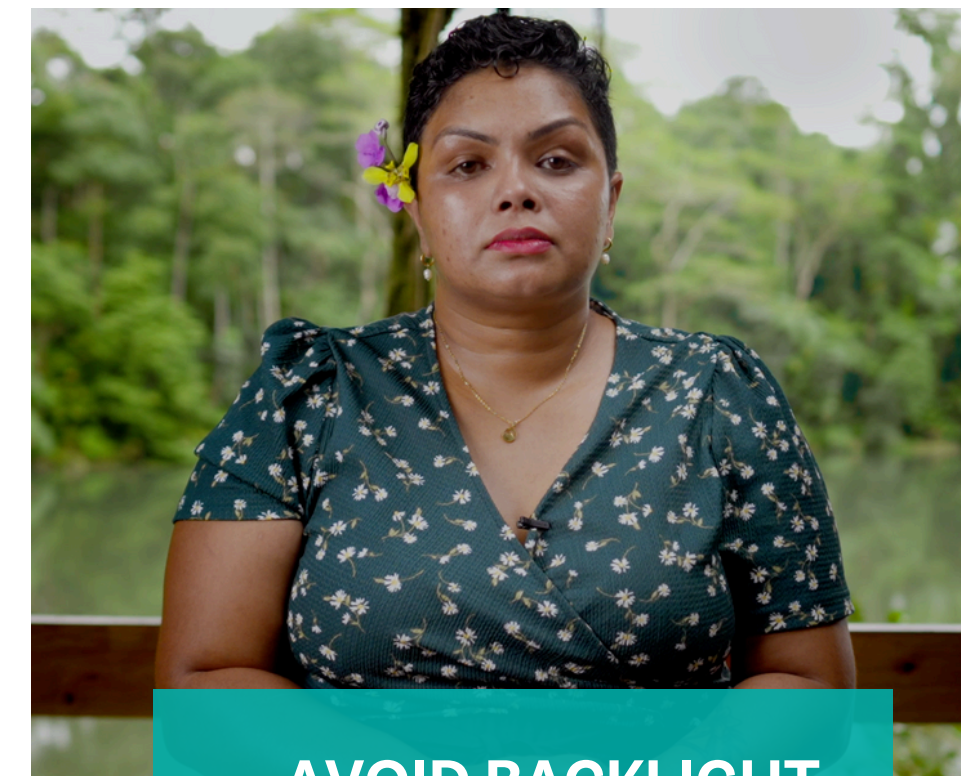
- The picture format is **Portrait 9:16 (1080 x 1920 Pixel (px))**, please keep that in mind!
- Look **straight into the camera** and try to edit as little as possible, to convey one coherent and authentic message.
- Try to **avoid interference noise** like music, children playing, birds singing (too loudly), airplanes, ventilators, speak as clearly as possible.
- **Avoid backlight** by facing the light, be conscious of shadows.



**FORMAT TO BE  
1080 X 1920 PIXEL (PX)**



**LOOK STRAIGHT INTO  
THE CAMERA**



**AVOID BACKLIGHT**







# THANK YOU!!

For sharing your climate message/story directed at the Judges of the ICJ.

Together, we can ensure that the voices of those on the frontlines of the climate crisis are heard loud and clear and that we take meaningful action to protect our planet for future generations.

