



**Yemeni Radio Episode 3 – Keep Going – With Helen Da**  
**Audio transcript**

Full audio: <https://www.archives.org/yemeni-radio-episode-3-keep-going-with-helen-da/>

Automated introduction: [00:00](#)

This is Yemeni Radio. A project by ONE Archives Foundation with gender support from the California Humanities.

Co-host: [00:11](#)

Hi, I'm Co-host. I spoke with Helen Da, a public writer, journalist and activist about her experiences with funding, activism, and journalism, and her advice for aspiring writers. We also spoke about how much has changed since she began her career exemplified by the fact that our interview is conducted with me in Colorado and her in California.

Helen Da: [00:38](#)

"I wouldn't say that keep going. That's all the more reason you have to be there and it's unpleasant as it can be to be there and to realize that you are paving the way for people behind you. And to know that you're not alone."

Co-host: [00:49](#)

Helen's words are a must listen for aspiring writers or journalists, especially those from marginalized groups and those who are grappling with finding a career that pays the bills and incorporates activist work.

Co-host: [01:20](#)

For me to ask, what is it like working in journalism? If an editor came for local papers myself, what is it like to kind of be a professional journalist? And I was wondering if you had any stories or anything about that kind of exemplify that or about any challenges that you've faced?

Helen Da: [01:38](#)

Well, great. I want to hear about your life as a journalist. Seriously. So for me, I had no journalistic training when I was in college. There were probably only a few schools that even had journalism classes, where I went to, well, there was English literature, which I did not take. I majored in public affairs, public relations, not in the PR sense, but about international relations, politics, history, sociology, stuff like that. And not English, even though I loved writing. And you didn't come to realize that I really wanted to tell the stories and chronicled what I was seeing.

Helen Da: [02:04](#)

And that was when I was in Beirut and there were so many layoffs and there was so much Arab Spring going on in the time that Beirut (Lebanon) was killed. And I was there. I was laid off with millions of other workers, because I had worked in a factory, a car factory, and I knew that friends who were my co-workers and their lives and their suffering and mine wasn't being reported anywhere.