



International Commission for Dalit Rights

Fellowship for South Asian Dalit Journalists

Application: *please note that the selection process is on a rolling basis; we are going to consider and accept suitable candidates as they apply, until all positions are filled.*

Overview: The International Commission for Dalit Rights' Fellowship Program for Dalit Journalists is aimed to support print and broadcast journalists, reporters, camera operators, and freelance journalists who actively work for national and local media companies in South Asia, including Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The goal of this program is to support those who have been financially and professionally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this Fellowship, the International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR) is looking for stories that break new ground and expose wrongdoings, such as caste- and gender-based discrimination, human rights violations, corruption, malfeasance, and/or abuse of power, in the public and private sectors. We want to support the journalists who stand in the front-line to document recurring stories of hate, discrimination, and social injustice, which they often witness and experience firsthand. We want to encourage these journalists to keep investigating, exposing, and reporting from remote areas; speak out on behalf of those in underprivileged and marginalized communities and denounce violence, injustice, and human rights violations against Dalit and disadvantaged people; and provide the proper media coverage to raise awareness and stimulate an in-depth analysis on the ills of caste-divided societies.

Our Mission: ICDR believes in and strives to defend everybody's dignity and rights to safe working conditions. We also operate in defense of freedom of information and freedom of expression, as they build the foundation to creating truly open societies in caste-affected countries. Overall, ICDR fights to promote inclusion and social justice and works towards denouncing and contrasting illegal caste-mentality and stratification in caste-affected societies.

We are aware that the health emergency has exacerbated existing problems and inequalities for Dalit media professionals in South Asia, many of whom have dealt with discrimination and faced the consequences of having scarce financial and technical



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resources. The pandemic has exposed them not only to health risks and greater financial hardship but to threats and censorship by authorities who attempt to silence those who criticize their management and protocols. Consequently, many impacted individuals have shared their stories with ICDR and have asked us for our support.

Fellowship Amount: 50,000 local currency or \$500.00 USD; this amount covers all expenses such as travel, document collection, equipment rental, and personal expenses.

Fellowship duration: 3-4 months. Starting date can vary according to availability of candidates and resources. First projects can start from March 1st, 2021.

Total Fellowship recipients: 50 Dalit/pro-dalit journalists who live in South Asia.

Selection: ICDR International will review proposals as they are submitted. **Fellowship decisions can be expected within a month of submission of application.** This is a rolling basis selection based on the available resources and needs of the applicants.

Guidelines for reporting fellowships: To be considered, local or national-based story proposals must come from local or national-based journalists, have a strong national angle involving local citizens, government, or business, and must be published in English and/or national or regional language, in a media outlet in your respective country.

Payment methods: It is ICDR International policy to pay the first half of approved fellowships to successful applicants upon approval of proposal/ or agenda, with the second half paid on publication of a finished project/ documentation in accordance with the original proposal.

All application documents must be written in English. However, your news coverage can be featured in local or national languages.

Budget guidelines: Your budget must itemize expenses such as travel, document fees, equipment rentals, and stipends. Be specific. Identify other sources of funding that you have received or intended to receive for the same project; we encourage collaborative efforts with similar entities on the common mission.



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Disclaimer of Liability: The ICDR International's role in assisting journalists is limited to making fellowships. ICDR assumes no liability for the legal and/or safety risks undertaken by journalists in the course of their fellowship.

To apply, please address the prompts in the **application form** at the following link: <https://forms.gle/DBok7LEPi6ZU8ain9>; you will need to have (or create) a google account to access the form. In addition, please note that **you cannot save your work during the application process; therefore, we strongly advise you to prepare all necessary information beforehand.** Once you press "submit" you will not have the chance to make any more changes. Should you encounter technical problems with the online application form, you can also send your application to Jamie Lee at jamie@icdrintl.org and copy to Laura la Zazzera at laura_lzazzera@icdrintl.org.

Please be informed that only selected candidates will be contacted. Thank you for your interest in applying to ICDR's Fellowship Program for South Asian Dalit journalists.