

THE HUMSAFAR TRUST

PROJECT DIVA

(MULTI-COUNTRY SOUTH ASIA GLOBAL FUND HIV
PROGRAMME ROUND-9)

MEDIA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME - 2017

SUPPORTED BY



Save the Children



Bombay

Dost *Since 1990*

Background

In South Asia, including in India, men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people face violence, discrimination and rejection from families, workplaces, educational institutions and broader society. They often cannot access the same services and rights as other citizens, and are vulnerable to poorer health as a result. For example, HIV prevalence among populations of MSM and transgender people in South Asia has seen alarming increases in recent years and according to the Commission on AIDS in Asia (2008), greater than 50 percent of all new HIV infections could be among MSM by the year 2020.

In recent years, sexual orientation and gender identity issues in South Asia have begun to have a larger presence and visibility in the public domain – in particular in the media. A 2014 UNDP study¹ examining media reporting on these issues in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal found that news coverage has often been prejudiced, inaccurate and sensationalistic and has exacerbated stigma and discrimination. Furthermore, the study found that the media coverage served to enforce negative stereotypes and did not accurately report on community issues.

Media can, however, have a positive impact on human rights and the HIV epidemic for marginalized populations such as MSM and transgender. It is the media which often sets the agenda of public discourse. By engaging with communities, raising awareness among media practitioners, and wielding their powers for good, the media can influence public opinion and policies and programmes, and contribute to creating an enabling environment.

¹ UNDP, CFAR (2014). A Framework for Media Engagement on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in South Asia.

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Project DIVA

The Humsafar Trust (HST) is an LGBTQ community-based organization started in April 1994 as a support system for LGBTQ in Mumbai, India. Since inception, HST has grown to now function as a 200-staffed organization working in four verticals: Health, Advocacy, and Capacity building and Research. HST currently implements three HIV interventions in Mumbai with direct service delivery to over 7000 community members annually with strategies that have informed and built HIV outreach programs for MSM/TG nationally. HST has been managing [The Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme](#) (also known as Project DIVA) as Sub Recipient (SR) in India from last 2 years in the 11 states and Save The Children (STC) Kathmandu as Regional Hub serves the grant's Principal Recipient. The overall goal of the programme is to reduce the impact of, and vulnerability to, HIV of men who have sex with men, Hijras and transgender people through Community Systems Strengthening (CSS). Furthermore, the programme will support and build the capacity of in-country organizations to deliver high quality services, engage in policy development and advocacy initiatives.

Objectives of the Fellowship

The Media Fellowship has the following objectives:

- To engage with the media and reinforce their ability to be a positive force for improving the human rights and health of LGBTQ in India.
- Create greater awareness about community issues, challenges and barriers faced by LGBTQ.
- To foster greater understanding of the epidemiology of HIV, in the context of LGBTQ.
- To facilitate a process of sensitization among media professionals regarding human rights and stigma and discrimination faced by LGBTQ.
- To identify needs for capacity-building, training, regional exchanges of experiences and other support systems.
- To identify leadership strength and working styles, and promote effective communication systems.
- To facilitate policy dialogue on these issues in the public sphere.

Areas of Focus

- LGBTQ rights and health
- Legal, religious and social issues of LGBTQ
- Workplace issues of LGBTQ
- LGBTQ relationships and acceptance

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Who Can Apply

- Journalist from electronic media (documentary)
- Freelancer media persons.
- Journalism students.
- Budding film makers

Number of Fellowship

A total of 6 fellowships will be available to successful applicants. The Humsafar Trust selection committee will be responsible to award fellowships as per applicants' areas of expertise and innovations.

Tasks/responsibilities of Media Fellows

Each media fellow will be responsible to perform the following activities:

- Mandatory attendance at the one-day orientation workshop organized by Humsafar Trust.
- Study background materials supplied by Humsafar Trust.
- Produce and submit pieces of work on the agreed upon subject within the [date or timeframe].
- Submit a fellowship completion report and final outcome at the end of the programme.

Terms & Conditions

- Content of fellows must be focused on the above mentioned areas.
- Fellows will be responsible to publish/broadcast their pieces of work in their respective media outlets.
- The fellow must acknowledge the support of Save The Children, Project DIVA and The Humsafar Trust, Mumbai.
- Mandatory attendance at the concluding dissemination workshop at the end of the programme.

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Selection Criteria

- Preference will be given to who have experience on health, sexual orientation and gender identity, and human rights issues.
- Working experience on LGBTQ will be an advantage.
- Applicants have to submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) with recent photograph and present and permanent contact address.
- Sound knowledge on LGBTQ and their challenges will be considered as an asset.

Selection Committee

The Humsafar Trust will comprise of a committee that will plan, manage and implement media fellowship 2017. The committee will comprise of selected staff members of The Humsafar Trust and people with relevant experience and skills. The CEO of The Humsafar Trust will be the chairperson of committee.

Remuneration

Fellows will receive a **fixed amount of Rs. 50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**, provided after the successful completion of selection process.

The above mentioned amount will be paid in 3 instalments:

- i) 20% at first month of fellowship.
- ii) 40% at end of three months.
- iii) 40% upon successful completion of fellowship.

At the completion of the programme, a dissemination workshop will be held and award will be given to the best short film or documentary.

Application Deadline and Submission Materials

The last date of the application for The Humsafar Trust **Media Fellowship is April, 20th, 2017**. Application will be accepted through email and courier only.

The application must include –

- a) CV with photograph.
- b) Draft outline for the proposed work (within 1000 word) about documentary and short films.

Kindly send the above enlist documents on before **April, 20th, 2017**, preferably by e-mail, to: tinesh.hst@gmail.com

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Action plan for Fellowship-2017

Particulars	Action Plan for Media Fellowship-2017						
	April 17	May 17	June 17	July 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17
Inviting Media fellows	√						
Selection committee	√	√					
Review application and selection		√	√				
One day orientation workshop for selected fellows			√				
Fellowship Programme commence				√	√	√	
Follow up and documentation & consolidate reports					√	√	√
Review by committee						√	√
Award Selection of best fellowship practice by committee						√	√
National level dissemination event							√