

An EU funded project managed by the

European Union Office in Kosovo

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

*Human Rights Journalism Fellowship*

2020

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7. **BACKGROUND**

Kosovo 2.0 in partnership with Kosovar Gender Studies Center and Center for Equality and Liberty are happy to launch an open call for the third cycle of the Human Rights Journalism Fellowship Program. This program is part of the three-year project “Supporting Media and Independent Journalism with a Human Rights Perspective in Kosovo” - funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo-EUOK.

This program engages and empowers young journalists to serve the interest of the silent, the marginalized, the divided and often the excluded. It mainstreams in the public discourse viewpoints and positions that counter traditional norms that are discriminatory and put groups of society at risk through journalism.

Young aspiring journalists are supported both financially and through continuous mentoring by assigned professional editors with an expertise in human rights, to produce one large written-article, photo-essay or short movie/documentary/video with a human rights perspective.

Throughout a 6-months course the awardees work closely with editors, conduct extensive research around their chosen themes, will identify stakeholders, interview sources, and lastly will finalize their production to be published in the online magazine Kosovo 2.0.

Furthermore, the fellows are encouraged to publish their stories in other media, in agreement and consultation with Kosovo 2.0

Through HRJF, this year 10 young journalists will receive training and mentorship in order to become part of, and lead, the next generation of journalism in Kosovo. They will specifically receive support and capacity building to produce high quality, innovative, creative stories with a human rights perspective that have the potential to reach a larger audience.

1. **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

The 2019 HRJF Fellowship will commence in June 2020 and end in December 2020. The fellows will be selected based on the quality and potential of their submitted applications. The fellowship program is designed for young journalists from Kosovo, who are committed to Kosovo-based human rights related journalistic productions. A total of ten (10) fellows will be selected this year to participate in the program.

During this period, selected fellows are expected to produce one in-depth story, in one of the following formats:

* Written format (3,000 to 5,000 words);
* Video (10 to 20 minutes);
* Photo-essay;
* Multimedia format (including text plus one or more audiovisual formats).

*Please note that during this cycle of the program, Kosovo 2.0 highly encourages applications that present innovative formats.*

Each selected fellow will:

* Receive a total of 2,500 EUR to produce a story in one of the formats mentioned above;
* Commit to trainings organized at the beginning of the fellowship on story production, journalistic standards and ethics, multimedia formats, visual content and human rights legislation in Kosovo;
* Work responsively under the supervision of an editor.

Applicants must submit a project proposal in line with the following **objectives**:

**O1:** Proposals should directly tackle human rights related issues, respectively issues around gender equality, sexual orientation, LGBTIQ+ persons’ rights, non-majority communities and youth rights, civic rights. A specific issue or topic affecting individuals from such a group at risk needs to be clearly specified in the proposal.

**O2:** Proposals may tackle a cultural, artistic or intrinsically political issue; however, they shall be characterized by a clear human rights sensitive approach and perspective.

Applicants for Project Application should include:

* Background/context of the issue to be tackled;
* Issue relevance and importance for the group at risk or society at large;
* Subjects and actors to be interviewed, and preliminary sources;
* Potential and/or excepted social impact to be achieved;
* Target group/audience
* Channels through which the targeted audience will be reached;
* Preliminary budget;

The project proposal languages and working languages throughout the whole fellowship program are Albanian, Serbian or English. Proposal should tackle a contextual issue within Kosovo, and priority will be given to issues focusing on the local level. All project proposals must have a duration of 6 months. Shorter or longer durations will not be considered.

If selected as an HRJF fellow, it is expected that individuals will participate in all elements of the program as outlined above and complete the fellowship deliverables as outlined below. Fellowship awards cannot be deferred.

Note: Failure to successfully implement all tasks and responsibilities foreseen within the Human Rights Journalism Fellowship will result in the termination of the contract and no payment will be transferred.

1. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

This Fellowship Program targets young journalists, independent and/or freelance, employed and/or unemployed.

Please review the following eligibility requirements for the HRJF program:

1. Young journalists, independent and/or freelance, employed and/or unemployed.
2. Persons born (and living) in Kosovo.
3. Are between the ages of 18 and 35 by 17.06.2020,
4. Have at least one year of professional experience and/or two years of education in journalism and/or communications.
5. Applicants who are currently employed must be able to dedicate time to the Fellowship, in terms of training, meetings with editors and similar. A letter of support from the applicant’s employer expressly supporting them to partake in the fellowship program shall be included in the application package.
6. Fellows of the previous cycles are eligible to apply, however priority will be given to new applicants.
7. **SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE**

The submitted project proposal must refer to “tackling human rights” (see REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS) and demonstrate an original approach to researching and reporting / production aspects of the topic.

Applicants should:

1. Fill out the Application Form.
2. Attach other required documents as listed in Application Form, such as information about their educational background, professional skills, letter of support from current employer and career ambitions, samples of previous work. Those applying with a photo-essay must submit a series of photographs under one theme.

Any questions regarding details of the Fellowship or preparing the documents for application can be sent to: info@ktwopointzero.com, by 10.06.2020 the latest, with the subject *“HRJ Fellowship Questions”.*

1. **EVALUATION**

An Evaluation Committee consisting of the implementing partners and two external professionals from the field of media and journalism will be responsible for evaluating the application, based on a set of criteria stipulated above. Accepted and non-accepted applicants will be notified via e-mail.

1. **HOW TO APPLY?**

The proposals for a fellowship must be submitted using the Kosovo 2.0 Fellowship for Human Rights Journalism application form.

Please complete all parts of the application form as clearly as possible.

The application may be submitted in Albanian, Serbian or English.

**The deadline for application is midnight *(00:00)* on 17.06.2020**

Completed applications should be sent as electronic files to: info@ktwopointzero.com with the subject *“HRJ Fellowship Application”.*