

Accessibility media fellowship guideline

Background

National Federation of the Disabled, Nepal (NFDN) invites applications from interested journalists to apply for Accessibility Media Fellowship 2017. The fellowship is open to all mainstream media journalists including freelancers from print, electronic, television and radio media (including community radio) online portals and news agencies. The fellowship is for a period of one month from November– half of December, 2017. Interested journalists will have to travel to rural and urban areas (specially from highly earthquake affected areas: Kathmandu valley and nearby districts) to report on accessibility related success stories and challenges/problems that need to be addressed for making accessible public physical infrastructures and communication services targeting to all people including persons with disabilities. Stories can be covered in English or Nepali language.

Accessibility Media Fellowship aims in creating awareness and strengthening capacity of Nepali journalists to cover the various issues of disability and accessibility. The fellowship offers opportunities for journalists to cover stories on accessibility issues, those are considered mandatory at least for all public infrastructures and other services. It has also been initiated in improving accountability of public institutions, gains made in the accessibility sector, gaps that needs to be addressed and ways to promote the approved minimum accessibility standards and universal design principles at least in each public (re) construction works.

Accessibility is a prerequisite for people living with different types of disabilities towards increasing their reach to any sorts of facilities and services and to enhance their participation in society. Therefore, ensuring approved minimum accessibility standards is an integral part of development initiatives that we undertake. It is a human rights of every individual to be able to participate in the family and in community on an equal basis with others irrespective of their physical and mental conditions.

As a state party of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), government of Nepal is obliged to take effective measures in promoting the accessibility standards and universal design principles while (re) constructing every physical infrastructures and other services. Having the consideration to this fact, Government has approved the minimum accessibility standards and conditions in “Accessible Physical Infrastructures and Communication Services directive, 2069”. It has also given some accessibility provisions in “National Building Code” as well. Government of Nepal and other development actors have also started, in any way, to implement such guideline in practice. However, most of the public places and buildings are inaccessible for persons with disabilities. Despite there are some clear policies and guidelines to make such place accessible for persons with disabilities the government and development actors supporting to the government are reluctant to address these issues in practices. Due to the lack of accessible public place persons with disabilities have been facing lots of barriers to get equal access to the basic services, human rights, public participation, employment etc.

Proposed coverage Areas:

We encourage fellows to cover stories from highly earthquake affected areas: Kathmandu valley and adjacent districts. However concept note must not be limited in the aforementioned areas.

Key Deliverables

Fellows are expected to write/publish, broadcast or telecast the following in their respective media outlets:

Print Media	Radio	Television	Online Portal
At least one report per person (400-500 words)	At least one report per person (5-10 minutes duration)	At least one report per person (5-10 minutes duration)	At least one report per person (400 words)

During the fellowship period: November, half of December, the selected fellows will:

- a. Publish/broadcast news stories / spot reports, feature stories, opinion pieces or analytical pieces in their respective media in a regular basis or on a specific day.
- b. Advocate accessibility issues in different level through their innovation.
- c. Articles/stories published or broadcasted by fellows must be regularly shared with NFDN's communications focal person. The date of release must be clearly indicated and all copies must be submitted on a timely basis.
- d. As part of their fellowship, each fellow must submit their respective stories in the given stipulated timeframe.

Application Process

Interested applicants are requested to submit their hard copy or electronic copy or both of the following document with concept note;

1. Well stated concept note (i.e. your idea, methodology, budget: refer to annex).
2. Curriculum Vitae of the applicants.
3. Photocopy or scanned copy of press card from affiliated media confirming employment status or copy issued by Department of Information.
4. At least two samples (news/feature/story) printed or broadcast either in scan, pdf or active URL.

Funding

The amount of fund will be provided by NFDN on the basis of concept note submitted by the fellow, who will cover all related expenses needed to produce/broadcast/published, the story including field visit cost. Beside this, NFDN will provide half day brief orientation and necessary guidance to the selected applicants. The payment will be provided only after the submission of stories.

Possible issues/themes

- A. Good practices in ensuring the accessibility standards: stories of the good examples where approved minimum accessibility standards are applied while (re) constructing the physical infrastructures and other services such as government buildings, community buildings, public toilet, schools/colleges, health centers, WASH facilities, transport system, amusement parks, websites, information sharing system and others.
- B. Challenges and problems that the people with different needs including persons with various kinds of disabilities have been facing due to the inaccessible structures and services.
- C. The real impact in the lives of the people due to the accessible or inaccessible physical infrastructures and other services including various services such as education, health, employment, recreation, sports, independency and others. Legal frameworks and commitments of the government and their effective implementation at the ground level regarding the accessibility.
- D. Promotion of accessibility standards in relation with the disaster risk reduction plan and response: challenges, opportunities and good practices.

Note: Public structures and services include those places, structures, system and other things that are open for public such as government buildings/offices/structures, schools/colleges/academic spots, health centers/hospitals, religious places, transport lanes/roads/side walk, public toilets, amusement parks/community buildings, sports centers and others. It also includes those structures that are prepared and run by private sectors but open for public.

Timeline

- Fellowship announcement: 25th October, 2017.
- Application Deadline: 6th November, 2017.
- Selection of fellows: 8th November, 2017.
- Published material submission deadline: 15th December, 2017.

Selection Criteria

Fellowship selection committee will select the fellows on the basis of guidelines of NFDN.

Address to submit the proposal :

The applicants can submit their proposal as hardcopy, electronic copies or both.

Send Application to:

National Federation of the Disabled Nepal

Central office : Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu, Phone : 014231159

Project office : Anamnagar, Kathmandu, Near Dhobikhola Bridge, Just opposite of the Prabhu Bank, Phone : 014488540

E-mail address: communications@nfdn.org.np

Website: www.nfdn.org.np

Deadline for submission : 6th November, 2017.

Annex (proposed format of the concept note):

- 1. Title of your Concept Note**
- 2. Background;**

This section should provide a brief introduction about yourself and about the media you represent. It should also explain the type of news beat and stories that you are currently covering.

- 3. Objective:**

This section should explain the key objectives for applying to this Accessibility Media Fellowship. It should also explain the type of accessibility issues, and stories that you want to cover through this fellowship and the rationale behind the issues and stories you have selected.

- 4. Methodology;**

This section should explain the methodology that you will use to bring in the stories. It can be through interviews, observations, focus group discussions etc.

- 5. Budget:**

This section should provide a detailed breakdown of each activity and the approximate cost for each activity line.

Note: The length of the concept note should not exceed two page.