

Media Award and Fellowship for Balanced and Sensitive Reporting on Child Marriage and Dowry in Bihar 2017-18

By GRC, WDC, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar and UNICEF

Background:

In order to complement and carry forward the social change which has begun taking shape in Bihar post the liquor ban, the State Government has initiated a statewide campaign against Child Marriage and Dowry in Bihar. In this context, media has been playing a very important role in building an enabling environment by generating awareness and positively predisposing the communities towards the issue of Gender discrimination particularly Child Marriage and Dowry.

Given the above backdrop, the Gender Resource Center, Women Development Corporation, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar and UNICEF, would like to recognize and promote the efforts of the media in covering or highlighting the issue related to child marriage and dowry. This effort by the media to generate awareness and engage the general public to create a social movement against these social evils will catalyze the efforts to improve the lives of women and children, the most vulnerable section of the society.

About the Media Award and Fellowship on Child Marriage & Dowry 2017-18 2017- 2018

GRC, WDC, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar and UNICEF wish to announce a Cash Reward and Fellowship for print and social media journalists in Bihar. These awards would be called “**Media Award and Fellowship for balanced and sensitive writing on Child Marriage & Dowry.**”

GRC, WDC, Government of Bihar and UNICEF invites applications from journalists (freelancers and regular both) and writers of social media (Facebook writers, bloggers) who are concerned and passionate about the value of the girl child and wish to contribute to awareness and advocacy on the issues of child marriage and dowry through their writing in mainstream/social media.

The award and fellowship will enable them to explore, research and publish **stories/articles/photo essays** on issues related to the value of the girls child, specifically, child marriage and dowry, in Bihar, which are violation of the rights of children and women. The awards will support the pursuit of in-depth, field-based, analytical, solution-oriented, creative articles on these issues and initiatives related to them, and writing about them with adequate evidence – qualitative and quantitative – in an effort to influence public policy as well as social discourse /debate, mindsets, social norms and lead to positive change to address the issues. The articles are expected to explore various dimensions and perspectives (social, economic, political, legal, demographic, data-research, global to local, rights, humanitarian, gender and others) with a focus on advocacy for sustainable, long-term and feasible solutions for prevention and eradication child marriage and dowry.

Key Components of the Media Award and Fellowship

The **Media Award and Fellowship for balanced and sensitive writing on Child Marriage & Dowry** would have three components:

- I. **Media Awards for Print Journalists in four categories** (12 awards of Rs. 40,000 each)
- II. **Fellowship for Print Journalists** (Eight of Rs 100,000 each)
- III. **Cash Awards for Writers of Social Media** (Six awards of Rs 25,000 each).

All awardees /Fellows would receive a citation in addition to the cash awards/fellowship and will be felicitated at a state level event.

The details of the awards and Fellowship are as follows:

I. Media Awards for Print Journalists

In this category, cash award of Rs. 40,000 each will be given for three best entries in each of the following four categories of stories published in mainstream media in Bihar during 15 October to 30 November 2017

- A. News Report- Exclusive/ investigative stories follow-up stories/ Impact Stories
- B. Field-based story/ human interest story about individual champions or interventions / initiatives by the Government /NGOs/ communities/ corporate sector/ others to address the issues
- C. In-depth Features /Articles (Solution focused articles based on analyses of data/ evidence, perspectives of experts as well as marginalized communities/ children/ women)
- D. Photos stories and photo essays – highlighting the issue/ action/ impact

The winners of the Cash Awards for Print media (**total 12**) will be invited to apply for Media Fellowships by submitting a proposal (details below)

II. Media Fellowships for Print Media

A six-month fellowship with financial incentive of Rs 100,000 (One Lakh rupees) each will be offered to all twelve winners of the Media Awards, based on their proposals. The selected fellows would be expected to publish at least six in-depth write-ups/ 6 photo stories during the six-month period **1 January to 30 June 2018**.

Key features of the fellowship

- The value of each fellowship award (Rs 100,000) would be inclusive of honorarium, travel and contingency grant.
- The selected 'Fellows' will submit a proposal of approximately 1000 words, which will outline the specific aspect of the concerned themes he/she would like to work on in an in-depth manner. This should include details regarding the specific geographical location, methodology, the relevance of the theme selected as well as the contribution

it can make to the addressing the issues of child marriage, dowry and value of girls in Bihar / country. Please also specify the language of communication.

- In addition to the written proposal as outlined above, photo-journalists must submit 10-15 images (minimum print size: 8inch x 10 inch) directly relating to the theme (prevention of child marriage and dowry in Bihar). These images must be of high photographic and journalistic standard,
- The fellows will be given a chance to refine their project proposal after their selection if the jury so recommends.
- The selected fellows must get a supporting letter from her/his media organization with an undertaking to publish the fellowship outcome in their publications in a format of their choice (i.e., series of reports, travelogues, edit/ op-ed articles, investigation.
- If the selected fellows, fail to submit meet the application criteria, the jury may decide to offer the fellowship to other candidates as per the merit/rating of cash awards entries
- The selected Fellows would be expected to take time off from routine journalism and spend at least two to four weeks with rural/ marginalized communities capturing real life context specific human stories on the efforts towards eradicating social evils of child marriage, dowry, violence against women etc., focusing on the girl child and write/ produce series of stories that require wider coverage and public attention – as per their approved proposal/time line
- The selected Fellows will be expected to publish at least **SIX articles/features** or photo-essays (in case of photojournalists) on the chosen subject during the specified period (**1st January to 30th June 2018**) in mainstream dailies. Out of these, at least three would be in-depth research articles/photo essays.
- They will be mentored by senior national media persons and shall have the opportunity to showcase their fellowship outcomes in state/national workshops
- The organizers (GRC/WDC and UNICEF) and Mentors have the right to question the quality of deliverables of the three-month fellowship and can stall payment if the fellow has not delivered in line with the set expectations communicated.
- This fellowship cannot be held simultaneously with any other fellowship.

Eligibility Criteria for Media Awards and Fellowship for Print Media

The awards will be open to the following applicants:

- Working journalists and freelance writers residing and working in Bihar in Hindi, English or Urdu.
- Working Journalists would include (editors/ subeditors, reporters and photo-journalists) of mainstream dailies registered and published from Bihar in Hindi, English or Urdu;
- Freelancers /Stringers regularly contributing/published in mainstream dailies in Bihar.

- The applicant should have the consistency in writing on social issues in mainstream media in Bihar or on digital platform.
- Applicants are expected to follow the core values of responsible journalism and Ethical Guidelines/principles of reporting on children
- This award cannot be held simultaneously with any other awards or a similar scheme of financial assistance.

III. Cash Award for Social Media writers

In this category, a cash award of Rs 25,000 each will be given to **SIX** social media writers who have published interesting, insightful and positive stories in the form of Blog or Facebook post (minimum 250 words) in English or Hindi during the assigned period **15 October to 30 November**.

To encourage children and adolescents, three awards will be for children under 18 years.

- A. Category A: Facebook post blogs by children (Under 18 years of Age), residing in Bihar (three awards)
- B. Category B: Facebook posts/ blogs by adults above 18 residing in Bihar (three awards)

Eligibility Criteria for Cash Award for Social media writers

The awards are open to the Bloggers and Writers on Facebook whose writing give insight for ending the social evils of child marriage and dowry and give a positive message to the social media users for making a gender-just society. The entries will be selected on the basis of relevance to the theme, originality, quality and credibility of writing and reach, engagement /testimonials of readers.

The awards will be open to the following applicants:

- Bloggers and writers on Facebook residing in Bihar, writing in English or Hindi
- The blogs and /or Facebook page of the writer must be live at the time of application and should mention the **followers, likes and share**.
- Minimum word limit is 250 words.
- Applicants are expected to follow the core values of ethical/ responsible writing on social media and Ethical Guidelines/principles of reporting on children.
- Entries would be original and give proper attribution when using, quoting or basing your content on the work of others. In other words, present quotes as quotes, link to original articles, give photo and illustration credit to the original creator etc.
- Applicants will submit screen shots related to reach and engagement (like comments, shares) as audience testimonials
- This award cannot be held simultaneously with any other awards or a similar scheme of financial assistance.

Guiding Principles for Selection

- A Jury Panel comprising of senior media professionals and development professionals /thematic experts would rate the entries against select criteria.
- The selection criteria would consider the originality and quality of writing as per core values of journalism, relevance to the themes of child marriage and dowry and overall purposefulness
- Social media entries, in addition to quality of writing, would also be judged on the basis of reach and engagement with audience
- The decision of the Jury would be final
- Any solicitation/ act of influencing the Jury would result in disqualification

Other key aspects:

- The organizers (GRC - WDC and UNICEF) would have the right to use and/or reproduce and disseminate wholly or partially the articles/photographs, arising out of the Programme, in any of its publications/online platforms -- without any additional payment. Due credit would be given to the journalist/media house
- The organizers have the discretion to change the dates with prior notice
- The participants /Fellows/Awardees would be expected to acknowledge the support under '**Media Award and Fellowship for balanced and sensitive writing on Child Marriage & Dowry**' by WDC-GRC and UNICEF in all the articles/photos.

Application Process:

- Applications for the Awards Programme (print and social media) **should be submitted in English or in Hindi on the PRESCRIBED FORMAT (attached/ available as Annexure 1)**
- Clippings of Stories/Articles/photos/blogs/FB posts/screenshots of testimonials published only during the period` 15th October to 30th November 2017 should be attached/enclosed/ emailed as PDF -- **with necessary validation/ signatures**
- In case of absence of bylines, the **published articles should be certified/countersigned by the Editor.**
- Freelance journalists should include two letters of recommendation from editors or media personalities familiar with their work.
- One applicant may submit **Maximum THREE Entries** under each category for which separate application form must be used.
- Please mention '**Application for Media Awards and Fellowship** 'or '**Application for Cash Award for Writers of Social Media** 'along with the respective subcategories in email subject line/ and on top of the envelope.
- All applications must be typed and signed. Handwritten and incomplete applications will not be considered.
- The winners of the Cash Awards for Print media (total 12) will be invited to apply for Media Fellowships by submitting a proposal (details given above)
- Organizers will not be responsible for late receipts/ technical issues related to entries submitted by post/email

Last Date for Application is 7 December 2017.

Mail the applications to RESPONSEGRC@GMAIL.COM

In the absence of internet access, you may send your applications by post to: GRC-WDC.

For further information, / clarification, please write to

**Gender Resource Centre,
Women Development Corporation Bihar,
Department of Social Welfare, Government of Bihar
1st Floor, B-280, Patliputra Colony
Patna 800 013, Bihar, India
Tel.: +91-612-2263-999
Email: genderresourcecentre@gmail.com**