



CALL FOR JOURNALIST COPRODUCTIONS on LGBTI stories and issues

In dark times of global pandemics, economic downturns, conflict, climate change, poverty and inequality, people rely on quality journalism to better understand the complex world in which we live.

Journalism can also help break down walls of prejudice and ignorance and regulate undemocratic tendencies. This is not an easy task in the age of the Internet and globalization.

Media actors are currently bewildered. Different technologies have changed the way journalists work, and previously profitable market models no longer deliver profitable returns. Employers are cutting back on costs, creating precarious jobs where high standards of journalism are increasingly difficult to achieve.

Diversity can be a key and crucial asset to bring about positive change in this context.

Journalists need to navigate with care around diversity issues to avoid stirring up intolerance and to fairly report the mosaic of languages, religions, cultures, identities and different historical perspectives that shape modern societies.

The need for journalism to provide balanced, inclusive and informed coverage has never been more important.

LGBTI people in Eswatini, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere in Southern Africa and around the world, continue to face discrimination, marginalization, exclusion, and violence in their everyday lives.

Journalists often perpetuate false stereotypes about vulnerable sexual and gender minorities, but they can also play a key role in contributing to fair and quality coverage of diversity issues.

Ensuring fair representation, combating discrimination and intolerance, and improving coverage of sexual and gender minorities requires all journalists and media houses to build a sustainable future for journalism and a communications landscape that people can trust.

In this framework, the Project *Out and Proud: LGBTI equality and rights in Southern Africa*, co-funded by the European Union and implemented by a network of local and international civil society organizations is launching an opportunity for journalists and media practitioners to realize reportages that can positively influence narratives and create awareness around LGBTI issues.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This call for applications is open to journalists, photographers, professionals in the fields of communications, media, radio, television, documentary film and new media.

The call aims to promote and support a journalistic investigation or reportage that pays specific attention to gender and sexual minorities' stories.



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Applicants are invited to submit ideas of **reportages (text, audio and video productions)** to be realised in collaboration with LGBTI associations' members or LGBTI experts, covering original and emblematic stories of challenges and successes of LGBTI community members and human rights defenders in Southern Africa. Particular priority will be given to stories located in Zimbabwe, Eswatini, and Malawi, but proposals will also be accepted for others SADC countries.

The application should include concrete distribution/publication plans with media outlet(s) to guarantee the reportage's wide dissemination. Media partnerships in Europe will be further promoted by the Board of Promoters.

The best ideas will be supported in their realisation, and all those realised will be disseminated online and at regional and international levels to overcome any censorship that may not allow publishing or transmitting through national media outlets.

THE AWARDS

The jury will select and reward ideas of reportages with awards of up to a maximum of 5000 euros each.

Investigation/reportage proposals must be accompanied by a detailed timeline/schedule for production (all projects must be completed by 31 December 2021). Each proposal should result in the production of at least one reportage. The call is designed to promote, encourage and support a journalistic project linked to a quality standard, fair and accurate reporting, original stories and issues on the theme that deserves further investigation and to be more widely reported. Award evaluation criteria also includes feasibility of implementation of the proposed reportage within the proposed timeframe.

The size of the grant will be determined by an accurate evaluation of the proposal, taking into regards the different media tools and production means, the feasibility, innovation and dissemination capacity.

In case a collective work receives the award, the cash prize will be shared equally among the authors; the association will bear no responsibility for such an arrangement.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

The call is open to journalists as individuals or as groups/collectives.

Applicants can hold any citizenship but must be **journalists** (professionals, advertisers, practitioners and students of journalism schools), **photographers, media activists, operators in the fields of communication and media**.



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Applications must be presented in the **English language**. Projects must be produced in English or in different languages with **English subtitles**.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

Application forms must be completed and related materials submitted by **15th of April 2021**. Application materials must be sent by this date to the following email address eswatini@cospe.org
There is no application fee.

The application must include:

- Fully completed Application Form
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé with a detailed description of the applicant's educational and professional background

Participation in the Call implies full knowledge and acceptance of these regulations.

Proposals that do not follow the above indications and/or do not present the requested information/documentation will be disqualified. All candidates can only submit one project/proposal as an individual or part of a collective work. Only applications received through the indicated email address (eswatini@cospe.org) that provide all the requested attached information and material will be considered valid and evaluated accordingly.

Lack of compliance with these rules and/or the indicated requirements may lead to automatic exclusion from the Call, without any notice to the applicant. An unjustified absence at the award ceremony (estimated to take place in early June 2021, details to be confirmed) will lead to the loss of the awarded prize.

Candidates personally hold full legal and administrative responsibility for all aspects connected with their work, including the work's originality and infringements regarding copyright and reproductions – and release the Board of Promoters and the Jury from any responsibility.

The documentation presented by applicants will not be returned.

METHOD OF SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

The applications will be evaluated by the Award Jury, which will communicate its judgment to the Board of Promoters, which is in turn tasked with informing the selected applicants.



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The Jury's decision is final and cannot be disputed. The motivations for such decisions will be communicated through the Out&Proud Facebook Page and during the course of the Awards ceremony. The evaluation of the work presented is based on criteria pertaining to the relevance and originality of the work, the completeness and accuracy of information, the quality of the writing, the style of presentation, the dissemination plan, as well as compliance with the topic of the Call.

Other criteria include the “replicability” of the documented experience, the effectiveness of the project in contributing to virtuous actions aimed at redressing any critical situations raised, the number of actors involved and the number of platforms/media outlets that are involved in the project and/or have expressed an interest in it.

Based on an evaluation of the applications received, the Jury reserves the right not to award any prize.

Only successful applicants will receive a written notification by 15th of May 2021, which may include the request of a budget revision and the acceptance of new conditions.

After notification of the awards, the winners of the Call must commit in writing to deliver the finalized media production by the 31st of December 2021.

The JURY

The Award Jury will consist of high profile representatives of LGBTI regional organizations and networks, including gender and sexual minorities, media houses, journalists, communication experts and/or gender diversity festivals. The final Jury composition will be notified through social media in the Out&Proud Facebook Page

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees, composed by the board of Out&Proud partners will follow the progress of the “projects” up to their publication and presentation and will oversee the transparency and efficiency of the project financial management through periodic checks.

The Board of Trustees is coordinated by COSPE and includes TREAT, ROH, NRA, SALC and CCPR as other members.

AWARDS

The Award ceremony is estimated to take place in Johannesburg by middle June 2021. The date and place will be notified as soon as possible on the Facebook page and to the winners. Accommodation and transport of the winners will be covered by the Award organization.



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NOTIFICATION OF THE CALL

This announcement is published on the Out&Proud Facebook page and is disseminated through the web pages of the leading newspapers, media offices and associations, as well as national and local media.

Reference contact address for further information relating to the CALL: eswatini@cospe.org.



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