

REPORTING ON STATELESSNESS AND CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TRAINING FOR MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS PRACTITIONERS

Date: 18 November 2024

Time: 08h00 - 15h30 SAST

Language: English only

Participant Cap: 30 participants

Format: ONLINE

Apply here by 11 November 2024: <https://forms.gle/t2y9XWQWfQfXnY9s7>

OVERVIEW

Statelessness is a human rights issue affecting millions of individuals globally, including in Southern Africa. Without nationality, stateless individuals are often denied basic rights such as access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. Journalists and media practitioners play a crucial role in raising awareness and shaping public understanding of statelessness, but reporting on this issue requires nuanced knowledge and sensitivity. This training program aims to equip journalists and media practitioners across Southern Africa with the skills and knowledge necessary to report accurately, effectively, and ethically on statelessness.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this training is to build the capacity of journalists and media practitioners in Southern Africa to report on statelessness with a deep understanding of its causes, consequences, and the legal frameworks surrounding it. The training will also foster more comprehensive, rights-based, and human-centered storytelling that highlights the impact of statelessness on individuals and communities while encouraging advocacy for systemic change.

The specific goals are:

- i) to increase awareness and understanding of statelessness in the SADC region among journalists and media practitioners
- ii) to provide journalists and media practitioners with a solid foundation on the legal, social, and political dimensions of statelessness and practical tools/resources to report in a way that contributes to social change and policy reform

- iii) to encourage responsible, accurate, and compassionate storytelling about the lived experiences of stateless individuals
- iv) to build a network of journalists and media practitioners committed to raising awareness and advocating for the rights of stateless individuals and the eradication of statelessness

OUTCOMES

By the end of the training we expect participants:

- i) to have a strong understanding of statelessness, its causes, and its impact in the Southern African context
- ii) to be able to report on statelessness with accuracy, depth, and sensitivity
- iii) to have developed a network of peers and experts to collaborate on future stories
- iv) to be equipped with the tools and resources needed to report on statelessness in a way that contributes to positive social change.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The training program is designed broadly for journalists and media practitioners from across the SADC region, including print, broadcast, and digital media practitioners. Journalists and media practitioners with lived experience of statelessness or a demonstrated interest in human rights reporting or a desire to expand their coverage into the area of statelessness are strongly encouraged to apply.

FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY

The training will be hosted on a virtual platform: MS Teams or Zoom. The link will be shared with confirmed participants. The format will encompass a combination of seminars, case studies, small groups activities, testimonials etc. The emphasis is on dialogue, learning and sharing.

CONCLUSION

Through this training, we aim to amplify the voices of stateless individuals and raise the profile of nationality rights in the media. Journalists and media practitioners are key allies in the fight to end statelessness, and by equipping them with the right knowledge and tools, we can foster a more informed public and advocate for systemic reforms to address statelessness in Southern Africa.