

Call for Participants

Changing the Narrative: Cross-regional training programme on media coverage of refugees and migrants

Who

Changing the Narrative is a cross-regional training programme for journalists and media professionals working on refugee and migration issues in their local contexts. The programme is also suitable for those without direct experience in these topics, but who are committed to developing their skill set and contributing to journalism in this area. The professional development and networking opportunity will bring together **a group of 12 journalists and media professionals** from three geographic regions (Africa, Europe, and the Middle East), for training with a select group of experts in humanitarian issues, photojournalism, ethics, policy, and more. Professional level English is an asset; however, interpretation during the live sessions and translation of key training material into French and Arabic may be available.

What

Changing the Narrative is **a networking and exposure programme, focused on developing journalistic skills and deepening contacts** related to migration and refugee issues across Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. The journalists will participate in a short training programme, then collaborate to produce high quality resources (articles, podcasts, videos, radio programme, graphics, and so on) for publication highlighting the key realities faced by migrants and refugees both nationally and regionally.

The programme will help strengthen media coverage of migration and refugee issues through **skills building, networking, sharing of experiences, and learning more from experts in this field**. It will also build media and communication rights awareness, and connections with organisations working with and for refugees and migrants. Together, the selected journalists will deepen media coverage by exploring connections among the countries and regions represented in the programme.

When

The Changing the Narrative programme runs **from 1 January 2022 through the end of May 2022**. Participants are expected in 5 online sessions on:

Monday, 10 January, 12pm to 2pm (CET, Geneva Time)

Friday, 14 January, 12pm to 2pm (CET, Geneva Time)

Monday, 17 January, 12pm to 2pm (CET, Geneva Time)

Friday, 21 January, 12pm to 2pm (CET, Geneva Time)

Monday, 24 January, 12pm to 2pm (CET, Geneva Time)

Each session will have short follow up assignments or activities due during the next session. Regional or language-group meetings will be scheduled for early February, and one-on-one or small group gatherings will continue throughout the programme. There will be two additional meetings for the entire cohort at the mid-way and endpoint of the programme to evaluate progress and learning. A final, public online event will take place in May and showcase the results of the project.

Where

The **training will take place online**, requiring a stable internet connection that can support video calls. We hope to share experiences with local and regional agencies. On-site visits and other exposure

activities may be planned depending on pandemic restrictions. The programme will be adjusted in the light of evolving measures.

Why

Against the backdrop of the global pandemic, forced migration (both internally displaced and refugees) remains a growing international crisis. **According to the UNHCR, at the end of 2019 there were nearly 80 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, with a mere 107,800 resettlements.** This puts into relief the deep political and social crisis that is often amplified through anti-migrant rhetoric and hate speech. It is imperative to build the capacity of media to report on refugee and migration issues ethically and accurately. This project will help strengthen the ability of organisations working with migrants and refugees to work with news media and address hate speech on social media; and to enable refugees and migrants to speak on their own behalf, to participate in decisions about their lives, and to participate actively in their communities.

Financial Responsibilities

The training, network and programme arrangements are provided to selected journalists at no cost. Some financial assistance for transport and specific expenses can be offered in the case exposure visits are possible, but only when agreed in advance and documented with receipts.

How

To apply to participate in this project, [please submit your application through this Google form \(https://tinyurl.com/8bc7cf88\)](https://tinyurl.com/8bc7cf88). For any questions regarding the application process or the programme, contact Erin Green, Project Coordinator, at erin.green@wacceurope.org.

The Changing the Narrative training programme is a project of WACC regional associations in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East). WACC is a non-governmental organisation that builds on communication rights to promote social justice.

To learn more about WACC, please visit waccglobal.org. See also <http://www.wacceurope.org/projects/changing-the-narrative-on-migration/>.