



A CALL TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PITCH FOR INVESTIGATIVE STORIES ON GBV, HIV & THE LAW

BACKGROUND

The Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET) has been working with senior journalists and key media platforms to increase their visibility in the advocacy agenda of promoting human rights and fighting for social justice.

In 2020, the organization rolled out their first ever call of investigative journalism, where journalists were required to write about issues pertaining to observance of human rights in Uganda. Some of the issues highlighted in the story pitches included; Discrimination against women and girls living with HIV, Access to services for People living with HIV, Discrimination at the work place for PLHIV, Stigma and HIV criminalization and among others.

In the first quarter of the year, another call was sent out for journalist to pitch stories around ending stigma and discrimination in relation to HIV and TB. The purpose of this was to have mass media coverage during the period of Commemoration of Zero Discrimination.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the early months of 2020, it came to the attention of UGANET that the violation of fundamental rights of women and girls, and the most vulnerable people in the community who include those living with HIV and TB has even gone a notch higher. Indeed statistics show that the pandemic has affected these vulnerable groups in ways unimaginable as revealed by the Annual Police Crime Report of 2020, and several news headlines of national dailies.

This comes at a time when countries across the globe are reflecting on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, and vulnerable communities, including the HIV community. These well investigated news features will be instrumental in painting a picture for these communities especially as the world commemorates the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence.

WHY ENGAGE THE MEDIA

The media is a very powerful tool in the formation of opinion in any society.

It is therefore of the greatest essence that journalists are engaged in activities that promote social justice.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an alarming rise in gender-based violence and crimes such as rape, molestation, dowry deaths, domestic abuse and cybercrimes. Several strategies have been proposed to respond to the menace of gender-based violence during the pandemic; most of these involve burdening the already overstretched healthcare system and facilities. However, the time has never been right than it is now, to involve the media to do what they do best.

With responsible reporting, it is proven that there can be change of behaviour among communities. The reverse can unfortunately also be true.

With guidance from a human rights body like UGANET, the media can promote balanced reporting on the subject of Gender-Based Violence, especially now when there is a headline on defilement in almost all the news dailies.

This call therefore brings to your attention yet another opportunity for journalists to pitch ideas on the subject of Gender-based violence response, HIV and the Law in Uganda.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Senior journalists will be required to apply for the highly competitive program with pitches on story ideas that they will investigate on gender-based violence response.

The qualifying journalists will receive a modest facilitation to help them carry out the assignment. Payment will only be made upon submission of proof of work done in the agreed period of time.

DELIVERABLES?

Journalists will be expected to provide the following

- A thoroughly investigated report on the subjects of GBV, HIV and the Law in either print or digital form
- Proof of publish or broadcast of the feature story e.g a link to the story which bares the name of the contracted journalist.

EXPECTED PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT

The journalists will be expected to deliver their feature stories exactly a month from the time of signing of the contract between them and UGANET.

PAYMENT TERMS

An agreed amount of money will be paid to the journalists upon publishing/broadcast of the well investigated feature story.

WHAT AND WHERE TO ADDRESS APPLICATION

Applications which include a CV and an expression of interest should be sent to Advocacyteam@uganet.org copying in owomugishab@uganet.org and dhirwa@uganet.org not later than November 11, 2021 EAT.