

Vacancy Announcement for Lead Researcher

Research on the implications of repressive measures related to COVID-19 on human rights and civic space in South Asia

About FORUM-ASIA:

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) was founded in 1991 to strengthen movements for human rights and sustainable development through advocacy, capacity development, solidarity actions with human rights defenders and civil society organisations. It is a membership-based non-governmental organisation with 85 members in 23 countries and has the Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Context:

South Asia's increasing proclivity to authoritarianism can be evidenced through the restrictive measures invoked or enacted by governments in the region on the pretext of controlling the coronavirus pandemic. This included imposing targeted constraints on the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, heightening surveillance and censorship against the media, and discernible attempts to stifle human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society organisations. The intensity of harassment and abuse against women, sexual and gender minorities, and religious and ethnic minorities for exercising their fundamental freedoms is more severe and far-reaching owing to the deeply-rooted patriarchy and socio-cultural hierarchies in the region.

In this context, seven country-level research on the implications of repressive measures related to COVID-19 on human rights and civic space in South Asia has been conducted. Each research is conducted on different sub-topics in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by country-level researchers.

Objective:

FORUM-ASIA seeks a lead researcher with knowledge of the South Asian context to review the seven countries research drafts and prepare a South Asian overview based on the drafts.

Role of lead researcher:

- To review the draft reports from country level researchers, provide comments, and conduct a second review to ensure the comments are addressed.
- Finalise the country-level chapters based on the revised draft from country level researchers.
- Prepare a South Asia level overview on the research topic based on country level chapters and desk research.

Duration

The duration for this consultancy work will be for two months. The consultancy will tentatively start from mid-September.

Deliverables:

The consultancy comprises of deliverables which include:

- (i) Seven final country-level research reports
- (ii) A South Asian overview based on the research reports and desk research.

Essential Qualification:

- Degree in the fields of law, social sciences, developmental studies, or relevant field.
- Proven drafting and research skills and publications
- Proven experience and expertise on working in human rights issues in South Asia

Remuneration:

The remuneration will be USD 1500 (One thousand five hundred).