



Call for Applications

Intensive Media Training for Sierra Leonean Journalists to Report Upon Human Trafficking

The [Journalism Centre on Global Trafficking](#) (JCOGT), in collaboration with the [Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach](#) (CenHTRO) at the University of Georgia, is happy to announce a six months training programme for Sierra Leonean journalists interested in reporting on human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a major problem in Sierra Leone. In particular children are adversely affected : an estimated 33% of children aged 5 to 17 in Sierra Leone's Eastern Province have experienced child trafficking and 36% have experienced child labor, according to CenHTRO baseline [research findings](#).

Building on prior training programs for Sierra Leonean journalists, this new fellowship will endeavor to further and deepen investigations into human trafficking in previously uncovered communities. Twelve Sierra Leonean journalists will be selected to take part in a hybrid training programme.

Journalists who are interested in improving their investigative skills delving into how criminal justice intersects with trafficking; and reporting in rural areas are especially encouraged to apply.

Through a series of online and in-country activities, including field work, journalists will learn about why and how trafficking happens in Sierra Leone. The training will provide access to research, evidence and data not previously available to journalists.

Journalists will meet with law enforcement, researchers, government officials, civil society organizations and others to expand their knowledge of exploitation and trafficking. Journalists will be able to visit courts and meet with attorneys trying trafficking cases. Participants will receive specific training from lawyers working on trafficking in persons cases. Journalists will learn the process from start to finish on how to cover a trafficking in persons case in the court.

Participants will receive skills training around reading and understanding data, investigative reporting and best-practices while interviewing survivors and minors.

Participants will receive story coaching, mentoring, and editorial assistance to support their efforts to produce high quality and in-depth stories. Journalists will have the opportunity to apply for grant funding to support financial costs related to reporting for investigative or high quality in-depth stories on human trafficking. The programme will also support the initial formation of a professional network of journalists that report upon trafficking.



Applicants should have a genuine interest in reporting on trafficking and experience related to the issues covered by the programme. This should be evidenced by the submission of recent work samples. If applicants have never previously reported on trafficking they should submit a 250-word explanation detailing why you want to be included in the program. Applicants may explain the importance of reporting on these issues, and also include their professional goals, outcome or goals for inclusion in this program.

Alumni who benefitted from the 2023 programme are encouraged to apply. They should indicate in their application the added value of their participation to the new programme. All applicants should have the support of their editors.

Freelancers can apply with a recommendation from a media outlet where they usually publish stories. Applicants will be required to provide one story idea that they would like to pursue during this programme (all story ideas shared will be kept confidential and used only for selection.)

Participants to the project should publish their stories in their respective outlets. Participants will be selected based on the quality of their submission and a finalist interview via video call. Journalists will be notified of their selection in January 2024. Program activities will run in February 2024 until July 2024. An in-person mandatory training will take place during the first two weeks of March. Applicants must be able to attend the training.

JCOGT is a US-based centre whose mission is to inform the media's understanding of human, labour, arms, drugs and wildlife trafficking. [CenHTRO](#) advances research, programme, and policy efforts to combat human trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Eligibility criteria:

1. All applicants should be active journalists working in a Sierra Leonean media outlet. (print, online, TV or radio)
2. Applicants should have at least four years experience in journalism and a maximum of fifteen years.
3. Applicants should be based in Sierra Leone at the time of application and should commit to complete the full programme when selected.
4. Applicants must have a high proficiency level of spoken and written English.

Application documents should include:



1. One story idea on human trafficking in Sierra Leone. (Story Ideas shared will remain confidential and be used only for selection.)
2. A supporting letter from the editor.
3. A sample of a recent article on human trafficking or closely related topic. . (print, online, audio or broadcast)
4. A 250-word statement of interest. (for journalists who haven't previously reported on trafficking)

Applicants should upload their application through this [form](#).

Deadline: 8 Jan 2024 at 18H00 GMT

Questions: Contact Zena Achieng via email zena@jcogt.org

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About Journalism Centre on Global Trafficking: [The Journalism Centre on Global Trafficking \(JCOGT\)](#) is a reporting network, training, and resource centre that identifies, train, assist, and connect reporters in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, the Americas and the Middle East with the goal of strengthening evidence-based news that helps the public and the media understand trafficking within their communities. This is the first centre worldwide dedicated to assisting journalists to report beyond the usual headline-grabbing stories on trafficking and learn to report more fully on labor, the human and public health costs, the wildlife, drugs, and arms trade, and the financial ties supporting these networks.

About CenHTRO: The Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach (CenHTRO) is an international, interdisciplinary effort to combat human trafficking around the world through research, programming, and policy development. Established in May 2021 in the University of Georgia's School of Social Work, with research partners based at the University of Liverpool (UK), CenHTRO aims to enhance the science of human trafficking prevalence measurement worldwide; implement effective anti-trafficking policies and programs that protect victims, prevent trafficking, and strengthen prosecution; and to equip the next generation of human trafficking researchers with expertise that will enhance social justice for trafficking survivors and victims. Visit cenhtro.uga.edu to learn more.

About UGA: Chartered by the state of Georgia in 1785, the University of Georgia is the birthplace of public higher education in America—launching our nation's great tradition of world-class public education. What began as a commitment to inspire the next generation grows stronger today through global research, hands-on learning and extensive outreach. A top value in public higher education, Georgia's flagship university thrives in a community that combines a culture-rich college town with a strong economic center.