

LOTM Small Grants Initiative

Background

People who use drugs (PWUD), sex workers, People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and LGBTI+ individuals (together 'marginalised groups') face challenges in exercising their rights around the world. With a long history of injustice, they face constant stigma, discrimination, police brutality, persecution, and criminalisation. Realizing justice for marginalized groups remains challenging, especially in the context of uprising populist politics, shrinking of civil society space, and increasing threats on civil liberties in many countries.

In the era of COVID-19, lawyers are limited in reaching their current or potential clients, street-lawyering is limited by lockdown policies, and efforts to run court processes online are failing to achieve standard due process (from technical challenges such as bad connection to cost-related barriers to lack of technology literacy). Although many lawyers are determined to maintain legal services, this pandemic has created new impediments to justice.

At the same time, marginalized groups are even more vulnerable. During lockdown, street-based individuals became hyper-visible (the streets being otherwise empty) and were targets of police harassment or arrest in a number of countries. Those who work in the informal economy have lost their livelihoods and are being excluded from government support – if there is any – because of their identity, choice of work, or lack of identity documents. Housing and shelter arrangements have become more fragile, and many community leaders report there has been no pause in arrest, detention and criminalisation of marginalized groups.

Objective

The Small Grants Initiative is designed to support the members of Lawyering on the Margins network in providing urgent legal responses and addressing emerging opportunities and/or needs to uphold marginalised groups' rights.

Grants available shall be up to USD 5,000 per application.

Criteria

In assessing the eligibility of application, the Steering Committee will evaluate based upon:

- **Urgency**
The grant proposed will be used to respond to a situation where irreversible consequences will emerge if it is not addressed.
- **Involvement of and relevancies to the key populations**
Key populations refer to PWUD, sex workers, PLHIV and LGBTI individuals.
- **Grant relevancies**

The grant proposed is aimed to uphold the rights of marginalised groups, including those impacted by COVID-19 policies. Additionally, the grant will also be reviewed on the basis of the relevancies to global and/or regional advocacy efforts.

- **Type of tools/strategy proposed**

It may include, but not limited to, urgent bail applications, responding to group arrests, research or advocacy strategies to oppose regressive COVID-19 measures, court fees, expert consultancies, safe transport/interventions for client safety, training for key populations to mitigate rising human rights violations against them, or other activities aiming to provide rapid response in urgent or unforeseen crises.

The Small Grant Initiative cannot be used to support daily office costs, core supports, and salary of regular staffs.

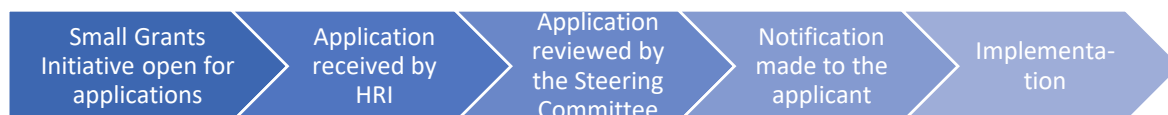
Please note that 'first-time' applications will be prioritised.

Application Process

The application can only be made by members, individuals or organisations, of the Lawyering on the Margins network. To avoid conflict of interest, the Steering Committee members and/or their organisations will not review their own applications.

The Small Grant Initiative application is open all year round, and will be disbursed based on the availability of funding (in connection with donor disbursements to HRI). The application will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis, enabling LOTM members to submit an application as soon as the need arises. The Steering Committee will update the LOTM members on available funding for the Small Grant Initiative semesterly.

Applicants must complete the application form provided on the Annex and send it to ajeng.larasati@hri.global. The Steering Committee will review each application by using the criteria set out above and announce its decision in no later than seven working days.



Reporting Process

Upon the completion of the grant, applicant must submit a narrative report explaining any particular challenges and lesson learned, as well as a brief financial report. The narrative report must not exceed two pages. The report must be sent to ajeng.larasati@hri.global thirty days after the finishing date.

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| For more information, please do not hesitate to contact: |
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London Head Office:
61 Mansell Street
Aldgate, London E1 8AN
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38 Henry Street, Liverpool L1 5BS
Telephone: +44 (0) 151 702 0630
conference@hri.global

Ajeng Larasati (ajeng.larasati@hri.global)

Annex

Application Form LOTM Small Grant Initiative

I. Applicant Information

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Applicant's name | |
| Organisation <i>(if applicable)</i> | |
| Location of the proposed initiative | |
| Target group | |
| Intended starting and finishing date | |
| Person in charge <i>(if different from the applicants)</i> | Name |
| | Email Address |

II. Description

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| Brief description of the initiative <i>(max 250 words)</i> | |
| Explanation of the emerging situation <i>(max 250 words)</i> | |
| Description of the detailed activities <i>(max 250 words)</i> | |
| Explanation on the participation of key populations throughout the grant <i>(max 250 words)</i> | |
| Potential risks and mitigation plan <i>(max 250 words)</i> | |

III. Budget

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|---|----------------------------|
| Budget <i>(Please use Oanda.com for currency converter)</i> | <i>(in local currency)</i> |
| | <i>(in USD)</i> |
| Detailed budget: <i>Below are for illustrative purposes only</i> | |



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|---|----|
| 1. <i>Researcher's fee (per day/month/person)</i> | xx |
| 2. <i>Development of infographic</i> | xx |
| 3. <i>Expert's fee</i> | xx |
| 4. <i>Court's fee</i> | xx |
| 5. <i>Etc.</i> | xx |