

## UNHCR JOURNALIST MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEES

**A mentorship programme for aspiring journalists, public speakers and advocates offered by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.**

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is pleased to offer a three-month mentorship programme for aspiring journalists, public speakers or advocates. Refugees as well as internally displaced or stateless people who are above the age of 18 are welcome to apply. Please keep in mind that this programme is open to all candidates who have completed their secondary education. However, preference will be given to those in higher education programmes, especially to those in journalism, communications, advocacy or related fields.

**Please apply for either the journalism OR the public speaking/advocacy track. If you are unsure which track is right for you, don't worry! Many of the sessions will overlap and you can also switch later if you would like.**

## FOR ALL CANDIDATES

**Please answer the following questions:**

1. Name (please capitalize your surname):
2. Country of Origin:
3. Country and City/place of Residence:
4. Name of university/major (if applicable):
5. Year of studies/expected year of graduation (if applicable):
6. If you are in university, are you on a scholarship or other support programme? If so, name of programme (e.g. DAFI Scholarship):
7. If you are not enrolled in a higher education programme, please tell us about the secondary school you attended.
8. Do you have a suitable place in which to work that provides you with enough quiet and privacy? If not, what kind of environment would be suitable for you in order to do your best work? (100 words or fewer)
9. What do you hope to gain from this mentorship programme? (300 words or fewer)

## FOR JOURNALISM CANDIDATES:

The goal of these sessions is to help refugees (or internally displaced or stateless people) tell their stories – or any story that is important to them – to the world. This track brings together internal UNHCR staff, external media and academic partners to provide training on writing and reporting skills as well as mentorship and networking opportunities. UNHCR will provide funds to cover programme-related costs including (but not limited to) travel expenses, telephone or internet expenses incurred during reporting and costs associated with accessing the training sessions.

### What we are looking for:

- Candidates who have produced at least one journalistic piece (news article, video, radio show, etc.)
- Candidates who will be able to write/produce projects in English\*
- Candidates who are enthusiastic about sharing stories that shed light on important issues in the world today

### Main takeaways for mentees:

- Support for telling true and timely stories that are relevant to the world as you see it
- Training in basic journalism techniques, such as interviewing, pitching stories and constructing narratives
- A chance to form relationships with journalists working at top media outlets
- Mentorship and guidance
- A chance to work on a project that will either be ready for publication/airing or ready to be pitched to a media organization

### Please answer the following questions:

1. What story would you like to tell? Please describe the topic of the story you wish to tell, as well as the main people you might write about (if you know) for this project. Please include what you hope to show the world by telling this story (500 words or fewer) \*\*

2. How would you like to tell this story? For example, an article on a website, a short video for social media, a photo essay, a podcast, etc. (200 words or fewer)

3. Who would be the main audience for your story? For example, general public, governments, refugees, etc. (100 words or fewer)

4. What specific training or support would help you in completing your story project? Please be as detailed as possible. (200 words or fewer)

5. Additionally, what assistance would you need from UNHCR or partners to tell your story. For example, do you need a photographer to work with? Editing help with videos or text? Help in pitching your story to the media? We want to help you through the process in every way we can, so being as specific about what you might need as possible can help us prepare. (200 words or fewer)

6. Do you need to travel to do the reporting for your story? If so, where? (100 words or fewer). \*\*\*

7. Are there any concerns you have about doing the story you described? What risks (if any) will doing this work pose to you or your family? What are the risks (if any) to your sources or anyone you work with? (200 words or fewer)

8. Attach or provide links to any previous journalistic work or creative writing you have done.

## FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING/ADVOCACY CANDIDATES:

The goal of these sessions is to help refugees (or internally displaced or stateless people) become advocates for issues they care about. This track brings together internal UNHCR staff, external media, nonprofit and academic partners to provide training for writing and public speaking as well as data collection/research. UNHCR will provide funds (up to a limited amount) for programme-related costs including but not limited to travel costs, telephone or internet costs incurred during the creation of the final project and costs related to accessing training sessions.

### What we are looking for:

- Candidates who have at least some experience in public speaking or advocacy
- Candidates who will be able to work in English (in the future, we hope to support multiple languages)
- Candidates who are enthusiastic about supporting causes related to forced displacement and/or statelessness or other issues important to them and their communities

### Main takeaways for mentees:

- Support for preparing an advocacy or awareness raising campaign or project
- Training in basic public speaking, writing and advocacy
- A chance to form relationships with professionals working in the nonprofit and private sectors in advocacy and related fields
- Mentorship and support
- A chance to work on a project that will be ready to launch by the end of the programme

### Please answer the following questions:

1. What issue/s or topic/s would you like to focus on? Please check one or more.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General awareness raising of the challenges faced by stateless people or forcibly displaced people | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual and gender based violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education  | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTIQ+                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs/economic issues   | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare   | <input type="checkbox"/> Children and young people        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health  | <input type="checkbox"/> Women                            |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Men                              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)           |

2. How would you like to communicate this issue? For example, public speaking engagements, social media campaign, opinion essays, etc.

3. Who would be the main audience for your message? For example, government leaders, general public, professional organizations, etc.
4. What specific training or support would help you create and/or implement a campaign focused on your issue?
5. What help or support would you need from UNHCR colleagues or partners? For example, photography, editing support, help contacting potential partners to work with, etc. Please be as specific as possible.
6. Attach any examples of advocacy work or public speaking you have done.

## HOW TO APPLY

### There are two ways to apply:

- By email: Send your application by email to the UNHCR Education Section ([hqeduc@unhcr.org](mailto:hqeduc@unhcr.org)). You may answer all questions directly in the email or attach a separate document **OR**
- Fill out this [Google Form](#).

### Important dates to keep in mind:

- **Deadline for applications: 11 MARCH 2022 (Successful candidates notified by the end of March)**
- **Programme start date: 28 APRIL 2022**
- **Programme end date: 8 JULY 2022**

**Thank you and best of luck!**

\*In the future, we hope to support multiple languages.

\*\*Please note that UNHCR works under the humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality. Please keep that in mind when pitching your story idea. Once candidates are chosen, their work will be their own and UNHCR will not try to influence story angles or content except to provide general feedback on technical issues, such as grammar and structure.

\*\*\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most, if not all, of training and reporting will likely be done virtually.