

Artist Brief

The Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, United Kingdom seeks to commission 10 artists in total from Colombia, Mexico, Egypt, Kenya and Indonesia to create artistic responses to research outputs.

host organisation

The Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) is an interdisciplinary research and teaching centre at the University of York. It focuses on the real world challenges of putting human rights into practice and protecting human rights defenders at risk.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/cahr/>

the research project

CAHR is currently implementing a research project entitled 'Navigating Risk, Managing Security, and Receiving Support', which examines the experiences of human rights defenders at risk in Colombia, Mexico, Egypt, Kenya and Indonesia. We have conducted interviews, focus groups and surveys with around 400 human rights defenders at risk. This artist brief relates to producing creative responses and interpretations of research outputs from this study.

research project aims

- Human rights defenders, and practitioners (governmental and non-governmental) have increased understanding of how defenders at risk navigate risks, manage their security, and receive protection support.
- The research influences positively the way protection support is provided for defenders at risk;
- Defenders, practitioners (governmental and non-governmental) and academics engage in more collaborative discussion and research about effective networks of protection;
- The research reaches the global human rights community and beyond through art, academic publications, and resources for practitioners.

emergent themes

The following themes have emerged from the analysis of the current research data:

- Security management and recommendations - what defenders actually do for their security and their recommendations about protection practices

- Barriers to security management
- Community and social networks
- Perceptions of risk and security - what factors make defenders feel secure and insecure
- Identity and gender
- Self-care and wellbeing
- Perceptions about human rights and 'human rights defenders'

creative commission

CAHR aims to commission 10 artists from Colombia, Mexico, Egypt, Kenya and Indonesia to produce creative responses to research material. The material provided may include the following:

- verbatim poems created from the words of interviewees during focus groups and one-to-one interviews
- edited sections of research transcripts
- partial audio recordings
- Web-based resources

All material provided will be anonymised to protect the identity of research participants.

Commissioned artists from each country will receive different materials and may receive some or all of the research outputs listed above.

We plan to draw attention to this work globally. We would like to discuss with the artists involved in this project about how we can draw upon their work to stimulate conversations about risk, security and protection in human rights practice.

who are we looking for?

We aim to commission artists working in a range of art forms including visual arts, music and sound, film, dance, creative writing, photography and other forms.

Applications are sought from artists **originally from or living in the five countries included in the research**. We also seek to commission a number of artists who have had experience of activism or human rights practice.

fees and expenses

Artist honorarium: \$500

Materials and production budget: Up to \$250

Artists can invoice for a total of up to \$750 to include honorarium and supplementary costs of producing the creative work.

creative project timescale

Dec 2016: artist brief circulated

Jan 24th 2017: **deadline for artist proposals. Submissions due by midnight GMT**

Jan 31st 2017: commissioned artists will be notified and briefing sessions will be arranged.

Feb – Mar 2017: commissioned artists produce work in response to research data.

Mar 24th 2017: **artists submit final creative work to CAHR.**

application process

To apply to this opportunity please provide:

- A CV detailing relevant experience
- Examples of previous work
- An expression of interest letter which details:
 - why you are interested in this project;
 - which of the five countries you are originally from or currently live in;
 - which of the themes in the research project, if any, you would be particularly interested in responding to;
 - a summary or proposal detailing how you will approach this work, including the art forms you will use and any associated costs;
 - if relevant, detail your experience of activism and human rights practice.
- Details for two referees.

A selection panel will meet to review the applications and will contact all successful applicants. If you have not heard from us by 7th February, please assume your application is unsuccessful.

For any further information or to submit your application please email: security-of-defenders-project@york.ac.uk.

All applications must be submitted by midnight GMT on 24th January 2017. No late submissions will be accepted.