



**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MANAV ADHIKAR BHAWAN,  
C-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023**

**F.No.-R-24/2/2024-PRPP (RU-2)**


**Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

NOTICE

**INVITATION OF PROPOSALS TO COLLABORATE WITH NHRC  
FOR ORGANIZING A ONE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNDER THE SCHEME SPONSORING  
CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) proposes to organize a One-day National Conference on Human Trafficking on the theme "Combating Human Trafficking in the Digital Era". Eligible Universities, Institutions, and Law Schools (as per clause 3 of the attached guidelines) may submit their proposals on the thematic subject mentioned in Annex V.

- 2.) Last date of receipt of the application is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.
- 3.) Interested eligible institutions/organizations can submit soft copies of their proposals for conducting the National Conference in the prescribed format as mentioned in **Annex-I** of the attached guidelines via email [dsr.nhrc@nic.in](mailto:dsr.nhrc@nic.in) latest by **18.00 hours of August 31, 2024**.

  
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Research Unit-II



**Guidelines for  
Sponsoring Conferences, Seminars and Workshops  
on Human Rights**

**National Human Rights Commission, India**  
June, 2024



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## 1. Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission may identify areas where awareness regarding some social/ legal issues pertaining to human rights is required through Conferences, Seminars and Workshop (herein after referred as programmes). Also organisations or institutions may identify some issues wherein discourse is required to conduct programmes. National Human Rights Commission may sponsor such programmes for a wider outreach of Human Rights aspects by the commission.

## 2. Objectives

The commission utilizes conferences, seminars and workshops to deliberate, discuss and share knowledge on various issues and themes regarding Human Rights. These events serve as a platform for engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including civil society groups, academics, human rights defenders, and others. Organizers are expected to ensure comprehensive information dissemination and facilitate an exchange of ideas during the events. The resulting reports and recommendations from these deliberations play a crucial role in informing the commission's policy development, legal recommendations and guidelines.

## 3. Eligibility Criteria

The following organizations are eligible to apply for funding to conduct conferences, seminars and workshops.

- i.) Universities, Institutions, Law Schools;
- ii.) Autonomous bodies and research organizations;
- iii.) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the state or national level with a minimum of three years of experience and proven research capability in Human rights issues and concerns;
- iv.) These NGOs must be registered under a relevant Indian statute, such as the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or the Public Trusts Act of various states or registered as Non-Profit organization under relevant provisions of Companies Act 2013.
- v.) UGC/ AICTE recognised academic institutions actively engaged in Human Rights research activities, including but not limited to the thematic subjects mentioned in Annex - IV.



#### 4. Required Documents

##### 4.1. For Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Trusts and Not for profit organizations (NPOs):

- i.) Completed application form (Annex - I);
- ii.) Brief organizational profile;
- iii.) Certified copy of registration certificate;
- iv.) Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association demonstrating the organization's objective to conduct human rights related activities, including conferences, seminars and workshops;
- v.) Certified copies of audited financial statements for the past three years;
- vi.) Certified copies of annual/ activity reports for the past three years;
- vii.) Detailed proposal outlining the program's objectives, target audience, and expected outcomes;
- viii.) Information on resource persons;
- ix.) Geographical area covered by the proposed programme;
- x.) Tentative date and venue of the programme; and,
- xi.) Signed undertaking (Annex - III).

##### 4.2. For Universities, Government Organizations, Autonomous Bodies, Research Organizations/ UGC recognised Academic Institutions:

- i.) Brief organizational profile;
- ii.) Detailed proposal outlining the program's objectives, target audience, and expected outcomes;
- iii.) Information on resource persons;
- iv.) Geographical area covered by the proposed program;
- v.) Tentative date and venue of the program; and,
- vi.) Signed undertaking (Annex - III).



## 5. Program Coordinator

The program coordinator shall be responsible to coordinate with the Commission. Program coordinator will submit the program report to the commission in English or Hindi.

## 6. Financial Norms

6.1. In all sponsored programmes, the following financial limits shall be strictly observed:

Admissible amount (head wise)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Description	Number	Maximum admissible Amount		
				One Day	Two Day	Three Day
i.)	Hall/ Site charges	Actual charges or up to: Rs. 20,000/- per day	1	20,000	40,000	60,000
ii.)	Accommodation and TA for Resource persons	Rs. 5000/- per day	5	25,000	50,000	75,000
iii.)	Honorarium to Resource persons	Rs. 4000/- per Resource person (Maximum Five Resource persons )	5	20,000	40,000	60,000
iv.)	Promotion and advertisement	Banners and standees		10,000	20,000	20,000
v.)	Sound and Multimedia			25,000	40,000	50,000
vi.)	Meal and Tea Charges	350/- per head	200 participants per day	70,000	140,000	210,000
vii.)	Conference Kit	150/- per head	200 participants per day	30,000	30,000	30,000
viii.)	Secretarial assistance			25,000	40,000	50,000
ix.)	Miscellaneous			10,000	20,000	30,000

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x.)	Honorarium for Program Coordinator or Nodal officer	5000 per day	1 per day	5,000	10,000	15,000
xi.)	10% of the total cost as overhead expenditure			24,000	43,000	60,000
xii.)	TOTAL			2,64,000	4,73,000	6,60,000

**6.2. The contribution of NHRC will be subjected to following conditions:**

- i.) Maximum contribution by NHRC will be 50% of the total incurred cost or subjected to following limits, whichever is lesser:
  - a. Rupees one lakh twenty five thousand for one day programme.
  - b. Rupees two lakh and twenty five thousand for two days programme.
  - c. Rupees three lakh for three days programme.
- ii.) While the contribution of the NHRC shall be as per details given in agenda and restricted to the amount mentioned therein, the institution is not restricted to incur expenditure as per limits given in agenda.
- iii.) The programmes will be convened in collaboration with the NHRC ensuring the active involvement of NHRC officers in the inaugural and valedictory session of the programmes.
- iv.) Theme of the conference will be either from the subjects mentioned in Annex IV or shall be decided in consultation and approval of NHRC.
- v.) If the number of participants is required to be more than 200, additional amount may be considered upon receiving of such request.

**7. General Conditions**

- i.) Proposals will be assessed based on the applicant organization's eligibility, experience, and competence.
- ii.) The commission will also consider the relevance of the proposed topic, objectives, and expected outcomes of the programme.
- iii.) Funding will be released in two instalments. The first instalment of 50% amount will be released after the commission approves the proposal. Remaining 50% will be released after conducting the programme and subject to receiving the following:
  - a. Original duly signed utilization certificate, (certified by a Chartered Accountant except in the case of the educational institutions Judicial Training Institutes, Police Training Institutes and Administrative Training Institutes;
  - b. Accounts of the expenditure;

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- c. Original or attested copies of bills & vouchers (revenue stamp required for cash payments exceeding Rs. 5,000); and,
  - d. The program report along with a pen-drive containing both the report and program details including photos and videos.
- iv.) The original utilization certificate (GFR 12A Format only) along with all supporting documents must be submitted within one month of the event.
  - v.) Organizations receiving financial assistance must display few standard banners (6ft x 3ft) with the NHRC logo and name in a clearly readable font size (8" - 10") at prominently visible places in and around venue. The banner should prominently feature the programme title, date, and venue.
  - vi.) Organizations receiving financial assistance must ensure that on the days of the event the Name and the logo of the National Human Rights commissions should be apparently visible throughout the day during all the sessions. Such can be done through making sure that the name and the logo appears on the background of the centre stage, in form of Banner or Slide projections, as the case may be. The NHRC logo and name should be prominently displayed on all conference materials, including banners, posters, brochures, and the conference website, as the case may be.
  - vii.) Organizers are expected to invite the Chairperson, Members, senior officials, and other resource persons of the NHRC well in advance to be part of the Inaugural and Valedictory ceremony.
  - viii.) The separate panels and sessions on specific Human Rights themes may also be organised during the event as and when suggested by the commission. In such regard, the organisers are expected to send the proposals to the commission in advance.
  - ix.) Funds cannot be used to purchase equipment or assets.
  - x.) The said seminars, conferences and workshops will only be conducted on the subjects/ themes approved by the NHRC.
  - xi.) Any unspent funds along with accrued interest must be returned to the NHRC within 30 days.
  - xii.) Separate accounts for the program must be maintained and may be subject to audit by the commission's representative.
  - xiii.) Notwithstanding, anything contained in these guidelines, the commission reserves the right to directly approach any institution to organise a conference, seminar, or workshop on any relevant issue or topic that it deems appropriate. Approval of such proposal would be granted by the commission only.
  - xiv.) The commission independently reserves the right to hold any seminar/ conference on any occasion/ specific subject in collaboration with SHRC or any other institution. Approval on such conferences/ seminars will be taken by the commission.



**Application Form**

(Attach a separate sheet where applicable)

Particulars	Details
<b>1. Organizational Details</b>	
i.) Name of Organization	
ii.) Complete postal address	
iii.) Telephone Number	
iv.) Email Address	
<b>2. Registration Details</b>	
i.) Whether registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or any other Act, (to be specified) and the date of registration (please enclose a copy of the Registration Certificate)	
ii.) Particulars of the present members of Executive Body / Board of Management; Date on which it was constituted and tenure.	
iii.) Name of the person and his / her designation nominated or authorized to act on behalf of the organization.	
iv.) Name of the Project Director, his Telephone number, fax number, mobile Number and E-mail ID	
<b>3. Programme Details</b>	
i.) Title	
ii.) Topic Description	
iii.) Objectives	
iv.) Geographical Area Targeted	
v.) Target Group	
<b>4. Previous Experience in the field/ theme projected (If any, kindly give the details of the event)</b>	



i.)	
ii.)	
iii.)	
iv.)	
v.)	
<b>5. Sponsorship Details</b>	
i.)	Financial assistance sought with Break-up of cost estimates
ii.)	(As per NHRC guidelines)
iii.)	Proposed dates for conduct of event
iv.)	Venue
v.)	Resource Persons

**Attached Documents**

- Registration Certificate (certified copy)
- Memorandum & Articles of Association (certified copy)
- Audited Statements (last 3 years, certified copies)
- Annual Reports (last 3 years, certified copies)
- Undertaking (as per Annex III of Guidelines)

Signature & Designation with the seal/ stamp



## Format for the post-event Report of Programmes (NHRC)

### 1. Cover Page

- i.) Title: Clearly state the title of the conference, seminar and workshop.
- ii.) Organization: Include the full name and address of the organization that conducted the event.
- iii.) Funding Acknowledgement: Prominently display details of the National Human Rights Commission, Delhi, at the bottom of the page as the funding organization.

### 2. Introduction

- i.) Background: Briefly explain the subject matter addressed by the programme.
- ii.) Objectives: Clearly outline the goals and aims that the event aimed to achieve.

### 3. Methodology

Describe the process followed for conducting the event. This could include details on Selection of participants or speakers, session formats (presentations, discussions, etc.) or any specific tools or resources used during the programme.

### 4. Proceedings

- i.) Briefly summarize the inaugural and valediction function (if held).
- ii.) Provide a session-by-session breakdown of the key points discussed, or elaborated including lectures, presentations, deliberations, discussions and recommendations.

### 5. Observations

Share any significant observations or insights gained from the event.

### 6. Recommendations/ Action Points

- i.) Categorize recommendations based on the relevant level of action that can be at directed towards, Local state or central authorities.
- ii.) Clearly identify the problems or issues raised during the event and suggest potential solutions or actions to address them.
- iii.) Specify the departments or agencies responsible for implementing the recommendations.



## 7. Additional Notes

- i.) Ensure the report is well-organized, concise, and easy to read.
- ii.) Use clear headings and subheadings to structure the content.
- iii.) Maintain a professional tone throughout the report.
- iv.) The report to be proofread carefully before submission.

## 8. Annexures

- i.) List of dignitaries who participated.
- ii.) List of resource persons and experts.
- iii.) List of participants.
- iv.) Copies of presentations made by experts (if applicable).
- v.) Photographs and videos capturing key moments of the event.
- vi.) A pen-drive containing the complete report and program details.



### Undertaking

Undertaking for Seeking Assistance for NHRC sponsored Conference/ Seminar/ Workshop  
[Affix Stamp Paper of One Hundred Rupees]

#### UNDERTAKING

We, [Name of Organization], hereby agree to be responsible for the following:

1. We will ensure the proper administration and management of the funds granted by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) exclusively for the conference/ seminar/ workshops for which the financial assistance is provided.
2. We declare that our organization is not receiving funds from any other source for undertaking this specific program.
3. Compliance History: We confirm that our organization has not been blacklisted or faced any disciplinary action from any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous body.
4. In the event of misuse or unauthorized use of funds for purposes other than those specified in the NHRC sanction order or for withholding or suppressing any information regarding funding from other official sources related to the sanctioned project, we agree to refund the full amount with interest.

Signature

[Name of authorized signatory]

On Behalf of

[Name of Organization (with seal)]

Full Address

Telephone Number

PAN Number

Signatures of Witnesses:

1.

[Name and Signature]

[Address]

2.

[Name and Signature]

[Address]



### List of Human Rights Themes

Sl. No.	Subject/ Theme
1.	Business and Human Rights
2.	Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights
3.	Police and prison reforms, Rights of prisoners
4.	Rights of LGBTQI+ community people
5.	Rights of Domestic Workers
6.	Right to Mental Health
7.	Rights of Manual Scavengers
8.	Rights of Labourers
9.	Right to Privacy, Digital Space and Human Rights
10.	Right to Development, Sustainable Development and Human Rights
11.	Right to Employment and Skill Development
12.	Sports and Human Rights, Youth Affairs
13.	Human Rights in Cultural, Philosophy and Arts
14.	Right to Water and Sanitation
15.	Human Rights in Social Media, Media (Print & Electronic)
16.	Right to Education
17.	Rights of Children & Juvenile Justice
18.	Rights of Consumers
19.	Legal aid to victims
20.	Right to Health, HIV AIDS,
21.	Human Rights in Public Sector Undertakings
22.	Rights of Persons with Disabilities
23.	Rights of Seafarers
24.	Rights of Women
25.	Sexual and Reproductive Rights
26.	Rights of SCs/ STs/ OBCs
27.	Rights of Minorities
28.	Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) arising out of development programmes, conflicts, riots and disasters, etc.
29.	Human Rights of Fisherman
30.	Right to Food Security and Nutrition
31.	Rights of the Older Persons/ Senior Citizens
32.	Rights of Refugees

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## **Theme: Combating Human Trafficking in the Digital Era**

### **Background:**

In the contemporary era, technology has permeated nearly every aspect of human life, revolutionizing communication, commerce, and social interaction. However, alongside its myriad benefits, technology has also facilitated new forms of exploitation and crime, particularly in the realm of human trafficking. The pervasive influence of technology has reshaped the landscape of human trafficking, presenting both unprecedented challenges and opportunities for combating exploitation. As we navigate the complex intersection of technology, trafficking, and transformation, it becomes imperative to convene a conference dedicated to confronting these pressing issues head-on. According to the **NCRB** data 2,250 instances of human trafficking were reported in 2022 compared to 2,189 cases in 2021, indicating a **2.8%** rise.

Human trafficking, defined as the illegal trade of humans for the purposes of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation, remains a significant global issue. Forced labour is a severe violation of human rights affecting 28 million of men, women and children in all countries and all economic sectors. It is rooted in poverty, discrimination and lack of social protection, and it disrupts fair competition between businesses<sup>[1]</sup>. **The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** identifies human trafficking as one of the fastest-growing criminal industries, generating billions of dollars in illicit profits annually<sup>[2]</sup>.

Article 3, paragraph (a) of the **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons** defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual

exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

## **LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- Constitution of India

There are three articles spread over the Constitution of India in Part-III and Part-IV which deal with Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). Article 23 of the Constitution of India is a Fundamental Right which prohibits trafficking in human beings and forms, of forced labour and Article 39(e) and 39(f) which are DPSPs direct at ensuring that health and strength of individuals are not abused and that no one is forced by economic necessity to do work unsuited to their age or strength and also states that childhood and youth should be protected against exploitation.

- Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956

It is the only legislation which specifically addresses Trafficking and is currently pending amendment. It penalizes trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.

- Other Legislations

There are some more legislations which directly or indirectly deal with human trafficking like:- Indian Penal Code, 1860; Bonded labour system (Abolition) Act, 1976; Child labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; Juvenile Justice Act, 2000; Goa Children Act, 2002; Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Protection of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 has come into force wherein Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code has been substituted with Section 370 and 370A (IPC) which provide for comprehensive measures to counter the menace of human trafficking including trafficking of children for exploitation in any form including physical exploitation or any form of sexual exploitation, slavery, servitude or the forced removal of organs.

### **Impact of Technology on Human Trafficking**

Technology has profoundly influenced the landscape of human trafficking, both facilitating exploitation and enabling efforts to combat it. The internet, social media platforms, and mobile technologies have



become integral tools for traffickers to recruit, advertise, and exploit their victims. Online marketplaces for sex trafficking have proliferated, operating under the guise of escort services or adult entertainment websites. Moreover, encrypted communication channels and virtual currencies have allowed traffickers to evade detection and law enforcement efforts.

The digital age has ushered in new forms of exploitation, including online child sexual exploitation, webcam sex trafficking, and labor trafficking in the gig economy. Vulnerable populations, such as migrants, refugees, and runaway youth, are particularly susceptible to exploitation in online spaces. Moreover, the anonymity afforded by the internet has emboldened perpetrators and made it increasingly challenging to identify and rescue victims.

Despite presenting new challenges, technology also offers innovative solutions for combating human trafficking. Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and data analytics have been leveraged to identify patterns of trafficking activity, detect online grooming behaviors, and enhance victim identification efforts. Blockchain technology shows promise in creating transparent supply chains to ensure ethical labor practices and combat forced labor in industries such as manufacturing and agriculture.

Governments and international organizations have recognized the need for enhanced legislative and regulatory frameworks to address trafficking in the digital age. Many countries have enacted laws targeting online trafficking and exploitation, including the United States' **Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) and Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA)**. Additionally, partnerships between law enforcement agencies, tech companies, and civil society organizations have been established to disrupt trafficking networks and rescue victims. **The Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report)** issued annually by the U.S. Department of State, assesses the efforts of governments worldwide to combat trafficking and ranks countries based on their performance.

As technology continues to evolve, ethical considerations surrounding its use in anti-trafficking efforts become increasingly pertinent. Issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the

potential for unintended consequences must be carefully navigated to ensure that technological interventions do not infringe upon individual rights or exacerbate existing inequalities. Moreover, there is a need for greater collaboration between technology developers, policymakers, and anti-trafficking advocates to develop ethical guidelines and best practices for leveraging technology in the fight against exploitation.

### **NHRC initiatives on Human Trafficking**

NHRC has published a book titled 'Trafficking in Women and Children in India' in 2005. The study was conducted by the research team of the Institute of Social Science, New Delhi. The study is a seminal work shedding light on one of the most pressing human rights issues in India and delves into the intricate web of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking that affects countless women and children across the country. Through compelling narratives and statistical analysis, it exposes the harsh realities faced by victims, examines the root causes of trafficking, and advocates for comprehensive measures to combat this grave violation of human dignity. With its blend of rigorous scholarship and a call to action, this book serves as a crucial resource for policymakers, activists, and anyone committed to the fight against human trafficking in India.

NHRC constituted a 'Committee of Experts' to assess the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of the people. Based on the recommendations made by the Committee comprising all stakeholders, the Commission has issued an advisory titled 'Human Rights Advisory on Combating Human Trafficking in Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic'.

the Commission has sponsored a research project titled "Human Trafficking: An Evaluation Study of Functioning of AHTUs" to the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta R1, B. P. Township, Kolkata 700094, West Bengal, with Prof. (Dr.) Saibal Kar, Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor of Economics, as the Principal Investigator (P.I) of the research project.

The objectives and Scope of the Study are to document and narrate the functioning of AHTUs as part of an impact assessment across four states in India. Another objective is to examine and assess the role of AHTUs and various stakeholders associated with incidences of human trafficking in each state.

**Need of the Hour:** Under the overarching theme of “ Combating Human Trafficking in the Digital Era” this conference will delve into the multifaceted dimensions of modern forms of trafficking exacerbated by technological advancements. This conference aims to galvanize stakeholders from across sectors and geographical boundaries, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and concrete action towards combating human trafficking in all its forms. By bringing together experts, policymakers, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, survivors, academicians and advocates, this event seeks to illuminate the multifaceted dimensions of human trafficking in the digital era. By fostering dialogue among stakeholders from diverse sectors, the conference aspires to illuminate the path towards innovative solutions and systemic change.

### **Proposed sub-themes for the conference**

#### Sub-themes:

##### 1. The Impact of Technology on Human Trafficking:

- Dark Web Exploitation
- How Digital Platforms Facilitate Trafficking Networks
- Cryptocurrency and Money Laundering: Tracking Illicit Financial Transactions

##### 2. Evolving Forms of Exploitation:

- Labour Trafficking in the Gig Economy: the precarious conditions faced by workers in the gig economy, where technological platforms facilitate exploitation through opaque employment arrangements and lack of accountability.
- Cybersex Trafficking
- Trafficking in the Age of Globalization: Transnational Networks and Supply Chains

##### 3. Policy and Law Enforcement Challenges:

- Jurisdictional Hurdles: Navigating Legal Frameworks in the Digital Landscape
- Data Privacy vs. Anti-Trafficking Efforts: Balancing Rights and Protection
- Interagency Cooperation: Enhancing Collaboration for Effective Enforcement

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[1]<https://www.ilo.org/topics/forced-labour-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

[2]<https://www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/human-trafficking.html>