



# GLOBAL ACTION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS

## Application Guidelines

For over 20 years, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (the Coalition) has been at the forefront of a global movement to document and share stories of the past in order to build a peaceful, rights-based future. With many regions throughout the world facing a rise in extremism, polarization and repressive governments, this year the Coalition will host **"Building Global Capacity for Inclusive Democracies"**, a global summit composed of three workshops designed to assist Sites of Conscience in creating and implementing programs that promote inclusivity and democratic values in their communities.

The three virtual workshops will be open to all members of the Coalition, fostering ample opportunities for knowledge and skill-sharing with other Sites of Conscience around the world. Given the urgency of this topic, each meeting will focus on one of three marginalized groups that face significant threats in today's world, including:

- Racial and ethnic minorities and indigenous communities
- Religious minorities
- Women and the LGBTQ+ community

For each of the three thematic workshops, a combination of Coalition staff, Sites of Conscience members around the world, and practitioners with expertise in memorialization, documentation and psychosocial support for survivors will facilitate virtual dialogue exercises, lead skills development sessions, provide methodological and programmatic guidance, and connect sites with peer organizations to foster independent relationships and partnerships across regions. The goal of each workshop will be to learn and share strategies that amplify the voices of these marginalized groups as they are crucial to ensuring a stable and peaceful future.

## What is Global Action?

Alongside the virtual thematic workshops of the Global Summit **"Building Global Capacity for Inclusive Democracies"**, thirty members will be eligible for small-grants to carry out community engagement projects on this year's themes, providing a range of members with an opportunity to gain practical project management skills. During this process, Coalition staff will play a critical role in terms of mentoring, coaching, and training as the projects are developed and launched. The three thematic Global Actions are:

Workshop 1: Reckoning with Systematic Racism Global Workshop  
**Global Action 1: Racism Past and Present Through a New Lens**

Workshop 2: Embracing Religious Diversity  
**Global Action 2: Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts**

Workshop 3: Challenging Bias Against Women and the LGBTQ+ Community  
**Global Action 3: Virtual Advocacy for Real Transformation**

## Global Action 1: Racism Past and Present Through a New Lens

### WORKSHOP 1 – RECKONING WITH SYSTEMATIC RACISM GLOBAL WORKSHOP

Racism is a chain that shackles lives, often from birth to grave, and it defines and limits the democracies that harbor it. From Kenya to Brazil, Tunisia to the Philippines, Sites of Conscience are confronting discrimination against indigenous, racial and ethnic minorities by creating more open narratives of past and present struggles for justice that foster new understandings in their communities. Using the power of place and memory as a framework, Sites of Conscience have an opportunity to help communities explore the root causes of discrimination by highlighting the historic systems that have perpetuated rather than eradicated inequality, ultimately sparking collective engagement in shaping a more just society.

Between **May 25-27, 2021**, **“Reckoning with Systemic Racism”** global workshop will examine the history of systemic racism, drawing attention to its impact on people’s lives and its effect on the democracies in which they live. Network members from Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Latin America/the Caribbean and MENA will gather to develop new skills in identifying, exposing and documenting the effects of systemic discrimination, and in storytelling to personalize and make accessible experiences of marginalization to increase understanding among disparate racial and ethnic groups.

This digital workshop will link global histories of racial oppression with the goal of understanding and communicating root causes of contemporary systemic inequities as tools for sparking lasting change. Sessions will include:

- Training on ICSC’s Front Page Dialogue on Racism as a tool to support participants to facilitate constructive conversations about discriminatory behavior in their communities as a first step towards a more inclusive democracy.
- Training on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) tools that drive excellence through best practices, professional development, diverse leadership, and collaboration so that organizations can improve their capacity to absorb new ideas, welcome more participants, and advance to becoming more equitable institutions.
- Training on the use of video to create human rights change.

### GLOBAL ACTION 1 – RACISM PAST AND PRESENT THROUGH A NEW LENS

**May 28 – Aug 20, 2021**

Building on discussions held, lessons learned, and skills gained during the **“Reckoning with Systemic Racism”** global workshop, ten selected Sites of Conscience will design and implement video engagement projects to capture and share the stories of indigenous, racial and ethnic minorities.

These community engagement grants – collectively entitled, **“Racism Past and Present Through a New Lens”** – aim to correct the fact that these vital stories are rarely shared in mainstream settings. This lack of access contributes to a lack of understanding that drives racism and xenophobia, preventing communities from uniting to work towards long-lasting peace and democracy. The video engagement projects are designed to

raise awareness about local historic inequities that have led to contemporary systemic racism, and increase understanding of where the false and dangerous narratives about racial and ethnic groups originated.

Following the global workshop, each selected member will create a short, 3-6 minute video featuring site-based stories of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. The videos will shed light on narratives ignored by governments and the mainstream media, and will create a global visual panorama of voices that pays tribute to and preserves the stories of those often overlooked by society. After six weeks, participants will convene online to discuss their videos and provide advice to one another. Coalition staff will develop a Front Page Dialogue will to accompany the videos, which will include information on how to most effectively utilize the materials produced and Coalition’s Dialogue methodology to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of victims of racial discrimination so communities can forge more inclusive, engaged societies. Upon completion, the videos will be shared on the Coalition’s Social Media platforms and made available to all members on the Coalition’s [Resource Center](#), where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar community-based projects around the world.

At the end of the grant, participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the videos in their communities. The session will support members as they continue their efforts to further build inclusive programming locally.

## Overview

**Racism Past and Present Through a New Lens** will provide ten selected members with grants of \$750 paired with one-on-one consultations with the Coalition's staff and other members to support the design and implementation of video engagement projects to capture and share the stories of indigenous and other racial or ethnic minorities.

- **Participants:** 10 Sites of Conscience members
- **Duration of the project:** 12 weeks
- **Timeline:** May 28 – Aug 20, 2021

## Timeline

N.	Action	Date
1	Attend Workshop 1 – Reckoning with Systemic Racism	May 25-27
2	<b>Training on using video as a tool to create change</b> Participating members will receive training on how to produce impactful videos with low cost and minimal technical skills, and the power of collecting and sharing alternative narratives to destigmatize marginalized groups and bring to light new perspectives on prevailing social “norms”.	May 27

- 
- |           |  |                       |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Project development</b><br>Participating members will work over 12 weeks to produce the videos.   | May 28<br>– Aug<br>20 |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Submit video outline</b><br>Participating members will submit an initial plan of their video’s narratives, story beats and creative approach at <a href="mailto:globalactions@sitesofconscience.org">globalactions@sitesofconscience.org</a> .                                      | Jun 07                |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Sixth week group meeting</b><br>After six weeks, participating members will convene online to discuss their videos and provide advice to one another.   | Week<br>of Jul 5      |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Peer review</b><br>Completed videos will be shared with all participating members for peer review.  | Aug 06                |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Video revision</b><br>Participating members will incorporate comments made by peers into the videos.  | Aug 13-<br>20         |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Launch webinar – Global Action 1</b><br>A launch webinar will be held to disseminate the resulting videos as tools to capture and share the stories of indigenous and other racial or ethnic minorities with sites around the world.  | Week<br>of Aug<br>27  |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Project completion</b><br>Videos will be shared on the Coalition’s Social Media platforms and made available to all members on the Coalition’s <a href="#">Resource Center</a> , where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar community-based projects around the world. | Week<br>of Aug<br>27  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Completion meeting</b><br>Participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the videos in their communities.   | Aug 30                |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Project report</b><br>Participating members will submit final narrative and financial reports within 2 weeks of completing the project.   | Sep 13                |
-

## Global Action 2: Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts

### WORKSHOP 2 – EMBRACING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Many conflicts throughout history and in the modern-day, are the result of contentious relationships between religious groups, a core deterrent to the building of peaceful democracies. Some religions have been motivators of conflict while some have been pivotal in promoting concepts of peace and non-violence. Today, clashes of religious belief systems often devastate communities, leading to an untold number of religious refugees. From the Rohingya in Myanmar, to the Kurds in Iraq, Muslims in Nigeria, Christians in Syria and Jews in Argentina, religious minorities are demonized on almost every continent.

In response, from **July 27-29, 2021** Sites of Conscience from all regions will gather for a virtual workshop to explore the nature of religious conflict and better understand the root causes of contemporary forms of religious discrimination, with the goal of building programs that will foster new understandings of religious difference and commonalities in communities. Sites of Conscience are uniquely positioned to identify points of entry through which they can engage local religious leaders and their communities in dialogue and memory initiatives that unite, rather than divide groups. Through theoretical discussion, experience-sharing and skills-building among participants, this workshop will build the capacity of Sites of Conscience to assist their communities in this way.

Workshop participants will engage in the following sessions:

- Interactive session on different types of religious discrimination, through the lens of several resolutions adopted by the United Nations.
- Training on dialogue as a tool for engaging community members in cross-cultural, religious and inter-generational participatory programs, laying the groundwork for advocacy initiatives that foster social cohesion and lasting peace.
- Training of trainers on production of comic books.

### GLOBAL ACTION 2 – INTER-RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING THROUGH GRAPHIC ARTS

Jul 30 – Oct 22, 2021

Building on discussions held, lessons learned, and skills gained from the **“Embracing Religious Diversity”** global workshop, ten selected Sites of Conscience will work with youth in their communities to create comic books pertaining to religious diversity and inclusion.

These community engagement grants – collectively entitled, **“Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts”** – aims to build technical capacities at the community level to prompt new understandings of various faith-based beliefs and their role in civic engagement. The resulting comic books will be used as springboards for dialogue at sites around the world, functioning as non-threatening, informative introductions to various religions to foster mutual understanding and social cohesion in divided communities.

Following the global workshop, each of the ten selected members will work with interested youth in their communities to produce two to three short comics. After six weeks, participants will convene online to discuss their comics and provide advice to one another. Upon completion, the comics will be shared on the Coalition’s Social Media platforms and be made available to all members on the Coalition’s [Resource Center](#), where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar youth-based projects in communities around the world.

At the end of the grant, participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the comics in their communities. The session will support members as they continue their efforts to further build inclusive programming locally.

## Overview

**Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts** will provide ten selected members with grants of \$750 paired with one-on-one consultations with the Coalition's staff and other members to work with youth in their communities to create comic books pertaining to religious diversity and inclusion.

- **Participants:** 10 Sites of Conscience members
- **Duration of the project:** 12 weeks
- **Timeline:** Jul 30 – Oct 22, 2021

## Timeline

N.	Action	Date
1	<b>Identify community project participants</b> Participating members will identify 2-3 youth community members (ages 15-20 years old) to develop one comic book each.	May 18- July 30
2	<b>Attend Workshop 2 – Embracing Religious Diversity</b>	July 27- 29
3	<b>Training of trainers on production of comic books</b> Participating members will receive training on how to create graphic depictions of the experiences of people with different religious beliefs.	July 29
4	<b>Project development</b> Participating members will work over 12 weeks with interested youth in their communities to produce two to three short comic books.	July 30 – Oct 22
5	<b>Community training on comic book making</b> Participating members will host a comic book training class in their communities specifically targeted to young people interested in the project. Training will be based on a recording by a graphic artist skilled in producing comic books.	Week of Aug 02

- 
- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 6  | <p><b>Submit project outline</b><br/>Participating members will submit an initial plan of their comic books' content, story beats and creative approach at <a href="mailto:globalactions@sitesofconscience.org">globalactions@sitesofconscience.org</a>.</p>   | Aug 09            |
| 7  | <p><b>Sixth week group meeting</b><br/>After six weeks, participating members will convene online to discuss their comic books and provide advice to one another.</p>  | Week of<br>Sep 10 |
| 8  | <p><b>Peer review</b><br/>Completed comic books will be shared with all participating members for peer review.</p>   | Oct 8             |
| 9  | <p><b>Comic books revision</b><br/>Participating members will incorporate comments made by peers into the comic books.</p>   | Oct 15-<br>22     |
| 10 | <p><b>Launch Webinar – Global Action 2</b><br/>A Launch Webinar will be held to disseminate the resulting comic books as a dialogue framework for sites around the world, functioning as non-threatening, informative introductions to various religions to which community members adhere.</p>                  | Week of<br>Oct 29 |
| 11 | <p><b>Project completion</b><br/>Comic books will be shared on the Coalition's Social Media platforms and be made available to all members on the Coalition's <a href="#">Resource Center</a>, where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar youth-based projects in communities around the world.</p> | Week of<br>Oct 29 |
| 12 | <p><b>Completion meeting</b><br/>Participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the comic books in their communities.</p>  | Nov 1             |
| 13 | <p><b>Project report</b><br/>Participating members will submit final narrative and financial reports within 2 weeks of completing the project.</p>   | Nov 15            |
- 

### Global Action 3: Virtual Advocacy for Real Transformation

#### WORKSHOP 3: CHALLENGING BIAS AGAINST WOMEN AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

From industrialized urban cities to rural indigenous group settlements, women are subjected to a panoply of discriminatory practices and human rights abuses. People whose gender identities may or may not be aligned with the sex assigned to them at birth also suffer violations of their human rights regularly. Women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTQ+) people face different challenges, but many experience human rights abuses because their identities, expressions, behaviors or bodies are perceived to transgress the dominant system, often leaving them out of the building of strong and cohesive democracies and impacting

the potential for sustaining peace. Further, COVID-19 has left them particularly vulnerable, with access to contraception, hormones, protective services and economic support being severely limited, leaving these communities with even fewer resources than normal.

To address the specific needs of this community, the Coalition's third and final global workshop of 2021 will be dedicated to countering systemic exclusion of and violence against these particular population groups. Sessions during this global workshop will include:

- Training on the use of community-based dialogue in charged situations the end goal of increasing member impact in their communities.
- Training on launching effective grassroots advocacy campaigns.

## GLOBAL ACTION 3 – VIRTUAL ADVOCACY FOR REAL TRANSFORMATION

Sep 17 – Dec 10, 2021

Building on discussions held, lessons learned, and skills gained from the “Challenging Bias Against Women and the LGBTQ+ Community” global workshop, ten selected Sites of Conscience will develop a social media or digital advocacy campaign to highlight commonly held biases about women or the LGBTQ+ community in their context.

These community engagement grants – collectively entitled “**Virtual Advocacy In Support of Women and the LGBTQ+ Community**” – aims to equip ten selected members with the practical skills to launch low-cost, high-impact local advocacy campaigns that shine a light on discrimination, increase understanding and foster new levels of social cohesion for these groups.

Following the virtual workshop, selected members will conduct their local campaigns with support from Coalition staff. Advocacy campaigns may include mediums such as social media, WhatsApp, radio, and television to reach a designated audience, including youth, community leaders and/or local residents. After six weeks, participants will convene online to discuss their campaigns and provide advice to one another. Upon completion, the campaigns will be shared on the Coalition's Social Media platforms and be made available to all members on the Coalition's [Resource Center](#), where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar youth-based projects in communities around the world.

At the end of the grant, participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the campaigns in their communities. The session will support members as they continue their campaigns or design new ones to further build inclusive programming locally.

### Overview

**Virtual Advocacy for Real Transformation** will provide ten selected members with grants of \$750 paired with one-on-one consultations with the Coalition's staff and other members to develop a social media or digital advocacy campaign to highlight commonly held bias about women or the LGBTQ+ community. The advocacy campaigns will be launched during the UN's “*16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*” (Nov 25 – Dec 10)

- **Participants:** 10 Sites of Conscience members
- **Duration of the project:** 12 weeks



- Timeline: Sep 17 – Dec 10, 2021

## Timeline

N.	Action	Date
1	<b>Attend Workshop 3 – Challenging Bias Against Women and the LGBTQ+ Community</b>	Sep 14-16
2	<b>Training on grassroots digital/social media advocacy campaign making</b> Participating members will receive training on the use of community-based dialogue in charged situations and on launching effective grassroots digital/social-media advocacy campaigns.	Sep 15- 16
3	<b>Project development</b> Participating members will work over 12 weeks to produce the advocacy campaigns.	Sep 17- Nov 25
4	<b>Submit project outline</b> Participating members will choose which type of digital/social media advocacy campaign they will conduct (may include mediums such as social media, radio, and television to reach a designated audience, including youth, community leaders and/or local residents) and submit an initial plan of their advocacy campaigns' content, elements and creative approach at <a href="mailto:globalactions@sitesofconscience.org">globalactions@sitesofconscience.org</a> .	Week of Sep 27
5	<b>Sixth week group meeting</b> After six weeks, participating members will convene online to discuss their campaigns and provide advice to one another.	Week of Sep 10
6	<b>Peer review</b> Completed digital/social media advocacy campaigns will be shared with all participating members for peer review.	Nov 05
7	<b>Advocacy campaign revision</b> Participating members will incorporate comments made by peers into advocacy campaigns.	Nov 12-19
8	<b>Launch Webinar – Global Action 3</b> A launch webinar will be held to disseminate the resulting grassroots digital/social media advocacy campaigns as a tool for sites around the world to highlight commonly held biases about women or the LGBTQ+ community. Webinar will take place on November 25, 2021,	Nov 25

---

International Day of No Violence against Women and first day of the UN's "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence".

---

9	<b>Project completion</b> The advocacy campaigns will be shared on the Coalition's Social Media platforms and be made available to all members on the Coalition's <a href="#">Resource Center</a> , where they can be easily downloaded and inspire similar advocacy projects in communities around the world.	Nov 26- Dec 10
10	<b>Completion meeting</b> Participating members will gather for a virtual meeting to share lessons learned and speak about the impact of the advocacy campaigns in their communities.	Dec 13
11	<b>Project report</b> Participating members will submit final narrative and financial reports within 2 weeks of completing the project.	Dec 27

---

### Application timeline

- Consultation period: March 29-April 21
- Announcement of selected awards: May 14

### Who can apply?

All Coalition members in good standing (dues fully paid and membership information up to date) may apply. If you have a question about your membership status, please contact [membership@sitesofconscience.org](mailto:membership@sitesofconscience.org)

Please note that applicants must submit final narrative and financial reports from previous projects or exchanges before applying for new grants.

### How to apply

To apply, please complete the application form through [this link](#).

As part of the programmatic support offered by the Coalition, **applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Global Networks team at [globalactions@sitesofconscience.org](mailto:globalactions@sitesofconscience.org) and schedule a call between March 29-April 21, 2021.**

Members are allowed to apply for only ONE of the three Global Action – Community Engagement Grants.

