



Global Action 3:

Virtual Advocacy In Support of Women, Girls and the LGBTI Community

From industrialized cities to rural indigenous settlements, women and girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people are subjected to a panoply of discriminatory practices and human rights abuses due to their gender, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation. According to Amnesty International, 76 countries criminalize sexual acts between adults of the same sex, and in 10 countries the death penalty is the maximum sentence for sexual acts between same sex adults.

When it comes to gender-based discrimination and violence, there are laws, customs and beliefs in all regions of the world that deny women and girls their rights. Gender stereotypes and norms are responsible for much of the violence, exclusion and lack of opportunities that women and girls suffer around the world. UN Women reports that globally, an estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30 per cent of women aged 15 and older). This figure does not include sexual harassment.

Furthermore, the global COVID pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women, girls and the LGBTI community leaving them particularly vulnerable to violations, abuse and economic inequality. In addition to higher levels of domestic violence during lockdowns, across the world authoritarian regimes and conservative political parties have tried to reinforce their power by justifying discrimination in the name of morality, religion or ideology leading to increasing social stigma, moral opprobrium, bias, discrimination and violence towards women, girls and LGBTI people.

From **September 14-16, 2021**, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC) is hosting **“Challenging Bias Against Women, Girls and the LGBTI Community.”** The workshop will bring together Sites of Conscience and community members across the world to build allyship and develop joint-strategies to counter the systemic discrimination, ill-treatment and violence that women, girls and LGBTI people suffer today.

To that end, the workshop will offer a combination of global Sites of Conscience panels and case studies, trainings, and community-led sessions aimed to challenge the discriminatory laws and practices that oppress women, girls and the LGBTI people today. Sessions will draw attention to the multiplicity of factors and/or root causes of the violence and discrimination against people due to their gender, gender identity and sexual orientation with the end goal of developing effective projects and advocacy campaigns that promote tolerance, respect and equal rights for all.



Global Action 3 – Virtual Advocacy In Support of Women, Girls and the LGBTI Community Oct 15 – Dec 17, 2021

Building on discussions held, lessons learned, and skills gained from the “Challenging Bias Against Women, Girls and the LGBTI 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 LGBTI community in their context.

These community engagement grants – collectively entitled “**Virtual Advocacy In Support of Women, Girls and the LGBTI 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 four 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 In Support of Women, Girls and the LGBTI Community will provide ten selected members with grants of \$1,050 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 LGBTI community. The advocacy campaigns will be launched on “*Human Rights Day*” (Dec 10, 2021)

- **Participants:** 10 Sites of Conscience members
- **Duration of the project:** 09 weeks
- **Timeline:** Oct 15 – Dec 17, 2021
- **Application Deadline:** September 30, 2021

Timeline

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| 1 | Attend Workshop 3 – Challenging Bias Against Women, Girls and the LGBTI Community | Sep 14-16 |
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| 2 | Training on grassroots digital/social media advocacy campaign making
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 |
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| 3 | Project development
Participating members will work over 9 weeks to produce and implement the advocacy campaigns. | Oct 15-Dec 17 |
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| 4 | Submit project outline
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 globalactions@sitesofconscience.org . | Week of Oct 22 |
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| 5 | Fourth week group meeting
After four weeks, participating members will convene online to discuss their campaigns and provide advice to one another. | Week of Nov 12 |
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| 6 | Peer review
Completed digital/social media advocacy campaigns will be shared with all participating members for peer review. | Nov 26 |
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| 7 | Advocacy campaign revision
Participating members will incorporate comments made by peers into advocacy campaigns. | Dec 02 - 09 |
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| 8 | Advocacy campaign launch
Participating members will launch their campaigns on Dec 10 – "Human Rights Day". | Dec 10 |
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| 9 | Launch Webinar – Global Action 3 | Dec 10 |
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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 LGBTI community. Webinar will take place on Dec 10 – **“Human Rights Day”**.

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| 10 | Project completion
The advocacy 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 advocacy projects in communities around the world. | Dec 15 |
| 11 | Completion meeting
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 17 |
| 12 | Project report
Participating members will submit final narrative and financial reports within 2 weeks of completing the project. | Dec 31 |
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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

Please note that applicants must submit final narrative and financial reports from previous projects or exchanges before applying for new grants. Previous Coalition grant recipients must wait a minimum of twelve months following the close of their most recent project to reapply.

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 and **schedule a call**.

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

The final submission deadline is September 30, 2021. You may submit your application only through the online form provided through the link above in English, Spanish, French or Arabic before September 30, 2021.