

Call for Applications: Navigating Narratives on Migration and Scam Trafficking

Training for Journalists from South and Southeast Asia

Bangkok, Thailand

October 6–8, 2026

At a time when digital platforms enable anyone to publish content and information spreads instantly, misinformation and disinformation have become a critical global challenge—especially when targeting groups in vulnerable situations, such as migrants and refugees. Across South and Southeast Asia, anti-migrant narratives, hate speech, and coordinated disinformation campaigns are rising sharply. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of people originating from dozens of countries are estimated to have been drafted into scam operations around South-East Asia, triggering a crisis of human trafficking and other serious human rights violations and abuses.

Addressing these challenges requires strong regional cooperation, cross-border media collaboration, and a firm commitment to accurate, ethical, and evidence-based journalism. A human-rights-based approach is essential to counter harmful narratives, raise awareness of emerging risks, and help protect affected communities from exploitation.

In response, DW Akademie and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are jointly offering a practice-oriented training program on “Navigating Narratives on Migration and Scam Trafficking.” The program brings together journalists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Indonesia and equips them with the skills to report responsibly on migration while highlighting and preventing scam-related exploitation and enables participants to communicate clearly how such schemes target migrants—while safeguarding the dignity of those affected. It also explores how disinformation, algorithmic amplification, and online scam operations intersect with migration and forced displacement.

The workshop builds on DW Akademie’s [Beyond Borders Toolkit](#)—a resource developed by journalists for journalists and [OHCHR’s narrative change methodology](#).

Participants will gain:

- In-depth insights into reporting on migration, forced displacement, and scam trafficking
- Practical tools for ethical and sensitive storytelling
- Strategies for fact-based and constructive reporting
- Guidance on digital security, helping journalists better identify and mitigate risks in the digital sphere

Who can apply:

- Journalists working for media houses in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, or Indonesia
- Freelance reporters based in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, or Indonesia

Applicants should fulfill the following criteria to be considered:

- 3-5 years of professional experience in journalism
- Three published pieces on migration or displacement-related topics
- Proficiency in English (working language of the workshop)

In cases of equal qualification, female applicants and applicants from minorities will be given preference.

What to expect:

- Participation in a three-day in-person workshop (October 6-8) and a half-day online preparatory training session (last week of September)
- Coverage of travel and accommodation costs (except for transfers to and from your home airports and visa costs – these are not reimbursed but a letter to support visa applications will be provided if needed)
- Access to training materials and resources
- Opportunities to network with regional and international media professionals.

Please submit the following documents:

- Resume/CV
- Statement of motivation
- Samples of work, three publications on migration topic (link or PDF)

If you are based outside Thailand, ensure you have valid travel documents (including a passport with a validity of at least 6 months from the arrival date) and apply for a visa if required.

Apply before July 27 to become part of a regional movement on responsible journalism!

[Apply here](#)

***DW Akademie** is Deutsche Welle's center for international media development, journalism training and knowledge transfer. Our projects strengthen the human right of freedom of expression and unhindered access to information. DW Akademie empowers people worldwide to make independent decisions based on reliable facts and constructive dialogue.*

The workshop is part of DW Akademie's Displacement and Dialogue Asia project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

*The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** (OHCHR), the United Nations' leading entity on human rights, works to promote and protect the full spectrum of rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It plays a unique role in speaking out objectively against violations, developing global human rights standards, and raising awareness through research, education, and advocacy that empower individuals and communities to claim their rights. Through its field presence, OHCHR supports governments by preventing abuses, providing monitoring and analysis to inform decision-making, and offering capacity-building and legal advice to strengthen laws and policies. It also ensures that human rights are fully integrated across all UN activities, reinforcing the interconnection between peace and security, development, and human rights.*