

# **Public Affairs Centre**

## **Right to information training for NGOs from India**

### **Call for Participants**

Public Affairs Centre is calling for participants for its upcoming introductory training on Right to Information – capacity building, advocacy work and strategic litigation. This training will take place from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2007 in Bangalore and is designed for NGO activists from India working in the field of good governance, human rights, education, health or development who are interested in taking up right to information projects.

This training is part of a 19 months South Asian Right to Information Empowerment Programme funded by Hivos and implemented by Public Affairs Centre. Participating organisations will be expected to work on improving right to information legislation, its implementation or utilisation in India through advocacy or capacity building activities. The participating NGOs will be encouraged to link with lawyers on strategic litigation. The participating NGOs will also be expected to participate in a follow-up workshop in order to share their experience with right to information project activities with the other participating NGOs.

### **Objectives and Content of the Training**

The training has two objectives:

- To increase the knowledge on international and national right to information standards and procedures and its utilisation as a tool for democracy, good governance and the fulfilment of other human rights (e.g. freedom of expression, right to education, right to health, right to food, right to development etc.).
- To strengthen the NGO activist's skills to take up advocacy, capacity building or strategic litigation projects in the field of right to information.

The training will contain an overview of the international human rights system, international and national law on right to information, as well as advocacy, capacity building, and strategic litigation strategies in the field of right to information. The training will focus on the Indian Right to Information Act and its utilisation as a tool for democracy, good governance and the fulfilment of other human rights.

### **Methodology**

The training will combine presentations with practical work, such as small group work. Participants will be encouraged to draw on their experience.

## **Selection criteria for participants**

Participants will be selected based on the following organisational and professional criteria:

1. Participants will be selected from NGOs, which intend to work on right to information.
2. The NGOs will have demonstrated capacity to engage in advocacy or capacity building work. However, the NGOs are NOT required to do their own litigation work or provide legal aid to be selected for the training.
3. Participants will be staff members of their NGOs in positions, which will enable them to carry through the benefits of the training.
4. Participants will have experience of working with marginalised groups (minorities, women etc.).
5. Participants will have working knowledge in English and will live in India.
6. Public Affairs Centre will aim to ensure that at least 50% of participants are women. Public Affairs Centre will also aim for a geographical balance in the selection of participants.

## **Language of the Training**

The training will be in English.

## **Costs**

The Right to Information Empowerment Programme will cover travel, accommodation and subsistence. However, participants will be required to participate in the WHOLE training to have these costs covered.

## **Deadline**

The deadline for application is 10 December 2006.

## **Send Applications in English to:**

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Download the [application form](#)