

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Trust Services (BLAST) hereby invites **skilled Individual** to show their expression of interest for a consultancy service of the **Development of Training Module on Legal and Psychosocial Protection of Journalist in Bangladesh** under “Supporting Media During Transition Period in Bangladesh” Project. **Esteemed individuals** with relevant qualifications and experience are encouraged to apply.

Interested applicants requested to submit following documents:

- a) Expression of Interest
- b) Copy of CV/Resume
- c) Financial Proposal
- d) E-TIN certificate
- e) Tax Return Certificate and Acknowledge (updated)
- f) Copy of NID
- g) Documents of relevant experience (previous agreement/contract of similar assignment).

Assignment brief objective	To Develop a Training Module on Legal and Psychosocial Protection of Journalist in Bangladesh that equips journalist with legal knowledge and risk-sensitive reporting skills and psychosocial coping mechanism to safety perform professional duties. See the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) Annexure 1 (Click here).
Address and Last Date of Submission	On or before 2.00pm, 12 April 2026 at purchase@blast.org.bd mentioning subject line ‘ Application for Training Module Development ’ (Maximum file size : 15-20 MB).
Evaluation	Submitted applications will be evaluated based on following criteria. 1. Educational qualifications a. Advance degree in Law, human Rights, Journalism, Media Studies, Psychology or related field 2. Professional Experience a. Minimum range of 7-10 years of relevant professional experience. b. Demonstrated expertise in media law and constitutional protections. c. Experience developing training curriculum or capacity-building modules. d. Proven work on journalist safety, digital security or legal risk.

	<p>e. Experience in integrating psychosocial or trauma-informed approaches.</p> <p>3. Technical Competencies</p> <p>a. Strong Legal research and analytical skills b. Understanding of Bangladesh’s media landscape. c. Familiarity with international freedom of expression standards. d. Training facilitation and instructional design expertise.</p> <p>4. Submission of Financial Proposal</p>
VAT and Tax	<p>Financial proposals should include Tax (15%) and VAT (15%). VAT and tax will be deducted at source from the awarded amount.</p>
Rights	<p>Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) management reserves the right to accept or reject part/ whole of any or all the application without assigning any reason whatsoever.</p>

Annexure 1**BLAST****Terms of Reference (ToR)****Consultant for the Development of a Training Module on Legal and Psychosocial Protection of Journalists in Bangladesh**

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) is the largest specialised national non-governmental legal services organisation in Bangladesh. It provides access to a comprehensive range of legal services, including information, advice, referral, mediation, and litigation across both informal and formal justice systems. BLAST also engages in research, advocacy, strategic litigation, and capacity-building initiatives. Operating with a workforce of over 300 professionals, including lawyers, researchers, and paralegals, BLAST has a presence in 23 district offices and numerous community legal clinics in Dhaka’s informal settlements. It leverages a robust pro bono network of 2600+ lawyers to serve marginalised populations.

2. BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND

BLAST, a national legal service and human rights organization, is implementing the project titled “Supporting Media During Transition Period in Bangladesh,” funded by International Media Support (IMS). The project is grounded in the recognition that a free, responsible, and pluralistic media constitutes a foundational pillar of democratic governance, public accountability, and the realization of citizens’ right to information. In Bangladesh, journalists and media institutions have historically operated within a complex environment marked by legal ambiguity, security threats, digital surveillance, harassment, and sustained psychological stress. Existing laws and regulatory frameworks—often broad, inconsistently applied, or inadequately interpreted—have in multiple instances constrained independent journalism and heightened exposure to legal prosecution and personal risk. Following the mass uprising of 2024, Bangladesh is undergoing a significant transitional phase. This context presents a strategic opportunity to revisit restrictive legal environments, strengthen institutional safeguards, and establish supportive systems that ensure journalists’ safety, dignity, and professional autonomy.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT**3.1. Overall Objective:**

To develop an integrated training module that equips journalists with legal knowledge, risk-sensitive reporting skills, and psychosocial coping mechanisms to safely perform professional duties.

3.2. Specific Objectives:

- Identify constitutional provisions and existing legal frameworks safeguarding press freedom and freedom of expression.
- Analyse laws, regulations, landmark cases on press freedom/freedom of expression and procedural practices that expose journalists to legal vulnerability.
- Develop practical guidance that supports journalists in minimizing legal prosecution by state and non-state actors.

- Integrate psychosocial protection strategies for journalists covering conflict, violence, and crisis events.
- Incorporate trauma-informed training methodologies through technical input from ‘Dignity’.

The module aims to improve journalists’ legal literacy and professional security. It encourages responsible, rights-based reporting, minimizes the risk of arbitrary legal actions and intimidation, and boosts resilience, trauma management, and psychosocial well-being. Additionally, it supports safer media practices that align with democratic transition objectives.

4. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The consultant will design a structured, user-friendly, and context-responsive curriculum suitable for training journalists across print, broadcast, and digital platforms. The module constitutes a core capacity-building component of the project. It will operationalize the project’s objective of creating a safe and sustainable media environment by:

- Providing structured legal awareness training.
- Strengthening safety and ethical reporting frameworks.
- Establishing psychosocial preparedness and supporting institutional advocacy for journalist protection.

4.1. Main Issues to be Addressed:

The curriculum must address, at a minimum, the following thematic areas:

A. Constitutional and Legal Safeguards:

- Freedom of expression and press freedom provisions.
- Judicial interpretations affecting media practice.
- Rights-based limits and reasonable restrictions.

B. Statutory and Regulatory Frameworks:

- Criminal, digital, cyber, and security laws affecting journalism.
- Defamation, contempt, sedition, and national security provisions.
- Media regulatory bodies and compliance obligations.
- Analysis of international legal and normative frameworks that protect freedom of expression and media freedom.

C. Legal Risk Mitigation Techniques

- Ethical reporting standards.
- Source protection and verification practices.
- Documentation and evidence handling.
- Safe digital communication practices.

D. Safety and Security in High-Risk Reporting

- Covering protests, elections, and political unrest.
- Risk assessment and situational awareness.
- Field safety protocols.

E. Psychosocial Risks and Trauma Exposure

- Indirect trauma and burnout.

- Moral injury and stress disorders.
- Gender-specific psychosocial vulnerabilities.

F. Trauma-Informed Reporting Approaches

- Ethical interviewing of survivors.
- Do-no-harm reporting principles.
- Sensitivity in conflict and disaster coverage.

G. Resource Directory

- Module should include a practical resource section identifying organizations, networks, and international mechanisms that support journalist protection and media rights. The directory should include:
 - National organizations and networks
 - International organizations work on media freedom, journalist safety, and freedom of expression.
 - Relevant United Nations mechanisms and mandate holders addressing attacks against journalists and violations of freedom of expression.
 - International monitoring bodies and emergency response initiatives for journalists at risk.
 - Available legal aid, safety resources, and reporting channels.

4.2. Required Analyses:

The consultant will undertake:

- Desk review of constitutional provisions, case law, and statutory frameworks.
- Analysis of patterns of legal harassment and prosecution.
- Review of national and international journalist safety standards.
- Stakeholder consultations (journalists, editors, legal experts).
- Technical consultation with Dignity on trauma-informed methodologies.

4.3. Language Requirement:

- The module shall be developed in English
- Key training materials, summaries, and presentation aids must be translated into Bangla to ensure accessibility for local journalists.
- Language must be clear, practice-oriented, and training-friendly.

5. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED

BLAST will provide:

- Relevant project documents and background materials.
- Access to legal research resources (where available).
- Coordination support for stakeholder consultations.
- Introduction and liaison support with Dignity.
- Logistical support for validation workshops (if required).

6. LIST OF DELIVERABLES

Deliverable	Description	Timeline
Inception Report	Workplan, methodology, module framework	Week 1-2
Draft Training Module	Full curriculum with session plans, case studies, exercises, and facilitator guides.	Week 5-6
Final Module	Revised, designed, and training-ready version	Week 7-8

6.1. Period of Performance:

Total duration: 8 weeks from the date of contract signing.

7. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE

The consultant will:

- Conduct at least one Training of Trainers (ToT) session.
- Orient BLAST staff on module delivery.
- Provide facilitator manuals and guidance notes.

8. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

8.1. Educational Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Law, Human Rights, Journalism, Media Studies, Psychology, or related field.

8.2. Professional Experience:

- Minimum 7–10 years of relevant professional experience.
- Demonstrated expertise in media law and constitutional protections.
- Experience developing training curricula or capacity-building modules.
- Proven work on journalist safety, digital security, or legal risk.
- Experience integrating psychosocial or trauma-informed approaches.

8.3. Technical Competencies:

- Strong legal research and analytical skills.
- Understanding of Bangladesh's media landscape.
- Familiarity with international freedom of expression standards.
- Training facilitation and instructional design expertise.