

Announcement of Parvaaz Legal Fellowship Programme

CALL FOR APPLICATION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 19TH 2024, 12 MIDNIGHT IST

South Asia Women Foundation India SAWF IN is pleased to announce an Open Call for Applications for a fellowship programme aimed at women and trans* lawyers practicing at district courts of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal in India, enhancing their efforts to support women and trans* communities in their access to legal justice. The fellowship support is for a 10 month period.

About South Asia Women Foundation of India (SAWF IN)

South Asia Women Foundation of India, SAWF IN is a national women's fund of India. We were set up with the vision of building a world where women, girls, trans and gender non-conforming persons realise their constitutional rights and freedoms to equality and non-discrimination. Our mission is to mobilise indigenous and other resources, to support movements and initiatives led by women, girls, trans and gender non-conforming persons, towards the realisation of their human rights.

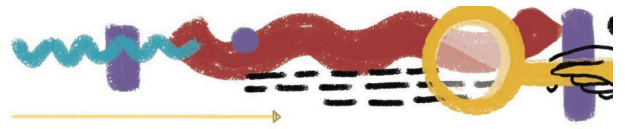
As a women's fund, SAWF IN supports grassroots initiatives and women's and trans* led organisations with financial and non-financial resources. We believe in their leadership and skills to find the most appropriate solutions to address the issues facing them. SAWF-IN's role is to ensure that resources are made available and are reaching the most dispossessed women's collectives, for the priorities they identify, and the claims they make.

SAWF IN Legal Fellowship Programme - Background

SAWF IN Legal Fellowship Programme was launched in 2017 in partnership with Women's Fund Asia (formerly known as South Asia Women's Fund). Through an annual fellowship, the programme provides financial and technical support to women and trans* lawyers practicing in districts courts of India, which are the first site of legal redress and remedies for women and trans* persons. The fellowship support is aimed at enabling women and trans* lawyers hone feminist lawyering and litigation skills, and advocate for women and trans* rights. At the same time, the programme offers opportunities to exchange learning and network with local experts, experienced feminist lawyers and with lawyers from other countries.

The fellowship support also becomes a catalyst to support pro bono litigation and legal services for women and trans* person from marginalised communities. In the last 5 years, the programme has supported 12 women lawyers across 12 district courts. They have supported pro bono litigation for over 260 women and trans* persons, legal services to over 1100 women and conducted legal awareness sessions reaching 1200 women and girls from socially and economically marginalised communities like Dalits, Adivasis, Muslim women among others.

* For SAWF IN Trans* refers to an umbrella term including but not restricted to agender, gender fluid and gender non-binary identities.



Legal Fellowships Programme call 2024

SAWF IN is expanding its Legal Fellowship Programme to build a larger cohort of feminist lawyers who will enhance their lawyering skills and grow into a stronger peer network. Navigating India's formal legal system can be difficult, even for the literate and educated, as laws and legal processes can be intimidating. The marginalised, especially women and trans* persons, due to their identity, face more barriers in accessing justice or any form of judicial remedy. These communities continue to face structural exclusion and alienation, especially those who have been survivors of violence and institutional bias. Furthermore, the patriarchal nature, in addition to inadequate gender diversity in the Indian legal system, creates an environment that is not inclusive and gender-sensitive. In short, the constitutional promise of equality to all continues to be a distant dream for the country's marginalised.

Through the Parvaaz Legal Fellowship SAWF IN wishes to address the unmet need for litigation support and legal aid to women and trans* persons who choose to use the legal remedies they are entitled to. As a legal fellow the selected applicant would be expected to:

- a) Provide legal aid and support to women and trans litigants
- b) Advocate for more gender responsive lawyering at district courts
- c) Engage with the local legal ecosystem of committees, aid and awareness services and law colleges to encourage care and rights based practices

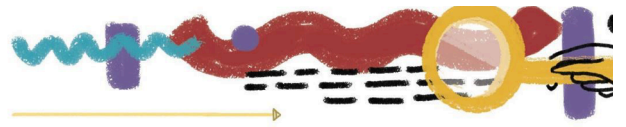
Who can apply:

- Women (Any person identifying themselves as woman and not restricted to biological definition.) lawyers practicing in any district court of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- With at least 2-3 years of litigation experience. Preferably on laws to protect rights of women, children, transgender community, persons with disability.
- Applicants below the age group of 35 will be preferred.
- Preference will be given to fellows who belong to socially, economically, ethnically marginalised communities they intend to impact.
- Citizen of India.
- Someone with experience of engaging with communities of women or trans* people, facilitating their leadership or has been an active supporter of the Indian gender rights movement will be preferred.
- Linkages with women and trans* groups will be an advantage.
- Self-motivated and passionate about legal practise.
- Good articulation skills and willingness to document their work extensively.
- Can dedicate 10 months towards the fellowship programme.
- Has internet connection or phone connectivity to participate in fellowship updates and reporting.

Review and Selection Process

- The last date for receiving applications is **12 midnight IST of February 19th, 2024.**
- A **Webinar** will be organised on 9th and 10th February 2024 to discuss the application call and process. Please log onto to www.sawfindia.org for more details.
- **Every application will receive an acknowledgement** from SAWF IN. Please contact us at legalfellowship.sawfin@gmail.com if you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours of submitting your application.
- **SAWF IN will take 4-6 weeks to process the application** and selection process for this open call.

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Parvaaz Legal Fellowship Programme 2024**



- **Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview round** with a selection panel consisting of experienced and senior feminist lawyers.
- **The final selected legal fellows for 2024 will be announced tentatively by February 26, 2024.**
- The legal fellowship will begin **from 1 March 2024 and continue up to December 31 2024.**
- Write to legalfellowship.sawfin@gmail.com to submit your application or if you have any queries.
- You can also [complete the form online](#).

Please note:

All Applicants who do not move further in the selection process will be informed.

SAWF IN would like to remain engaged with all shortlisted applicants and hence would invite them to be part of our quarterly learning and sharing webinars.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries please write to legalfellowship.sawfin@gmail.com

The Legal Fellowship Application package includes the following:

- **Call for Application Announcement**
- **Link to Application and Application Format**
- **Checklist for required documentation, and**
- **SAWF IN Checklist for application process.**

The package can be downloaded from www.sawfindia.org

Please note that applicants are welcome to apply in English, Hindi or in the vernacular language of their state. However, certain sections such as demographic details and references would need to be supplied in English.

Email the Application format with the relevant documents to legalfellowship.sawfin@gmail.com with the subject "*Legal Fellowship Application 2024*".

OR

Fill the form online [HERE](#)

Submission Deadline: 19th February 2024 at 12 midnight IST.