



## Call for Early Career Applications to *Changing the Story* AHRC Network+ Project

Changing The Story Project Development Workshop  
& Small Grants Application Guidance

### 1. What is Changing The Story?

*Changing The Story: Building inclusive civil societies with, and for, young people* is a four-year international, multi-disciplinary project, aimed at supporting the building of inclusive civil societies with, and for, young people in post-conflict countries. It is a collaborative project between universities, INGOs, artists, grassroots civil society organisations (CSOs) and young people across the world.

This project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Global Challenges Research Fund. It is co-ordinated by University of Leeds in collaboration with ten other research organisations across six countries: Cambodia, Colombia, Kosovo, Rwanda and South Africa and the United Kingdom.

The project consists of three phases of work conducted over four years.

- In Phase 1, our research partners working in Cambodia, Colombia, Kosovo, Rwanda and South Africa are conducting critical reviews of the role of CSOs in their contexts, followed by a proof-of-concept project in each country to test out ideas.
- Phase 2 is our commissioning phase, of which this call is a part. More information on this can be found below.
- Phase 3 is our dissemination phase, where we will share findings from all of the project partners' work with wider audiences and reflect on and further embed the impact of our work to effect real change for young people across the world.

The project will end on 30 September 2020.

### 2. Grant-making schemes

We have two funding schemes. Each scheme is designed for projects which are led by a researcher but work in close partnership with other researchers and civil society organisations:

**ECR-led grants of £15,000 – £30,000 (duration 6-12 months)**





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- Grants must be led by Early Career Researchers – you can find more information on eligibility below.
- To apply for this round of funding, you must attend our Project Development Workshop in the UK. This will take place 25-26 October 2018, and will allow you to help co-design the funding call that will be issued shortly after this meeting. The deadline to apply to attend the Project Development Workshop is **1700GMT on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**.
- Following attendance at the Project Development Workshop, the deadline for ECR-led grant applications is **1700 GMT on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**.

### **Large grants of £50,000-100,000 (duration 12-15 months)**

- These grants are open to researchers at all levels.
- Calls will be announced after 1 April 2019.

This pack has details about the ECR grants scheme, with specific information about how to apply to attend our Project Development Workshop. Additional information specific to the grant calls will be available on our website from 1 September 2018.

### **3. What is the Project Development Workshop?**

One of Changing The Story's main commitments is to supporting the development of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) working in the field of humanities and international development in both the UK and ODA-recipient countries to create informed, relevant and pioneering work which can bring new solutions to peace and reconciliation processes around the world.

As part of this commitment, Changing The Story is running a Project Development Workshop for ECRs interested in applying for funds from the project, to help build and strengthen new partnerships and develop innovative, multi-disciplinary collaborative research projects.

Over the course of the two-day workshop, participants will have a chance to help co-design the project call that will be issued shortly after the workshop. In the process they will be able to develop their own project ideas, receive critical feedback and insight from international peers and experts, learn from and support other projects currently in development, and build new networks through which to disseminate their work. When the workshop concludes, participants will have 5 weeks to submit their application to Changing the Story.



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### 4. How do I apply for the Project Development Workshop?

To apply for the Project Development Workshop, participants must complete the following by **1700 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**:

- Fill in the short online application form, which can be found here: <https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/changing-the-story-ecr-project-development-workshop-applic>
- Fill in the online Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, which can be found here: (This information will be treated anonymously): <https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/changing-the-story-ecr-project-development-workshop-equal>
- Email their CV and a signed letter of support from their institution to [changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk), using their name as the email title for reference.

The application form must be completed in English. Language support will be provided during the workshop for those who require it.

Whilst it is not necessary to have a fully formed project idea and confirmed partners in place, applicants should present us with a proposed area of focus for a project within their area of expertise, and the types of partners they already, or wish to, work with, including any identified organisations.

The application should relate to the research questions outlined below, showing how your project will significantly enhance the Changing-the-Story portfolio and how it aligns with the overall project aims. It should also demonstrate how your proposed project will fulfil the eligibility criteria required for this scheme (see below). Further, more detailed guidance on the types of project that we'll be looking to support will also be given, as it emerges from the October workshop.

Please note that successful application to the Project Development Workshop **does not mean that your project will automatically receive funding.**

Applications will be reviewed by an independent team and successful applicants informed by 31st August 2018.

### 5. Research Questions

All project should reflect upon the following questions:

- What lessons can be learnt from the ways in which CSOs have attempted to deal with the legacy of past violence on the key issues facing young people in these societies today?



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- How can these lessons be shaped into practical, and sustainable, development projects on the ground, localising best practice to the situation faced by specific communities?
- How can CSOs most effectively share best practice internationally? What are the higher-level policy implications of our research findings for development agencies and multilateral bodies seeking to roll out more extensive programmes on post-conflict resolution?

In so doing, Changing the Story hopes to

- create a series of case studies that will offer new insights into the ways in which the memory of societal violence continues to impact the lived experience of young people in the developing world for the ‘post-conflict’ generation, an area that is underplayed in SDGs but that is crucial to their attainment.
- develop and provide training, toolkits and educational material to support new models of sustainable development, fundamentally shaped by Arts and Humanities methodologies that can be used in future interventions by local CSOs around the world.
- support marginalised groups of young people, providing safe spaces to create advocacy tools that can help to build community resilience and effect change in their lives.
- make a significant intervention in international-development policy across and beyond these ODA countries, as well as in the UK, working in collaboration with national and international NGOs and state-sponsored organisations.
- highlight the importance of Arts and Humanities methodologies to the delivery of the SDGs. An A&H focus on the importance of cultural awareness, historical understanding, and critical discussion of concepts such as peace, justice and strong institutions (in part challenging the SDGs themselves, and the role of CSOs in delivering them in specific countries and contexts) is essential for enabling culturally sensitive and context-specific – sustainable – responses to development challenges.

### 6. Eligibility and rules for applying for small grants

- To apply for this scheme, you must attend the Project Development Workshop in the UK which takes place 25-26 October 2018 in London.
- Projects may last between 6 and 12 months. Projects to commence January - March 2019.
- The focus of your work must be an ODA recipient country/countries that is recovering from conflict or protracted crises (there is no ‘time-limit’ in terms of how recently conflict has taken



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- place; rather your application should work with themes that are related to the legacy of conflict on communities today). More information about ODA recipient countries can be found below.
- Comparative study projects as well as single-country focus will be allowed, providing all countries are ODA recipients.
  - The project team must be multi-institutional. It must include at least two Early Career Researchers (ECRs) - one from the UK and one from the ODA-country. One of these must be the Principal Investigator for the project. It must also include at least one CSO partner working in the ODA recipient country. (Please note that you are not obliged to have a full team in place to attend the project development workshop).
  - ECRs should apply through an academic host institution. If you believe your project fulfils all the other requirements but the organisation you are affiliated with is not academic (E.g. an NGO or cultural organisation), please contact us.
  - Funding may be used for any research related activity; e.g.: pilot project, consultation/needs assessment; developing a larger project; fieldwork; networking activities; making a film/media programme/app; evaluation of a governance programme; attending a conference; or holding a course or workshop about research. You are encouraged to include costs for supporting your project through training, mentoring or guidance.
  - You may be Co-I on multiple grants but you can only be P-I on one.
  - Your organisation must be willing to undergo a Due Diligence process before funds are awarded.
  - You must be willing to contribute to the overall aims of Changing the Story, disseminating your findings via the main project website, as well as through other appropriate means, and engaging in building in the project's evaluation ethos into your work.
  - Applicants should declare any links they have with the Changing the Story management team and/or any of its previously funded work.

### What is not eligible:

- Project grants that are not led by an ECR.
- Activities that contain no element of new research.
- Fees for individuals to undertake university undergraduate or postgraduate courses.
- Capital or infrastructure-led projects.

## 7. Frequently Asked Questions

### What is an Early Career Researcher?





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The AHRC's formal definition of an ECR is an individual who is within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment. These durations exclude any period of career break, e.g. for family care or health reasons. The 'first academic appointment' is defined as the first paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary functions. The award of PhD is defined at the point of successful PhD viva.

### **What is a DAC country? How can I ensure my application is ODA compliant?**

Because this funding will be allocated through the GCRF, projects must demonstrate how they are ODA compliant and will contribute to the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Further information on ODA compliance under the GCRF, as well as a list of DAC countries, is available here: <https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/international/gcrfodaguidance-pdf/>

Applicants are encouraged to pay close attention to the three guiding questions when completing their proposal:

- Which country / countries on the DAC list will directly benefit from this proposal and are these countries likely to continue to be ODA eligible for the duration of the research?
- How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of these countries?
- How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of a country or countries on the DAC list?

It should be noted that activities in developing countries whose main purpose is to promote the culture or values of the donor (i.e. in this case the UK) are not reportable as ODA and therefore research proposals primarily focused on education and learning about British culture or values in LMICs contexts is not eligible for consideration under this call.

Changing the Story accepts applications from all levels of ODA countries (least developed, other low income, lower middle income, and upper middle income countries). More information on the different levels can be found above.

Additionally, because of the nature of our project we expect applications to have a focus on challenges particular to post-conflict settings.

### **What if I can't attend the PDW, or am refused a visa to attend?**

Participation in this event is a prerequisite for applying to the scheme. However, if you are successful in applying for the







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workshop and then cannot attend through no fault of your own, we will review whether you can still apply for funding. This will be on a case by case basis.

### **Will you cover my expenses to attend the Project Development Workshop?**

Changing the Story will pay for your standard visa application fee (where relevant), your return economy travel to London, hotel accommodation for the duration of the workshop where required, and your main meals during the workshop. To help us budget appropriately for the event, you are asked to provide an estimate of your travel and visa costs in GBP as part of your application.

### **7. Checklist for applicants**

- Read the guidance notes carefully to ensure that your proposal is eligible for a Changing The Story grant and that you have completed the application form correctly.
- Fill in the online application form and equal opportunities monitoring form. Check the documents for formatting and completeness (incomplete applications will not be considered).
- Make sure you have emailed your CV and a signed institutional letter of support from your host organization to [changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk).
- If you have any questions then email us at [changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:changingthestory@leeds.ac.uk)