

# Researcher-Led Initiative Fund Application Form

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Researcher-Led Initiative (RLI) Fund.

Applications are invited from University of Sussex doctoral researchers and early career research staff for funding to support short-term, well-defined training and development, public engagement, and mental health, wellbeing and community projects.

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 30th April 2020**.

Please ensure that you have read the [guidance](#) before completing your application.

**1. Name**

[REDACTED]

**2. Sussex e-mail address**

[REDACTED]

**3. Contact telephone number**

**4. School and department of lead applicant**

School of Global Studies and Department of Anthropology

**5. Are you a doctoral researcher or early career research staff?**

Doctoral researcher

## Type of activity

**Do you wish to apply for funding for mental health, wellbeing and community, public engagement, or training and development?**

Public engagement initiative

## About the public engagement initiative

**Title of initiative**

Unsilencing Pakistan's #metoo Survivors: A Delayed Coming Out

**When is the proposed initiative running?**

On multiple dates

**Start date**  
20/04/2020

**End date**  
30/03/2020

Please tell us about the purpose of the public engagement initiative.

You may select any or all of the options below. Please explain your rationale when prompted.

Applicants are encouraged to use [National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement resources](#) to help with their application.

**Is the purpose of your activity to inform and inspire the public?**

Yes

**Please explain your rationale**

This initiative aims to uncover the narratives of women from the global south (Pakistan, in particular), who have experienced some form of abuse (emotional, verbal, physical etc.). This will be done in the form of

conducting online interviews and virtual focused groups, which will be video recorded (after seeking informed consent), and developed into a short doc-film for screening. The doc-film will be presented at selected film festivals as well as screened at particular locations (including university campuses). My current research also focuses on the #metoo movement in the global south, in order to assess what tools women possess to speak up against abuse. Specifically, this will allow me to assess whether the movement is trickling down in its current, western form, to non-western cultures, whilst simultaneously educating women about ways in which they can voice their perspective.

**Is the purpose of your activity to consult and listen to public views?**

Yes

**Please explain your rationale**

This initiative centers around listening to the public's views and concerns around harassment, abuse and the ongoing #metoo movement. This will offer me an opportunity to gain first-hand insight into experiences of the types of harassment women in Pakistan face, as well as the limitations of the existing #metoo strategy for them to speak up. Specifically, this consultation which will be in the form of online interviews and virtual focused groups, will allow us to initiate a discussion around social and cultural factors that these women experience, which prevent them from going public with their accusations. It will also allow us to open the discussion around possible alternative avenues that these women can try to access in order to unleash an unsilencing movement.

**Is the purpose of your activity to collaborate with the public?**

Yes

**Please explain your rationale**

Changing silencing norms around harassment is virtually impossible in Pakistan unless researchers collaborate with the public. By working closely to garner public views on types of harassment, as well as discussing obstacles to speaking up, this initiative will collaborate with the public to produce a short doc-film on the issue. This film will be screened and submitted to festivals, serve as an awareness tool, and also a means of gathering momentum around sparking change. The film, which is a visual anthropology medium, will allow us to create awareness around the issue in a more accessible format than e.g. typical academic research. The results of this consultation will also offer me with direction for my future research, which is a book project titled "Labyrinths of the South; #metoo in Pakistan". The outcomes from our discussions can be used to produce a working policy paper for the government and private sector agencies to review for possible implementation.

**Why do you want to engage with the public? What do you hope to achieve by engaging?**

As mentioned above, Pakistan suffers from a culture of silencing women around topics of abuse and harassment (taboos). Therefore, speaking to women, engaging with the public, lies at the heart of this project. This is vital in order to understand both, their experiences of harassment but also, the hurdles they face when it comes to speaking up e.g. victim shaming, backlash etc. This will be the first of its kind opportunity to bring to the fore, voices of women from a part of the world where they are typically socialized into remaining silent. Most importantly, engaging with the public will allow us to produce policy directives for how #metoo can be adapted to a global south context. This will involve listening to women's perspectives online on what kinds of strategies may or may not work.

**What are the objectives of the activity? Please list the steps you will take to achieve these objectives.**

The objectives of this activity include:

1. Understanding women's experiences around the kinds of abuse and harassment they face in South Asia (Pakistan, specifically)

2. Facilitating an online discussion around problems faced when trying to speak up against harassment (in other words, why is #metoo in its western format ineffective in these contexts?)
3. Problem-solving - devising practical solutions to how women can normalize unsilencing and begin changing the norms and narratives surrounding #metoo
4. Utilizing a visual screening medium - a doc-film in this case - to heighten awareness and spread the message to a wider audience

The steps I will take to achieve this include:

1. Create a sample of 25 women from a range of ethnicities, class, age brackets etc.
2. Conduct online interviews with each of these women to discuss the aforementioned issues.
3. Conduct 2 virtual focused groups with these women in order to facilitate a collective discussion. The discussion will be semi-structured, so as to allow participants to maximally speak about their experiences. However, a few directional questions will be framed and posed, in order to facilitate the overall conversation
4. The interviews and focus groups will be video recorded - informed consent will be obtained from each participant
5. A doc-film will be developed from the interviews and focus groups
6. The film will be screened at selected film festivals and at other appropriate locations (e.g. university campuses)

**How will you evaluate whether you have achieved the objectives of the activity? Consider how you will evaluate the initiative as it progresses, as well as at the end of the project.**

My evaluation will include the following components:

1. Participants will be asked to fill out an online questionnaire at the beginning of the initiative (i.e. before the interviews or focus groups), which will include questions on harassment and their awareness of associated problems. At the end of the online interviews and virtual focused groups, the participants will fill out a questionnaire again, in order for us to assess if there is any change in their approach and attitudes towards the issue of harassment
2. We will run 2-3 online trials of the doc-film before we release it. Audiences for this will be asked to fill out an online post-it, telling us what worked for them in the film and what warrants improvement. These can be considered before finalizing the film
3. Audiences at the doc-film screening will be asked to fill out an online review/ survey of their opinion on the movie - specific questions will include evaluating changes in degree of awareness and strategies for change after watching the film

Note: if the current crisis continues, all screenings will happen through a live online film screening instead of in-person screenings.

**Who are your target audience/participants and how many people do you expect to engage with?**

The target audience are approximately 25 women of Pakistani origin, over the age of 16, from a variety of ethnicities and class backgrounds. I also hope to include a few activists, policy-makers and feminists, in addition to women who have experienced harassment, in order to ascertain what the current situation is

vis-a-vis policy level change around abuse and harassment. I also wish to include approx. 5 men in order to gather their views on the problem as well. I hope to conduct the focused groups and interviews at a time when working and non-working women can participate and will maximize efforts to create a safe, online space for women to discuss this topic. I will use snowball sampling to recruit these women and the discussions and interviews will be held online.

**What is the timeline of the project? Please include start and end dates, and key milestones.**

The project will begin on April 20

Recruitment of participants: April 20 - April 27

Interviews to be conducted: April 28 - May 10

Focused groups x2 (simultaneously): May 1 - May 10

Film production and editing: May 10 - June 30

Film screening: July onwards

**How does the suggested project relate to your own research? Please indicate how the activity will benefit yourself and your research.**

My research focuses on the #metoo movement and experiences of harassment and unsilencing in the global south. This project will allow me to gain first-hand insights into the experiences of women from Pakistan, which can feed into my research findings and theory building. Primary research on the subject is minimal to date in Pakistan. Additionally, this will also enable me to discover possible future directions for gender research in South Asia. It will also hone my interviewing, qualitative research skills, and visual anthropology skills, the latter through the doc-film process.

**The RLI Fund is designed to provide short-term support to researcher initiatives. Describe how your initiative will be sustained in the future (if that is the intention). What is the potential legacy of the project?**

If this project is successful, it will allow me to incorporate the findings into a book titled "Labyrinths of the South", which is meant to target an academic and non-academic audience. Further, it will allow me to consider more practical interventions for listening to women's narratives - e.g. creating an online support system or app for South Asian women or launching a video/ podcast series to publicize the narratives of more victims. To date, such avenues remain minimal in countries such as Pakistan. Perhaps we can consider interventions for women of a particular strata after this, e.g. domestic workers, who are in particularly vulnerable positions to speak up.

**Please outline your public engagement experience to date**

I have public engagement experience through interacting with various NGOs and women for projects funded by the Citi Foundation, during the time I worked for Citi in Pakistan. In particular, I organized the Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards, a platform to recognize rising female entrepreneurs in the country, which involved public engagement with over 500 stakeholders. I also worked on a series of diversity-led initiatives at Citi, including panel discussions with staff members and families on issues related to working parents, mothers in particular and organized a women's forum to discuss problems of Pakistani women and lack of diversity in workspaces with five women across different backgrounds in Pakistan. These experiences have allowed me to create a suitable network for future collaborations, as well as trained me in terms of organizational and management skills.

## Budget

Please provide a detailed budget indicating what you would spend the funding on if you are successful in your application.

Your budget should include a breakdown of costs and justification for each item (e.g. lunch for 30 people at £6 per head from Sussex Food; accommodation for external speaker at £80 per night at a University

approved hotel or guest house). See the guidance notes for further advice on your proposed budget.

## Budget details

Item details	£
production and editing	£420.00
submission to film festivals	£200.00
payment for online technology (since free platforms such as skype/ whatsapp calling are banned in the UAE)	£80.00
poster development	£50.00
	<b>Total: £750.00</b>

### Total requested

£750.00

### Budget code

## Supporting statement

You must submit a supporting statement (in PDF format) from your PI or Supervisor (for doctoral researchers) or Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange (for research staff).

Their name, title and electronic signature should be included in the statement.

If you have any difficulty with this, please contact [researcher-development@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:researcher-development@sussex.ac.uk) or call 01273 873366.

### Upload your supporting statement here

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