



Project Coordinator: People's Commission on Pandemic Justice and Access to Health- Looking at the Pandemic and Beyond

About the project:

The Law and Society Trust (LST) is a human rights research and advocacy organisation committed to advocating for the full range of civil, political social, economic and cultural rights of people. LST recognised that in the context of the multiple crises that Sri Lanka has faced during and in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic and the economic crisis people's rights to health and livelihoods among other rights have been affected.

Initially, LST sought to establish a **People's Commission for Pandemic Justice** comprised of prominent civil society leaders and academics, to conduct extensive public consultations throughout Sri Lanka, to systematically document the impact of pandemic-related health measures on Sri Lankans' right to health and on the rights to livelihood and security. There is no reliable knowledge base on the full extent of the violations of the right to health resulting from pandemic-related policies. Furthermore, victims of such violations are in need of support to organise themselves to pursue reforms and accountability.

However, the country's attention is now on the economic crisis and this has a severe impact on access to health. The proposed public consultations through the Peoples' Commission will engage with Sri Lankans in all provinces and districts, including special consultations with disability groups, indigenous peoples, sexuality and gender minorities, and other marginalised communities. The commission will garner information on the experiences of communities during the pandemic that include their experiences with access to vaccines, livelihoods, security during the pandemic and their current access to health, post-pandemic. The process will culminate in a final report, and participants in consultations will be connected to regional citizen networks, through which they will be enabled to advocate for reforms at institutional and policy levels, as well as to seek accountability, where necessary, for serious violations of the right to health.

This public consultation and recording of lessons learned will provide the civic space for people to share their experiences and for the government to garner data to consider the reforms required to protect people's right to health and livelihoods. This is needed now as Sri Lanka faces an economic crisis and people's social security, health and livelihoods are further impacted. If unaddressed this may lead to deep frustration.

The Peoples Commission for Pandemic Justice is a two-year project. The project will be implemented by gathering data through a series of public consultations, focus group activities and surveys. It will lead to research that is published and made accessible to the general public, the state and the academic community through a variety of formats.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Coordinator will manage the project for its duration which is a period of 2 years (the initial contract is for one year- renewable). The Project Coordinator will work with the Director of Programmes and the Lead Researcher and project team of assistant researchers to:

- Establish the creation of a “People’s Commission for Pandemic Justice and Access to Health”
- Arrange training and coordinate engagements associated with the “People’s Commission” and related project staff;
- Drive publicity for consultations and generate interest among potential participants;
- Organise and implement consultations to be held in all districts envisaged as part of the scope of the project;
- Ensure that consultations will specifically include marginalised communities and groups, such as disability groups, indigenous peoples, and sexual minorities and their concerns are addressed with discretion and confidentiality;
- Organise focus group discussions with appropriate facilitation and interpretation;
- Support the organisation of written surveys and ensure that all proceedings will be recorded (subject to confidentiality);
- Manage the budget and activities in line with the project documents and keep track of the implementation of the project;
- Work with the LST communications team to ensure that there is awareness-raising around the project, the consultations and the content based on reports and that they will be disseminated through mainstream and social media.
- Work with the documentary filmmaker to ensure that the proceedings of the Commission and focus group discussions and other interviews are recorded for the creative component/documentary film
- Ensure that the consultations will culminate in reports.
- The report/ film will be launched at a national conference at the end of the two-year period of the project.
- The Project Coordinator will work in close collaboration with the Director of Programmes and the Lead Researcher to ensure that the activities will be implemented in a manner to facilitate the research outcomes.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Excellent grasp of human rights issues and a clear record of standing up for human rights and social justice – especially an understanding of social and economic and cultural rights and the challenges of enforceability in Sri Lanka;
- Access to and ability to work with civil society networks and to engage with people of all communities and sections of society with empathy;
- Proactive, organised and able to implement a complex project with tight timelines; manage budgets, tight work schedules
- Strong communications and leadership skills

- Ability to work with creative artists
- Available to travel around the country with the commissioners;
- Fluency in English and one other national language
- Ability to write reports
- University degree (preferably post-graduate degree) and 4-5 years of work experience.

Please send expressions of interest to:

info@lstlanka.org

Applications close on 30th August 2023