

## WNCB AWARDS FOR UNTOLD STORIES

“The Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in May 2022 comes as the world grapples with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for all people, everywhere. According to the ILO-UNICEF global estimates (2020), 160 million children across the world are engaged in child labour, an increase of 8.4 million since 2016. For the first time in 20 years the number of children in child labour is increasing, and this number is being accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 ILO-UNICEF report estimates that by the end of 2022, 8.9 million more children – 50% of whom are just 5 to 11 years old – will be engaged in child labour if we do not act now.”<sup>1</sup>

“In the past two years, the Covid-19-induced economic slowdown and lockdowns pushed millions of children out of schools and forced them to work, often in deplorable and hazardous conditions. And Gill’s photographs, taken over a period of 3 months in 2021 across villages in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, among others, document exactly this. From weaving and cotton ginning to brick kilns and stone cutting, informal industries continue to engage in child labour practices. “These children work in such hazardous conditions that it really makes you question what’s wrong with the world that these children are forced to survive like this. What are their choices?” Gill said while talking about a village in Uttar Pradesh.”

“While India has several existing laws abolishing child labour, children across the country continue to suffer. “There exist certain loopholes in India’s child labour policies which exclude certain children from the law such as those working in households, child actors and more. These ambiguities need to be fixed in order for children to be better safeguarded in India,” said Insaf Nizam, an International Labour Organisation (ILO) specialist.”<sup>2</sup>

The WNCB Awards Program for Untold Stories is a step in that direction.

Through these jury-based awards, we seek to delve into and learn simple and complex facts about the different aspects of child labour in India. WNCB aspires to encourage a community of freelancers and journalists committed to the issue who can promote and advocate for child rights in the context of child labour specifically.

<sup>1</sup> <https://wncb.org/take-action/join-us/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://theprint.in/features/in-chitvan-gills-frames-there-are-stories-of-child-labour-suffering-and-pandemic/1022706/>





## Themes and Area of Focus

Applicants from all over India are welcome to explore and churn journalistic writing on the following call-to-action<sup>3</sup> areas that the WNCB alliance is committed to advocating with different stakeholders.

- Investing in (inclusive) quality, formal and full-time education
- Supporting and promoting the norm that children should not work but be in school.
- Effective implementation and review of laws and policies
- Enhancing company and government responsibilities to respect human rights and children's rights
- Achieve universal access to social protection
- Increasing financing for the elimination of child labour
- End child labour in the agriculture value chain

## Eligibility

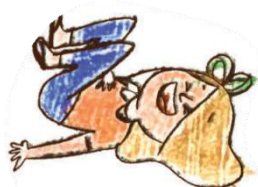
Applicants should be of Indian origin residing in India, preferably between the ages of 25 and 45. Mid-career journalists, freelance journalists, and scholars preferably from social sciences background. People of all genders and sexual orientations are welcome to apply.

The proposal will not be eligible if part of a submission to any academic institution or if the applicant is already receiving funding for the said proposal. People from marginalized sections are encouraged to apply.

## Language

Applicants may choose to work in any Indian language including English. The application clearly needs to mention the language in which the applicant will write.

<sup>3</sup> <https://wncb.org/take-action/join-us/> and <https://www.5thchildlabourconf.org/en/news/what-durban-call-action>





## Terms

Up-to five awards of INR 1 lakh each will be awarded. Awardees are free to continue their primary occupation and no objection certificate has to be provided by their employer if employed if selected for the award. The award monies will be released in installments against specific deliverables. Any other expenditure incurred by the awardees will not be entertained by the hosts.

## Deliverables

Awardees are expected to write a minimum of 5 articles/stories/case studies of a minimum of 1000 to 1200 words each.

## Broadcasting

Articles/case studies/ reports will be made available to the public in general, academic forums, civil society, and state and development practitioners through multiple forums, including language translations to influence discourses and debates on child labour.

## Ownership

While awardees will retain authorship of the final articles/case studies/ reports including the ones in story-telling formats, all information and insights gathered will be made available to interested people, free of cost. Awardees are free to publish the insights of their research efforts, with appropriate acknowledgement to the WNCB Awards – For Untold Stories. Awardees will also inform WNCB about the publication of their work. WNCB too will have the copyright to collate all or select stories/articles and produce a compendium of writings on child labour with due acknowledgement to all awardees and their work.

## Essentials for application

1. A biodata (not more than two pages)
2. A proposal, which briefly explains the topic of study, objectives and proposed methodology and timelines (not more than three pages)
3. A sample of published or unpublished paper/article or any documentation done on a related theme, if any.



4. Two references with their names, phone numbers and email addresses separately. These should be professional or academic references. Personal references will not be entertained.

Shortlisted applicants will have to make themselves available for a video call with the selection Committee if required. Short-listed applicants will have the opportunity to share their ideas and future plans, in conversation with members of the WNCB jury and assessment team.

**Last Date for receiving applications is August 31, 2022**

Please E-mail your applications to [info@iccspl.com](mailto:info@iccspl.com)

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