



MARGINALIZATION AND INEQUALITIES SHORT COURSE

GUIDELINES FOR MODULE WRITING

Course Overview

Increasing inequalities in the region is cause for concern as marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, the LGBTI community, indigenous peoples, the rural/urban poor, ethnic minorities, sex workers, women and youth bearing the brunt of financial pressure and are further isolated politically, socially and economically. Additionally, the marginalized are often poorly represented in political structures and consequently have little say in decisions that affect them. This leaves them vulnerable to abuse, and when their rights are violated, access to justice is a distant possibility. Our rights programming therefore takes as its point of departure the need to promote the rights and strengthen the voices of systematically and structurally marginalized groups by supporting processes that protect, gives voice and empowers the weakest in our society. Hence one of OSISA's key strategic areas of intervention is in areas of marginalization, discrimination and inequality. OSISA views this as its niche among its more mainstream activities and forms a major part of the OSISA strategy going forward.

However, in order to make an impact in the region, skills and capacity need to be developed so that centres of powers are made more cognizant of the challenges being faced by the various communities. In addition, policies and laws need to be fully implemented so that marginalized and excluded communities are able to participate meaningfully in society. Activists, policy makers, civil society and other actors must be fully engaged so that policies that are said to be non-discriminatory and inclusive are not only so on paper, but are implemented in a sensitive and informed manner in order to create a better society.

To this end, the Partnerships Programme has instituted a 2-week course on Marginalization and Inequalities noting that this project is a vital step in capacitating policy-makers, activists and civil society with the knowledge and essential skills to secure the necessary changes as well as with opportunities to engage directly with individuals who have the potential to be change agents, without having to use the organizations within which they sit, as intermediaries.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this course is to develop the capacity of senior government officials and leaders of influential regional and national NGOs and institutions to do policy-making in a manner that uses income and social inequalities as a point of departure by pro-actively seeking to address structural inequalities. Given OSISA's increasing focus on marginalised populations, the Foundation is well placed to provide theoretical information as well as case studies of policy content and approaches that are grounded in a respect for human rights and a recognition of how best to allocate resources and align processes in a manner that addresses vulnerabilities.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Provide a conceptual and theoretical understanding of issues of Exclusion, Marginalization and Inequalities;
- Allow participants to engage domains of Exclusion, Marginalization and Inequalities;
- Look at methods; examples and tools of combating Exclusion, Marginalization and Inequalities;
- Strengthen skills to engage policies to be inclusive;
- Explore the intersection and nexus between Exclusion, Marginalization and Inequalities;
- Provide a set of skills to improve the capacity of participants to make better policy choices (whether they are in the state or advocating for change);
- Create a cohort of activists who are cognizant of a rights-based approach to inequalities, marginalization and exclusion;
- Develop the basis for a curriculum for a course that will be run on a regular basis and/or can be turned into a manual.

Course Delivery

The course combines academic theory with practical skills and is delivered through skills oriented, participatory and interactive approaches. Participants' input through practical exercises and case studies are essential to the successful achievement of course objectives. The course focuses on tapping into participants' experiences as a foundation for learning with a view to developing critical thinking skills, deepening subject matter knowledge and facilitating tools for advocacy.

A particular emphasis is on a human rights framework for protecting the rights of marginalized people, and policies and programmes that seek to address the challenges of marginalized groups in a long-term, sustainable and systemic manner.

The course uses case studies from the southern Africa region, to demonstrate policy successes and failures. Furthermore, the course uses participatory methods to ensure that participants are able to apply the theory of social exclusion in a practical and hands-on manner.

Module Writing Process

The organizers have identified broad thematic areas to be addressed in the course with modules aimed at addressing the broader themes as follows:

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION, MARGINALISATION AND INEQUALITIES

- *Conceptual, Theoretical and Policy Frameworks*
- *Linking Marginalization and Inequalities in Southern Africa*
- *Estimation Techniques: Inequalities, Marginalization and Inclusivity*

DOMAINS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION, MARGINALISATION AND INEQUALITIES

- *Ethnicity, Race, Class and Nationality*
- *Identity and Gender*
- *The Marginalization of Women*

COMBATING SOCIAL EXCLUSION, MARGINLISATION AND INEQUALITIES

- The Use of Legal Instruments and Policies as Tools to Combat Marginalization, Social Exclusion and Inequalities
- *Countering Exclusion in an Era of Human Mobility*

ADVOCACY SKILLS

- Social Policy and the Construction of Social Cohesion
- Working with Legislative and Law Enforcement Authorities
- *Challenging Attitudes, Behaviours, Social and Economic Structures to go beyond Laws and Policies*

Timeline for Module Writing

The first draft is to be submitted by the 31 January 2014 and the final module by the 28 February 2014.

Module Guideline

A complete module should include the sections outlined below.

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Overview of Thematic Areas
3. Goals and Objectives
4. Learning Objectives
5. Module Content (Activities) to be broken down for the day according to sub themes
6. Methods of assessment
7. Resources: audio-visual, readings, etc
8. Three (3) Key Readings per module to be included
9. Further Recommended Readings

Terms of Service

To be finalized with shortlisted candidates.