

**Deadline: 7 August 2017**

**Countries: Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and the UAE**



The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in partnership with the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN), launched a six-month [Labour Migration Journalism Fellowship Programme](#) . The programme is part of a comprehensive initiative to promote fair migration (including fair recruitment), and contribute to the elimination of human trafficking for forced labour across the Arab States region.

To be eligible for the programme, participants must be early-career journalists and media professionals working in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and the UAE, who are passionate about human rights, migration, and labour issues. Participants can be freelance or working for an existing outlet. Deadline to apply is 7 August 2017. More information and on how to apply [can be found here](#)

Participants to the programme will take part in an expert training programme on reporting and storytelling on labour migration, be provided with editorial support from a board of mentors, and be given stipends to cover field work to produce and publish a series of in-depth stories on labour migration. Reports and multimedia will be published on the ILO and partner websites, in English and Arabic.

The media are instrumental in shaping public perceptions about labour migration, which can in turn influence policy and practice. Coverage of labour migration in the region tends to focus on criminal behaviour either by migrants, or against migrants, by employers or traffickers. Often unwittingly, media can perpetuate negative stereotypes about labour migrants, increasing their vulnerability to discrimination and abuse. The fellowship programme aims to address this by engaging and supporting a new generation of journalists who are trained to consider the full range of diverse issues inherent in the migration debate, and understand the range of perspectives on this complex topic.

“Improving reporting on labour migration to ensure balanced and accurate perspectives that recognise the contributions of migrant workers can play an important role in reducing negative public attitudes and perceptions,” said Eliza Marks, Technical Officer, ILO Regional Office for Arab States. “In empowering a new generation of journalists and digital media, we can change the narrative on labour migration across the Arab region” Marks added.

“Journalists in the Arab region face a number of challenges in reporting on the topic of migration,” said Tom Law, Director of Campaigns and Communications Ethical Journalism Network. “Through this programme we aim to train and support journalists on issues of ethical reporting, labour migration, new technologies and how to share untold stories,” Law said.