

Human Rights and Advocacy Training

in partnership with

The NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors
(STARTTS)

Brief Concept Note

Proposal

To begin a program of capacity building on human rights and advocacy for representatives of, and advocates from, refugee and migrant communities living in NSW.

To develop and deliver the training program that will combine capacity building and scoping of needs for further capacity building on human rights and advocacy.

Background

STARTTS has been delivering training and capacity-building programs via the Communities in Cultural Transition (CiCT) Program for approximately 80 community leaders who come from culturally diverse communities such as Tamil, Afghan, Chaldean, Khmer, Uyghur, Vietnamese, Ethiopian, Congolese, Bhutanese, Karen, Yazidi, Armenian, Assyrian, African and many other communities. Many of these communities have the experience of significant human rights violations in their home countries, and in many cases, these violations are continuing, and continue to be a concern of the communities now living in Australia. These leaders have identified the need for (and shown keen interest in) more in-depth advocacy training.

STARTTS and DTP provided the Human Rights and Advocacy Training Program to 27 leaders from 20 different community organisations from 11 to 12 Feb 2023. The findings from the evaluation of last year's program indicated that it had a positive impact on the participants and the participants collectively observed an increase in their skills and knowledge of advocacy and the expansion of their social and professional networks which in turn facilitated the discussions to develop a shared vision for advocacy and future human rights capacity building programs for the diaspora. Therefore, STARTTS and DTP aim this program as a longer-term strategy to provide capacity building on human rights and advocacy for representatives of, and advocates from, refugee and migrant communities living in NSW.

Partnership and Roles

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) on the request of STARTTS has agreed to develop and deliver a two-day residential training program on human rights advocacy for selected NSW diaspora community members and to explore the development of a longer-term capacity-building program.

STARTTS will promote the program and advise on the selection of the participants and organize logistics, venue and disseminate a call for the expression of interest (Eoi).

DTP and STARTTS will jointly design the training, identify, and invite trainers and facilitators and prepare training materials. Approximately 30 participants will be selected for this workshop – with the intention that there be further online and F2F sessions in future as part of a longer-term capacity building strategy.

If the program continues then STARTTS and DTP will jointly seek funding support for the program.

Two-Day Training Workshop

Dates: 18-19 May 2024

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Venue: Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre, Mulgoa

The aims of the workshop are

- Participants will develop advocacy skills
- Build and deepen networks between different the diaspora communities
- Increase human rights advocacy skills and expertise
- Develop a shared vision for advocacy and future human rights capacity building programs for diaspora

Suggested topics and skills to be covered will include some of the following:

International human rights standards, the Australian government and political system, the role of the Human Rights Commission, the UN system, strategic advocacy, lobbying and media skills. However, to finalize the topic to be covered in the training a need assessment of the participants would be conducted by DTP.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Training Needs Assessments: Following the selection of training participants, DTP will send out a questionnaire to the participants to survey their needs. Based on that feedback DTP will develop an advocacy training module. Throughout this process, STARTTS will be consulted.

Monitoring:

Participants and STARTTS will be involved in monitoring the program.

Evaluation:

DTP evaluates its programs through end of training evaluation forms. These will be designed in consultation with STARTTS. STARTTS has a separate monitoring and evaluation process. Processes will be blended/complimentary.

DTP's Methodology

DTP focuses on tailored made and contextualised trainings, mentoring and networking with participants applying the skills and experiences during the program to real world advocacy contexts.

Key elements of the DTP's approach include: **(A) Participatory, peer-to-peer learning processes:** We have a strong commitment to participatory learning methodologies. We create space for participants to share and learn from each other's experiences and to develop mutual support networks. **(B) Bespoke programming:** We tailor sessions and select guest presenters to meet shared learning objectives and respond to individual interests and needs of diaspora. **(C) Network building:** We place a strong emphasis on building external linkages with a wide

range of local and international individuals and organisations. Ability to identify and attract relevant organisations and expert guest presenters is underpinned by DTP's alumni networks in Australia, South-East Asia and globally. **(D) Inclusiveness.** A priority is given to youth and women leaders from ethnic minorities who are often excluded from advocacy processes and who are also affected disproportionately from human rights abuses. Delivery of the program will be led by DTP staff and experts in-conjunction with STARRTs and selected partners and community leaders.

About the Diplomacy Training Program

The DTP is an independent, non-government organisation (NGO) established in 1989 by HE José Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Timor-Leste, with UNSW Professor Garth Nettheim to provide training in human rights advocacy to community representatives and organisations in the Asia-Pacific region and Indigenous Australia. The DTP is formally affiliated with UNSW, having been established and continuously hosted by the UNSW Faculty of Law. For over 30 years, the DTP has provided practical human rights and advocacy training programs to more than 3,000 participants from over 60 countries, nearly 50% being women. DTP has extensive alumni networks in Indonesia, and has delivered 29 Annual Regional Training Programs for Asia-Pacific NGO leaders; over 100 country and thematic specific trainings in Australia, Bangladesh, Timor-Leste, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates, as well as a highly evaluated Australia Awards funded program.

In 2015, DTP received the Sir Ronald Wilson Human Rights Award from ACFID, and in 2019 the Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award. In nominating DTP for this award, Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), wrote; *"I believe that over 30 years DTP has made a uniquely valuable contribution to human rights and democracy in Asia ... If our region seems to be resilient despite rampant human rights abuses and violence, perhaps that is because of DTP's contribution to our capacity to cope and resist the challenges."* DTP receives annual funding from DFAT through the ANCP to run capacity-building courses in Asia and the Pacific. The Australian government has also funded DTP courses in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Australia. Many young Indigenous, human rights and democracy advocates have participated in DTP's courses, indeed, DTP's Indonesian alumni include leading human rights advocates working on key human rights issues including Indigenous peoples rights, the rights of migrant workers and trafficking, SOGI and Business and Human Rights.

About STARTTS

STARTTS is a specialist, not-for-profit organisation that was established in 1988. It provides culturally relevant psychological treatment and support, and community interventions, to help people and communities heal the scars of torture and refugee trauma and rebuild their lives in Australia.

STARTTS services include group and individual counselling and psychotherapy, psychiatric assessment and treatment, physiotherapy, youth program, Families in Cultural Transition

(FICT) programs, a variety of health promotion and community development programs, excellent training and clinical consultancy services for service providers working with our client group and wider policy and research work.

STARTTS is an Affiliated Health Organisation and a state-wide service. STARTTS has offices in Fairfield, Carramar, Liverpool, Auburn, Blacktown, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Newcastle and Wollongong. STARTTS staff speak over 60 languages and STARTTS clients come from over 60 refugee communities with highest numbers from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Burma and various African countries at present.

The focus of the STARTTS' approach is on building capacity and empowering people and communities to take control over their own lives, using a strengths-based approach and building on individual, family, community and cultural strengths.

Other agreements

Managing differences of opinion

In any instance where conflict arises between the parties, they will first seek to resolve issues among themselves. Where this is not possible or appropriate the matter will be referred to Senior Management for final resolution. External mediation services could be involved if the two parties deem necessary.

Public relations

All partners will acknowledge each other in all respective media and advertisement of the project. Where advertisement space permits partners commit to including organisations' logos. Organisations will notify the partner organisation of any reference made to the project and their organisation, prior to publication.

Intellectual property

Intellectual property of all resources/ products developed as a result of this project will belong to all partners. All intellectual property brought to the project by a partner, will be deemed the intellectual property of that partner.