



2026-2027 Emerging Women Journalists Fellowship

Building Pathways into Journalism for Migrant and Racialised Women in Scotland



The MWP Fellowship is a six-month journalism training and career development programme supporting emerging migrant and racialised women journalists through training, mentorship, publication opportunities, and industry placements.

Designed as a bridge between journalism education and professional media access, the fellowship equips participants with practical skills, editorial experience, professional networks, and meaningful newsroom exposure.

Through a contemporary and community-centred approach, fellows gain the tools, confidence, and opportunities needed to navigate, contribute to, and reshape the media landscape.

Who We Are

Migrant Women Press CIC is a non-profit, independent media organisation led by migrant women and women of colour. We amplify underrepresented voices through journalism and storytelling, using an intersectional approach to contribute to a more inclusive and representative media landscape.

Our work has two main strands:

Journalism and storytelling — We produce and publish original stories by migrant and racialised women, creating space for women to share perspectives and represent their communities on their own terms.

Skills and opportunities in the media — Through dedicated projects and programmes, we create opportunities for migrant and racialised women to develop skills, practical experience, professional networks and confidence, supporting them to enter and progress within journalism and the wider media sector.

Why This Project Matters

The UK media landscape continues to face significant inequalities in representation and access.

- 90% of national newspapers are owned by three companies
- Approximately 94% of journalists are white
- Women of colour remain significantly underrepresented in newsroom leadership positions
- Increasing political and cultural backlash against diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, creating additional barriers for underrepresented journalists

As a result, migrant and racialised communities are often excluded, stereotyped, or misrepresented within mainstream media narratives, while structural barriers continue to limit access to journalism careers for underrepresented groups.

At a time of growing misinformation, declining trust in media institutions, and increasing attacks on diversity and inclusion initiatives, the need for ethical, community-led, and public-interest journalism has become even more urgent. Supporting underrepresented voices within journalism is not only an issue of representation, but also essential to building more accurate, accountable, and trusted media narratives.

The MWP Fellowship responds to these structural inequalities by supporting migrant and racialised women to access journalism training, strengthen their skills, build professional confidence, develop industry connections, and produce impactful public-interest reporting rooted in lived experience. Through mentorship, editorial support, and industry exposure, the programme also helps participants become better prepared to navigate and access opportunities within the media sector.

By expanding pathways into journalism, the programme contributes to a more inclusive, representative, and community-led media landscape.

Programme Vision

The MWP Fellowship aims to expand pathways into journalism for migrant and racialised women while contributing to a more inclusive and representative media landscape.

The programme combines skills development, mentorship, editorial experience, and industry access to support participants at a critical early stage in their careers.

Alongside strengthening individual career pathways, the fellowship seeks to challenge structural inequalities in journalism and amplify perspectives often excluded from mainstream media spaces.

Our Approach/Model

The fellowship combines practical journalism training with career development and industry exposure through a participant-centred and community-led model.

Key elements include:

- Fellowship stipend to support participation in the programme
- One-to-one mentorship
- Editorial and professional development support
- Professional training including Trauma-informed reporting, ethical journalism practices, fact-checking and verification
- Collaborative learning environment
- Special print publication showcasing fellows' work

- Industry placement with a media organisation, newsroom or communications team, providing practical experience and insight into working in the sector.
- Networking and community-building opportunities, including Fellowship meet-ups and opportunities to connect with previous participants and media professionals.

Who the Fellowship Supports

The fellowship is primarily designed for:

- Journalism, communication and media students
- Recent graduates (0–3 years)
- Early-career journalists
- Participants from migrant and racialised backgrounds who are underrepresented in the media industry, based in Scotland

MWP Fellowship Three Pillars

Pillar 1 — Training & Editorial Development

Core workshops + editorial guidance

Suggested modules:

- Writing Journalism Articles
- Multimedia Journalism
- Fact-Checking & Verification
- Introduction to Investigative Journalism
- Media Law & Ethics
- AI in Journalism
- Primary Prevention of Men's Violence Against Women and Girls – and the Role of the Media
- The Representation of 'the Other' in the Media
- Trauma Informed Reporting

Pillar 2 — Mentorship & Professional Development

Industry Mentor Network

Mentors from:

- independent media
- broadcasters
- newspapers
- podcasts
- investigative journalism
- digital media startups

Each fellow gets:

- monthly 1:1 mentor meeting
- editorial support
- career guidance
- networking support

Pillar 3 — Industry Placement

The 2026 fellowship introduces a new industry placement component designed to strengthen fellows' professional experience and newsroom exposure.

Proposed structure:

3-month part-time placement

1–2 days per week

Remote or hybrid opportunities

February–April 2026

Supervised by newsroom editors and media professionals

The placement model aims to provide fellows with meaningful industry experience, strengthen professional confidence, and support long-term pathways into journalism careers.

Potential Outcomes & Expected Impact

Through the fellowship, participants will gain practical journalism skills, professional confidence, and greater access to opportunities within the media sector.

The programme aims to support fellows to:

- Strengthen reporting, storytelling, and editorial skills
- Build professional portfolios and publication experience
- Develop confidence navigating journalism and media spaces
- Expand professional networks and industry connections
- Increase access to internships, freelance opportunities, and career pathways in journalism

Beyond individual outcomes, the fellowship also seeks to contribute to broader sector change by:

- Increasing representation within journalism
- Amplifying underrepresented perspectives and lived experiences
- Supporting more ethical, community-centred, and public-interest reporting
- Strengthening pathways into media for migrant and racialised women

In the long term, the programme aims to contribute to a more inclusive, representative, and accountable media landscape.

Success Indicators

We will evaluate the impact of the fellowship through a combination of qualitative feedback, participant outcomes, and engagement metrics.

Key indicators may include:

- Fellows completing the programme and publishing original journalism
- Increased confidence and journalism skills among participants
- Growth in fellows' professional portfolios and industry networks
- Fellows progressing into internships, freelance work, training, or journalism opportunities
- Positive feedback from fellows, mentors, and partners
- Increased audience reach and engagement with fellows' stories
- New partnerships with media organisations, universities, and industry professionals

The programme will also prioritise reflective learning and participant feedback to help strengthen future editions of the fellowship.

Opportunities for Collaboration

We are seeking partnerships and support from organisations, media outlets, universities, foundations, and industry professionals who share our commitment to building a more inclusive media landscape.

Partners and supporters can collaborate with the fellowship in several ways, including:

Financial Support

- Sponsoring fellows bursaries
- Supporting training delivery
- Funding editorial, print, or placement costs
- Supporting accessibility and participation costs

Industry Partnerships

- Offering internship or placement opportunities
- Providing newsroom shadowing experiences
- Supporting publication pathways for fellows' work
- Freelance commissioning experiences
- Collaborating on public-interest journalism projects

Mentorship & Skills Sharing

- Joining our mentor network
- Delivering workshops or masterclasses
- Sharing industry expertise and editorial guidance

Academic & Community Partnerships

- Supporting outreach and recruitment
- Collaborating on research and impact work
- Connecting students and emerging journalists with the programme

Through collaboration, we aim to strengthen pathways into journalism for migrant and racialised women while contributing to a more diverse, representative, and community-led media landscape.

We believe journalism is stronger when more communities are represented not only within stories, but within the newsrooms, editorial processes, and media spaces shaping public understanding.

The MWP Fellowship is part of building that future.

For more info: migrantwomenpress@gmail.com