

RISHAM WASEEM

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Location : London, UK

Professional Summary:

I am a digital storyteller, media trainer and communication and advocacy strategist currently based in London, UK. I have over 9 years of experience working in the development sector, specifically specialising in innovative communication and advocacy campaigns designed to engage local communities and facilitate civic action. My experience ranges from working at the grass root level in Pakistan to partnering up with international organisations such as the US embassy, UNESCO, National Endowment for Democracy and UNHRC. I am interested in understanding the global trends of the information industry, how it will impact the existing models of media and journalism and what new spaces can be created for community engagement.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, INTERACTIVE RESOURCE CENTER, LAHORE.

Website : irc-org.com/

Interactive Resource Centre is a non-profit info media organization specializing in creating self-empowerment opportunities for youth, women and minorities through art based interactive communication tools like theatre, film, radio and citizen journalism.

Within IRC, I have designed and managed projects around capacity building, community mobilization and advocacy and communications on countering violent extremism, gender equality, interfaith harmony, freedom of press, civic education and climate justice. I worked with UNESCO, US Embassy, National Endowment for Democracy, USAID and Dutch Embassy.

Below are brief descriptions of projects implemented by me.

- 1- Strengthening women and minority voices in community journalism and digital media through capacity building, networking and advocacy*
- 2- "Strengthening Climate Change Discourse on Digital Platforms"*
- 3- Documenting and Promoting Local Narratives of Tolerance and Inclusion in Central and South Punjab.*
- 4- Promoting Civic Education and Engagement within Pakistan's Youth through Digital Storytelling - 2019 – 2022*
- 5- Digital CVE storytelling in Karachi's Universities 2022*
- 6- Creation of a Critical Mass By Engaging Youth Opinion Leaders in Digital Literacy and Cross Cultural Understanding- US Embassy- 2020*

DIRECTOR, MAATI TV, LAHORE.

Maati TV is a web based interactive video site aimed at creating an alternative narrative of Pakistan that promotes tolerance, cultural heritage and human rights within the Youth.

As the director of Maati TV, I have created over 300 digital products and trained over 3000 youth, women and minorities in citizen journalism and digital storytelling techniques.

- Web link: www.maativ.com
- Instagram : www.instagram.com/maativpk/?hl=en
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/Maativpk>
- Facebook : facebook.com/maativofficial
- Twitter : twitter.com/maativ

Content samples: -

Who you should NOT vote for : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nh9sdwuNqEM>

Why we should not hate Malala <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB3ib45aJfM>

Maati Explains : State and Citizen : <https://youtu.be/2VtTXFd7zic?si=B-Qib0mOCS0NuLr6>

Pakistan's Climate crises : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZfaRn6sYxk&t=5s>

Host and director of weekly podcast “Out of the Box” :

Maati TV's video podcast show has been running since April 2021 and is focused on discussing issues that are relevant and interesting to the Pakistani youth but are often pushed to the margins or never discussed in the mainstream media.

Watch episodes here: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4UN4yzL1-jbFJhvJAVqbDLma_TKQLO

Consultant for Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Assembly and Association, UNHRC

Designing a communication strategy for the 10th Anniversary of the Mandate including various digital media tools aimed towards informing youth about the mandate of the FOAA.

Sample of work : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GDq9F0GoQU>

Co founder, Documentary Association of Pakistan

DAP is an association of filmmaker across Pakistan aiming to promote the culture of documentary filmmaking in Pakistan through mentorship, capacity building and audience opportunities for filmmakers across the country.

Website : www.documentaryassociationpakistan.com/

Instagram : @docassociationpakistan

Founder of Paktodon.asia (Pakistan's first mastodon instance)

As a media development professional, I am deeply interested in exploring the evolution of information spaces. This interest led me to develop and run Paktodon.asia, a community led social media platform geared towards creating a safe space for activists, academics, students and other professionals to network and build community, away from algorithms and adds found within mainstream social media platforms. It uses Mastodon, a free and open-source software for running self-hosted social networking services.

Website : www.paktodon.asia

TRAININGS AND FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Chevening South Asian Journalism Fellowship with University of Westminster (2023)

The Chevening South Asia Journalism Fellowship (SAJP) is aimed at mid-career journalists from South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. The fellowship is hosted by the University of Westminster, London. During my time in this fellowship, I wrote an essay on how social media platforms might be negatively impacting online journalism in South Asia.

- 5th Annual Asia Young Leaders for Democracy Conference (2018) in Taiwan.

The Asia Young Leaders for Democracy program (AYLD), aimed at strengthening democracy in Asia through young people's collaborations. Each year, young practitioners advocating for democracy or human rights across Asia are selected to participate in the AYLD, empowering them through lectures, discussions, and site visits hosted by Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. The AYLD builds up a network of young people in Asia to encourage cooperation around consolidating democracy and human rights.

- **Hurford Youth Fellowship, Washington, D.C (spring 2018)**

The Hurford Youth Fellowship Program seeks to build the leadership skills and harness the potential of young democracy activists from around the world. Through the Program, young activists spend Four months at the World Movement's Secretariat, during which they expand their global connections, share experiences with other activists from democracy movements. During my fellowship, I examined global media trends that promote populist and nationalistic narratives that discredit democracy and developed short digital stories to counter the misconceptions associated with democracy.

- **Professional Fellow at United States Department of State, Washington D.C.**

The Professional Fellows for Governance and Society, South and Central Asia program brought young professionals from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal to the U.S. to exchange ideas, strategies, and best practices in legislative process and policy making. The is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by World Learning.

DOCUMENTARIES DIRECTED AND EDITED

SIPHAHI DIDAR ALI

- The documentary was geared towards Countering Violent Extremism by showcasing the spectrum of people belonging to different sects and faiths who lost their lives while fighting extremists. It is based on the martyrdom of an Ismaili soldier Sepoy Didar Ali from Gilgit Baltistan and through his sacrifice the contribution of his community is highlighted who are often discriminated against as a sectarian minority. It was made in collaboration with the US Embassy, Islamabad.

Link: www.vimeo.com/165100277

This film was an official selection at the Asian Peace Film Festival (2017) and South Asian Human Rights Festival, Sri Lanka (2018)

JOURNEY OF TWO WOMEN

This is a participatory documentary about the gender inequality faced by women in Pakistan.

This film has been screened at many international Film festivals which include the following:.

1. IAWRT Womens' International Film Festival, India.
2. Elles Tournent Dames Draaien Film Festival, Brussels.
3. Culture Unplugged Online Film Festival
4. Rafi Peer Film Festival, Pakistan.

MUR MUR KAY NA DAIKH

This Film highlighted the issue of Sexual Harassment culture in Pakistan. It attempted to engage men to counter the menace.

SHAHEEDO TUM KAHAN HO

Edited and wrote the script of 'Shaheedo Tum Kahan Ho' a documentary film on Shia Killings in Pakistan. This documentary is sponsored by the European Union and the, 'The Minority Rights Group'. Link: www.vimeo.com/136651943

Muraad Shaheed

Edited Muraad Shaheed, a film that pays tribute to a Christian soldier who received martyrdom during the Zarb-e-Azam operation against the Taliban.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

BA. FILM AND TELEVISION
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF ARTS, LAHORE.