

## Background

The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund was established by the family and friends of investigative journalist Mary Raftery.

The aim of the fund is to promote good practice in ethical, in-depth investigative journalism on issues close to Mary's heart and in the areas on which she focused her groundbreaking investigative work. The fund offers an opportunity for journalists to carry out detailed investigations into these areas of society and to expose any injustices that might exist.

Against this backdrop, the Fund grants awards to journalists and projects whose work may not be otherwise funded. Applicants are invited to submit proposals that seek to serve the public interest. The Fund has chosen not to assign a particular theme to the 2015 round but encourage applicants themselves to identify the areas of information relating to a public interest matter.

## Who Can Apply?

- Media organisations or media professionals can apply for funding. This includes both staff and freelance journalists. Applications are welcome from established journalists as well as 'starter' journalists with less than two years journalism experience.
- Applications will be accepted for print, broadcast and / or online projects or for projects that will be published / broadcast across multiple platforms. This includes books and theatrical / film scripts as well as traditional newspaper features or radio and television broadcasts.
- Joint applications (for example, between a journalist and a photographer) will be permitted, but the applicants must indicate strong reasons for the proposed collaboration.

## Terms & Conditions

- The proposed media project must be new, i.e. it must not have been broadcast or published in any format previously.
- For the 2015 funding round, proposed projects must focus on issues that seek to serve the public interest.
- Applications must be made using the PDF application form only. Handwritten or uncompleted forms or applications that exceed the word count will not be accepted. The application form is available to download from the website: [www.maryrafteryfund.ie/apply](http://www.maryrafteryfund.ie/apply).
- Applicants are welcome to submit more than one application per funding round.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have undertaken some preliminary work regarding the treatment of their proposed story (e.g. who they will interview, how they will source content, why this story needs to be told, etc.), and this should be addressed in Section 4 of the application form.
- The application must demonstrate proof of commitment from at least one media outlet – based in Ireland – to broadcast or publish the proposed media project. This proof – which can be in letter or email format – must be from the editor / producer of the media outlet, indicating their intention to publish / broadcast the project. A commitment letter is required even where the applicant is the producer / editor. The proof of commitment must be addressed to The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund and appended with the application form upon submission. The media outlet must also undertake to credit The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund. Please see sample commitment letter available on the website: [www.maryrafteryfund.ie/apply](http://www.maryrafteryfund.ie/apply).

- Each project funded by The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund must publicly acknowledge the support received using The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund logo and the following wording: ‘Supported by The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund’. This wording must be used in all broadcasts, print outputs, photographic outputs and online outputs associated with the project.
- ‘Starter’ journalists with less than two years journalism experience must submit samples of their work demonstrating their journalistic capacity and ability to undertake in-depth research. A maximum of two samples of work along with the application form should be submitted. Samples of print / online articles should be no longer than 1,000 words each. Samples of broadcast projects should not exceed five minutes each in duration.
- Submissions which have a film festival / exhibition as their main outlet will not be considered as a primary publication outlet. However, applicants may wish to include their work at a film festival / exhibition, in addition to their main outlet, in order to achieve a greater overall reach.
- Funding sought must be for costs to facilitate the project, for example, wages; travel; out-of-pocket expenses (accommodation, subsistence, etc.); research expenses (publications or attendance at a conference or event); and resources (aids or equipment rental to facilitate your project).
- For broadcasting proposals, the media outlet that has committed to broadcast the proposed media project must be licensed by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (unless part of RTE or TG4).
- The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on Friday, 27th November 2015
- Applications will be accepted by email only. Applications should be sent to: [info@maryrafteryfund.ie](mailto:info@maryrafteryfund.ie).
- Applicants will receive official notification from the fund administrators, DHR Communications, once applications have been received and formally screened for compliance with the criteria of The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund.
- Applicants will be notified of the judging panel’s decisions by late December 2015
- Funding will be disbursed to successful projects as soon as possible and once a contract has been signed between the applicant and DHR Communications. Successful applicants will be paid 70 per cent of their funding when the grant is awarded and 30 per cent on publication or broadcast of the project’s completed work.
- Applicants must give their tax (PPS) number if successful. Applicants receiving funding of €6,350 or more must provide a tax clearance certificate to demonstrate that their tax affairs are in order.
- Successful applicants may be invited to attend events to showcase the work and outputs arising from The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund. As a condition of funding, they will be expected to cooperate with the Fund administrators in the event of being invited to participate in showcasing activities.
- The copyright of the final product will remain with the applicant. However, materials produced must be made available – free of charge – for potential future use by The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund.
- Successful applicants are expected to complete their projects within eight months of being awarded funding, unless otherwise agreed with the fund administrators. This deadline may be extended at the discretion of the judging panel taking into account the proposed platform for publishing or broadcasting the completed project. Applicants will be informed of their deadline when notified of the judging panel’s decision by late December 2015
- Applicants are advised to check with their commissioning editor to see if other applications presenting similar investigative proposals have received a commitment for publication for the same round. Note: Where there are two very similar proposals from the same media organisation, judges will only allocate funding for one proposal.
- The maximum amount of funding awarded to any applicant will be €18,000. Such an amount will only be awarded to projects that entail very significant levels of research and investigation over a sustained period of time and which are likely to have a strong impact and profile upon broadcast / publication. Applications for smaller amounts of funding are welcomed and encouraged by the judging panel.

## Selection of Successful Projects

Successful applicants will be chosen by a judging panel made up of professionals in the areas of media and social affairs:

- Chairperson: Olivia O’Leary – Journalist and Broadcaster
- Conor Brady – Author and Columnist, Former Editor of The Irish Times
- Mary Corcoran – Professor of Sociology, NUI Maynooth
- To be confirmed
- Sheila Ahern – Researcher and Interviewer

## Judging Criteria

The judging panel for The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund will base their decisions to grant all or part funding\* on the following criteria:

- Potential impact of proposed investigation, including estimated audience / readership reach; likely position on broadcast schedule or prominence in publication or online media; and proposed use of multiple media platforms to publicise the outcomes of the investigation.
- Originality of proposal idea, and why it serves the public interest.
- Demonstrated experience and expertise of the applicant/s.
- Value for money.
- Whether the investigative journalism procedures proposed comply with the Code of Conduct of the National Union of Journalists.

\*Based on the quality of applications received, the panel may decide to award partial funding to certain applicants.

## Further Information

If you have questions about The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund, or any aspect of the application process, please contact:

### The Mary Raftery Journalism Fund

c/o DHR Communications, 80 Francis Street, Dublin 8.

Tel: 01-4200580, Email: [info@maryrafteryfund.ie](mailto:info@maryrafteryfund.ie)