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Fellowships for journalists aim to improve coverage of children's issues

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Journalists interested in covering stories about children are being invited to apply for a new professional training fellowship. The fellowships are being offered by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, an international philanthropic foundation based in The Hague which works to improve opportunities for disadvantaged young children.

The Oscar van Leer Fellowship will consist of a four-week, expenses-paid training course in The Netherlands covering journalism and children's issues. Monique van t'Hek, interim executive director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, said: "This is a great opportunity for young journalists to further their general professional development and to establish for themselves a particular area of expertise."

Three fellowships will be awarded. The fellowships are open to journalists in nine regions where the foundation currently funds projects for disadvantaged young children: Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, the Caribbean, and the Indian region of Orissa. Applicants can work in any form of media, including print, radio, television or web. The closing date for applications is August 18th 2009.

Mrs van t'Hek continued: "Through the Oscar van Leer Fellowships, we aim to contribute to a gradual improvement in the quality and quantity of media coverage of issues affecting young children. By training ambitious young journalists in how best to cover stories to do with early childhood development and children's rights, we ultimately seek to improve society's understanding and influence decision makers."

For further information on the Bernard van Leer Foundation:

<http://www.bernardvanleer.org/>

For further information on the Oscar van Leer Fellowships:

<http://www.bernardvanleer.org/ovlf>

For links to background information on issues affecting young children:

<http://www.bernardvanleer.org/ovlf/reading>

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