THE CITIZEN JUSTICE NETWORK

OVERVIEW 2016/ 2017
Proposal

Paul McNally
Director

OUR MISSION
We build journalism capacity for paralegals to develop stories on social justice issues in under-reported areas. We provide technology, editorial guidance and connect them with local community radio stations so they can broadcast their stories in African languages.

This journalism feeds directly into identifying issues where the public needs legal assistance and contact with government and arranging these stakeholder engagements.

We then bridge this rural journalism with the mainstream media and bring these untold stories to a wider public through translation and editing on to podcasts, national radio stations and websites.

OVERVIEW

We develop rural communities by improving their knowledge and level of engagement around social justice issues. These issues include citizenship, domestic violence, social grants, human trafficking, restorative justice and service delivery.

CJN achieves this by training community paralegals in five rural areas across the country to be journalists and produce quality radio stories and broadcast them on their local radio stations. We provide them with tablets and microphones and guide them through every stage of the process. We also distribute these community-based stories to mainstream and online media so the issues can have the furthest possible reach.

Our paralegal-journalists turn their important work in helping their communities with social justice problems into journalism radio stories.
With the training and guidance from CJN our paralegals turn their legal advice work into journalism. The advice offices enjoy the promotion they receive on the radio and the radio stations acquire quality content.

We bring stakeholders in our areas together: the radio station, the advice office, the police and the courts so beneficial dialogues can be started.

As a direct result of our journalism work we uncover and identify national patterns of injustice and develop on-the-ground workshops to address these problems. These workshops arise from the themes of the radio stories produced by CJN. In execution they give people true actionable legal advice and access to government officials. And after the workshop the people who attend are brought into our journalism work to produce more, in-depth stories around these issues. This way our training, radio production and workshops are integrated perfectly.

**We are strongly committed to transparency and accountability.**

CJN head office is based in the journalism department at The University of The Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

We won gold at The Global Innovation Competition 2015. Our first year is funded by Making All Voice Count.

**We are searching for our second year of funding which starts on 1 September 2016.**
Our key activities:

TRAINING: UPSKILLING ACTIVISTS TO BE JOURNALISTS

We train paralegals to be radio journalists. We provide them with tablets and microphones and teach them the importance of story, interviewing, journalism ethics and how to edit for radio. The training is designed to allow community paralegals to realize that a great deal of the reporting work for a powerful story is already being done through their efforts as a paralegal.

We held a full comprehensive workshop for our paralegals last year in Johannesburg at the Wits journalism department. We interrogate and listen to every piece of content that goes out on our stations to make sure it is free of bias.

In addition we empower community radio stations to engage with the legal issues in their communities (through training workshops). This is a valuable cross-pollination of knowledge of the advice offices and the radio stations that strengthens access to justice throughout the community. These training workshops are incredibly powerful forums for knowledge sharing.
Our key activities:

**BROADCAST: PRODUCTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE STORIES**

We produce otherwise untold stories on issues around justice in local languages. These can involve statelessness, human trafficking, maintenance and illegal deductions from social grants. We have a schedule currently where each office and radio station produces a piece of justice content for CJN each week. This means a piece of content, on average, is produced every week day.

Local radio stations are incredibly popular, but local reporting is scarce. Most community radio stations do not have reporters or journalists. Members of radio stations often copy and translate news from national news sites for their bulletins. CJN is introducing the power of original radio documentary and narrative storytelling to community radio in South Africa.

We are using technology – tablets and data – to integrate online platforms with analogue community media.

Our paralegal journalists have a constant “beat” in remote areas. No media outlet in the country has access to rural radio journalists with this level of knowledge of their subject matter. We aim to produce a piece of social justice of content every day for broadcast on community radio.
Our key activities:

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN JOURNALISM**

We distribute our social justice stories to
a) local community radio stations,
b) through embedded audio on-line and
c) in print form on urban-based websites like The Daily Vox and journalism.co.za.

CJN writes each radio story up in simple language to be made available for various markets with links to the original audio. This extends the reach of the reporting and research made by the community paralegals. The CJN website is aiming its content at conscientious community members across Africa. Our aim is to write stories and highlight causes that would be of interest for people who want to see active positive change happen in their area.

The CJN website is aiming to become an authoritative news source for people to discover justice stories from our six territories. We also expect readers from across South Africa to see similarities between the communities we operate in and where they live. CJN is making these stories of injustice available on-line for the larger population of South Africa and for broadcast on all stations which are part of CJN across the country.

Our work has incredible potential for deeper nationwide investigations. For example: Musina has highlighted the issue of gangs on the border who kidnap and rape women who are trying to enter South Africa illegally. We see CJN’s role as reporting stories and providing advice. However, we also see the potential of running follow ups and digging deeper into certain issues to the point where the perpetrators could be identified.
We have had success with posts on social media getting upward of 7,000 views.

We have had posts republished on online outlets like The Daily Vow and journalism.co.za.

We have played stories on multiple CJN radio stations capitalizing on our content being ‘networked’. We have featured on mainstream media like SAFM.

Our key activities:

CITIZEN WORKSHOPS

As a direct result of our journalism work we uncover and identify national patterns of injustice and develop on-the-ground workshops to address these problems. These workshops arise from the themes of the radio stories produced by CJN. In execution they give people true actionable legal advice and access to government officials. And after the workshop the people who attend are brought into our journalism work to produce more, in-depth stories around these issues. This way our training, radio production and workshops are integrated perfectly.

A workshop could, for example, be a day where government representatives provide community members with free legal advice around a particular concern. These concerns would be within the themes set out by the stories generated by our paralegal journalists.

Our strategy of holding government accountable is to be collaborative. We see our goals as raising awareness, exposing dishonesty and providing a solution to government to streamline their bureaucratic processes in order to increase access to justice. We see them being invited and playing a part in these workshops. Currently, our Musina office (on the border with Zimbabwe) is looking at the issue of statelessness and we hope to put pressure on the local Home Affairs office to be part of our workshop to help families who are facing this issue.

Through our workshops we also increase stakeholder engagement. We monitor how our paralegals and radio stations engage with other stakeholders in the community, for example: the police or the traditional leaders.
WHERE ARE WE BASED?

CJN head office is in Johannesburg. Our offices and radio stations are based in five rural territories across South Africa. In our second year we have plans to expand.

- **Orange Farm**, a township 50km outside of Johannesburg. The radio station partner is Thetha FM.
- **Hennenman**, a farming community in The Free State. The radio partner is Lejweleputswa District Community Radio Station (The Rock FM).
- **Kwaggafontein**, an office devoted to domestic violence in Mpumalanga. Our radio partner is Kangala Community Radio Services (KCRS).
- **Lebowakgomo**, a rural town with issues of labour and poverty in Limpopo. The radio station partner is Greater Lebowakgomo Community Radio.
- **Musina**, a town on the border with Zimbabwe dealing with issues involving foreign nationals. In Musina our radio partner is Musina FM.

The average number of consultations for our five offices per week: 1,207.

The average number of cases opened for our five offices per week: 87.

With CJN helping to promote the work of the advice offices on community and national radio as well as on-line we see this number growing.
WE PROMOTE AFRICAN LANGUAGES

We want an acceptance of all African languages language at CJN. We want language to be fluid. We give our paralegal-journalists the freedom to work and broadcast in whatever language makes them comfortable.

Our language percentages

Orange Farm Advice office- Sesotho, Theta FM- Sesotho – 60%, Zulu – 20 %, Tswana, IsiXhosa, Sepedi – 10 %, English – 10%.


Ukuthula Advice Office – Sesotho and Zulu, KCRS – Ndebele 40%, Nguni languages- 10%, Setswana – 5%.

Mafafe Advice Centre- Sepedi, GLFM – Sepedi – 70%, English, Ndebele, Tsonga – 30%.

Hennenman Victim Empowerment Centre – 100% Sesotho.
WHAT SETS CJN APART?

What sets CJN apart is we are working with established community leaders who have the respect of the people and imbuing the capacity for quality journalism, legal advice and interaction with government officials into these spaces. We are running an operation where the people on the ground feel like participants, not recipients of charity.

Who is the CJN audience?
Community radio listeners. Low LSM groups. People who use social media like Facebook. Both men and women. People who are active and care about their communities.

How do we measure or define success for CJN?
Success for CJN is for people to feel that a story or a workshop that comes from us is reliable and will be easy to understand. You will learn something and you will be helped.

NIEMAN FELLOWSHIP AT HARVARD TO DEVELOP CJN

CJN’s Director is going to Harvard in November 2016 for six weeks to develop an on-line tool with the help of Nieman Foundation and MIT in order to improve the CJN project and citizen journalism in general.

The tool will look at augmenting the work done by our paralegals to produce searchable and sharable data and produce more in-depth investigations around our social justice issues.

The Nieman Foundation houses a dynamic set of initiatives to promote and elevate the standards of journalism and educate and support those poised to make important contributions to its future. We do this through our fellowship programs; our publications, online and in-print; and programming that convenes some of the leading thinkers of our time.
PODCAST PRODUCTION

We have access to a recording studio and award-winning radio journalists.

CJN has access to a radio production studio. We are in the same building as Voice of Wits (88.1). We have access to the equipment and production studio of a broadcast radio station. The CJN team members are qualified, award-winning radio journalists. We have won four MTN radio awards and accolades in radio reporting for health and criminal justice reporting. This allows CJN the freedom to produce content if necessary in-house in Johannesburg.

We see our training as not just about making CJN stories, but in the long-term as being able to build people to be radio producers and to use these skills to benefit themselves.

We are developing a podcast called “Elevate” which tells intimate stories from our territories about how people change their circumstances and perspective to overcome incredible social injustices.

As a project there is a potential revenue stream in producing high quality radio content for community radio. And we expect to expand our podcasting so our stories can have a great reach.
WHO ARE WE?

Paul McNally - Founding Director

McNally is a Knight Visiting Nieman Fellow at Harvard for 2016. He is going to Harvard to develop ways for CJN to expand and produce deeper investigations around its journalism themes.

He has won a CNN MultiChoice African Journalist of the Year award, 4 MTN Radio Awards, a Discovery Health Award, a Pica, a MDDA award for investigative journalism, a Webber Wentzel for Legal Journalism in radio broadcast and a Vodacom Award.

McNally produces feature articles and narrative radio documentaries for Wits Journalism on justice, health and science. He is writing a non-fiction book for Pan Macmillan South Africa on police corruption.

Khutso Tsikane - Radio Mentor

Tsikane has background in community radio and plays a supportive role in the local community radio sector.

She holds a Bachelor of Journalism in Audio production from Rhodes University and a Post graduate Diploma in Media Management from the Sol Plaatjie Institute for Media Leadership. Khutso takes a strong interest in social and legal activism at a community level.

CJN will give her the unique opportunity of mentoring and training paralegals in community advice centres to be radio journalists and investigate unreported crimes and miscarriages of justice in South Africa to be broadcast on community radio stations.

We have fruitful partnerships with The Wits Radio Academy and Wits Justice Project.
Our journalism is community-driven so we allow each area to dictate what is important to them. These are themes that have organically risen from consultations with thousands of residents.

News from these communities is so valuable and yet so rarely communicated. As a country we want to know what is going on in these places and we want the best people to tell us. This is the strength of CJN: to empower the community paralegals (who understand their communities the best) to report to the rest of the country on issues that matter to all of us.
OUR PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING

Review and reporting

Monitoring is ongoing and we report to most funders on a yearly or six monthly basis. Funding years are best closed at calendar year end.

In addition, actual spending is monitored continually to ensure it is in line with the budget, and spending is regulated by the University’s financial systems and safeguards.

Your contribution

We would appreciate it if you could make a contribution for the year of 2016/17 starting on 1 September 2016.

We also encourage you to consider funding for our next year cycles. As a Director, I am keen on developing multiyear funding so that my hours are devoted more to advocacy and outreach work than allocated to fundraising every few months.

Kindest regards

Paul McNally
Director

Visit our website www.citizenjusticenetwork.org.