

TrustLaw Thomson Reuters Foundation

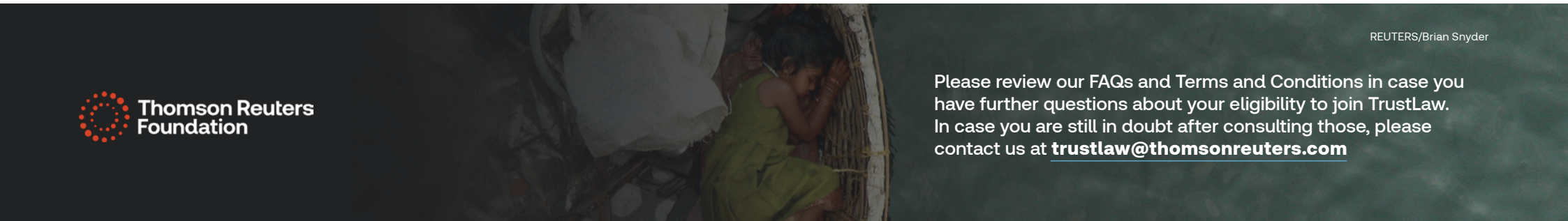
TrustLaw eligibility criteria

Criteria	NGOs	Social enterprises	Newsrooms
1. Legal form and registration	The organisation must be incorporated as a legal entity and registered in compliance with local requirements or authorities. The organisation must be structured as a non-profit organisation under national or local law and requirements.	The organisation must be incorporated as a legal entity and registered in compliance with local requirements or authorities. The organisation must demonstrate a public or legally binding commitment to reinvesting more than 50% of current and future profits into furthering its social mission.	The newsroom must be incorporated as a legal entity and registered in compliance with local requirements or authorities. The newsroom must be structured as a non-profit organisation under national or local law and requirements, or demonstrate a public or legally binding commitment to reinvesting more than 50% of current and future profits into producing original public interest journalism.
2. Mission and public benefit	The organisation must have a mission that seeks to address social, humanitarian or environmental challenges. It must be able to clearly express its social objectives, including the impact it is trying to achieve, who it aims to help and how it plans to do this.	The organisation must work to address social, humanitarian, or environmental challenges as its core mission. It must be able to clearly express its social objectives, including the impact it is trying to achieve, who it aims to help and how it plans to do this.	The newsroom must focus on producing original public interest journalism. This means its journalism should aim to inform the public about matters of relevance to their lives, well-being, and their rights and responsibilities as citizens.
3. Independence and control	The organisation must not be owned, controlled, affiliated or associated with government or political parties; and must be independent of commercial and corporate interests.	The organisation must not be owned, controlled, affiliated or associated with government or political parties; and must be independent of commercial and corporate interests.	The newsroom must not be owned, controlled, affiliated or associated with government or political parties; and must be independent of commercial and corporate interests. The newsroom must be editorially independent, regardless of ownership. This means that editors have the freedom to make decisions without interference from the owners of the publication, business interests and/or other non-editorial actors.
4. Governance and accountability	The organisation must be self-governing, with a board that oversees its activities and is accountable for decisions.	The organisation must be self-governing, with a board or equivalent governing body that oversees its activities and is accountable for decisions.	The newsroom must be self-governing, with a board or equivalent governing body that oversees its activities and is accountable for decisions.

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5. Conduct, integrity and standards	The organisation must be non-discriminatory and, if it is a faith-based organisation, it must not proselytise through its work. The organisation must not be aligned with, promote, or support movements or ideologies that work against human rights or principles of equality and inclusion. It must not promote or disseminate information that contradicts well-established scientific consensus or advances misinformation likely to cause harm. TrustLaw may refuse to accept an organisation as a member where the organisation or its key personnel has a history of illicit connections or illegal activities, in ways that pose a material reputational risk to TrustLaw and the pro bono legal teams supporting them.	The organisation must be non-discriminatory and, if it is a faith-based organisation, it must not proselytise through its work. The organisation must not be aligned with, promote, or support movements or ideologies that work against human rights or principles of equality and inclusion. It must not promote or disseminate information that contradicts well-established scientific consensus or advances misinformation likely to cause harm. TrustLaw may refuse to accept an organisation as a member where the organisation or its key personnel has a history of illicit connections or illegal activities, in ways that pose a material reputational risk to TrustLaw and the pro bono legal teams supporting them.	The newsroom must strive to produce balanced, fair, non-discriminatory and accurate journalism, which explores all sides of an issue and presents those findings. The editorial standards or policies of the newsroom must include the following principles (or similar): correcting errors transparently, not fabricating or plagiarising content, not accepting bribes, seeking the right of response where appropriate, not altering still images or video footage beyond methods normally used to prepare content for editorial use. TrustLaw may refuse to accept a newsroom as a member where the newsroom or its key personnel has a history of illicit connections or illegal activities, in ways that pose a material reputational risk to TrustLaw and the pro bono legal teams supporting them.
6. Operating history	The organisation should be able to demonstrate that it has been operating for at least 12 months and show a track record of activities in pursuit of its mission.	The organisation should be able to demonstrate that it has been operating for at least 12 months and show a track record of activities in pursuit of its mission.	The newsroom should be able to demonstrate that it has been operating for at least 12 months and show a track record of reporting.
7. Financial sustainability	Ideally, the organisation should be able to demonstrate organisational sustainability with evidence of funding or support for the 12-month period following the application.	Ideally, the organisation should be able to demonstrate organisational sustainability with evidence of funding or support for the 12-month period following the application.	Ideally, the newsroom should be able to demonstrate organisational sustainability with evidence of funding or support for the 12-month period following the application.

Required Documents

- A copy of your founding document (e.g. Constitution or Governing Documents, Memorandum and Articles of Association, Certificate of Incorporation/Registration, etc.).
- An annual report. If you have not produced a full annual report, you may submit a portfolio of work, or visual documents such as a brochure or flyer which explains your goals and your programmes.
- A budget, your latest financial statements, list of donors or any other document demonstrating financial sustainability for at least 12 months following your application.
- Where possible, a list of your board members, leadership team or advisory committee, along with their professional affiliations.



REUTERS/Brian Snyder

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Please review our FAQs and Terms and Conditions in case you have further questions about your eligibility to join TrustLaw. In case you are still in doubt after consulting those, please contact us at **trustlaw@thomsonreuters.com**