

KHAS Photo Festival

Open Call — Terms & Conditions

Karnali, Khas: Through Your Eyes
An open call by Panchaikam

Version 1.0

By submitting your work, you confirm that you have read and accepted these Terms & Conditions.

1. About the Open Call

The KHAS Photo Festival invites photographers, artists, researchers and storytellers to document and interpret Khas and Karnali as a living civilisation its people, land, culture, rituals, memory and everyday life.

Categories

No.	Category	Focus
01	खस भूमि (Bhumi) — Land	Mountains, rivers, forests, villages and landscapes
02	मान्छे (Manchhe) — People	Portraits, families, elders, youth and communities
03	जीवन (Jeevan) — Life	Everyday life, customs, clothing, food and celebrations
04	देउता (Deuta) — Sacred	Masto, kul-devata, temples, rituals and sacred practices
05	सृजना (Srijana) — Creation	Crafts, farming, tools, music and handmade creations
06	घर (Ghar) — Architecture	Traditional houses, settlements, temples, forts and architecture
07	समझना (Samjhana) — Memory	Ancestors, memories, migration and disappearing traditions
08	आज (Khas Today) — Present	Contemporary life, youth, cities, technology, migration and changing identity

2. Eligibility

- Open to professional and emerging photographers, students, photojournalists, artists, researchers and photography enthusiasts.
- Participants may be based in Karnali, elsewhere in Nepal, or abroad.
- Entry is free.
- Individuals may enter. Collectives may also participate with one designated lead contact.

3. Submission Period

- Open: 4 October 2026.
- Deadline: 2 November 2026, Nepal Standard Time (UTC+5:45).
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- The Organisers may extend the deadline and will announce any changes through official channels.
- Festival & Exhibition: 21–22 November 2026.
- Selection/results dates: To be announced.

4. Submission Requirements

- Select one category for each photograph.
- Submit 1–3 photographs.
- Each photograph may be submitted to only one category.
- Format: JPEG.
- Minimum size: 2000 pixels on the longest side.
- Maximum file size: 20 MB.
- Colour and black-and-white photographs are accepted.
- No watermarks, borders, frames, signatures or text overlays.
- File name: Surname_Title_Location_Year.jpg.
- For every photograph, provide the title, year, location, your name, a short description and a 100–200 word story explaining where and why the photograph was made, what is happening, and what it tells us about Khas or Karnali.
- For historical/archival photographs, provide the approximate date and information about the original photographer/source where known.

5. Participant Information

- Full name, age, city/district, phone number, email address, short bio and optional Instagram/portfolio link.
- Incomplete or non-compliant submissions may be disqualified.
- If selected, participants may be asked to provide high-resolution/original files, additional information or supporting documents.

6. Authenticity & Editing

- Photographs must be made by the participant or submitted with proper permission.
- AI-generated images are not accepted. Generative AI, generative fill or expansion that adds elements not present in the original photograph is not permitted.
- Normal adjustments such as exposure, contrast, colour correction, cropping, dust removal and black-and-white conversion are allowed.
- Editing must not materially change the reality of the photograph. Adding, removing or moving people or significant objects is not permitted.
- Staged or reconstructed photographs must be clearly disclosed.
- Captions and stories must be truthful and accurate.
- The Organisers may request RAW files, original files or other proof of authorship.
- Previously published, exhibited or awarded photographs may be submitted, provided the participant has the right to do so.

7. Copyright & Use of Photographs

- Copyright remains with the photographer.
- By submitting, you confirm that the work is yours or that you have permission to submit it, and you retain full copyright and ownership.
- The Organisers may use submitted images in reduced resolution, without commercial use, only to review and judge entries, announce selected participants, promote the Open Call and festival through official websites/social media, and share selected images with the press for festival-related coverage.

- Photographers will be properly credited.
- Any display, sale, reproduction, publication or archival use of selected photographs beyond the above will be discussed and agreed separately in writing.
- Photographs not selected will not be publicly displayed and will be deleted from working files within days after results, except where records are required for administration.

8. Participant Responsibilities

- Provide truthful and complete information.
- Keep contact details updated.
- Obtain necessary permissions and consent.
- Keep original files available if requested.
- Meet deadlines for selected work.
- Credit significant collaborators and contributors.
- Cover submission, travel, equipment and preparation costs unless otherwise agreed in writing.

9. Ethics & Respect

- Respect the dignity, privacy and safety of people.
- Obtain informed consent from identifiable people where required, especially for exhibition and publication. Obtain parental/guardian consent when photographing children.
- Respect sacred places, rituals, beliefs and community restrictions.
- Never create photographs by causing harm, distress or unnecessary risk to people, animals, heritage or the environment.
- Avoid hateful, discriminatory, exploitative or harmful representation.
- Avoid stereotypes or portraying Khas and Karnali as merely “backward” or exotic.
- Follow all applicable laws.
- The Organisers may refuse to display work that could cause significant harm, offence or misrepresentation.

10. Judging & Selection

- Entries will be reviewed by a selection panel appointed by the Organisers.
- Selection may consider relevance to Khas and Karnali, relevance to the chosen category, visual quality and originality, strength and accuracy of the story, ethical and respectful approach, and diversity and contribution to the overall festival.
- The panel’s decisions are final.
- The Organisers may select fewer or more works than initially planned and may move a submission to a more appropriate category.

11. Selection, Awards & Exhibition

- Selected photographers may receive exhibition at the KHAS Photo Festival, festival publication/digital features, certificate of selection, and awards or prizes announced by the Organisers.
- Award details and prize amounts: To be announced.
- Selection does not automatically guarantee payment, travel support or accommodation unless confirmed separately in writing.

- Printing, framing, shipping and installation arrangements will be communicated to selected participants separately.

12. Disqualification

- The Organisers may disqualify a submission if it violates these Terms & Conditions, is submitted after the deadline, is not the participant's work or lacks required permission, contains prohibited AI-generated or misleading manipulation, includes false or misleading information, infringes another person's rights, violates ethical standards, or attempts to interfere with or unfairly influence the selection process.
- If a selected work or award is later found to be in violation, the Organisers may withdraw the selection, remove the work and revoke any award or prize.

13. Privacy

- The Organisers collect participant information only to manage the Open Call, communicate with participants, judge submissions and present selected work.
- Personal information will not be sold.
- Participant names, selected photographs, titles, captions, location and short bios may be published for festival-related purposes. Phone numbers, email addresses and age will not be publicly published.
- Participants may request correction or deletion of their personal information, subject to reasonable limitations where material has already been published or distributed.

14. Changes & Cancellation

- The Organisers may reasonably change the deadline, programme, venue or festival arrangements. Significant changes will be announced through official channels.
- If the festival is postponed or cancelled due to circumstances beyond the Organisers' control, participants will be informed as soon as reasonably possible.

15. Verification

- All selections and awards remain subject to verification.
- The Organisers may request original files, proof of authorship, consent or other supporting information, including after the festival.
- If a serious violation is discovered, the Organisers may withdraw the selection, remove the work and revoke any award.

16. Acceptance & Governing Law

- By submitting a photograph, you confirm that you have read and accepted these Terms & Conditions, are eligible to participate, the information provided is truthful, and you have the necessary rights and permissions for your submission.
- These Terms are governed by the laws of Nepal.
- Any dispute will first be addressed through good-faith discussion between the participant and the Organisers.

17. Our Commitment

- Respecting the copyright and authorship of photographers.
- Treating Khas and Karnali's people, communities, beliefs and places with respect.
- Maintaining a fair and transparent selection process.
- Giving proper credit to photographers and contributors.
- Protecting participant information.
- Building an honest and meaningful living archive of Khas and Karnali.

18. Contact

- Panchaikam
- Email: contactpanchaikam@gmail.com
- Website: www.panchaikam.com
- Instagram: [@panchaikam](https://www.instagram.com/panchaikam)
- WhatsApp : 9743320295