

## **Laxmi Parthasarathy**

Laxmi Parthasarathy is an Executive in Residence at Ashoka, the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs. A seasoned media executive and entrepreneur, she brings fifteen years of leadership experience in operational strategy, revenue innovation, international journalism, and global systems design to her work. Laxmi previously served as the Chief Operating Officer of Global Press, an international news organization where she led worldwide operations and spearheaded a global expansion strategy to build news bureaus in under-covered markets including Mongolia, Mexico, Nepal, Puerto Rico and Ukraine. She also led the organization's flagship Duty of Care program, which focused on the physical, emotional, legal, and digital security of local reporters and has written and taught extensively on the subject. During her tenure, she built and launched Global Press News Services (GPNS), the organization's B2B division. Under her leadership, GPNS served clients such as the UNFPA, CHANEL, The Fuller Project, Prison Journalism Project, and the U.S. Association for Global Media. Prior to her executive role at Global Press, she served as the Director of Global Media Partnerships at Ashoka. There, she authored the pioneering study, "The Bottom-Up Media Revolution," which analyzed data from 200 media innovators across 22 countries to understand how social entrepreneurs build community trust. Throughout her career, Laxmi has led media development and social innovation initiatives in over a dozen countries. She began her career in Media Development working on a BBC Great Lakes radio program in Rwanda and leading journalism and communications trainings in Swaziland. In 2006, she founded "My Roots," a Toronto-based media start-up and print publication that achieved a circulation of over 5,000 and empowered the Malvern community to produce their own local news. In recognition of her impact, Laxmi was named one of '20 Trailblazing Women in Journalism' by journalism.co.uk in 2025. She is also a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Mentor, supporting top doctoral scholars in leadership development, and is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Laxmi holds a Master's degree in Media, Communications and Development from the London School of Economics and an undergraduate degree from Carleton University's School of Journalism. She is an author of the book "Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans" (Wisdom Tree, 2021) and is currently based in Washington D.C.