



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- Project Title:** Call for Proposals to contribute to the implementation of the Programme “Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” funded by the European Union – Specific Objective 1
- Purpose:** Selection of qualified Responsible Parties to contribute to the achievement of the Programme Specific Objective 1: *“To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination.”*
- Duration:** October 2017 – December 2019 (tentatively)
- Contract Type:** Project Cooperation Agreement
- Deadline for submissions:** 06 September 2017

**The call is open for registered civil society organizations or networks in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

*The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women civil society organizations (CSOs)/women’s CSO networks and platforms, organizations representing minority women, women with disability and/or other disadvantaged groups of women to submit proposals to contribute to ending violence against women focusing on areas such as monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of international instruments (CEDAW, Istanbul Convention), improvement of the legislative and policy environment in line with international standards and advocacy towards revision of laws and policies for protection of survivors, with a focus on women belonging to marginalized groups.*

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **I. Introduction**

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be a widespread social problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and a serious violation of fundamental human rights. This type of violence is still tolerated and considered socially acceptable behavior, and is justified by traditional and patriarchal conceptions of the role and status of women in BiH society.

As a State Party to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), BiH has an obligation both to prevent VAWG and to provide support and redress for survivors of violence. In terms of regional mechanisms, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), which BiH ratified as well, is the most far reaching international treaty to tackle VAWG. It aims at zero tolerance for VAWG through preventing violence, protecting victims, and prosecuting the perpetrators. It also seeks to change perceptions on VAWG by calling on all members of society, in particular men and boys, to change their attitudes. It reaffirms that VAWG is deeply rooted in the inequality between women and men in society and is perpetuated by a culture of intolerance and denial.

In February 2017, UN Women started a three-year regional programme titled "Ending violence against women in the Western Balkan Countries and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds", funded by the European Union (EU), with a focus on three main areas of intervention: (1) Working on the adoption of frameworks addressing gender-based discrimination and VAW, aligned with international normative standards as enshrined in CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, as well as the EU "acquis communautaire", is crucial to address impunity, and convey the message that VAWG is not tolerated; (2) In order to strengthen prevention, addressing the root and structural causes of gender inequality, and VAWG as one of its most pervasive expressions, a transformative change in society is required, as well as changing communities' beliefs and perceptions on discriminatory gender stereotypes; (3) For the purpose of reinforcing protection and response to VAWG, special attention is paid to enhancing availability and access to comprehensive, coordinated, inter-disciplinary, and sustained multi-sectoral services and its demand from the survivors/victims' side.

The above mentioned programme contributes to the goals and objectives of the BiH Gender Action Plan (2013-2017) and will directly contribute to the implementation of BiH commitments as set in the BiH Framework Strategy for the Implementation of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2015-2018). The programme also builds on UN Women's ongoing work to end VAWG implemented through the current programme "Standards and Engagement for Ending Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina", generously supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in the period from March 2016 to February 2019.

### **II. Objective of the support**

The project will contribute to the achievement of the programme “Ending violence against women and girls: Implementing norms, changing minds” (February 2017- December 2019) which aims at ending gender-based discrimination and VAWG, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in six Western Balkans countries and Turkey. The programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and is also in alignment with EU accession standards. The programme is funded by the European Union within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II, and is aligned with the EU accession standards to achieve equality between women and men. More specifically, the project will contribute to the programme Specific Objective 1: *“To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination.”*

CEDAW Concluding Observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of BiH (July 2013) emphasize the need to codify and report on all forms of VAWG, and ensure the consistent application of the laws at all levels. In addition, the Alternative CEDAW report of CSOs on the implementation of the Concluding Observations (November 2016) outline the priority of legally defining institutions involved in response to cases of VAW and provision of services to improve accountability.

According to analyses done by CSOs in BiH on the harmonization of BiH legislation, domestic violence protection laws still require further alignment with international standards, to different extents in different parts of the country, but especially with regards to support to victims of sexual violence, criminalization of all forms of VAWG, and the lack of legal precision of the duty of those involved in the response to inform the survivors of all the services and protection measures at their disposal.

### **III. Scope of the project**

The programme builds on the strong links of UN Women and the EU with women’s civil society organizations (CSOs) in the region, placing the programme in a strategic position to assist women in their drive for rights as citizens. Civil society organizations, in particular women's organizations, play a crucial role in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights. They are key advocacy stakeholders in terms of moving governments from commitment to implementation in relation to international normative standards. They are also key stakeholders in the provision of services that are essential in the establishment of multi-sectoral and coordinated mechanisms to adequately respond to the needs of victims of violence. Furthermore, women's organizations are key stakeholders in ensuring that the perspectives and voices of the most excluded and discriminated-against groups of women are heard by policy makers. Additionally, women's organizations are instrumental - in terms of their networks, outreach and innovation - to facilitating the required behavioral and attitudinal changes for tackling the structural barriers to gender equality and ending VAWG.

UN Women Country Office in BiH is seeking to engage networks of women’s organizations and platforms of women belonging to disadvantaged groups and/or organizations working on women’s rights issues that will contribute to achieving **the following two results:**

1. Women's voice strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.

2. Laws and policies are reviewed and reformed to conform with international human rights standards including CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention

CSOs with expertise and proven experience in the area of women's participation in legislation and policy development in line with international standards on eliminating VAWG are invited to submit proposals, individually or jointly with other CSOs, to design and implement a project that will respond to the needs in this field. Responsible Parties are invited to submit their proposals targeting any level(s) of government in BiH, with the main focus on entity, cantonal/regional and/or local level.

#### **IV. Proposed and Expected Results**

In order to contribute to achieving the **Result 1.1 - Women's voice strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention**, proposals should focus on the following areas of work:

- a) Support to existing national platforms or networks of CSOs to monitor and report on the implementation of the CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. Special focus should be put on organizations working for or representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups, in accordance with the recommendations from the CEDAW Concluding Observations (paragraph 38). CSOs should actively monitor the adherence to international standards on ending VAWG
- b) Contribution to any stage of the process of CEDAW shadow reporting, i.e. collecting data, coordination of CSOs, preparation of the reports, presentation of the results, etc.
- c) Contribution to any stage of the process of monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, including communicating information indicative of violence to the GREVIO expert body, i.e. collecting data, coordination of CSOs, preparation of the reports, presentation of the results, etc.;

Suggested actions/deliverables:

- Supported existing network/platform two-year Action Plan including a special focus on addressing the needs of women facing multiple disadvantages
- Training and/or awareness raising sessions for CSOs to improve their understanding of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention and monitoring of their implementation
- Development of a toolkit for alternative reporting to GREVIO
- Information collected in response to the GREVIO Questionnaire on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the preparation of the report for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- At least five joint statements on the implementation of Istanbul Convention and CEDAW Concluding Observations by supported network

In order to contribute to achieving the **Result 1.2 - Laws and policies are reviewed and reformed to conform with international human rights standards including CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention**, proposals should focus on the following areas of work:

- a) Technical assistance to civil society organizations and government to review/reform laws, policies and legislations at the BiH Entity Levels, including the set-up of interdisciplinary groups to pool expertise;

- b) Advocacy for the adoption of proposals to improve the response to cases of VAWG at the entity, cantonal and/or local levels.

Suggested actions/deliverables:

- Overview of existing analyses of the level of legal and policy harmonization of domestic legislation and policies with international standards, identifying any gaps in research in BiH
- A proposal for revision of at least two pieces of legislation and/or policy documents at the sub-national level
- Advocacy activities towards relevant government bodies to adopt at least one proposal for revision at the sub-national level

## **V. Guiding Principles in Designing the Project**

- Evidence-based programming, building on lessons learned and recommended practices, to ensure optimal results and use of resources;
- Human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches that place first priority on promoting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of women and girls as well as strengthening institutional capacities at local levels to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women;
- Transformation of inequitable gender norms and power disparities between women and men, and empowerment of women and girls to thrive as equals;
- Holistic responses that address women and girls' inter-related rights and needs, including safety, access to healthcare, education and economic security;
- Focus on disadvantaged groups, including those living in poverty or otherwise especially excluded, and ensuring responsiveness to diversity;
- Coordination and multi-sectorial partnerships, including among government organizations, nongovernmental organizations, women's and other civil society groups;
- Commitment to sharing knowledge, by documenting, evaluating and disseminating results, and working with UN Women staff in the process;
- Priority placed on sustainability of results;
- Communication and visibility in line with the programme communication strategy, which will be defined at the stage of project proposal finalization. Once the communication strategy/plan is approved by the EUD and UN Women, major steps of this plan are to be coordinated with the EUD and UN Women to ensure greater impact.

## **VI. Duration of the Project**

The project implementation should start tentatively in October 2017 and finish in December 2019.

## **VII. Further Details about the Proposal**

In addition to outlining detailed activities to achieve programme Specific Objective 1: *“To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination.”* to achieve the desired

deliverables, please clearly indicate an activity in the workplan with indicative budget to participate in at least one programme event at regional level per year, including travel, accommodation, meals, etc., for one person for an average number of three days.

Interested applicants are invited to attend one informative session, **on 9 August 2017**, in which additional clarifications can be provided on the application process. Kindly communicate your interest in participating in the session to Erma Mulabdic ([erma.mulabdic@unwomen.org](mailto:erma.mulabdic@unwomen.org)).

### **VIII. Budget request**

CSOs applying to the Call for Proposals can submit proposals **targeting only one of the Results listed above**. CSOs can submit more than one proposals. Only one award will be granted per organization.

In all cases, budgets of the proposals (submitted in local currency) must amount to a minimum of EU 55.000 and cannot exceed the maximum amount set for this call, EUR 60.000.

### **IX. Institutional Arrangement**

The selected organization(s) will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UN Women. A competitive selection process will take place to identify the potential Responsible Party. The NGO will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activity. The NGO's capacity will be assessed by UN Women as per UN Women's manuals.

### **X. Reporting**

The selected partner will be the principal responsible party, but will work closely with UN Women during programme implementation. The partner will provide regular narrative and financial reports in line with UN Women guidelines and requirements.

All knowledge products and communications materials that would be produced under this agreement must acknowledge the support and seek approval of UN Women. Furthermore, they should be in line with the EU Communication and Visibility tools and the EU-UN joint visibility guidelines.