



This Programme is funded by the European Union



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project Title:	Support CSOs in strengthening the provision of services to women and girl survivors of violence specifically to marginalized groups of women, such as women with disabilities and to survivors of rape and sexual assault, under the Programme <i>“Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”</i>
Purpose:	Selection of qualified Responsible Party for the Programme
Duration:	October 2017 – October 2019 (tentatively)
Contract Type:	Project Cooperation Agreement
Reference number:	CFP 07/17 EXT
Deadline for submissions:	15 September 2017

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women civil society organizations (CSOs) and networks to submit proposals aimed at strengthening the capacity for the provision of quality services to women and girls from marginalized groups with a special focus on women with disabilities and survivors of rape and sexual assault. Women with disabilities experience abuse in a variety of forms, they are often subject to psychological, physical sexual and all other forms of violence and encounter a myriad of obstacles in accessing proper protection, justice and support services as guaranteed by Serbian law and international standards enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, Serbia lacks a mechanism that provides timely and adequate response to survivors of sexual violence including rape and lacks appropriate and quality care that is sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups of women.

Terms of Reference

I. Background

UN Women is grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. UN Women works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, the empowerment of women, and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It provides strong and coherent leadership in supporting national priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

Civil society organisations (CSOs), in particular women's organizations, represent an essential part of integrated response to violence against women. They are key advocacy stakeholders for mobilizing government from commitment to implementation of 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 survivors of violence. Women CSOs role is decisive in achieving effective and systematic response to reduce violence and other issues affecting women, in advocating the adjustment of support services and the consideration of specific needs of based on the form of violence against women as well as important differences between various social groups over with regard to needed support services.

Based on data from the Multi-country study on violence against women conducted in 2016, in Serbia thirty-one women's NGOs are providing specialist services to women victims of violence. Shelters are largely provided by Centres for Social Work and funded by local governments, however some groups, including women with physical, sensual impairments and intellectual disabilities have limited access to shelter services. In addition, the available number of shelter spaces in Serbia does not meet the requirements of the Istanbul Convention.

Istanbul Convention in its Article 25 obliges state parties to establish Rape Crisis Centres or Sexual Violence Referral Centres. Lack of such services can be considered as a large gap in service provision, particularly considering the Final Activity Report of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV, 2008) recommending that one centre should be available per every 200,000 female inhabitants.¹ Two Rape Crises Centres have been established in the Province of Vojvodina in 2016 through donor support, however in Central Serbia such service does not exist.

Protection of women with disabilities survivors of violence and women survivors of sexual violence, including rape, should be a Serbian priority in efforts to meet the standards enshrined in ratified international documents. Protection gaps are most visible with regards to the aforementioned groups of women. Sexual violence, including rape, continues to be one of the most devastating forms of gender-based violence, and justice and support for survivors of rape is urgently needed in Serbia to eradicate this pernicious form of violence against women.

II. Objective of UN Women's Support

The project will contribute to the achievement of the programme *"Ending violence against women and girls: Implementing norms, changing minds"* (February 2017- January 2020). *"Implementing Norms, Changing Minds"* aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women,

¹ https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/Final_Activity_Report.pdf

with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in Western Balkans 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 Commission within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II. More specifically, the project will contribute to the programme Result 3.1: *“Providers of general and specialist support services for victims of all forms of violence have the capacity to implement the standards enshrined in CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and is in line with global standards and guidelines”*.

III. Scope of the Project

This programme shall target women’s organizations and help them build capacities to target the most vulnerable groups, including women with physical, sensual impairments and intellectual disabilities and offer them support services tailored to their needs, as well as to offer quality services to survivors of sexual violence, including rape, by establishing a rape crisis centre(s).

In this context, UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals for a Responsible Party to contribute to the programme Result 3.1: *“Providers of general and specialist support services for victims of all forms of violence have the capacity to implement the standards enshrined in CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and is in line with global standards and guidelines”* expected to quantify and contextualize the following indicators that the programme has to report against:

- (1) Number of services providers at the health, justice, and security (police) sectors who have reviewed and/or adopted standards procedures in line with Istanbul Convention for delivery of support services to victims of all form of Violence
- (2) Number of women and girls from disadvantaged groups receiving comprehensive and immediate care from services available

IV. Deliverables

It is expected that the selected Responsible Party deliver, inter alia, the following products, for the implementation of the proposed Support to CSOs, taking into consideration the *standards enshrined in CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention* as well as Essential Services guidelines, a comprehensive multi-sectoral quality response for victims/survivors of violence of women that includes not only security and justice services, but also health and social services²

1. Policy Framework and Capacity Assessment and collection and analysis of relevant data in Serbia

- Assessment of the legal and policy framework with a focus on available support structures available to women with disabilities that are survivors of violence;
- Assessment of existing capacities of service providers and available support structures and their possibility and flexibility to adjust the procedures to specific needs of women and girls from vulnerable groups;
- Generation of extensive empirical data on existing situation and needs of women with disabilities survivors of violence by conducting interviews, focus group discussions, surveying relevant stakeholders online and face to face, etc.;
- Analysis of collected data including examples of good practices and suitable recommendations.

² <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence>

2. Standards for Rape Crisis Centre(s) in line with Istanbul Convention

- Development of protocol for staff in providing assistance to survivors of sexual assault;
- Development of guidelines for sexual assault service providers in the areas of individual counselling, group counselling, medical attention and hospital accompaniment and trauma support;
- Development of guidelines for the provision of specialized services to women and girls from vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on needs of women with disabilities survivors and women survivors of sexual violence;
- Development of a training curriculum for staff aimed at building up their personal and organizational capacities to provide timely, continuous and efficient support services for survivors of sexual assault.

3. Implementation of recommendations for improvement of support services for women with disabilities survivors of violence and establishing pilot rape crisis centre(s)

- Implementation of examples of good practices in at least five municipalities with respect to provision of specialized services to women with disabilities;
- Development of a model for the establishment of pilot rape crisis centre(s);
- Establishment of rape crisis centre(s) in at least one selected municipality and enabling it to meet the needs of women, including women with disabilities survivors of violence and survivors of sexual violence.

4. Communications activity

- Communication and visibility action plan, including at least 1 public event and use of social media for dissemination of the achievements: 1) to inform and raise awareness among women, especially women from minorities and disadvantaged groups, and among communities at a large; 2) to inform and raise awareness among generalist and specialist support services; and 3) to inform and raise awareness among relevant decision makers and key stakeholders at the national level;

V. Duration of Project

From October 2017 to October 2019 (tentatively)

VI. Further Details about the Proposal

In addition to outlining detailed activities to achieve programme Result 3.1: *“Providers of general and specialist support services for victims of all forms of violence have the capacity to implement the standards enshrined in CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and is in line with global standards and guidelines”* 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.

VII. Budget Request

The proposed intervention size and budget request must fall between a minimum indicative amount of USD 50,000 and a maximum amount of USD 68,000. Budget proposal should be submitted in the local currency, Republic of Serbia Diner. All currency exchanges will be calculated using the UN

Operational Exchange Rate as per the date of submission of proposal available at: <https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php>

VIII. 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 CSO will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activity. The CSO's capacity will be assessed by UN Women as per UN Women's manuals.

IX. 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.

Note: Interested applicants are invited to attend the informative session, on August 11th 2017 at 11 am, at UN House in Serbia, New Belgrade, Bulevar Zorana Djindjica 64, in which additional clarifications can be provided on the application process. Kindly communicate your interest in participating at info.serbia@unwomen.org