



This Programme is funded by the European Union



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Conducting Scoping Study on gender-based violence in public spaces and advocacy, <i>under the programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds"</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	Selection of qualified Responsible Party for the Programme
<b>Duration:</b>	October 2017 – August 2018 (tentatively)
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement
<b>Location:</b>	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<b>Reference n:</b>	CfP 02/2017 UNW
<b>Deadline for submissions:</b>	18 September 2017

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women's civil society organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) that work on promoting women's rights and gender equality to submit proposals that will address the legal, policy and data gaps with regards gender based violence and violence against women. Organizations are invited to submit proposals that will entail: a) Assessment of public safety of women and girls through conducting a scoping study on gender based violence and discrimination in urban public spaces in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (outside Skopje region); b) identification of legal and policy gaps in relation to ending violence against women, and c) advocacy for adequate legal regulation of all forms of violence against women, in line with the Country Observations from the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) and with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

## Terms of Reference

### I. Background

“Ending Violence Against Women: Implementing norms, changing minds” is a UN Women Programme funded by the European Commission (EC), which aims to support a reduction in discrimination and violence against women and girls in six Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo<sup>1</sup> and Serbia) and Turkey.

Funded by the European Commission (EC) within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II, the Programme is aligned with the European Union (EU) accession standards to achieve equality between women and men. The Programme is anchored in CEDAW and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

This three-year programme supports the development of an enabling legislative and policy environment on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination; promotes favorable social norms and attitudes to prevent gender discrimination and violence against women; and pursues empowering women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination or violence to advocate for and use available, accessible, and quality services.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is central to the realization of women’s human rights and gender equality. By ratifying CEDAW, all States parties are obliged to periodically submit reports with an aim to promote compliance with the obligations contained in the Convention. An important part of any periodic report is reporting back to the Committee on concrete measures taken to implement the Concluding Observations on the previous report.

The Committee Concluding Observations from 2013 have recommended the State Party, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to take all the necessary measures, among others, to adopt a comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women, ensuring that all women and girls survivors of violence are protected by such legislation and have access to protection. Further, the Committee recommends, i.e. raising public awareness and strengthening capacity of service providers (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, health service providers, social services and teaching staff) on gender sensitive service provision; ii. encouragement of women (including Roma women and women from other ethnic communities) to report incidents of violence; iii. increasing the number and funding of shelters and guarantee national coverage; iv. enhancing the system of data collection, supporting research in this field, and ensuring that information and collected data are available to the public. Finally, the Committee recognizes that the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (Istanbul Convention) will contribute to the advancement of the legislation and strengthening of protection mechanisms and punitive measures.

The Istanbul Convention requires sanctioning by states and obliges states to prevent offences, protect victims, prosecute perpetrators and have integrated policies, through criminal and civil law provisions, improved service delivery, resource allocation, and cultural transformation measures. The Istanbul Convention establishes a two-pronged international monitoring mechanism: Council of Europe Group of Experts on action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), and political body of officials (Committee of the Parties). GREVIO recognizes the important role that NGOs play in monitoring implementation and made it clear in its Rules of Procedure (Rule 35) that NGOs and other members of civil society are vital sources of information and that all information received from

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<sup>1</sup> All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this document shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

NGOs will be treated as confidential by GREVIO. The country signed the Istanbul Convention in July 2011, but did not ratify it to date.

## II. Objective of UN Women's support

The project will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the programme "*Ending violence against women and girls: Implementing norms, changing minds*" (February 2017- January 2018), 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 Commission within the Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance (IPA) II. More specifically, the project in this Call for Proposals 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.*"

## III. Scope of the Call for Proposal

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 to pursue their 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 violence against women.

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, discrimination and violence against women in all its manifestations remains an area of concern. In contrast to positive legal changes and progress made in the area of domestic violence prevention and protection, other types of violence against women remain underestimated and insufficiently recognized, resulting in very sparse reporting and inadequate treatment. Violence against women and girls in public spaces, such as rape, street sexual harassment, street verbal harassment and threats, and other forms of gender-based violence, such as stalking, have yet to receive significant policy attention or adequate responses in the environments where they occur.

Official statistics on violence against women and girls in public urban spaces are available from police records and reports produced by the sector for analysis and research within the Ministry of Interior, depending on the type of crime committed. However, these records show only the reported cases and do not represent an actual measurement of women's experiences of violence and their perceptions of safety when using public spaces in their communities. At the same time, national legislation does not recognize and sanction all forms of violence as determined by international norms and standards, namely CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, women's and human rights organizations are active at local and national level. The degree of organizations' expertise and organizational strengths varies amongst the organizations with regards to their capacities in terms of networking, policy development and advocacy, outreach, and service provision. Nevertheless, women's and human rights organizations have been at the forefront in the past decade advocating for legal regulations of all forms of violence against women for improved data collection, enhanced protection of survivors, and sanctioning of perpetrators.

In this context, UN Women is issuing a **Call for Proposals** for a Responsible Party to 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 by strengthening women's voice and agency to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention."*

The overall goal of this Call for Proposals is to strengthen civil society organizations' - namely women's organizations, civil society platforms and think tanks - voices and agency in increasing the evidence on discrimination and violence against women, and advocating for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW Concluding Observations and the Istanbul Convention.

**As a result, it is expected that women's CSO platforms/networks conduct a scoping study on gender based violence and discrimination in urban public spaces in municipalities outside Skopje region, and to advocate for full regulation of gender-based violence and all forms of violence against women in the country, in line with CEDAW recommendations and Istanbul Convention provisions.**

#### **IV. Deliverables**

It is expected that targeted women's CSOs/networks/think-thanks will be able to jointly produce, inter alia:

- **Methodology** that is gender, age and culturally appropriate for a scoping study to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of discrimination and violence against women and girls in urban public spaces in selected municipalities outside of Skopje region. The criteria for selecting the municipalities and urban areas are: a) level of violent crimes and perceptions of crime – areas with high levels are prioritized; b) socio-economic indicators – areas with characteristics of inequality and exclusion are prioritized; c) existence of actual, or potential, engagement of women's grassroots groups and organizations; d) existence of, or the potential for, effective, efficient, available and accessible services in response to violence against women in the area; and e) potential for local authority support and cooperation. The selection of the locations will be based on existing data obtained from various sources, including municipal authorities, local institutions, such as police, social work services and women themselves. The methodology is also expected to outline how grassroots women's groups are going to be involved in the development of the scoping study.
- **An intermediary report**, responding to the following objectives of the scoping study: i. profile the selected urban areas to provide justification for the selection and insight into their demographic, social, cultural, economic and other relevant characteristics; ii. analyze development policies, plans and relevant initiatives; and iii. assess relevant existing services and projects.
- **Full scoping study report** which will provide good understanding of the types and scale of violence against women in urban spaces in the target municipalities based on previous research conducted in two selected municipalities<sup>2</sup> and based on a) available data on gender-based violence for the broader country context; b) relevant information on the local context in terms of demographic, social, cultural, economic and other relevant characteristics; c) availability and accessibility of services in response to violence against women; d) women's and girls' views and perceptions of safety or lack of safety; e) views of other stakeholders regarding the violence in urban spaces and the response given by the local and national stakeholders; f) opportunities for better coordination among local and national stakeholders in a direction of prevention of violence in urban places; and g) relevant national and local policies and programmes, on-going initiatives as well as other resources and available data. The report should include key recommendations on building safer and gender sensitive communities for women and girls.

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<sup>2</sup>Reactor – Research in action, 2012, Scoping study on gender based violence and discrimination against women and girls in urban public spaces of the City of

Skopje <http://www.reactor.org.mk/CMS/Files/Publications/Documents/scoping%20study%20%20VAW%20public%20spaces%20Skopje.pdf>

- **A multimedia site of the scoping study** with multimedia evidence particularly encouraged, including but not limited to photographs, maps, clips, recordings, which should be integral part of the scoping study report and made available on the multimedia site (in full respect of confidentiality of all respondents, and other ethical and safety standards).
- **Advocacy strategy** which details advocacy interventions and engagement increased prevention and adequate regulation of all forms of gender-based violence, based on scoping study data

## V. Duration of project

October 2017 – August 2018 (tentatively)

## VI. Budget Request

The proposed intervention size and budget request will have to fall between a minimum indicative amount of EUR 10.000 and a maximum amount of EUR 25.000. The budget should be developed in the local currency. 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>.

Proposals cannot exceed the maximum amount set for this call, EUR 25.000.

## VII. 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 Responsible Party 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 standard procedures and manuals.

## VIII. 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 10:00 – 12:00 at UNDP/UNFPA/UNRC Office at Jordan Hadzi-Konstantinov Dzinot n. 23, 1000 Skopje, in which additional clarifications can be provided on the Application process. Kindly communicate your interest in participating at: [info.mk@unwomen.org](mailto:info.mk@unwomen.org).

## Annex I

### Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals

#### Annex I. Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals

##### I. Who can apply

- Women's CSOs/women's CSOs networks , platforms and think-thanks that have specialized knowledge, expertise, and track record of working on women's human rights and ending violence against women;
- Civil society organizations working on gender equality and women's empowerment with track record of conducting research and advocacy on ending discrimination and violence against women.

All applicants must be legally registered in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

##### Important notes:

- Each application can only be submitted by a single organization.
- Proposals from more than one organization or entity must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.
- Transfer of funds by the Applicant Organization to UN Agencies, private sector entities, International NGOs and International Organizations will not be allowed.
- UN Women will sign contracts with and disburse funds to the applicant organization only.
- Eligible organizations currently partnering with UN Women may apply under this call for proposals.

##### Non-eligible applicant organizations

The following are **NOT eligible** to apply to this call for proposal:

- Government agencies or institutions
- UN agencies
- International CSOs
- Bilateral or multilateral organizations, financial institutions, development agencies
- Private sector entities
- Private individuals
- CSOs which do not have any experience working on gender equality and women's empowerment.

##### II. What to submit

Eligible applicants are expected to submit the followings in English:

**1. General Information** including name of organization, contact person and contact details (see Annex I - Application Cover Sheet).

##### **2. Project proposal**

A narrative proposal consisting of:

- Context and problem analysis
- Project Design & Justification: A description of the approach to conduct Scoping Study on gender-based

violence in public spaces as described in the Terms of Reference, including the description of why and how your organization/ institution is best suited to undertake this endeavor;

- Workplan with detailed activities and resources required (see financial proposal);
- Partnerships: A description of the partners needed to successfully implement the project and their roles
- Institutional profile: A brief description of your institution/ organization, including its registration details and relevant experience addressing issues pertaining to gender equality and ending violence against women and girls;
- An output-based budget–i.e. budget showing how much is required for each activity to achieve each output. The administrative/indirect cost should not exceed 7% of the total budget. Maximum budget of the proposal should not exceed the amount of Euro 25.000.

### **3. A copy of the organization’s legal registration document**

**4. Supporting documents** such as your organizational brochures, annual reports and audit reports from the past three years.

### **III. Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals passing the eligibility criteria (see above) will be scored against the following:

1. Relevance of the proposal **(20 points)**: quality of the context analysis and assessment;
2. Implementation strategies **(30 points)**: Soundness of strategy, proposed activities, and expected results against the problem analysis in designing the project; rights based approach; strategic partnership;
3. Budget Proposal **(20 points)**; and
4. Applicants’ institutional capacity and relevant experience **(30 points)**

**Minimum score to be eligible is 70 points.**

Only applicants passing the minimum score will be contacted after October 2<sup>nd</sup>2017 to proceed with shortlisting and a capacity assessment review. During the capacity assessment review, the applicant will be requested to submit documents demonstrating the organization’s technical capacity, governance and management structure, financial and administrative management.

### **IV. When is the proposal due**

The deadline for submission of proposals is **18 September 2017, 17:00 (Skopje local time)**. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

### **V. To whom should the proposal be sent**

Please send all required application documents in one email to [info.mk@nwomen.org](mailto:info.mk@nwomen.org), indicating in the e-mail subject: EAW Macedonia–CfP Scoping study

UN Women will acknowledge receipt of the applications through a confirmation e-mail. Only those short listed shall be considered and further contacted.

**This Call for Proposals does not entail any commitment on the part of UN-Women, financial or otherwise. UN-Women reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Call for Proposal without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the reasons.**

## Annex II. Application Cover Sheet

### 1. General Information

<b>Name of Organization</b>	
<b>Contact Person</b>	
<b>Contact Information</b>	Address:
	Tel:
	Email:
<b>Organization Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-government organization <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify):
<b>Is your organization legally registered in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  If you have responded yes, please attach a copy of your registration document to the application
<b>Institutional profile</b> <b>MANDATORY</b>	A brief description of the organization, including its registration details and relevant experience working on the thematic issues proposed; familiarity with international commitments on VAWG, experience in research on women's rights and gender equality  Capacities and experiences of key staff members
<b>Total requested budget</b>	All currency exchanges will be calculated using the UN Operational Exchange Rate as per the date of submission of proposal, available at <a href="https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php">https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php</a>



## Annex III. Project Proposal Template

The project proposal should cover minimum the following:

### I. Context and Problem Analysis

### II. Project Description

### III. Project detailed activities and implementation strategies

Describe how your proposal is planning to achieve the results mentioned above

### IV. Project Partnerships

- Describe the key networks/stakeholders/groups/communities with which you will partner/ engage with for the implementation of your proposed project and explain why.
- How do you anticipate working collectively with these networks/stakeholders/groups?
- How do these partnerships complement or build upon previous efforts/initiatives?

### V. Technical Expertise

Describe why the Applicant Organization is qualified to implement the proposed project. Include mention of the expertise and added value the implementing partners will bring.

- What past programme experience **handling project and initiatives of similar nature as the one in this Call for Proposals** can support the Applicant's likelihood of delivering results?
- What evidence can you provide on the Applicant's substantive thematic expertise in conducting researches in the field of ending discrimination and violence against women?
- What evidence can you provide about the networks and relations the Applicant has established with the stakeholders necessary to the success of the project?
- What evidence you can provide on engagement and cooperation with the local and national institutions?

### VI. Detailed Budget (see Annex IV)

Please detail budget in the narrative and attach it in and excel sheet.

Also add a narrative of the budget.

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO ATTACH THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN ANNEX I**

## Annex IV. Workplan and Budget

Workplan & Budget						
<b>Outcome</b>						
1. Women's voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention						
<b>Output 1.1</b>	Strengthened capacities of women CSOs platforms and or networks as a vehicle to support women's civic engagement in CEDAW and Istanbul Convention monitoring and reporting					
<b>Indicator 1. a</b>	Number of supported national networks of women's civil society organizations, including those representing women from disadvantaged groups, that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention <u>at country level</u>					
<b>Baseline (2017)</b>	0					
<b>Target (2018)</b>	1					
<b>Means of verification</b>	Project report					
<b>Planned Activities</b> (List all activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated results)	<b>Timeframe</b>				<b>Budget</b>	
	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Budget Description</b> (means required E.g. travel, consultant, conference)	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Support costs</b>						

