

**Call for Applications for Small Grants
for Women-Led Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Human Rights CSOs**

**Under the “Building democratic, peaceful & gender-equal society in Ukraine” Project
implemented by UN Women**

Advertisement No. UKR- SG –2020- 001

Issue date: 14 October 2020

Application deadline: 4 November 2020 by midnight Ukraine local time

Information meeting to be held on-line on 22 October 2020 between 10.00-11.30 a.m. Please register for the meeting from the following link:

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpc-qgrz4rHtJDMecTXURVuQO5LaZ8cALd>

The link to the online meeting will only be provided to the registered participants.

Minimum budget: USD 2,500

Maximum budget: USD 20,000

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Ukraine Office plans to award Small Grants to eligible Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the range of USD 2,500 to USD 20,000. Small Grants are intended exclusively to finance a limited range of eligible activities to support the development or strengthening of women-led CSOs’ and human rights CSOs’ institutional capacities. UN Women invites eligible applicants to submit Small Grants applications for the eligible activities, as elaborated in this advertisement. UN Women will consider awarding several Small Grants.

This advertisement forms the basis for applying for Small Grants. It must neither be construed as a Small Grant agreement nor as a confirmation of a Small Grant awarded by UN Women to any entity. Consequently, UN Women is not liable for any financial obligations, or otherwise, incurred by any entity in responding to this advertisement. UN Women will not approve such costs as part of any Small Grant budget, and an awardee must not use the Small Grant to cover such costs.

UN Women solicits applications for Small Grants for institutional capacity development or strengthening from women-led CSOs¹ and human rights CSOs legally established and operating in Ukraine working in the field of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and/or gender-responsive Covid-19 response and recovery, covering at least one of the below specific areas:

- Women’s leadership and participation in the WPS Agenda at the local, regional and national levels;
- Women-led peacebuilding, peaceful co-existence and/or social cohesion;
- Conflict-related sexual violence;

¹ Women-led civil society organizations are those CSOs which are managed and led by women and serve primarily the interests of women and/or girls.

- Gender-responsive Covid-19 response and recovery for the benefit of vulnerable groups of women, facing multiple forms of discrimination in at least one of the of the following regions: Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

The applications should only address the development or strengthening of women-led CSOs' and human rights CSOs' institutional capacities.

This call for applications is launched in the context of the Building Democratic, Peaceful & Gender-Equal Society in Ukraine project implemented by UN Women Ukraine with the financial support of Norway.

CSOs wishing to apply to this Call for Applications are requested to send their submission through email at the following address: unwomen.ukraine@unwomen.org

UN Women will not consider applications sent by any other means or to different addresses.

Applications must be submitted in English. Any application not submitted in the specified working language will be excluded from consideration.

Proposals received after the deadline may not be accepted for consideration.

1. Introduction and Background

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, 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, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the center 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 support to Member States' efforts and priorities in meeting their gender equality goals and for building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

UN Women Ukraine implements its Country Strategy for 2018-2022, covering the following thematic areas:

- 1) Making gender equality priorities central to national reforms, governance, planning and budgeting;
- 2) Ending violence against women and girls; and
- 3) Strengthening implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

Ukraine has exerted considerable efforts to address gender inequalities pervasive at all levels of society. Political and institutional changes were introduced to strengthen the national gender mechanisms and mainstream gender equality in the national reforms. The most significant recent developments are the enactment of national reforms and the adoption of strategic documents aiming at eliminating gender-based discrimination and inequalities, such as: National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on WPS for 2016-2020 and its mid-term review; State Programme on Equal Rights and Opportunities (2017-2020), National Action Plan for the implementation of the Recommendations of CEDAW Committee to the 8th Periodic Report of the Government of Ukraine (2018-2020) and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2017.

Women's leadership and participation are essential for conflict prevention, the stabilization of societies and the establishment of sustainable peace. Women-led CSOs and human-rights CSOs have a key role in these efforts.

Since 2018, UN Women implements the Building Democratic, Peaceful & Gender-Equal Society in Ukraine project funded by the Government of Norway, focusing on the implementation of Women, Peace and Security commitments and prevention of gender-based violence in the crisis-affected communities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. The project supports the implementation of WPS commitments at regional and local levels and promotes the participation of women and girls, especially the vulnerable, affected by conflict in recovery, peace and community security planning in Eastern Ukraine.

Globally, Covid-19 outbreak has disproportionately affected women, girls, men and boys. The UN Secretary General re-iterated that women suffer mostly from the armed conflicts, being also most vulnerable

of COVID-19 pandemic². UN Security Council Resolution 2242 recognized health pandemics as part of the peace and security landscape, and highlighted the need for prevention, protection and leadership of women to response and recovery³. Emergency measures for increased security may put at risk women's rights, safety and freedoms. Chances for human rights violations, including gender-based violence and harassment are higher for communities with ongoing military conflicts and social unrest. Lockdowns and security surveillance may cause grave consequences for women's human rights, including with women's underrepresentation in military and policing. Law enforcement officials and military represented mostly by men, are not necessarily sensitive to women's needs and may even expose them to harassment. The shift to online modus operandi also risks narrowing the space for women's civil society organizations to operate and to undertake urgent advocacy and service delivery in support of women's rights⁴.

The Rapid Gender Assessment on the Implications of Covid-19 in Ukraine conducted by UN Women in March-April 2020 demonstrated that all groups of women are exposed to higher risks of losing incomes and savings, experience significantly increased burden of unpaid household work and caring for children and the elderly, and have been exposed to increased incidences of gender-based and domestic violence. Women facing multiple forms of discrimination are at a higher risk of finding themselves in extreme poverty, in food insecurity, trapped in closed spaces with their perpetrators, without or with limited access to basic services and resources. Women's leadership and participation in Covid-19 response and recovery can bring more effective, inclusive and fair policies, programmes, plans and budgets to address the pandemic⁵.

Against this backdrop, in the context of the aforementioned project UN Women intends to provide Small Grants of up to USD 20,000 each to CSOs⁶ operating in fields referred to under section 2, aiming at their capacity building and/or strengthening.

2. Who can apply?

The applicant must be a women-led CSO or a human rights CSO legally established and operating in Ukraine.

The applicant may apply if it:

- is a registered CSO in operation for at least three years;

² UN Secretary-General's policy brief: The impact of COVID-19 on women, 9 April 2020. Available at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>

³ Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2242 (2015) to Improve Implementation of Landmark Text on Women, Peace, Security Agenda. Available at: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12076.doc.htm>

⁴ UN Secretary-General's policy brief: The impact of COVID-19 on women, 9 April 2020. Available at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>

⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-covid-19-and-womens-leadership-en.pdf?la=en&vs=409>

⁶ CSO means non-state, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the State and the market. CSOs represent a wide range of interests and ties. The definition of CSOs includes but are not limited to community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, youth-led organizations, LGBTI organizations, faith-based organizations and academic institutions but the definition of CSOs does not include business or for-profit associations.

- is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List⁷;
- is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
- has not had funding received from UN Women entirely or partly written off by UN Women;
- is not currently engaged as an Implementing Partner (IP) or Responsible Party (RP) for UN Women;
- has not been engaged as an IP/RP for UN Women at any time after 21 November 2019;
- is not a government entity;
- is not a UN organization;
- is not an established CSO with the capacity to be engaged as an Implementing Partner/Responsible Party;
- has sufficient capacity to collaborate with various stakeholders;
- has sufficient financial stewardship, including having adequate financial policies and procedures in place to manage the small grant; and,
- past performance has been deemed satisfactory by UN Women (if it has received small grants previously or been engaged as an IP/RP before 21 November 2019).

The applicant must be operating in one or more of the following areas:

- Women's leadership and participation in the WPS Agenda at the local, regional and national levels;
- Women-led peacebuilding, peaceful co-existence and/or social cohesion;
- Conflict-related sexual violence;
- Gender-responsive Covid-19 response and recovery for the benefit of vulnerable groups of women, facing multiple forms of discrimination in at least one of the of the following regions: Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

3. Eligible activities

The applicant may apply for a small grant to cover the following activities:

- introducing and improving organizational systems, tools, and processes;
- training of workforce in technical and managerial skills; and,
- supporting with equipment such as copiers, scanners, printers, laptops and computers as long as the cost of such equipment is limited to 30% of the proposed small grant budget or USD5,000, whichever is lower.

The purpose of small grants is not to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity.

The implementation of the small grant must be completed by 31 March 2021 for the purposes of this call.

4. Limitations

⁷ <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list>

UN Women's small grants are limited to a maximum of USD 30,000 per CSO per 12-month period and a maximum USD 60,000 for the lifetime of the CSO. The calculation of the maximum grant amount includes all small grants awarded to the CSO from all UN Women Offices.

For the purposes of this call, the maximum amount for the small grant is USD 20,000.

5. Application

An application must contain all relevant information showing that the applicant and the proposed activities are eligible. All applications must be in English. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please use the attached application form (annex I) and the declaration form (annex II) when submitting your application.

UN Women will organize an information meeting open to all interested potential applicants. The meeting will be organized on-line on 22 October 2020 between 10.00-11.30 a.m. Please register for the meeting from the following link:

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpc-qgrz4rHtJDMecTXURVuQO5LaZ8cALd>

The link to the online meeting will only be provided to the registered participants.

Please submit a registration certificate evidencing that the applicant is a registered CSO that has been in operation for three years.

UN Women will reject any application that doesn't contain enough information to show that the application or the activities are eligible.

The application must be received by UN-Women via e-mail at unwomen.ukraine@unwomen.org not later than **4 November 2020** Ukraine midnight time. UN Women will not consider applications sent by any other means or to different addresses. Applications sent by any other means or to different addresses are not considered.

6. Review Criteria

The applicant must:

- propose eligible activities that develop or strengthen the institutional capacity of the applicant and are consistent with this advertisement;
- not propose to use the small grant to provide an activity/output on behalf of UN Women, civil construction work, engineering work, purchases of vehicles or other tangible or intangible property, except for copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
- not propose to use more than 30% of the small grant or USD5000, whichever is lower, to purchase copiers, scanners, printers, laptops, and computers;
- propose a timeline and eligible activities that do not extend beyond 31 March 2021, including political, security, logistical considerations;
- not propose to cover its indirect costs/support costs with the small grant;

- not make a direct profit from the small grant;
- not propose to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement;
- propose eligible activities sustainably supporting the applicant;
- propose eligible activities where the applicant has the capacity to reach the target audience; and,
- propose a budget that is cost-effective given the eligible activities, the number of targeted beneficiaries, and the proposed location.

7. **Award**

UN Women will evaluate applications that meet all the criteria. UN Women will award the Small Grants to the applicants that best contributes to the objectives referred to under this call. Successful applicants are informed in writing of UN Women’s decision to award the Small Grant. The award is conditional on the applicant agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth in UN Women’s Small Grant Agreement and the award is automatically rescinded if the applicant doesn’t agree to these terms and conditions.

Annex I Application Form

Advertisement No. UKR- SG –2020- 001

CSO/Applicant details	
Name and registration number (Please submit proof of registration)	
Mandate of the CSO	
CSO staff focal point and alternate	<i>(Please insert full name, title, e-mail address, telephone number)</i>
Application details	
Proposal title	
Small Grant Amount	<i>(Please provide the amount in Turkish Liras)</i>
Duration and proposed start date	<i>(Please state the duration in months)</i>
Background	
Main objectives/Results to achieve	

Thematic Focus and Priorities	
Geographical area	
Activities (list them 1.,2.,) and related expected timeframe	
How are the activities supporting the development or strengthening of the CSO's institutional capacity?	

Annex II: Declaration by the Authorized Representative of the Applicant Organization:

Through submitting this application, I confirm that:

- a) The Organization is not on the Consolidated UN Security Council Sanctions List;
- b) The Organization is not being investigated for fraud, corruption, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or other wrongdoing;
- c) The Organization is not currently engaged as a Partner of UN Women through a Project Cooperation Agreement;
- d) The proposal for the small grant does not aim to cover the Support Costs of a project implemented by the Organization;
- e) The Organization will not make a direct profit from the small grant;
- f) The Organization is not proposing to cover costs incurred or committed prior to a signed Small Grant Agreement.

Date:

Name:

Stamp and signature:

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