



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 2
- Purpose:** Selection of qualified Responsible Parties to contribute to the achievement of Specific Objective 2: *“To promote favourable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination of and violence against women.”*
- 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’s 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 promotion of favorable social norms fostering gender equality, prevention of gender based violence and discrimination and innovative approaches to challenging gender stereotypes, 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 survivors, 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 VAW is not tolerated; (2) In order to strengthen prevention, addressing the root and structural causes of gender inequality, and VAW as one of its most pervasive expressions, a transformative change in society and is required, as well as changing communities' beliefs and perceptions on discriminatory gender stereotypes; (3) For the purpose of reinforcing protection and response to VAW, 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' side.

The abovementioned 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 on ending 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. More specifically, the project will contribute to the programme Specific Objective 2: *“To promote favourable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination of and violence against women.”*

Different studies analyzing the way masculinities are perceived in BiH have shown that exposure to domestic violence, the media, and feeling of social isolation and inadequacy are linked with boys and their use of violence. They also found that men and boys identify a crisis of masculinity with the loss of status due to unemployment and lack of means to provide for the family, driving feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem, as well as the expectations of masculine behaviour and peer pressure. Other findings indicate men’s and women’s stereotypical attitudes towards gender equality and VAWG and what it means to be a man and what means to be a woman. The fact that men and women, boys and girls, condone violence as socially acceptable behavior is alarming and requires a more concerted effort to achieve a change in attitude.

To this end, the approach towards behavioral change is planned to include innovative solutions in line with a regional methodology called the Gender Action Lab (Gender Lab) as a space for generation of new ideas in fighting gender stereotypes, using new tools that incorporate interpersonal communication, community mobilization, media and policy advocacy. The Gender Lab will eventually bring about its own methods and approach to social innovation in each of the participating countries - defined as the framework to increase the adoption of evidence-based practices among professionals and institutions, and as a core skill for public sector workers, including communication and advocacy professionals. The Gender Lab will be a regionally-driven approach further designed and tested at the country level.

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. CSOs, 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 survivors 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 behavioural and attitudinal changes for tackling the structural barriers to gender equality and ending VAWG.

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

Women, girls, men and boys at community and individual level have a better understanding and acceptance of gender equality.

CSOs with expertise and proven experience in prevention of VAWG and domestic violence, are invited to submit proposals, individually or jointly with other organizations, to design and implement a project that will incorporate the idea of the gender innovation facility and showcase its replication potentials. Implementing partners are invited to submit their proposals targeting any of the levels of government in BiH, with the main focus on entity, cantonal/regional and local level.

IV. Proposed and Expected Results

In order to contribute to achieving the **Result - Women, girls, men and boys at community and individual level have a better understanding and acceptance of gender equality**, under Specific objective 2, proposals should focus on the following areas of work:

- a) Design and implement innovative awareness-raising initiatives to address negative attitudes and stereotyping resulting in discrimination, taking into consideration disadvantaged groups of women;
- b) Mobilize different stakeholders at the community level (local governments, CSOs, private sector, education sector and other interest groups) through awareness-raising initiatives on challenging gender stereotypes.

Suggested actions/deliverables:

- At least one new initiative aimed at transforming gender norms and stereotypical attitudes resulting in discrimination
- Advocacy plan on how to mobilize different stakeholders to promote gender transformative attitudes
- Awareness-raising activities using new technologies to encourage change of attitudes among youth, focusing on girls and boys equally
- At least one campaign on challenging gender stereotypes targeting different stakeholders (communities, private sector, CSOs, government, and other institutions)

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 spans October 2017-December 2019. (tentatively)

VII. Further Details about the Proposal

In addition to outlining detailed activities to achieve programme Specific Objective 2: *“To promote favourable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination of and violence against women”* 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).

VIII. Budget Request

CSOs can submit more than one proposal, but only one proposal will be funded. 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 Implementing Partner. 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 Implementing Partner 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.