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### ***CALL FOR PROPOSALS***

<b>Project Title:</b>	Support of Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence
<b>Purpose:</b>	Selection of qualified Responsible Party for the Programme
<b>Duration:</b>	01 July 2018 – 31 October 2019 (tentatively)
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement
<b>Location:</b>	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<b>Reference n.</b>	CfP 08/2017 UNW
<b>Deadline for submissions:</b>	25 May 2018

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting civil society organizations (CSOs) that work on promoting Roma women's rights and gender equality to submit proposals to support Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence.

The proposal will contribute to the implementation of the programme "Ending Discrimination and Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds" in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### I. Background

Roma make up Europe's largest ethnic minority and have for centuries formed an integral part of European society<sup>1</sup>. But despite efforts at national, European and international level to improve the protection of their fundamental rights and advance their social inclusion, many Roma still face severe poverty, profound social exclusion, discrimination and barriers to exercising their fundamental rights<sup>2</sup>. According to the Census from 2002, there are 53,879 Roma living in FYR Macedonia, representing 2,66% of the total population<sup>3</sup>. Although school attendance of Roma children is increasing, still the educational attainment of Roma is lower than among non-Roma population<sup>4</sup>. Further, according to the latest estimates 49% of Roma population is unemployed against 9% among non-Roma<sup>5</sup>.

Roma women experience multiple discrimination which keep them on the margins of the society. Low educational achievement, high rates of irregular attendance and school dropouts, high unemployment rates and poor employment opportunities deprive Roma women and girls of realistic possibilities for integration and full participation in society<sup>6</sup>. Lack of personal documents hinders the possibility for many Roma women and/or girls to access education, health care, employment and other related services<sup>7</sup>. Many of them face forced begging, early marriages and are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and trafficking.

Despite the political commitments, Roma women represent one of the most vulnerable groups in the country. Gender gap persist almost at all levels, 62% of Roma girls and 76% of Roma boys have completed primary and lower secondary education<sup>8</sup>, 58% of Roma women and 45% of Roma men are unemployed<sup>9</sup>. Roma women have significant lower level of property and income than the rest of the population. Roma children face segregation at school, while many Roma families live in deprived and segregated areas with poor quality housing, lack of basic services<sup>10</sup>.

In FYR Macedonia anti-discrimination and equal opportunities are regulated in the national legislation through the Law on anti-discrimination<sup>11</sup> (currently under revision) and the Law on equal opportunities of women and men Law on equal opportunities of women and men<sup>12</sup>. The country was a member of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and has developed a National Strategy for Roma 2016-2020, National Action Plans for health, housing, education and employment of Roma and a National Action Plan for empowerment of Roma women in the society.

Violence against women or gender-based violence affects women of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, but Roma women face additional barriers in accessing information, services and protection from violence. Low socio – economic status and educational status of Roma women, coupled with the traditional values and norms expose Roma women at higher risk of intimate partner violence and domestic violence.

Child marriages are widespread among Roma population. According to World bank and UNDP estimates based on unweighted 2011 and 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Surveys, 33% of Roma women aged 20 – 49, have been married before the age of 18, while the percentage among Non-Roma women is around 10%<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; Roma survey – Data in focus Poverty and employment: the situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacii/knigal.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Completion rate of primary and lower secondary education among Roma is 68% against 93% among non- Roma; while the completion of upper secondary education is 31% of Roma population against 87% of Non- Roma. Regional survey on the socio-economic position and living conditions of Roma in the Western Balkans, UNDP, World Bank, funded by the EU (printed paper, accessed 3 May 2018)

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem

<sup>6</sup> Chichevaliev S., Jasharova S., et al (2016). Roma Women Research: Macedonia. Madrid: Kamira Foundation and Skopje: LIL

<sup>7</sup> Ibidem

<sup>8</sup> Regional survey on the socio-economic position and living conditions of Roma in the Western Balkans, UNDP, World Bank, funded by the EU (printed paper, accessed 3 May 2018)

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem

<sup>10</sup> Ibidem

<sup>11</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 50/2010

<sup>12</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.6 / 2012

<sup>13</sup> Regional survey on the socio-economic position and living conditions of Roma in the Western Balkans, UNDP, World Bank, funded by the EU (printed paper, accessed 3 May 2018)

The latest publicly available study on prevalence of violence among Roma women in the FYR Macedonia, portrayed an alarming situation with very high rates of reported experience with physical, psychological and sexual violence<sup>14</sup>. Namely, 71 percent of women report experience with psychological, physical, or sexual violence<sup>15</sup>. Physical violence was reported at a rate of 56.5 percent, while 30.5 percent of respondents reporting at least one form of severe violence<sup>16</sup>. Of the ten percent of women who reported experiencing sexual violence, all of them also experienced either psychological or physical violence, or both, indicating significant overlap in types of violence<sup>17</sup>.

When examining the prevailed attitudes and beliefs, 15 percent of women in FYR Macedonia aged 15-49 years believe that a husband is justified in beating the wife/partner in specific circumstances, but 25 percent of the women in Roma settlements in FYR Macedonia feel that a husband/partner has a right to hit or beat his wife/partner for at least one of a variety of reasons<sup>18</sup>.

On the other hand, Roma women do not report the violence very often as a result of fear of partner, lack of information on available services, patriarchal beliefs related to violence against women, economic dependence or family pressures. Furthermore, a historical legacy of rampant discrimination which persists to this day has left the Roma with a deep-seated distrust of institutions, along with an understandable reluctance to access them<sup>19</sup>. Although a host of barriers prevents Roma women living with violence from seeking help, the agencies mandated to provide protection to survivors and assistance have done little to alleviate these difficulties and ensure that their services are available to all women<sup>20</sup>.

“Ending Violence Against Women: Implementing norms, changing minds” is a UN Women three years programme funded by the European Commission (EC), which aims to support a reduction in discrimination and violence against women and girls in the Western Balkan (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia) and Turkey.

The programme is anchored in CEDAW (spell down), and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as Istanbul Convention) and is aligned with the European Union (EU) accession standards to achieve equality between women and men. The programme contributes to Outcome 5 of the UN Partnership for Sustainable Development (2016-2020).

The 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 empowers women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination or violence to advocate for and use available, accessible, and quality services.

## **II. Objective of UN Women’s support**

This CfP is framed within the programme “Ending Violence against Women and Girls in six Western Balkan countries and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.” More specifically, this CfP falls under the programme Specific Objective 3: “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.”

It is expected that the project(s) to be implemented under this CfP contribute to the Result 3.3 “Better access to and improved service provision for women from minority or disadvantaged groups.

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<sup>14</sup> Partner Violence among the Roma Population in the Republic of Macedonia and the Response of the Public Sector, 2009, Association of Citizens Sumnal

<sup>15</sup> Ibidem

<sup>16</sup> Ibidem

<sup>17</sup> Ibidem

<sup>18</sup> MULTIPLE indicator cluster survey: 2011. - Skopje: Ministry of health, Ministry of education and science; Ministry of labor and social policy;

<sup>19</sup> Partner Violence among the Roma Population in the Republic of Macedonia and the Response of the Public Sector, 2009, Association of Citizens Sumnal

<sup>20</sup> Ibidem

Within this context UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals (CfP) to select a Civil Society Organization as Responsible Party to support Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence.

It is expected that the project will contribute to:

- 1) Improved prevention and encouraged Roma women and girls to report incidents of violence through raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts;
- 2) Empowering and mobilization of Roma women to act as agents of change in their communities;
- 3) Enhanced protection of Roma women survivors of violence, through provision of specialized services, improved referral and coordination among service providers;
- 4) Strengthened advocacy for changes in policies and institutional approaches to respond to violence against Roma women.

### **III. Scope of the Call for Proposal**

To empower Roma women and girls who have experienced discrimination or violence to advocate for and use available, accessible and quality services, UN Women is opening a Call for selection of a Civil Society organization that will support Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence.

The CfP envisages the following:

- Empowering Roma women and girls to identify and report cases of discrimination and forms of violence against them;
- Mapping the existing services for survivors of gender based-violence on the territory of the target municipality/municipalities with conclusions and recommendations;
- Providing access to specialist services (ex. legal aid and representation in courts of Roma women survivors of gender-based violence and or discrimination) and referrals;
- Improved referrals to relevant institutions dealing with gender-based violence that are survivor-oriented and take into account the different needs of Roma women and girls;
- Advocacy for establishing and/ or providing sustainability of a service for survivors of gender-based violence in targeted municipality/ties;
- Raising public awareness about violence against women and girls by campaigning at local and/ or regional level (street actions, concerts, social media campaigns) and involvement of religious leaders, local media, private sector, opinion makers in the actions.

### **IV. Deliverables**

It is expected that the Responsible Party will produce, inter alia:

- Training programme/modules for anti – discrimination and gender-based violence intended for Roma women and girls;
- Training on gender equality, anti-discrimination, gender-based violence for Roma community members;
- Report on the mapping of the existing services for victims of domestic violence;
- Reports on the provision of specialist services to survivors of gender-based violence and referrals;
- Minutes from the working meetings, workshops, discussions;
- Local outreach initiatives on prevention aiming at ending violence against women.

### **V. Duration of project**

July 2018 – October 2019 (tentatively)

### **VI. Budget Request**

The proposed intervention size and budget request will have to fall between a minimum indicative amount of USD 40.000 and a maximum amount of USD 47.000. 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 USD 47.000.

## **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 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.

## **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.