



This Programme is funded by the European Union



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- Project Title:** Support the **establishment and strengthening of regional platforms of civil society organizations** (with special focus on organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups) to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, under the Programme *“Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”*
- Purpose:** Selection of qualified responsible party for the Programme
- Duration:** August 2017 – August 2018 (tentatively)
- Contract Type:** Project Cooperation Agreement

Deadline for submissions: 20 July 2017

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women civil society organizations (CSOs), women CSOs networks and platforms promoting women’s rights and gender equality to submit proposals to strengthen existing networks and platforms, or to establish new ones to support women’s voice and agency to monitor, report on and advocate for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as Istanbul Convention) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in six Western Balkan Countries and Turkey.

Terms of Reference

I. Background

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. In 1992, the Committee adopted general recommendation 19 on violence against women, asking State parties to include in their periodic reports to the Committee statistical data on the incidence of violence against women, information on the provision of services for victims, and legislative and other measures taken to protect women against violence in their everyday lives, including against harassment at the workplace, abuse in the family and sexual violence¹.

The Istanbul Convention (IC) 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 IC 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 NGOs will be treated as confidential by GREVIO.

Overall, the capacity of women's organisations in the region to hold governments accountable to their gender equality commitments and monitor government activities and spending from a gender equality perspective needs to be improved through technical support, sustainable funding, creating networking opportunities and regional solidarity. In particular, it would be most useful to create regional issue-based coalitions of existing national or regional women's organizations in order to maximize resources, develop and implement common advocacy, actions plans or projects.

Women's organisations are crucial partners for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights both in terms of advocacy and of service provision. Support for regional coalitions and networks has been proven of great value in terms of creating a regional dynamic for change, exchange of good practice, encouraging synergies and cooperation and creating common tools that could then be applied at the national and local level.

II. Objective of UN Women's support

The support to the establishment and strengthening of regional platforms of civil society organizations (with special focus on organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups) to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention will contribute to the creation of an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination.

The Call for Proposals falls under the Programme "*Ending violence against women and girls: Implementing norms, changing minds*" (February 2017- January 2020). The Programme aims at ending gender based discrimination and violence against women, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in six Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo², FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) and Turkey. The Programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention³, and also in alignment

¹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/recomm.htm>

² All references to Kosovo in this communication shall be understood in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

³ Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

with EU accession standards. The Programme is funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II.

III. Scope of the project

The Programme builds on the strong links of UN Women and the EU with women civil society organizations (CSOs) in the region, placing the Programme in a strategic position to assist women in their drive for rights as citizens. Civil society, 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 commitments 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 behavioural and attitudinal changes for tackling the structural barriers to gender equality and ending violence against women.

The implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on violence is seen as an opportunity and the necessity in the region. Sustainable support to women's regional coalitions, networks and platforms, including those providing services on ending violence against women and representing disadvantaged women is crucial to exchange good practice, devise actions plans and produce common tools that can ensure both enhanced impact and the maximization of resources.

The overall goal of this Call for Proposals is to strengthen women's voice and agency, including of women's organizations working with and or representing women from disadvantaged groups, at regional level.

The expected result of the project is **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.**

IV. Deliverables

It is expected that through the proposed interventions the targeted women's CSOs will be able to jointly produce, inter alia:

- Mapping of existing active networks (formal or informal), working in the area of gender equality and violence against women, including those working with or representing women refugees and other disadvantaged group of women at regional level;
- Assessment of women's organizations/CSOs' practices and attitudes in regard to networking, as well as individual women organizations/CSO's level of willingness to engage in networking at regional level;
- Assessment of barriers (if any) preventing women from minorities and disadvantaged groups to proactively participate in civic engagement and within existing coalitions, networks and platforms at regional level;
- At least 2 two-day training session targeting CSOs operating at regional level to improve their understanding of Istanbul Convention;
- Two (2) year Action Plan for the supported existing or established network/platform ;
- At least two joint statements on the implementation of Istanbul Convention at regional level as a result of project interventions by supported network(s)/platforms(s);
- Efficient documentation and structured information sharing mechanisms for advocacy in place;
- One (1) short video (minimum 4 minutes) on the added value of women's regional platforms/coalitions joint action;
- Preparation of a paper to be presented during the *Regional Forum for the Promotion and Monitoring Progress of the Implementation of Istanbul Convention in six Western Balkan countries and Turkey (end of 2017)*;

- Report on participation in at least one event related to gender equality and ending violence against women in the region organized by a regional institution;
- A case study is produced and published that can be used as a tool for learning best practices as well as in mobilizing resources for the supported platform/organizations;
- Report on at least two virtual meetings between the supported regional platform/network within this Call for Proposals and other supported women's CSOs and networks through the Programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds" for better synergies, cooperation and coordination.

V. Duration of project

From August 2017 to August 2018 (tentatively)

VI. Budget Request

The proposed intervention size and budget request will have to fall between a minimum indicative amount of EUR 40.000 and a maximum amount of EUR 60.000. All currency exchanges will be calculated using the UN Operational Exchange Rate as per the date of submission of proposal. For May 2017, UNORE Exchange rate is 1USD:0.94EUR.

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 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.

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.

Annex I. Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals

I. Who can apply

- **Women's CSOs, women's CSOs networks and platforms** that have specialized knowledge, expertise and track record of working in women's human rights and ending violence against women
- **Women's CSOs/ Women's CSOs network and platforms** with track record in monitoring international human rights treaties and conventions, and more specifically Istanbul Convention.

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 the Regional Forum 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, including its registration details and relevant experience addressing issues pertaining to an intersectional approach 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 amount of Euro 60.000.

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;
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 by June 20, 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 **20 July 2017, 23:00 (Ankara 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 eca.evawproject@unwomen.org indicating in the e-mail subject: **EVAW - CfP Regional Platforms**.

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.

WHILE APPLICANTS COULD BE OPERATING AND/OR LEGALLY REGISTERED IN ONE OR MORE COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE PROGRAMME, THE PROPOSAL MUST COVER ALL COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAMME. ONLY PROPOSALS ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL SCOPE OF THE CALL WILL THUS BE CONSIDERED.