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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

<b>Project Title:</b>	Capacity development of CSOs to use human rights-complaint mechanisms to claim women's rights (Optional Protocol to CEDAW) and address gender-based discrimination, under the Programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds"
<b>Purpose:</b>	Selection of qualified Responsible Party for the Programme
<b>Duration:</b>	October 2017 - December 2019 (tentatively)
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Project Cooperation Agreement
<b>Location:</b>	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<b>Reference n:</b>	CfP 01/2017 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 organization (CSOs) that work on promoting and defending human /women's rights and gender equality **to submit proposals to develop CSO's capacities to use human rights- complaint mechanisms to claim women's rights (Optional Protocol to CEDAW) and address gender-based discrimination**, to contribute to the implementation of the Programme Ending Discrimination and Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### I. Background

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. By accepting the convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms.

The Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OP-CEDAW) is an international treaty which establishes complaint and inquiry mechanisms for CEDAW. By ratifying the Optional Protocol, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - the body that monitors State parties' compliance with the Convention -to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a member of CEDAW since 1994 and OP-CEDAW since 2003.

“Ending Violence Against Women: Implementing norms, changing minds” is a UN Women Programme funded by the European Commission, which aims to support elimination of 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).

The three-year programme, i. supports the development of an enabling legislative and policy environment on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination; ii. promotes favorable social norms and attitudes to prevent gender discrimination and violence against women; and iii. 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.

Women's lives are impacted by a myriad of issues such as inequality and gender-based discrimination, the frequent lack of basic services, lack of accountability of States, discriminatory cultural stereotypes, and the impact of harmful practices, which exclude consideration of the rights and experiences of women and differences among women. Within this context, CEDAW is one of the key human rights instruments which provides a forum for demanding realization of women's human rights.

Recommendation no. 9 and no. 13 of the CEDAW Concluding Observations on the fourth and fifth periodic report of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (March 2013) indicated, among others, the need to:

- (a) Continue raising awareness among women about their rights under the Convention and about the communications and inquiry procedures provided by the Optional Protocol (CEDAW OP); and
- (b) Take measures to increase women's awareness of their rights and of the functions of the existing complaints mechanisms so that they are better able to seek redress in cases of sex- and gender-based discrimination;

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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.

Civil society organizations, in particular women's and human rights organizations play a strategically important role in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They are key stakeholders in ensuring that the perspectives and voices of the most excluded and discriminated groups of women are heard by policy-makers. Additionally, women's and human rights organizations are crucial in defending women's rights and providing services to women that experienced different forms of discrimination or violence.

## II. Objective of UN Women's Support

In this context, UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals (CfP) to select a Responsible Party to develop CSOs' capacities to use human rights-complaint mechanisms to claim women's rights under CEDAW and OP-CEDAW and address gender-based discrimination.

Articles 2 and 3 of CEDAW calls on State parties to condemn discrimination against women in "all its forms", and to take appropriate measures in "all fields" to ensure the full development and advancement of women. In line with article 2 and General Recommendation no.28<sup>2</sup>, "CEDAW imposes the principle of due diligence to the State parties, where they have the obligation to prevent and protect women against discrimination by private actors...State parties are under an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to nondiscrimination of women and to ensure the development and advancement of women in order to improve their position and implement their right of de jure and de facto or substantive equality with men...State parties shall ensure that there is neither direct, nor indirect discrimination against women....and shall take wide variety of steps to ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights de jure and de facto, including, where appropriate, the adoption of temporary special measures in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and General Recommendation No. 25."

Although Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been a member of CEDAW since 1994 and signatory of the OP-CEDAW since 2003, OP-CEDAW has been used seldom to claim violations of rights protected under the Convention. Further, there are no known records of communication and inquiry procedures for the country completed by the Committee.<sup>3</sup> Lack of submission of complaints is rarely an indicator of lack of violation of women's rights, it rather signifies lack of sufficient information and knowledge on how this human rights-complaint mechanism can be used by organizations and citizens themselves. Strengthening knowledge on international norms and standards on women human rights, capacitating women's rights activists and lawyers to use litigation to advance women's rights, and addressing gender-based discrimination are key to changing the situation for women claiming their rights.

Thus, the objective of this CfPs is to enable capacity-strengthening of CSOs to use human rights-complaint mechanisms to claim women's rights (OP-CEDAW) and address gender-based discrimination through increasing their knowledge and guidance on how to access and utilize human rights procedures, standards, and mechanisms arising from CEDAW and OP-CEDAW. In this way, defenders of women's human rights will make strategic use of the international human rights system to protect women against discrimination and violence.

The OP-CEDAW provides several benefits for human rights defenders in supporting the implementation of women's human rights, such as: i) creating an accountability mechanism at the international level for failure to meet its obligation under the Convention; ii) affording individuals and groups of women the possibility of an effective remedy where none was available at the national level; iii) identifying specific legislative and policy reforms that must be undertaken by a State which has breached its obligations under the Convention; iv) building jurisprudence that can influence decision making in national courts and by other human rights bodies; v) clarifying the scope and content of the provisions of the convention in the context of a specific factual situation; vi) creating opportunities for targeted capacity building on advocacy and litigation for women's human rights; vii) enabling focused advocacy and awareness raising on CEDAW Concluding recommendations,; and viii) encouraging strategic alliances among CSOs.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See more at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/CEDAW-C-2010-47-GC2.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See more at: <http://juris.ohchr.org/search/results>

<sup>4</sup> See more at: [https://www.escr-net.org/sites/default/files/guide\\_on\\_womens\\_escr\\_-\\_final\\_3.pdf](https://www.escr-net.org/sites/default/files/guide_on_womens_escr_-_final_3.pdf)

Practice shows that CEDAW specific decisions (case law) can contribute to changes in law, policy, and practice at the national level. In many countries worldwide, national laws have been amended after the enactment of CEDAW decision on a specific case, and national courts have ruled by referring to jurisprudence (case law) built, following an OP-CEDAW ruling.

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

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 the CfP falls under the Programme Specific Objective 1: *“To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with the international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination “.*

It is expected that the project to be implemented under this CfP contribute to Result 1.1, *“Women’s voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with the CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.”*

The CfP envisages the following:

- Developing capacities of CSOs to use United Nations Human Rights System (UNHRS), and specifically CEDAW and OP-CEDAW, to advocate and represent women’s human rights in cases of gender-based discrimination and violence;
- Increasing public awareness among women on women human rights and protection mechanisms arising from OP-CEDAW;
- Initiating communication procedure and/or inquiry procedure under the OP.<sup>5</sup>

### **IV. Deliverables**

- Workplan and Methodology for capacity development of CSOs on using the UNHRS (treaties, mechanisms, documents), with specific focus on CEDAW and its OP, for claiming and representing women’s rights;
- Delivery of set of trainings for CSOs and professionals on UNHRS, with specific focus on CEDAW and OP-CEDAW;
- Resource Guide for CSOs and professional organization on how to claim women’s rights by using human rights complaint mechanisms with a focus on the OP-CEDAW, OP-CEDAW Communication Procedure, and OP-CEDAW Inquiry Procedures;
- Awareness raising materials on women’s human rights under international human rights treaties and remedies: brochures, leaflets;
- Reports for the initiation/submitted communication or inquiry procedure to CEDAW Committee.

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

October 2017 –December 2019 (tentatively)

### **VI. Budget Request**

The proposed intervention size and budget request must fall between a minimum indicative amount of EUR 30.000 and a maximum amount of EUR 50.000. 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 50.000.

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<sup>5</sup><http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/whatis.htm>

## **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.**

**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

### 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
- Civil society organizations working on gender equality and women's empowerment with track record of working on human rights defense, 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.
- The applying organization must be legally registered.
- 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 women's rights and/or gender equality.

### 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 (**Annex II. Application Cover Sheet**).

**2. Project proposal (See Annex III. Project Proposal Template)**

A narrative proposal consisting of:

- Context and problem analysis
- Project Design & Justification: A description of the approach to develop CSO's capacities to use human rights-compliant mechanisms to claim women's rights (OP-CEDAW) and address gender-based discrimination as described in the Terms of Reference, including a description of why and how your organization/institution is best suited to undertake this endeavor;
- Workplan with detailed activities;
- 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 human and women's rights violations and multiple discrimination, as pertinent to the

Terms of Reference.

- 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 50.000 (**See Annex IV Workplan& Budget**)

### **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. Workplan & Budget Proposal **(20 points)**
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<sup>th</sup>September 2017, 17:00 (Skopje local time)**. Proposals received after the dead line will not be considered.

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

Please send all required application documents in one email to [info.mk@unwomen.org](mailto:info.mk@unwomen.org), indicating in the e-mail subject: **EVAW - CFP EVAW Human rights-complaint mechanisms**

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 discrimination and/or violence against women and girls, experience on advocating/representing/defending human and women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment both at the national and international levels.  Capacities and experiences of key staff members.
<b>Total requested budget</b>	



## 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.
- Explain how you anticipate working collectively with these networks/stakeholders/groups
- Explain how 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 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 with women from disadvantaged groups and minorities in the country?
- What evidence you can provide on engagement and cooperation with national and local stakeholders and regional or international institutions and organizations?

### 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**

<b>Workplan &amp; Budget</b>						
<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 and regional networks of women’s civil society organizations, including those representing women from disadvantages groups, that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention in the country					
<b>Baseline (2017)</b>	No evidence of use of UN HR Complaint mechanisms to claim women’s rights violations					
<b>Target (2018)</b>	At least one communication procedure to CEDAW Committee on women’s rights violation and gender based discrimination initiated					
<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>						

