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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project Title:	Support Civil Society Organizations advocacy actions for implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic Violence in line with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention under the Programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds"
Purpose:	Selection of qualified responsible partner for the Programme
Duration:	September 2017 – December 2019
Contract Type:	Project Cooperation Agreement
Location:	Kosovo ¹
Deadline for submissions:	September 8 th 2017

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women's organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) promoting women's rights and gender equality and women's rights organizations to submit proposals to support advocacy actions of CSOs to implement the National Strategy on Domestic Violence 2016-2020 in line with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention in Kosovo²

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

² 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.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. Background

UN Women is grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. UN Women 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. 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 strong and coherent leadership in supporting national priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors.

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. The other very important Convention is the Istanbul Convention requires sanctioning by states and obliges states to prevent offences, protect survivors prosecute perpetrators and have integrated policies (through criminal and civil law provisions, improved service delivery, resource allocation, and cultural transformation measures). Even though Kosovo is not a State Party to the Istanbul Convention, Kosovo is included in the territory over which the Convention can be and should be applicable. Kosovo has approved some international obligations by incorporating international standards on human rights as part of its applicable law. This also includes granting the superiority of these international provisions upon cases of contradiction with local legislation. Thus, CEDAW, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as well as the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and its protocols, are directly applicable in Kosovo.

The key role of UN Women in Kosovo was to support the National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence 2016-2020 by playing a coordination role among the stakeholders during the drafting process and by ensuring that the content fully complies with the CEDAW and the Convention of the Council of Europe for Preventing and Combating violence against Women and Girls and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)³. The Istanbul Convention, as an important legal instrument to be considered by the Government of Kosovo when undertaking steps against violence against women and girls and against DV, is considered the first legally binding instrument in Europe and is a treaty with the broadest international influence, establishing a comprehensive legal framework for treating this serious violation of human rights. CEDAW enshrined in Kosovo institutions is one of the key instruments, which requires all states parties to periodically submit reports on the steps that have taken to implement its provisions - a procedure which promotes compliance with the obligations contained in the Convention.

In this context the proposed programme *"Implementing norms, changing minds"* is anchored in the normative frameworks of the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), and is in alignment with the European Union (EU) accession standards on gender equality.

The programme *"Implementing norms, changing minds"* (February 2017- January 2020) aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women, with a focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in six Western Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo⁴, and Serbia – and Turkey. The programme is funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance (IPA).

⁴ 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.

In Kosovo the programme will: (i) support the development of an enabling legislative and policy environment on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination; (ii) promote favorable social norms and attitudes to prevent gender discrimination and violence against women; and (iii) pursue 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. This programme *"Implementing norms, changing minds"* (February 2017- January 2020) aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women, with a focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in six Western Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo⁵, and Serbia – and Turkey. The programme is funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance (IPA) II.

Some of the main recommendations deriving from the National Strategy is revision of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, the Law on Family and Criminal Code in order to stop alternative resolutions of disputes in Domestic Violence cases, in accordance with Article 48 of the Council of Europe Convention. Many studies conducted in the last two years identify the need to start drafting amendments to the Criminal Code where Domestic Violence is defined as a criminal act, based particularly on recommendations of the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

In this regard, UN Women will remain strongly involved to ensure the strategy's effective implementation in the next four years by working specifically with service providers and CSOs on building their capacities in order to advocate on improving existing legislation in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.

II. Objective of UN Women's support

The ultimate goal of the three-year programme is that women and girls live a life free of discrimination and violence. The programme aims at reducing intersectional discrimination and violence against women and girls in six Western Balkan countries and Turkey, anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and is also in alignment with European Union (EU) accession standards.

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. *Creating an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination*. The programme (February 2017- January 2020) 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 and Turkey. Funded by the European Commission (EC) within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II, the Programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, is and in alignment with the EU accession standards.

In this context, UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals (CfP) to select a responsible party to:

- Support CSOs on designing and implementing advocacy initiatives on implementation of the National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence in line with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention; and
- Strengthen CSOs' voices on advocating for specific policy changes (revision of legislation) with regard to sustainable funding for shelters, housing for DV survivors, etc.

III. Scope of the Project

The programme builds on the strong links of UN Women and the EU with CSOs in Kosovo, placing the envisioned interventions in a strategic position to assist women in their drive for rights as citizens. Civil society, in particular women's organizations, plays a crucial role in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights in Kosovo. They 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 behavioral and attitudinal changes for tackling the structural barriers to gender equality and ending violence against women.

As shown by the experiences gained and lessons learned from the previous UNKT Joint Program in Kosovo implemented since 2011, women's organizations are strong advocates and their role is essential in improving the existing legislation in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, women's organizations are instrumental in bringing to the attention of policy makers the perspective and voices of all women and in particular rural women and disadvantaged groups of women. Finally, women's organizations are very active in terms of their networks, outreach and innovation - to facilitating the required behavioral and attitudinal changes for tackling the structural barriers to gender equality and ending violence against women.

It is expected that the project(s) to be implemented under this CfP contribute to the following results:

- **Result 1.1:** 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
- **Indicator 1.1.a:** Number of supported national networks of women's civil society organizations, including those representing women from disadvantaged groups, that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention in Kosovo
- **Activity 1.1.1:** Support CSOs advocacy actions for implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic Violence and ending VAW in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention

IV. Deliverables

It is expected that through the support the selected responsible party will be able to jointly produce, inter alia:

- Mapping of existing active CSOs working on the area of gender equality and violence against women in Kosovo, including those working with or representing minority groups and other disadvantaged group of women;
- With the support of the local and international expertise develop a legal education guide based on the National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence 2016-2020 in Kosovo for CSOs on CEDAW and Istanbul Convention to support monitoring the implementation of the Strategy in line with CEDAW Convention and Istanbul Convention ;
- Provide capacity development training and awareness raising sessions for CSOs to improve their understanding of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention;
- Organize awareness raising sessions for women's CSOs to improve their understanding of CEDAW and Istanbul Convention based on the legal guide developed as required above;

- Organize capacity building sessions on reporting mechanism so they can provide information on shortcomings of this implementation to the relevant institutions reporting mechanism (inter-ministerial group under Office of National Coordinator/Ministry of Justice) ;
- The report on data collection and analysis on the implementation of NSAPDV 2016-2020 with specific focus on service for GBV/DV survivors to inform monitoring report of the Office of National Coordinator under Ministry of Justice;
- Develop and undertake at least two joint advocacy actions on the implementation of the National Strategy Against Domestic Violence 2016-2020 in line with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention on a specific topic, advocating for specific policy changes (revision of the legislation) with regard to sustainable funding for shelters, housing for Domestic Violence survivors and other as required/decided by women NGOs;
- Draft a report with recommendations to be addresses to the Office of National Coordinator and presented in front of inter-ministerial group under the Office of National Coordinator;
- A one year a follow up plan on monitoring the implementation of the NSAPDV 2016-2020 in line with CEDAW and IC;

Communication and visibility action plan including at least 2 public events and use of social media for dissemination of findings as follows: 1) to inform and raise awareness among women, especially women from minorities and disadvantaged groups, and among communities at a large; 2) to inform and raise awareness among generalist and specialist support services; and 3) to inform and raise awareness among relevant decision makers and key stakeholders at national level;

All knowledge products and communications materials that would be produced under this project 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.

V. Duration of project

From: September 2017 – December 2019

VI. Budget Request

The proposed intervention size and budget request must fall between a minimum indicative amount of **EUR 55.000** and a **maximum amount of EUR 57.000**.

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.