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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- Project Title:** Support CSOs to develop initiatives aiming at empowering women living in rural areas and other women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination under the Programme *“Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”*
- Purpose:** Selection of qualified responsible party for the Programme
- Duration:** October 2018 – October 2019 (tentatively)
- Contract Type:** Project Cooperation Agreement
- Deadline for submissions:** 26 September 2018

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women civil society organizations (CSOs)/ women’s CSO networks and platforms, organizations representing women living in rural areas and/or other women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to submit proposals to contribute to ending violence against women focusing on areas such as availability and quality of service provision for women and girls subject to violence.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### I. Introduction

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.

According to the Shadow Report to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) regarding the fourth reporting cycle of Serbia "Situation of rural women in Serbia"<sup>1</sup>, violence is widespread in rural areas, but it is rarely discussed and not a topic of public debate, leading to difficulties in understanding its prevalence. Violent incidents are acknowledged and addressed by only the closest circle of family members, and the logic of 'non-interference' often prevails, because these are 'family matters'. In addition, data from the Ministry of Interior shows the number of reported cases of violence against women and girls (VAWG) is increasing, despite the fact that it continues to be underreported. In rural areas, traditional methods of violence prevention, such as providing access to information about protection from VAWG, are often insufficient to address the problem due to specific social norms in rural communities. As a result, UN Women and its partners aim to strengthen the capacities of women's organizations to implement context-specific outreach activities to inform women living in rural areas and other groups subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination of the available and accessible mechanisms for protection from VAWG and gender-based discrimination.

Civil society organizations, in particular women's organizations, play a crucial role in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights. They are key advocacy stakeholders for mobilizing governments from commitment to implementation of 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 minority and marginalized groups of women are heard by policy-makers.

Based on the unpublished UN Women and Council of Europe Multi-country study on violence against women service support (case of Serbia, 2016), some CSOs have developed services and/or outreach activities aimed at increasing the accessibility of their services to disadvantaged groups of women, such as rural women, Roma women and women with disabilities. Such efforts of the civil society are fully in line with requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) regarding the accessibility of services to all, without discrimination (Article 4, paragraph 3), and addressing the needs of "vulnerable groups" (Article 18,

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<sup>1</sup> Shadow Report to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding the fourth reporting cycle of Serbia "Situation of Rural Women in Serbia", UN Women, 2017: [http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/Situation%20of%20rural%20women%20in%20Serbia_ENG_final.pdf)

paragraph 3). Furthermore, the Convention requires states parties to address the specific needs of persons made vulnerable by particular circumstances (Article 12, paragraph 3). The Convention recognizes the greater risk faced by groups of women who are subject to intersectional discrimination (e.g. refugee and migrant women, women with disabilities, minority ethnic women, etc.) and calls for effective cooperation of state agencies with civil society organizations. Hence, the Programme is designed to further support CSOs to empower women living in rural areas and other marginalized women to access services for protection from domestic and gender-based violence.

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

The project will contribute to the achievement of the Programme “Ending violence against women and girls: Implementing norms, changing minds” (February 2017- January 2020). “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, with a particular focus on groups of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention (IC) and is also in alignment with EU accession standards. The Programme is funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II. More specifically, the project will contribute to the programme Result 3.3: Better access to and improved service provision for women from minority and disadvantaged groups.

## **III. Scope of the project**

The programme builds on the strong links of UN Women and the EU with women 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, by providing guidance and support to women on issues affecting them, including domestic and gender-based violence, while encouraging respect, diversity and equality. Therewith, women's organizations are instrumental in terms of their networks, outreach and innovation in facilitating the required behavioral and attitudinal changes for tackling the structural barriers to gender equality and ending violence against women.

In this context, UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals (CfP) for a Responsible Party to contribute to the Programme Result 3.3. in Serbia: Better access to and improved service provision for women from minority and disadvantaged groups.

The Programme will support CSOs to deliver initiatives aiming to empower women living in rural areas and other women facing multiple and intersecting discrimination in the following areas:

- Raising awareness among women living in rural areas as well as other marginalized women to recognize and report violence as specified in the Istanbul Convention and Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and adequately use available services;
- Increasing the capacities of service providers to provide adequate support to women living in rural areas and other marginalized women in at least 5 municipalities in Serbia.

#### **IV. Deliverables**

It is expected that the selected Responsible Party will deliver, inter alia, the following products for the implementation of the proposed support to CSOs:

**1) Conduct assessment of the prevalence, existing forms, and response mechanisms regarding violence against women living in rural areas and other marginalized groups of women, including:**

- Development of a baseline study on the exposure of rural women and other women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to violence and the common forms of violence against women in rural areas in 5 selected municipalities in Serbia;
- Identify the most commonly used support channels for women survivors of violence from rural areas and other marginalized groups in the selected municipalities.

**2) Develop and implement customized programme for ending violence against women living in rural areas and other marginalized women:**

Based on the findings of the Baseline study, the Responsible Party will establish and implement a customized programme for ending violence against women living in rural areas and other marginalized women in the selected municipalities, consisting of informational sessions, educational trainings, innovative campaigns, outreach actions, etc.

The objectives of the customized programme include: a) to provide women living in rural areas and other marginalized groups with knowledge and information on gender-based discrimination and violence against women, including its various forms and the importance of reporting incidents of violence; b) to introduce women living in rural areas and other marginalized groups to their rights and available response mechanisms for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and those at a risk of being subjected to violence; and c) to strengthen informal support networks, including empowering community members to respond appropriately to disclosures of violence in order to meet the needs of women survivors of violence at the community level.

**3) Design and implement capacity development programme for service providers, including:**

- Assessment of the existing capacities and needs of service providers, identifying strengths and weaknesses in service provision and the multi-sector approach to case management in response to cases of violence against women living in rural areas and other marginalized women in targeted locations;
- Design and conduct capacity building of service providers and relevant mechanisms of protection to better support survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and improve their referral and coordination.
- Develop recommendations and possible solutions for addressing major challenges in the system of response to violence against women living in rural areas and other marginalized groups of women, to be disseminated with relevant stakeholders to contribute to the effective implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence;

The objectives of the capacity development programme include: a) to provide service providers with knowledge and skills to adequately respond to cases of violence against rural women and women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; b) to gender sensitize service providers in dealing with cases of violence rural women and other marginalized women and meet their specific needs; c) to ensure improvement of the existing service providers' capacities to effectively follow legal obligations and measures in the field of violence against women.

The capacity building of service providers should encompass at least: 1 training workshop in each of 5 targeted municipalities; 1 training of trainees for 25 percent of the participants in at least 1 of the selected municipalities, so as to ensure proper follow-up, replicability and sustainability; and developed recommendations, including detailed risk assessment and increased recognition and management of risk factors that could lead to an improved response to violence against women, to be disseminated to relevant stakeholders.

## **V. Duration of project**

October 2018 –October 2019 (tentatively)

## **VII. Budget Request**

The proposed intervention size and budget request shall not exceed the amount of USD 35,000. The budget proposal should be submitted in the local currency, Republic of Serbia Diner. All currency exchanges should 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>

## **VIII. Institutional Arrangement**

A competitive selection process will take place to identify the potential Responsible Party. The selected Organization(s) will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UN Women. The organization's capacity will be assessed by UN Women as per UN Women's manuals, and the Organization will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activities.

## **IX. 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 programme 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.