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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project Title:	Support of Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence
Purpose:	Selection of qualified Responsible Party for the Programme
Duration:	01 July 2018 – 31 October 2019 (tentatively)
Contract Type:	Project Cooperation Agreement
Location:	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Reference n.	CfP 08/2017 UNW
Deadline for submissions:	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 society¹. 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 rights². According to the Census from 2002, there are 53,879 Roma living in FYR Macedonia, representing 2,66% of the total population³. Although school attendance of Roma children is increasing, still the educational attainment of Roma is lower than among non-Roma population⁴. Further, according to the latest estimates 49% of Roma population is unemployed against 9% among non-Roma⁵.

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 society⁶. Lack of personal documents hinders the possibility for many Roma women and/or girls to access education, health care, employment and other related services⁷. 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 education⁸, 58% of Roma women and 45% of Roma men are unemployed⁹. 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 services¹⁰.

In FYR Macedonia anti-discrimination and equal opportunities are regulated in the national legislation through the Law on anti-discrimination¹¹ (currently under revision) and the Law on equal opportunities of women and men Law on equal opportunities of women and men¹². 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%¹³.

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

² Ibidem

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

⁴ 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)

⁵ Ibidem

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

⁷ Ibidem

⁸ 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)

⁹ Ibidem

¹⁰ Ibidem

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

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

¹³ 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 violence¹⁴. Namely, 71 percent of women report experience with psychological, physical, or sexual violence¹⁵. Physical violence was reported at a rate of 56.5 percent, while 30.5 percent of respondents reporting at least one form of severe violence¹⁶. 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 violence¹⁷.

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 reasons¹⁸.

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 them¹⁹. 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 women²⁰.

“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.

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

¹⁵ Ibidem

¹⁶ Ibidem

¹⁷ Ibidem

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

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

²⁰ 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.

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 Roma communities and Roma women, 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 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.
- 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 capacity development and/or gender equality

II. What to submit

Eligible applicants are expected to submit the following in English:

1. **General Information** including name of organization, contact person and contact details (use Application Cover Sheet in Annex I)

2. **Project proposal** consisting of:

- Context and problem analysis;
- Project Design and Justification: A description of the approach to support of Roma women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services for survivors of violence 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 USD 47.000.

3. A copy of the organization's legal registration document

4. Supporting documents such as your organizational brochures, previous 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 1st of June 2018 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 **25th of May 2018, 17:00 (Skopje 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 info.mk@unwomen.org indicating in the e-mail subject: **EVAW – CfP EVAW Support to Roma women**

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

Name of Organization	
Contact Person	
Contact Information	Address:
	Tel:
	Email:
Organization Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-government organization <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify):
Is your organization legally registered in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you have responded yes, please attach a copy of your registration document to the application
Institutional profile MANDATORY	A brief description of the organization, including its registration details and relevant experience working on the thematic issues proposed; familiarity with international commitments on violence against women and girls, experience in working in Roma communities and Roma women, women's rights, gender equality and advocacy at the local and/or national levels Capacities and experiences of key staff members
Total requested budget	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 .

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.
- How do you anticipate working collectively with these networks/stakeholders/groups?
- How do 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 working in Roma communities and with Roma women, 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 region?
- What evidence you can provide on engagement and cooperation with the Government and relevant ministries in the country?

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

Workplan & Budget						
Outcome						
Better access to and improved service provision for women from minority or disadvantaged groups						
Output	Supported CSOs/NGOs to develop initiatives in support of ethnic minority (Roma) women to identify their needs, claim their rights and increase their access to services					
Indicator	No of women and girls from disadvantaged groups receiving comprehensive and immediate care from services available					
Baseline (2017)						
Target (2018)						
Means of verification	Project report					
Planned Activities (List all activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated results)	Timeframe				Budget	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Budget Description (means required E.g. travel, consultant, conference)	Amount
Support costs						