**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Expression of Interest for CSOs to implement project activities for the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria**

**1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Nigeria ranks 118 out of 134 countries on the Gender Equality Index. The inadequate inclusion of women and girls' perspectives in policy making decisions, resource allocation and implementation in economic and social sectors continues to challenge the advancement of gender equality.

Gender-based violence is widespread and 30 percent of women aged 15-49 have reported experiences of sexual abuse. Nigeria has the largest number of child brides in Africa and one of the highest prevalence rates in the world. Nigeria also accounts for the third highest number of women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation, reported at 25 percent prevalence. Harmful practices occur in a context of limited knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services, with complications of early child bearing and obstructed labor such as obstetric fistula.

The Nigerian Government’s response has included efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework, which include the Violence Against Person Prohibition (VAPP) Act, enacted at the national level in 2015, the National Policy on the Elimination of FGM/C, the National Strategy to End Child Marriage, a Road Map and National Priority Actions to End Violence Against Children (VAC) which have been adopted and are being supported for implementation as well as several policies and frameworks for a conducive environment for women and girls’ access to quality sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services. As a preventive measure, the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with civil societies is implementing Family Life HIV Education (FLHE) to empower adolescents and young people develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and competences required for making the right life choices to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. Ongoing efforts to increase access to quality accessible and affordable services include the National Health Act, as well as the One PHC per ward initiative of the Federal Government.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

Through a comprehensive approach, the Spotlight Initiative supports the Government of Nigeria and civil society partners to realize the vision of a Nigeria that is free from all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls, by addressing the linkages between sexual and gender-based violence with harmful practices and some aspects of sexual and reproductive health rights as a cross-cutting theme. Spotlight Initiative is supporting interventions at Federal, State and Community levels and horizontally across 5+1 focus states (Lagos, Sokoto, FCT, Ebonyi, Adamawa and Cross River) based on a mixed set of criteria (including prevalence, political will, enabling environment, capacities and potential to facilitate further expansion and up-scaling). The target for the Spotlight Initiative is vulnerable women and girls.

Specific focus is being placed on prevention efforts, particularly addressing the root causes of gender-based violence and harmful practices (child marriage and FGM) against women and girls; and ensuring access to inclusive, timely, and quality services for victims and survivors.

Civil society remains an important constituency, working to hold the government accountable to deliver on rights protection. The Programme Management Unit of the Spotlight Initiative Nigeria, on behalf of the Recipient United Nations organizations: UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO, wishes to engage CSO partners to implement activities across the six pillars of the Spotlight Initiative. 1) Laws and Policies, 2) Institutions, 3) Prevention, 4) Services, 5) Data, and 6) Women’s movement translate into six outcomes:

Outcome 1: Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices and their associated sexual and reproductive health and rights needs are in place and translated into plans.

Outcome 2: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices including for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and in other relevant sectors.

Outcome 3: Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices and to promote their access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Outcome 4: Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality comprehensive essential services including for long term recovery from violence.

Outcome 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices and their SRHR needs, collected, analyzed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

Outcome 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and EVAWG and their SRHR needs.

Specific activities to be implemented under each outcome under the first programme phase include:

**SCOPE OF WORK**

Outcome 1: Laws and Policies

• Train women and girls' rights advocates to engage with lawmakers at the Federal level and in the targeted states on legislative processes and strategies to input into draft legislation on EVAWG, GBV, SRHR

• Strengthen capacity of women and girls' rights advocates, media stakeholders, etc to advocate for budget allocation for NAP on GBV/EVAW/SGBV/HP and monitor the implementation of the plan at the federal and state level and monitor the implementation

• Organize capacity-building training for women CSOS on legal and human rights standards and government’s commitments and obligations to advance the women's rights agenda in Nigeria

• Strengthen relevant stakeholders’ capacities including: Parliamentarians, government officials, judges and prosecutors, women’s rights advocates, human rights institutions, media and civil society, that have been identified as key game changers to enable sustainable change on VAWG/SGBV/HP and the promotion of SRHR for women and girls

• Facilitate the establishment of an Advocacy Mechanism at the state houses of assembly to support passage of the VAPP Act and other relevant laws and policies.

* Work with Parliamentary caucuses and other relevant stakeholders to develop multi-sectoral national action plans joint action for VAWG/SGBV/HP and the promotion of SRHR for women and girls with particular focus on those groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination.
* Provide technical support to selected parliamentary committees on strategic planning, legislative oversight and advocacy on the Spotlight Initiative
* Provide legislative drafting, bill analysis and scrutiny services to National Assembly and state legislators in Sokoto, Cross River, Lagos and Adamawa state.
* Facilitate parliamentary conferences and stakeholder meetings on legislative actions to eliminate all forms of VAWG
* Conduct legislative research on VAWG and produce legislative briefs, papers for legislators
* Stimulate public debates on gender-based violence using live TV-programming. This will feature legislators and key policy makers to debate public policy issues on gender-based violence

Outcome 2: Institutions

• Conduct training and capacity building for civil society and women's and girl's advocates on shadow reporting and following up on obligations in relation to human rights monitoring and reporting mechanisms on VAWG/SGBV/HP and women's and girls' access to SRHR.

• Advocate and sensitize inter-ministerial working groups to enhance their understanding of the importance of inputs and meaningful participation from CSO representatives, including those facing intersecting forms of discrimination.

* Conduct training on Gender Responsive Budgeting, budget negotiations, budget trackers etc. on VAWG/SGBV/HP and the promotion of SHRH for women and girls with government institutions (including parliamentarians and federal and state ministries).
* Facilitate capacity building for legislators and legislative aides on VAWG to facilitate legislations and oversight on rights of women and girls.

Outcome 3: Prevention

• Mobilize community/religious structures and champions including survivors that can be used as advocates and as advocacy platforms for messaging and engagement in the promotion of gender equitable norms, including prevention of VAWG/SGBV/HP and promoting women and girls’ access to SRHR.

• Strengthen capacity of pre-and in-service teacher training to deliver accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education.

• Develop and implement second chance education including vocational skills trainings programmes for out of school women and girls.

• Train traditional and social media organizations and the private sector to become more involved in prevention of violence against women and girls and harmful practices.

• Strengthen capacities of traditional and religious leaders to use their institutions and influence/authorities to change negative cultural and social norms that promote VAWG/SGBV/HP and limits women's and girls' access to SRHR.

Outcome 4: Services

• Strengthen existing social welfare and legal aid service provision at state and community level including reintegration, psycho-social support, medical aid, pro-bono legal services and representation in court for VAWG/SGBV victims.

• Utilize sports, arts and other creative mechanisms to support long-term recovery of women and girls’ survivors of VAWG/SGBV/HP.

Outcome 5: Data

• Strengthen the capacity of women’s rights organizations to collect, analyze and document qualitative data on VAWG, SRHR and HP from spotlight states in line with international best practices and standards to support advocacy messages and influence policy making.

* Strengthen the capacity of government institutions to collate, analyse and document qualitative data on VAWG.

Outcome 6: Women’s Movement

• Develop and test innovative approaches to help partners strengthen and expand their work on VAWG/SGBV/HP and women’s and girl's SRHR.

REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES

Organizations wishing to apply for the grant should meet the following requirements and competencies:

* Proven experience of implementing projects in capacity building, human rights, access to justice, SRHR, FGM, child marriage, legal reform and/or advocating for gender equality;
* Be a not-for-profit organization registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission and operating in Nigeria with a strong track record on SGBV, gender equality, child protection, women empowerment and/or legal reform;
* Experience in innovative methodologies and approaches is an asset;
* Previous and/or current interventions in the target states of the project is an advantage.
* Ability to carry out activities under at least one of the mentioned outcomes of the project;

HOW TO APPLY

Organizations wishing to express their interest for the Spotlight Initiative shall submit a Portfolio of the organization demonstrating the requirements and competencies listed above, including:

• Certificate of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission;

• Letter from your Bank indicating your organization banks with it.

• Evidence of previous interventions in the specific area of interest (e.g SGBV, capacity building, human rights, access to justice, SRHR, FGM, Child marriage, legal reform, strong understanding of gender equality and women empowerment principles, second chance education) and life skills in non-formal spaces and Family Life HIV Education(FLHE);

* Evidence of organizational structure and/or staff capacity.

Organizations should submit their application to cso.ng@undp.org and it should be no more than 5 pages long (font Times New Roman 12)

Deadline for submission of the application is 22nd MARCH 2020 by 17.00 CAT