**JOINT CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The Spotlight Initiative in Belize

The Spotlight Initiative Belize invites interested Civil Society Organizations, Community based Organizations, Faith based Organizations and academic institutions to apply on the following:

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| **Objective:** | Accelerate efforts towards elimination of violence against women and girls with focus on family violence |
| **Duration:** | April 2020 - December 2021 |
| **Deadline:** | Extended to Thursday COB, April 23, 2020 |
| **Organizational Unit:** | UNDP (on behalf of Spotlight Recipient United Nations Organizations) |

# BACKGROUND and RATIONALE

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) are embarking on a new, global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) - the Spotlight Initiative. The Initiative is so named as it brings focused attention to this issue, moving it into the spotlight and placing it at the centre of efforts to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), specifically SDG 5 on Gender Equality.

The Spotlight Initiative in Belize will contribute to ending family violence by strengthening policy and legislations that will guarantee increased protection of women and girls, building capacity of state and non-state actors to respond to family violence, expanding the range of services available and addressing social norms and behaviours that promote violence against women and girls. Under Outcome 1- critical gaps in the legislative and policy framework will be addressed to ensure Belize’s legal and policy frameworks are responsive and offers the greatest level of justice and protection to women and girls, while Outcome 2 will facilitate for strengthening the capacity of key coordinating and implementing agencies to better respond to family violence. Outcome 3 actions will seek to address critical social norms and other root causes of violence family violence, while Outcome 4 will ensure the scale up and delivery of critical services to women and girls while Outcome 5 will strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation system and support strong evidence base for the design and delivery of interventions. And finally, under Outcome 6, actions will ensure strengthened network of CSOs as well as capacities to advocate and design, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes on family violence.

The Spotlight Initiative will be implemented through three UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP) The overall vision of the Spotlight Initiative in Belize is that women and girls enjoy their right to a life free of violence, within an inclusive and gender equitable Belize.

# SCOPE OF WORK

The Spotlight Initiative in Belize is seeking expressions of interest from civil society organizations representing national and/or local/grassroots networks. The project follows the ***collaborative working*** model which seeks to institutionalize cooperation between the CSOs, central government, local executive authorities, and other relevant state bodies, through continuous dialogue, joint formulation and implementation of Spotlight interventions. The initiative is particularly interested in CSOs, NGOs and FBOs and academic institutions working across Belize with the expertise, programming experience and/or activities in addressing VAWG and addressing family violence such as service provision, capacity building, community mobilization, youth engagement among others.

This is a Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) from national CSOs/NGOs, including consortia[[1]](#footnote-1), for potential partnership in delivering outputs across 3 out of 6 Outcomes of the programme. The Outcome and activities are as follows:

**Outcome 3: Prevention** - seek to address critical social norms and other root causes of family violence. All pillars are important. However, Outcome 3 is critical because family violence cannot end unless the root causes are addressed. Outcome 3 features a social and behaviour change communication strategy which will be implemented nationally, with targeted messages and key interventions at the community and interpersonal levels. Critical to the success of actions in pillar 3 is the engagement of men and boys. Past efforts at engaging men and boys have yielded limited success. Consequently, the strategy will propose innovative approaches to reaching and engaging men and boys as partners in ending family violence.

**Specific activities:**

**Activity 3.1.1** Scale-up delivery of high quality, age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education programmes for young people, including boys and girls with disabilities, in and out of school to promote gender equality and change negative socio-cultural gender norms that sustain violence against women and girls **(UNFPA)** *

**Activity 3.2.2 Develop** and cost a national social and behaviour change communication strategy and support implementation of key actions targeting individuals and communities to promote change in knowledge, attitudes, norms and practices to bring an end to violence against women, girls and boys **(UNFPA).***

* **Activity 3.2.3 Implement** community-based programmes focused on empowerment, protection and prevention of family violence **(UNICEF).**

**Activity 3.2.5** Develop programme to work with couples, including adolescents in formal and informal unions, to transform the imbalance of power and build healthy relationships, manage conflicts and understand family violence. **(UNDP)**.

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**Activity 3.2.6** Create opportunities through innovative online and mobile applications and other platforms for young people to connect with each other and have direct access to information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and prevention of violence against women and girls **(UNFPA)**.*

***Activity 3.3.1** Support faith-based, civil society, and community leaders to work with families to address root causes of family violence such as around corporal punishment and the prohibition of corporal punishment in the homes, adverse childhood experiences, child marriage and early unions, alcohol and drug use, sexual abuse, gender and social norms embedded in gender equality **(UNICEF)**.

**Activity 3.3.2** Work with workplaces (formal and informal sector) to engage men in critical reflection on rigid gender norms which perpetuate inequitable power relations between women and men and support the modelling of positive behaviours and masculinity through positive deviance approach **(UNDP)**.*

**Outcome 4: Quality Essential Services -** identifies actions to scale up the delivery of critical services, which is a major challenge for Belize given the geographic spread of the population. Access to services by rural women and girls, including SRH services, is a major impediment for the advancement of their rights. Spotlight will work with the government of Belize and CSOs to identify and implement models that can be scaled up to provide essential services to women and girls in rural communities as well as other groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence.

**Specific activities:**

**Activity 4.2.1** Increase access to high quality services, including in times of emergency (police, health, social work, psychosocial support, legal) including SRH services for adolescents and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. **(UNFPA)**.**

**Outcome 6: Women’s movement -** is especially critical to ensuring that groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are reached. Actions have been identified to strengthen the network of CSOs as well as strengthen their capacity to advocate and design, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes. Partnership with CSOs will be key to expanding reach and coverage of interventions

# Specific activities:

**Activity 6.1.1** Strengthen the network of CSOs and autonomous women’s group as a supportive mechanism to provide coordination of all efforts being implemented by civil society and women’s group and build the capacity of CSOs **(UNICEF)**.*

**Activity 6.2.1** Support CSOs to advocate for increased accountability of state through increased knowledge and awareness of social accountability systems and the channels for accessing them **(UNICEF)**.*

**Activity 6.2.2** Build capacity of women rights groups, CSOs and informal leaders for decision making, networking, to mobilize constituents, and advocate for increased accountability as it related to the national response to family violence **(UNICEF)**.*

**Activity 6.3.1** Support capacity development of women’s organizations and CSO to design, implement and monitor community programmes to respond and prevent family violence and represent marginalized populations (some areas include: advocacy, programme design and management, collection and utilization of data, networking and collaboration) **(UNICEF)**.*

** Activity 6.3.2** Establish Local /community-based support service delivery network in partnership with CSOs which allows for the provision of minimal acceptable services to victims (including legal support, counselling, referrals, gender advocates) particularly in underserved rural areas **(UNICEF)**.

# REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES

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

1. Be a registered non-profit organization (Non-registered organizations can apply as an Associate

Partner to a registered entity.)

1. Proven experience of prevention, mitigation and response of violence against women and girls, addressing family violence, capacity building, human rights, access to justice, security, sexual and reproductive health and rights/adolescent sexual reproductive health, legal reform, strong understanding of gender equality and women empowerment principles, advocacy and community mobilization and engagement for social norms change (a minimum of one of the areas listed);
2. Have working experience on specific Spotlight thematic issue/s, particularly experience working with minorities, youth, and women;
3. Previous and/or current interventions in the target areas of the Initiative is an advantage;
4. For coalition, have valid evidence of formation of the CSOs/NGOs/CBOs coalition (i.e. signed MoU among CSOs/NGOs/CBOs under the coalition);
5. Previous experience working with UN agencies is an asset but not mandatory.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA

All applications will be assessed and evaluated based on the Evaluation Criteria Matrix in Annex 1.

# SUBMISSION DETAILS

The interested CSO/NGO/CBO and/or their coalition are requested to submit application packages (including scanned version of all supporting documents). Submission package to include:

1. Submission Checklist
2. Letter of Expression of interest
3. Organizational Profile with annexed legal/formal registration/license/document
4. Programme proposal, workplan and budget prepared utilizing the provided template

Interested organizations should submit their Application packages by **COB Thursday, 23 April 2020** by email to [**procurement.bz@undp.org**](mailto:procurement.bz@undp.org)

Hard copy submissions should be delivered in a sealed envelope to:

UNDP Belize

3rd Floor, Lawrence Nicholas Building. Belmopan. Cayo District, Belize,

Envelopes should be clearly marked:

**“APPLICATION FOR SPOTLIGHT: CSO ENGAGEMENT”**

Expected timeline of the process from the selection of partners to the endorsement of the partnership agreements is as follows:

Spotlight Team review and evaluate all applications

Signing of Partnership Agreements with relevant Spotlight Recipient United Nations Organizations Representative: by 4 May 2020

Questions regarding this call can be directed to [procurement.bz@undp.org](mailto:procurement.bz@undp.org) and updates available at <https://belize.un.org/>

1. A consortium should consist of at least two CSOs/NGOs where one CSO/NGO shall be nominated as Lead organization and shall have overall responsibility for the **coordination of output delivery**. The Lead organization shall fulfil all eligibility criteria stipulated in this Call.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)