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CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Project Title: Support strengthening of civil society organizations, including organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups, to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, under the extension of the Phase II of the Programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds"

Purpose: Selection of qualified responsible party for the Programme

Duration: July 2021 – May 2023 (tentatively)

Contract Type: Law value grant agreement

Deadline for submissions: 14 June 2021, 16:00

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting women's civil society organizations to submit proposals to:

1. Provide specialist support services for victims of all forms of violence in line with the standards enshrined in CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, including women from minority or disadvantaged groups, including to women living with disabilities;
 - Provide counseling services to victims of GBV;
2. Enhance capacity of the women's CSOs through developing training programmes:
 - Activities to improve service providers' digital skills to efficiently deliver psychosocial support using online applications;
 - Enhance digital opportunities for victims of GBV, with consideration regarding women with disabilities;
3. Establish informal networks among services providers to assure outreach to victims of GBV;
4. Strengthen CSOs' capacities to strengthen their financial and operational resilience by mobilizing resources to support survivors;



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Terms of Reference

I. Background

Violence against women and girls constitutes a severe public health concern that prevents women and girls from enjoying their full human rights, and urgent and continuous action is required to tackle it in all its forms.

The process of European integration has provided an opportunity to comprehensively address issues related to VAWG, as potential EU Member States must demonstrate a respect for EU Treaty provisions and the implementation of the "acquis communautaire", including in the area of equality between women and men as an important part of the accession process.

The European Commission's Montenegro 2018 Report stresses that violence against women and girls remains a serious concern in the country, elaborating that despite the improved alignment of legislation with the Istanbul Convention, the implementation of the Convention is proceeding slowly, with little improvement in the capacity and gender sensitivity of existing institutions. State institutions are now more than ever embarked on strategic planning for the establishment and advancement of general and specialized¹ support services, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention.

The GREVIO baseline evaluation report recognizes the significant process made to build a comprehensive framework on violence against women, but also notes that legislation is primarily focused on domestic violence and neglects to address other forms of violence with the same level of thoroughness. Furthermore, GREVIO raises concerns regarding the minimization of violence by professionals involved in the prevention of and response to violence against women, including judges, police officers, and social workers. Nevertheless, Montenegro made one more step forward and compiled a GREVIO Shadow Report, the development of recommendations for the implementation of CEDAW Committee and GREVIO recommendations.

GREVIO recognizes the important role that NGOs play in monitoring implementation and made it clear in its Rules of Procedure (Rule 35) that NGOs and other members of civil society are vital sources of information and that all information received from NGOs will be treated as confidential by GREVIO. Overall, the capacity of women's organizations in Montenegro to hold the government accountable to their gender equality commitments and monitor government activities and spending from a gender equality perspective needs to be improved through technical support, sustainable funding, and creating networking opportunities. In addition, 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 victims of violence.



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Furthermore, GREVIO reporting deadline for Montenegro is end of January 2022. It is expected that country reports on 30 recommendations that are subject of the reporting. Following cGREVIO recommendations, the country needs urgent actions towards creating enabling environment and encouraging development of specialized service providers for victims of GBV capacities in the south of Montenegro, as well as addressing the lack of the crisis's centers for sexual violence.

The COVID-19 outbreak measures have severe social and economic impacts. Women are often at the frontlines of the response in healthcare centers, social services, communities and households. Women also play a central role in ensuring the wellbeing, care, and resilience of affected people, the elderly, children, and their families. The economic consequences are vast, and they are deepening existing inequalities, including gender inequalities. Measures taken to prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic such as confinement increased GBV especially domestic violence. Therefore, ensuring adequate response to the consequences caused by COVID19 outbreak presents essential aspect of the work.

II. Objective of EU and UNDP support

The support to strengthening of civil society organizations to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies and provide services in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention will contribute to the creation of an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination. Recent research conducted under the EU/ UN Women Programme "Implementing Norms Changing Minds" confirms that significant gaps remain between the existence of relevant legislation and its full and proper implementation. Existing legislation and policies are often gender-neutral and fail to recognize the structural causes of VAWG, thus neglecting to effectively identify and address the root causes of violence.

The Call for Proposals falls under the Programme "Ending violence against women and girls: Implementing norms, changing minds" (February 2020 – July 2023). The Programme aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in six Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) and Turkey. The Programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and also in alignment with EU accession standards. The Programme is run by UN WOMEN (with UNDP being implementing partner in Montenegro) and is funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance (IPA) II.

III. Scope of the project

The Programme builds on the strong links of UNDP with women civil society organizations (CSOs) in Montenegro, placing the Programme 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



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equality and women's rights. Furthermore, women's organizations 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.

The ultimate goal of the 42-months Programme is to reduce violence against women and girls and all forms of discrimination in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The Programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention (IC), and also in alignment with EU accession standards.

The specific objectives are: (1) To create an enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination; (2) To promote favorable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination of and violence against women; and (3) To empower women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination or violence to advocate for and use available, accessible and quality services.

The extension of the Phase II of the Regional programme aims to ***address the gaps exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of general and specialist service provision to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and girls and to enhance service resilience to crisis situations.***

In line with the set Programme goals, ***this Call for Proposals will contribute*** to empower women's organizations and women's networks to improve and provide available, accessible and quality services, and support women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination or violence to access those service.

When applying, the organizations are expected to indicate which category of the Call for Proposals they are applying to.

IV. Duration of project

From July 2021 to June 2023 (tentatively)

V. Budget Request

Total eligible amount of funding under this Call will be around 261,100 EUR.

VII. Institutional Arrangement

The selected organizations will sign a Low value Grant Agreement (LWGA) with UNDP. A competitive selection process will take place to identify the potential Responsible Party. The NGO will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activity. The NGO's capacity will be assessed by the Evaluation Committee comprising of members of UNDP, Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights and the Delegation of European Union to Montenegro.



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VIII. Reporting

The selected partner will be the principal responsible party but will work closely with UNDP during programme implementation. The partner will provide regular narrative and financial reports in line with UNDP guidelines and requirements (as per attached Narrative and Financial reports as per UNDP rules and procedures for LVGA)

All knowledge products and communications materials that would be produced under this agreement must acknowledge the support and seek approval of UNDP. 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 women's human rights and ending violence against women.
- Women's CSOs/ Women's CSOs network and platforms with track record in monitoring international human rights treaties and conventions, and more specifically Istanbul Convention.
- Women's CSOs/ Women's CSOs network and platforms gathering women from disadvantaged groups (Roma) and background and track record in working on issues of improving the position of Roma women in Montenegro.

II. What to submit

Eligible applicants are expected to submit the followings in English:

1. **General Information** including name of organization, contact person and contact details (please see Application Cover Sheet).

2. **Project proposal** (please see attached Project Document)

A narrative proposal consisting of:

- Context and problem analysis
- Project Design & Justification: A description of the approach to meeting the programme objectives 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 attached Low Value Grant Proposal with Budget and Budget xls.)
- Partnerships: A description of the partners needed to successfully implement the project and their roles;
- Institutional profile: A brief description of your organization, including its registration details and relevant experience addressing issues pertaining to an intersectional approach to gender equality and ending violence against women and girls;



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- Develop visibility and communication plan for project activities;
- 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 (please see attached Low Value Grant Proposal with Budget, Budget.xls.).

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

4. **Supporting documents** such as your organizational brochures, 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 (30 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. Budget Proposal (20 points); and
 4. Applicants' institutional capacity and relevant experience (20 points)
- Minimum score to be eligible is 70 points.

Only applicants passing the minimum score will be contacted to proceed with shortlisting and a capacity assessment review.

IV. When is the proposal due

The deadline for submission of proposals is 14 June 2021, 16:00. 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 procurement.me@undp.org indicating in the e-mail subject: **Call for Proposals for EVAW Programme**.