



This Programme is funded by the European Union



## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

- Project Title:** Support CSOs/networks of women's civil society organizations to monitor and report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW through GREVIO Shadow Report and CEDAW Shadow Report, *under the Programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds"*
- Purpose:** Selection of qualified responsible party for the Programme
- Duration:** October 2017 – March 2019 (tentatively)
- Contract Type:** Project Cooperation Agreement
- Reference number:** CFP 04/17 EXT
- Deadline for submissions:** **15 September 2017**

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women civil society organizations (CSOs) and networks to submit proposals to report on and advocate for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as Istanbul Convention) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) following the Forth Periodic Report of Serbia.

## Terms of Reference

### I. Background

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 centre 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.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is central to the realization of women's human rights and gender equality. Serbia has ratified CEDAW on 12 March 2001 and Optional Protocol to the Convention on 31 July 2003. By ratifying CEDAW, all States parties are obliged to periodically submit reports with an aim to promote compliance with the obligations contained in the Convention. An important part of any periodic report is reporting back to the Committee on concrete measures taken to implement the Concluding Observations on the previous report. The Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Serbia from July 2013 has set the due date for the forth periodic report in July 2017, while two recommendations were selected by the Committee requiring follow-up information within two years (recommendation 17. on National Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Women and Promotion of Gender Equality, and recommendation 23. on Violence against Women).

The Istanbul Convention requires sanctioning by states and obliges states to prevent offences, protect victims, prosecute perpetrators and have integrated policies (through criminal and civil law provisions, improved service delivery, resource allocation, and cultural transformation measures). The IC establishes a two-pronged international monitoring mechanism: Council of Europe Group of Experts on action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), and political body of officials (Committee of the Parties). 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. Serbia became the eight country to ratify the Istanbul Convention on 23 November 2013.

### 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, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women, in Western Balkans and Turkey. The Programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention (IC)<sup>1</sup>, and 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 1.1: Women's voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.

### III. Scope of the project

The Programme builds on the strong links of UN Women and the EU with women civil society organizations (CSOs) in the region, placing the Programme in a strategic position to assist women in their drive for rights as citizens. Civil society, in particular women's organizations, play a crucial role in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights. They are key advocacy stakeholders in terms of moving governments from commitment to implementation in relation

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

to 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 victims of violence. 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.

In this context, UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals (CfP) for a responsible party to contribute to the Programme Result 1.1 in Serbia: "Women's voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention" in follow-up of the Fourth Periodic Report of Serbia to CEDAW and the in line with first (baseline) evaluation procedure of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

#### **IV. Deliverables**

It is expected that through the support the targeted women's CSOs/networks will be able to produce, inter alia:

- At least 5 awareness raising sessions for women's CSOs to improve their understanding and use of CEDAW reporting mechanism and cycle, including guidelines;
- At least 5 awareness raising sessions for women's CSOs to improve their understanding of Istanbul Convention provisions and reporting mechanism so they can provide information on shortcomings of this implementation to the relevant institutions reporting mechanism;
- Development of a toolkit on monitoring fulfilment of obligations under CEDAW Convention and Istanbul Convention reporting, including questionnaire for submission to the Council of Europe independent body of experts (GREVIO);
- Data collection and analysis to inform CEDAW Shadow Report by women CSOs addressing violence against women, including the aspect of disadvantaged groups of women and minorities, following the submission of the fourth periodic report due by Serbia in July 2017.
- Research and collection of information to the GREVIO Questionnaire on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the preparation of the report for Serbia by May 2018<sup>2</sup>; Inputs to GREVIO visit by September 2018;
- Communication and visibility action plan including at least 2 public events and use of social media for dissemination of findings as follows: 1) to inform and raise awareness among women, especially women from minorities and disadvantaged groups, and among communities at a large; 2) to inform and raise awareness among generalist and specialist support services; and 3) to inform and raise awareness among relevant decision makers and key stakeholders at national level;
- All knowledge products and communications materials that would be produced under this project 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.

#### **V. Duration of project**

October 2017 – March 2019 (tentatively)

#### **VI. Further Details about the Proposal**

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<sup>2</sup> The role of NGOs in the first (baseline) evaluation procedure is available at: <https://rm.coe.int/ic-inf-2016-4-eng/168071363e>

In addition to outlining detailed activities to achieve Programme Result 1.1: “Women’s voice and agency strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention” to support to advocacy and the Capacity Development Programme for the Roma Women Network in Serbia to influence legislative and policy changes in line with CEDAW and Istanbul convention and to achieve the desired deliverables, please clearly indicate an activity in the workplan to participate in at least one programme event at regional level per year.

## **VII. Budget Request**

The proposed intervention size and budget request will have to fall between a minimum indicative amount of USD 30.000 and a maximum amount of USD 50.000. 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**

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 NGO will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activity. The NGO’s capacity will be assessed by UN Women as per UN Women’s manuals.

## **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.

**Note:** Interested applicants are invited to attend the informative session, on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11 am, at UN House in Serbia, New Belgrade, Bulevar Zorana Djindjica 64, in which additional clarifications can be provided on the application process. Kindly communicate your interest in participating at [info.serbia@unwomen.org](mailto:info.serbia@unwomen.org)