



This project is funded
by the European Union



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- Project Title:** Support CSO advocacy/dialogue with the relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination, on gender-based discrimination and harmful stereotypes, particularly against Roma and rural communities, under the Programme *“Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”*
- Purpose:** Selection of qualified responsible party for the Programme
- Duration:** October 2018 – October 2019 (tentatively)
- Contract Type:** Project Cooperation Agreement
- Deadline for submissions:** 26 September 2018

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting women civil society organizations (CSOs)/ women’s CSO networks and platforms to submit proposals to contribute to ending violence against women focusing on advocacy/dialogue on gender-based discrimination and harmful stereotypes, particularly against Roma and rural communities with the relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. Introduction

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 center 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 elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence against women as one of its most pervasive forms, requires a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained effort in all spheres. It requires actions in different areas, including legislation, service provision, awareness-raising, and attitudinal and behavioral change. Gender-based discrimination is a complex phenomenon that needs to be understood within the wider social context and cultural norms that perpetuate it.

A gender stereotype is a generalized view or preconception about attributes, characteristics, or roles that are or ought to be assigned to or performed by women and men. A gender stereotype is harmful when it limits women's and men's capacity to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional careers and make choices about their lives and life plans. Gender stereotypes are still prevalent in Serbia, where social norms often reinforce the perception of men as breadwinners and women as caretakers, resulting in power imbalances that can lead to gender-based violence, especially among certain groups of women, such as women from minority groups, women with disabilities, women of lower economic status, etc.

International human rights law places a legal obligation on States to eliminate discrimination against women and men in all areas of their lives. This obligation requires States to take measures to address gender stereotypes both in public and private life as well as to refrain from stereotyping. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) declares in Article 5 that "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customs and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women."

Civil society organizations, in particular women's organizations, play a crucial role in the promotion of gender equality, elimination of gender-based discrimination and harmful gender stereotypes. They are key advocacy stakeholders for mobilizing governments from commitment to implementation of international normative standards. Furthermore, women's organizations are key stakeholders in ensuring that the perspectives and voices of the minority and marginalized groups of women are heard by policy-makers. In this context, UN Women is issuing a Call for Proposals (CfP) to select a women's CSO (responsible party) to support advocacy/dialogue on gender-based discrimination and harmful stereotypes, particularly against Roma and rural communities, with the relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination.

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 in the Western Balkans and Turkey, with a particular focus on groups of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Programme is anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention (IC) and is 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 3.3: Better access to and improved service provision for women from minority and disadvantaged groups.

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. Additionally, women's organizations are instrumental - in terms of their networks, outreach and innovation - in 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 Programme Result 3.3.: Better access to and improved service provision for women from minority and disadvantaged groups.

The Programme will support CSOs to deliver initiatives focusing on advocacy/dialogue on gender-based discrimination and harmful stereotypes against Roma and rural communities.

IV. Deliverables

It is expected that the selected Responsible Party deliver, inter alia, the following products for the implementation of the proposed support to CSOs:

1. Field research in at least the 20 identified localities in Serbia to collect data on harmful gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women (through questionnaires, in depth interviews, focus groups, etc.), specifically focusing on women living in rural areas and Roma women. Based on data collected through the field research, develop a situation analyses that will be used as a basis for:
 - a) Increasing the capacities of women CSOs focusing on rural and Roma women and relevant local stakeholders to challenge the persistence of gender stereotypes;
 - b) Influencing changes to relevant policies/legislation by showcasing the situation in the field to relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination.

The capacity development on challenging the persistence of gender stereotypes could be achieved through organizing events such as trainings, round tables, dialogue meetings, etc. with local CSOs and relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, bringing about policy change could be achieved through influencing policy development/modification and/or facilitating the national

conferences with relevant government institutions and independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination.

2. Produce comprehensive toolkit on the mandate of the independent government bodies working on gender equality and anti-discrimination, such as Provincial and National Ombudsperson and the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, to be used as a basis for:
 - a) Increasing the knowledge and awareness of at least 100 women survivors of VAW regarding the mandate of the independent government bodies that work on gender equality and anti-discrimination, when cases can be referred to the them, and how to bring forth such cases;
 - b) Developing recommendations for prioritizing cases of VAW, targeted at the independent government bodies mandated to work on gender equality and anti-discrimination based on data collected from the field and from women survivors of violence.

Increasing the knowledge and awareness of women survivors of violence could be achieved by using traditional channels of communication (e.g., trainings, brochures) as well as through social media platforms.

V. Duration of project

October 2018 –October 2019 (tentatively)

VII. Budget Request

The proposed intervention size and budget request shall not exceed the amount of USD 35,000. Budget proposals 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

A competitive selection process will take place to identify the potential Responsible Party. The selected Organization(s) will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with UN Women. The Organization's capacity will be assessed by UN Women as per UN Women's manuals, and the Organization will be selected only if it has proven capacity to deliver the proposed activity.

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 produced under this programme must acknowledge the support of and seek approval from UN Women. Furthermore, they should be in line with the EU Communication and Visibility tools and the EU-UN joint visibility guidelines.