CALL FOR PROPOSALS
GRANT TOWARDS

Strengthening the Participation and Engagement of Women in Governance and Peacebuilding Processes in Sri Lanka

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Multi Country Office (MCO) for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka is inviting civil society organisations to submit proposals for ‘Strengthening the Participation and Engagement of Women in Governance and Peacebuilding Processes in Sri Lanka’.

A. GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING AND SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

The proposal must contain 1) a technical proposal and a 2) Financial Proposal. The technical proposal must include objectives, methods, expected results of each activity and time-lines for completing the project. The Financial proposal must detail the estimated cost of each proposed activity required to complete the project.

Duly stamped and signed technical and financial proposals (in excel) are required to be submitted separately in hard copies or electronically to registry.india@unwomen.org within the stipulated deadline. Please note that if the Technical and Financial proposals are not submitted separately, the proposal will be disqualified.

For electronic proposals, please set up a password for the financial offer which will be used at later stage once the evaluation of the technical proposal is complete. Eligible organisations that qualify technically will be requested to provide password for financial proposal.

The proposals submitted must be in line with the Terms of Reference (Annex 1). The interested organizations must annex evidences of previous relevant work experience and Audit reports of last three years.

Proposals can only be submitted by non-governmental organizations registered in Sri Lanka.

Format of Proposals – Given the attached Terms of Reference, the proposal should contain, at a minimum, the following:

1) A narrative proposal consisting of:
   2. Justification: Provide examples of similar work undertaken by your organization and justify why your organization is best-suited to undertake this project.
3. **Project strategy**: The proposal should provide a description of the implementation strategy for each project output and its associated activities.

4. **Workplan**: A description of expected outputs, key activities, timeframe to conduct the activities.

5. **Partnerships**: Include a description of potential partners via stakeholder mapping for successfully implementing and sustaining the project outputs and outcomes.

6. **Institutional profile**: Provide a brief description of your organization, including registration details, personnel, and experience in the relevant field (not more than 1 page).

2) **A Financial Proposal** detailing an output and activity based budget – i.e. budget showing how much is required to achieve each output.

*Please submit the budget in excel as per Budget Template in Annex 2

**B. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

Proposal will be selected on the basis of technical (70%) and financial (30%) assessments. The technical assessment will review the following:

1. **Feasibility and appropriateness of the proposal responding to the expected results (40 points)**
   a) Extent to which the proposal fulfills the requirements of the Call for Proposals (5 points);
   b) Clarity of the situation analysis (5 points);
   c) Soundness of implementation strategy, proposed activities against the problem analysis (25 points);
   d) Realistic work plan to complete the activities (5 points).

2. **Applicants’ institutional technical capacity and relevant experience (10 points)**
   a) Relevance of specialized knowledge to promote women’s rights and gender equality (5 points);
   b) Relevant experience that qualifies the organization for this particular UN Women Support (with reference to experience of working on issues of women’s participation and engagement in governance and peacebuilding processes) (5 points);

3. **Experience in organizing and coordinating similar project/s (20 points)**
   a) Strong partnerships and connections with relevant organizations/groups and their roles in the proposal (10 points);
   b) Relevant experience in implementing similar projects (10 points);

The financial assessment will review the efficient utilization of budget (30 points) as follows:

a) Output-based budgeting;

b) Reasonable cost of implementation;

c) Administrative/indirect cost

d) Inclusion of annual certified financial report and one most recent audit report

*Please note that all budget submissions should be as per the Budget Template in Annex 2.
C. PROPOSALS DUE DATE

Proposals are due by **26 July 2017 by 11.59 PM India Time.**

Please send proposals to registry.india@unwomen.org

D. ANNEXES:
   1. Terms of Reference (TOR)
   2. Budget Template
Annex 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE

UN Women is the United Nations agency dedicated to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. A global champion for women and girls, it was established in 2010 to accelerate progress on these twin goals globally. UN Women supports member states of the United Nations to set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with the governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women and girls’ equal participation in all aspects of life focusing on five priority areas: increasing women leadership and participation, ending violence against women, engaging in all aspects of peace and security processes, enhancing women’s economic empowerment and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.

Towards its third priority area, UN Women works on building women’s participation and influence in decision-making to prevent and resolve conflicts. UN Women supports women’s engagement in all aspects of peacebuilding, towards more inclusive, egalitarian societies that can end gender discrimination and resolve conflicts without violence. UN Women’s programmes foster women’s peace coalitions and prepare them to engage in peace processes, and reach out to peacekeepers to detect and stop conflict-related sexual violence. Other initiatives back justice and security institutions that protect women and girls from violence and discrimination, public services fully responsive to women’s needs, women’s greater access to economic opportunities, and women’s engagement in all forms of national and local public decision-making.

Women’s engagement in peace and security is essential to building sustainable peace, but progress toward gender equality remains slow. On 31 October 2000, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This resolution, with its four pillars of prevention, participation, protection and peacebuilding and recovery, has become the focal point for galvanizing worldwide efforts to deal with the many challenges that women face in situations of conflict. There now exists a strong evidence base that women’s participation in peace and security processes is core to their operational effectiveness – by strengthening the protection efforts of peacekeepers, improving prevention of radicalization and accelerating economic recovery. Women’s meaningful participation also helps the conclusion and implementation of more sustainable peace agreements. Yet, fifteen years after the adoption of resolution 1325, more than half of peace agreements continue to make no mention of women, UN military peacekeepers remain 97 per cent male, and data gathered by OECD-DAC shows that only 2 per cent of aid to peace and security in 2014 targeted gender equality as a principal objective. The contribution of women and
girls to peacebuilding continues to go undervalued and under-resourced, leaving untapped an incredible tool for transformative change and sustainable peace. The United Nations is now facing unprecedented challenges to global peace and security: the number of people in need of international assistance has tripled over the past decade, and traditional conflicts are aggravated by new threats including climate shocks, global health pandemics and a rising wave of violent extremist groups directly targeting women’s rights. The women, peace and security agenda, now more than ever, is a critical tool for building sustainable peace.

Following the aftermath of nearly three decades of conflict in 2009, Sri Lanka has made several commitments to peacebuilding, reconciliation and good governance, and represents a historic opportunity to advance accountability and reconciliation as necessary steps towards long term and sustainable peace. In this regard, the Sri Lanka Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) was developed, in collaboration with the UN, to serve as the framework for a coordinated Government, UN and development partners’ response to peacebuilding in Sri Lanka. The PPP places emphasis on integrating gender perspectives within its framework. It aims to ensure that peacebuilding initiatives in Sri Lanka include leveraging women’s capacities and contributions, and developing strategies for inclusion which recognize their roles, and diverse experiences of conflict. Without women’s engagement at the stages of peace consolidation, the dangers of relapse are greatly heightened. Empirical evidence reveals a strong connection between the inclusion of women in peace processes and more durable and stable peace.

The most challenging gap that remains concerns the participation of women in peace processes and post-conflict political transitions. This is particularly relevant in the context of women’s political participation in Sri Lanka, where the gender gap is the widest when compared to other development indices.

In this context, funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, UN Women, in partnership with UNFPA and UNV, is implementing a project to strengthen the participation of women and youth in the peacebuilding processes in Sri Lanka. UN Women will focus on promoting women’s leadership and participation to strengthen their role in decision-making processes to develop a peacebuilding agenda that is broadly owned, open and transparent. At the same time the project will work with women leaders and political parties to strengthen women’s political participation, with a focus on conflict prevention/non-recurrence and the implementation of the new 25% quota for women’s political representation at the local level in the upcoming Local Government elections, which are expected to be held in 2017.

Building on gains achieved thus far through previous programmes on women’s political participation in Sri Lanka, alongside regional lessons learnt on women’s meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes, UN Women proposes to work with a non-government organisation registered in Sri Lanka to:
• Increase capacity among select women political candidates and local leaders (women and men) to promote engagement of women in governance and peacebuilding processes, through catalytic interventions and development of a certification/accreditation programme on women’s leadership with a focus on post-conflict peacebuilding processes.
• Build the capacities of national and sub-national institutions, including political parties, to ensure policies, plans, and budgets are gender-responsive.
• Promote increased civic engagement on issues related to governance, reconciliation and peacebuilding, particularly through the use of ‘new media’.

1. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

The UN Women Multi Country Office (MCO) for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka will oversee the work of the partner agency as the implementing partner (IP). The IP is tasked to design and conduct the activities, and UN Women will provide feedback on the content and scheduling of the activities. Where appropriate, UN Women experts may act as technical advisor/s for certain substantive activities.

The IP will be a local NGO/non-profit organisation and will work with local partners involved in the relevant work in delivering this ToR.

2. EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

**Outcome Statement:** State decision-making processes are more equitable and inclusive to enable women’s meaningful participation and leadership in governance and peacebuilding

Output 1.1: Increased capacity among select women political candidates and local leaders (women and men) to promote engagement of women in governance and peacebuilding processes.

Output 1.2: Increased capacity of national and sub-national institutions, including political parties, to ensure policies, plans, and budgets are gender-responsive.

Output 1.3: Women leaders promote increased civic engagement on issues related to governance, reconciliation and peacebuilding.
3. SCOPE OF WORK

Output 1.1. Increased capacity among select women political candidates and local leaders (women and men) to promote engagement of women in governance and peacebuilding processes.

Activities:
- Map, engage and consult women and CSO groups to identify women leaders and assess their capacity levels, gaps and needs in relation to their engagement and participation in post-conflict peacebuilding processes.
- “Catalytic interventions” to prepare women for Local and Provincial Council Elections.
- Train a pool of session facilitators and experts on women’s leadership programmes (with a focus on post-conflict peacebuilding processes including for example politics, protection of women, conflict-prevention and national reconciliation) with agreed common core messages.
- Establish a certification/accreditation programme on women’s leadership with focus on post-conflict peacebuilding processes.
- Conduct pre- and post- monitoring and evaluation of the capacity building programme on women’s leadership in support of women’s political participation.

Output 1.2: Increased capacity of national and sub-national institutions, including political parties, to ensure policies, plans, and budgets are gender-responsive.

Activities:
- Set up a series of forums amongst registered/recognized political parties to develop effective strategies to increase women’s participation in political parties.
- Support reforms to political institutions in collaboration with women party activists within and outside party structures, women candidates and elected officials.
- Organise a series of forums to support cross party networks of women and women’s parliamentary caucuses.
- Conduct a series of advocacy events to lobby for the legislation of minimum 30% nomination seats for female candidates at the Provincial Council.
- Develop gender-sensitivity programmes for Election Commission Electoral Officers on enhancing women’s participation in electoral processes as part of peacebuilding efforts.
- Collaborate with the Election Commission on developing civic education and advocacy initiatives with a focus on women’s participation as voters and candidates.

Output 1.3: Women leaders promote increased civic engagement on issues related to governance, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

Activities:
- Provide training to potential/qualified women candidates, women and CSO groups, and solidarity networks to partner with established social media groups (international and local) to enable effective use of social media to promote women’s political participation.
- Train women leaders and key personnel to manage social media and engage with the public on the contributions and benefits of women’s participation in post-conflict governance structures and peacebuilding processes.

4. DELIVERABLES

The deliverables from the project will include:

- Inception report with implementing strategy and work plan, clearly outlining the overall focus of the intervention and methodology that will be adopted to achieve the desired result and project logical framework.
- Research report and brief on mapping to identify women leaders and assess their capacity levels, gaps and needs in relation to their engagement and participation in post-conflict peacebuilding processes.
- Development of a curriculum for a certification/accreditation programme on women’s leadership with focus on post-conflict peacebuilding processes.
- Training modules developed for training programmes (based on research) for Government officials; session facilitators for women’s leadership programmes; and women leaders/CSOs.
- Reports and outcome documents from the training workshops and consultations at national and provincial levels, including capacity assessment pre- and post-workshop.
- Development of social media packages and tools for use by women leaders.
- Advocacy and communication tools for dissemination.
- Documentation of the minutes of any meeting held with the government stakeholders.
- Quarterly financial and narrative reporting aligned with UN Women reporting requirements.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation reports of the capacity building programme on women’s leadership in support of women’s political participation.
- Overall project completion report.

5. DURATION

- Programming: August 2017 to May 2019

6. ELIGIBILITY

The applicant NGO must have/be:

- Demonstrable experience in working on promoting women’s participation in governance processes in Sri Lanka.
- Considerable experience in working on women’s engagement in peace and security issues/processes.
• Demonstrable experience of holding dialogues with relevant officials from national and sub-national levels and advocacy with a wide range of stakeholders.
• Comprehensive understanding of gender issues.
• Strong linkages with local grassroots women’s organisations, networks and movements (particularly those working on issues of women’s participation in governance/decision making).
• Ability to scale up and work with other national, regional and international partners is highly desirable.
• A registered organisation in Sri Lanka.
Annex 2

BUDGET TEMPLATE

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<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Activities Description (aligned to outputs)</th>
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<th>No. of Units</th>
<th>Period cost (in number of days) of Engagement</th>
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