



## Counterpart International

### Bangladesh

#### Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Advocacy and Networking Grant 2019 Ref: EOI PAR 01/2019 (Combating Gender-Based Violence)

#### Background

The Promoting and Advocacy Rights (PAR) is a five-year initiative that aims to strengthen the enabling environment for sustained civil society institutions advancing democratic governance and citizen participation in Bangladesh. The project will contribute to a more inclusive, resilient, and evidence-driven Bangladeshi civil society. There are five key objectives of the PAR project: 1). Increase Civil Society (CS) engagement in good governance issues; 2). Improve CS ability to monitor and raise awareness of policy issues; 3). Enhance CS capacity to operate effectively; 4). Enhance CS networks advocating for policy reforms and 5). Improve CS government platforms for dialogue.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is the most pervasive form of human rights violation that women and girls regularly face in Bangladesh. The frequency and severity of GBV varies across the country, but it has large-scale negative impacts on the individual and family level, and ultimately impedes the overall development of Bangladesh through reduced economic development. At the individual level as many as 14% of maternal deaths is associated with GBV, and at the national level the country loses 2.10% of GDP due to domestic violence (CARE Bangladesh, 2013). In Bangladesh, GBV persists largely due to deep rooted patriarchal social norms. Furthermore, GBV manifests widely in child marriage, having large-scale effects on the development and well-being of youth.

Counterpart International (CPI) Bangladesh invites interested CSOs to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the opportunity to apply to receive grants for the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) Support for Civil Society (CS) Initiatives through Advocacy and Networking. The purpose of the grant is to complement Government of Bangladesh efforts to combat Gender-Based Violence including Child Marriage. Counterpart seeks to engage local partners who have the management and technical capacity, including innovative social mobilization strategies to provide high-quality service delivery with regards to this program.

This call for Expressions of Interest is intended to lead to a pre-qualification of suitable prospective grant recipients who may be invited to submit full applications with respect to civil society advocacy and networking initiatives to combat gender-based violence including child marriage. CPI anticipates awarding one (1) grant with an anticipated implementation of up to two (2) years and estimated value of the grant not to exceed BDT. 16,800,000 (sixteen million eight hundred thousand).

#### Scope of Work

The goal of the Advocacy and Networking Grant is to support Civil Society (CS) advocacy initiatives to complement Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and other donors' efforts to combat Gender-Based Violence, including Child Marriage, in targeted districts. These are anticipated to have direct impact at the local level, with the possibility of ripple effects at the national level. If applicants are invited to participate in the request for applications (RFA) round, the applicants shall be required to propose a project which addresses (a) policy advocacy on Gender-Based Violence, including Child Marriage; and (b) social mobilization and public awareness regarding child marriage.

The two primary objectives of the grant program are:

- To conduct civil society-led advocacy for adoption of more meaningful policies and effective implementation of existing laws and policies to combat gender-based violence with measurable results in target districts.
- To contribute to the efforts for reduction of child marriage in selected districts by massive social mobilization through advocacy and networking with relevant stakeholders including local government officials

The Advocacy and Networking Grant intends to support the conduct of effective advocacy to introduce improved policy measures and effective enforcement of the existing legal and policy frameworks to prevent gender-based violence and protect vulnerable women and girls from physical, sexual, mental and other abuses and discrimination. Within the scope of the policy advocacy component, the Grantee will be required to (a) conduct advocacy with the policymakers for result-oriented policies, and with the enforcement agencies for effective enforcement of the laws and policies; and (b) help establish functional social mechanisms to monitor the enforcement of existing laws and policies to prevent on gender-based violence in target districts. Applicants not responding to the above requirements may be deemed ineligible.

When addressing the ‘child marriage’ component, the Grantee may choose to strengthen and complement the ongoing advocacy efforts or launch new advocacy and networking initiatives targeted towards reducing domestic violence and child marriage. The grantee needs to demonstrate its understanding of the broader social and economic consequences of child marriage, including the impact physical violence against women and child sexual abuse.

This advocacy program needs to ensure the following: use evidence-based advocacy; engage relevant and influential stakeholders; inform the community for a strengthened understanding of the benefits of the advocacy; carefully plan the advocacy campaign activities; and that the advocacy program team has a clear vision and has already established or has a clear plan to cultivate good relationships with key government officials. The program should also ensure that any networks proposed to advance advocacy are well coordinated, and members regularly communicate.

### Geographic Areas

The CSO shall be required to work in at least two districts adjacent to each other from the PAR working districts and covering all Upazilas within those two districts. The PAR working districts are listed below:

| SL    | Name of the Divisions | Name of the Districts         |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.    | Dhaka                 | Faridpur, Rajbari and Dhaka   |
| 2.    | Barishal              | Barishal and Pirojpur         |
| 3.    | Mymensingh            | Mymensingh and Sherpur        |
| 4.    | Rajshahi              | Rajshahi and Natore           |
| 5.    | Sylhet                | Sunamganj and Sylhet          |
| 6.    | Rangpur               | Rangpur and Kurigram          |
| 7.    | Chattogram            | Chattogram and Feni           |
| 8.    | Khulna                | Khulna, Jashore and Jhenaidah |
| Total | 8 Divisions           | 18 Districts                  |

## Eligibility

EOIs will be evaluated to determine the eligibility of organizations as per criteria below, for the possibility of inviting grant submissions for a full project proposal. The minimum eligibility requirements for an organization to be considered for this program are:

- Be officially registered as a Bangladeshi CSO and working in compliance with relevant Bangladesh laws.
- Proposes activities that contribute to two program objectives outlined above
- Describes expected outcomes and results consistent with and linked to the project's objectives.
- Has not been debarred from receiving USG funding and or listed in the USG Excluded Parties List and the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List.
- Has experience in working on projects related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including child marriage issues
- Has experience in conducting advocacy in partnership with other CSOs.
- Ensures that the program is inclusive in nature with appropriate gender representation including gender diverse groups and representation of youth and marginalized groups including ethnic, other gender, people with disability and indigenous groups.
- Has relevant experience and organizational capacity to manage larger grants of \$200,000 or more.

## Evaluation Criteria

The EOIs will be evaluated against the following criteria:

| List of attributes  | Score      |
|---|------------|
| a. Relevant past performance in managing a GBV and child marriage advocacy program  | 20         |
| b. Organizational network and past performance in target districts  | 20         |
| c. Technical expertise in designing and implementing advocacy campaign  | 30         |
| d. Past experience in addressing social inclusion issues (participation of religious, gender, ethnic minority groups and persons with disabilities) and implementing innovative projects in partnership with other CSO partners and stakeholders. | 20         |
| e. Organizational capacity and commitment in managing larger grants t   | 10         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>100</b> |

Selected eligible organizations may be invited to participate in a proposal development workshop for the proposal submission.

## Submission Instructions

Interested and qualified CSOs are requested to submit their **Expression of Interest (EOI)** by providing the following information, in line with the above-mentioned eligibility criteria:

- The registration status of the CSO;
- Geographical presence of the organization in the proposed program districts;
- Complete contact information of the organization (email, telephone number);
- One-page profile of the organization which should include the organization's expertise (technical, administrative and financial management capacity) in the area for which it has applied, with a brief



description of the envisaged project (to include monitoring, coordination, conflict management and resolution, mobilization, and gender, as appropriate)

- At least three past performance references in the specific area of focus.

**Please use the attached form to submit your Expressions of Interest.**

Please send your Expressions of Interest to **Grants.par@counterpart.org** no later than **August 5, 2019, 17:00 Dhaka time**. All EOIs should reference the solicitation reference number listed (**EOI PAR 01/2019**) in the subject line of the email. PAR will only accept electronic submission of Expression of Interest in English.

Counterpart International will review responses as PAR receives them. All applicants must meet the minimum requirements described above. Only short-listed organizations will be contacted and invited to submit full grant application proposal.

**Additional Considerations**

Issuance of this EOI does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of CPI, nor does it commit CPI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the EOI. Furthermore, CPI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions received and reserves the right to ask further clarifications from the offerors.