

LGBTI

THE « HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY » FUND



Terms of reference

3rd call for proposals

August 2018

1. PRESENTATION

The *Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Fund* (also known as “the *International LGBTI Fund*”) was set up during the World Congress on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity held in Paris in May 2009. Launched by France and the Netherlands, the Fund was then joined by Norway in 2010 and by the Randstad Foundation in 2013, as the first private donor. The operational and financial management of the Fund is entrusted to *Expertise France*.

The Fund is overseen by a Steering Committee reflecting a variety of stakeholders working to promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons. The Steering Committee is composed of both donors and civil society organisations (namely the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association – ILGA, the International Day Against Homophobia – IDAHO, the International Federation for Human Rights – FIDH, Amnesty International France and the French Consultative Commission for Human Rights). In 2012, UNESCO, the French Inter-LGBT network and the Norwegian *Landsforeningen for lesbiske, homofile, bifile og transpersoner* (LLH) were welcomed to the Steering Committee as observer members.

The Fund’s steering committee reaches decisions through consensus. All members have an equal say in the fund’s policies, strategies and selection processes.

2. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Fund is to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights for persons who experience discrimination on ground of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics, in areas where they are most at risk.

Since its creation, seven projects have been funded in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Each project received a grant of 50 000 to 60 000 €.

3. OBJECTIVES FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS – DURATION OF ACTIONS

The specific objectives of this new call for proposals are to document human rights violations targeting LGBTI persons, to improve the respect of their rights and to contribute to building capacities of organizations defending the rights of LGBTI persons. Special attention will also be paid to LGBTI rights defenders.

Funding for each grant will range between 50 000 – 60 000€ maximum and will represent up to 100% of the project’s budget over a period of 12 to 24 months.

4. GEOGRAPHIC AND THEMATIC FOCUS

Each project shall target **one single country**.

All countries are eligible but preference will be given to **projects targeting areas where LGBTI persons are most at risk and where civil society organisations are facing challenges in defending their rights**. Special attention will be paid to projects in Francophone Africa. The following selected indicators related to violations of basic human rights as per the UN Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders of 9 December 1998 will be taken into account:

- i) **Limitations on the right to freedom of association** (e.g. regular and widespread obstacles to registration of civil society organisations and their independent operation, forced closure of civil society organisations, and physical threats to their members).
- ii) **Limitations on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly** (e.g. frequent prohibition or violent repression of peaceful protests).
- iii) **Limitations on the right to freedom of expression, to information and to communicate** (e.g. regular repression of and major reprisals for criticism of public policies, obstacles to collection, publication and dissemination of information on human rights, including access to the Internet; general censorship).
- iv) **Threatening and insecure environment, which seriously undermines the right to life and physical and mental integrity** (e.g. extra-judicial killings, death threats, beatings, torture, rape and ill treatment during questioning or detention).
- v) **Limitations on the right to a fair trial and due process** (e.g. regular occurrences of disregard of fair trial, arbitrary arrests and detention, lack of impartial tribunal and appropriate jurisdiction, restrictions on the exercise of legal defence, legal harassment on baseless charges).

5. **BENEFICIARIES**

Proposals submitted to the fund should benefit persons whose rights are violated because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, sexual characteristics or LGBTI rights defenders.

6. **POSSIBLE OUTCOMES**

- Local stakeholders are informed and aware of LGBTI persons' rights and welfare.
- Local stakeholders are committed to promoting respect of sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics, and introducing best practices with the aim of ending discrimination in the exercise of their duties.
- A significant decrease in discriminatory practices and anti-LGBTI actions is observed.
- LGBTI persons have access to legal and psychological counselling, and health care.
- LGBTI organisations are officially registered and/or have reached sufficient capacities and expertise.
- Dialogue between LGBTI and local authorities and/or institutions important for LGBTI rights and welfare in local community (administration, police, judiciary, schools, and medical services) is developed.
- Legislation is enacted and effectively implemented to protect the rights of LGBTI persons.
- Policies are developed and implemented to promote the inclusion of LGBTI-persons in all aspects of life, including the following dimensions of human freedom: economic well-being, political and civic participation, education, health and personal security.
- A significant decrease in the number of cases involving abuse/discrimination against LGBTI persons is observed.
- Public opinion and local communities are sensitized to LGBTI person's rights.

7. POSSIBLE / NON EXHAUSTIVE ACTIVITIES

Advocacy and lobbying

- Support the enactment, improvement and/or better implementation of national legislation protecting the rights of LGBTI persons.
- Lobby and advocacy to prevent the enactment of legislation aimed at restricting freedom of expression or freedom of association and assembly or aimed at restricting the opportunity for civil society actors to promote human rights for LGBTI-persons
Possible target groups are local stakeholders (journalists, legal professionals, politicians, religious and community leaders, local authorities, police, health workers, teachers)

Public awareness

- Awareness campaigns to increase public understanding of discriminations faced by LGBTI persons in order to change public attitude toward LGBTI persons.
- Organisation of workshops with specific target groups (journalists, legal professionals, politicians, religious and community leaders, local authorities, police, health workers, teachers) on human right violations faced by LGBTI persons.

Documentation, protection and assistance

- Documentation of human rights violations and violence against LGBTI persons.
- Legal assistance to victims of violence or discrimination.
- Emergency response to LGBTI persons and human rights defenders under threat.

Capacity building and networking

- Provision of legal assistance to support formal registration of LGBTI organisations.
- Building or strengthening organisational and financial capacities of organisations that have the legitimacy and expertise to undertake sustainable advocacy.
- Development of collaborative networks amongst LGBTI, Human rights defenders and civil society organisations including those dealing with development issues.
- Provision of small grants to support local initiatives

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Eligibility criteria's:

Applicants must meet the following criterias:

- Be a legal entity*
- Be a non-profit organisation

- Be a non-state actor¹
- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project.

*On a case-by-case basis, applications may be accepted from individuals and entities which were unable to register/acquire legal personality under the applicable national law because of their core objectives. In this case, individuals representing those entities are expected to prove that they have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of these entities and that they have the capacity to provide financial, and operational guaranties equivalent to those provided by legal entities.

- The application file must include the following document:

A concept note (10 pages max. without appendixes) summarizing the approach (objectives, expected results and impacts, monitoring & evaluation system, etc.) and the implementation mechanism of the proposed activities. Applicants are requested to use the application form available in annex see annex 1.

- Additional documents to attach to the concept note are:

- ✓ A monthly schedule detailed by planned activity.
- ✓ A budget in Euros detailed by activity. The applicants are requested to use the budget form available in annex 2. Activities listed in the budget must be exactly the same as those detailed in the schedule and concept note. The budget must also foresee a provision for external audit at the end of the project, a contingency reserve (not exceeding 5% of the direct eligible costs) and administrative costs (not exceeding 7% max).

- Applicants must also submit the following background documents about their organisations:

- ✓ A copy of the organisation's registration document or a note describing its creation/activities.
- ✓ A copy of the organisation's last annual report, or presentation of activities implemented by the organisation over the past two years.
- ✓ The organisation's certified profit and loss closed accounts 2015 and 2016, statements of 2017 accounts, budget for 2018.

Proposals which do not meet the abovementioned eligibility criteria's will not be evaluated.

B. Application schedule

Questions related to this call for proposals should be addressed in English or French by email to lgbtifund.afeti@gmail.com before: 17th September 2018. The email object field must be: «Question: LGBTI-2018-03_ [Name of the organization], [Question N°]».

¹ The Non-state, non-profit-making actors eligible for financial support under the present Fund operating on an independent and accountable basis include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing LGBTI persons, local professionals' associations and citizens groups, cooperatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations.

Most relevant questions and their related answers will be published on the website of EF at the latest 11 days before the proposals submission deadline.

Applications (in French or English) must be sent via email to lgbtfund.afeti@gmail.com before 8th October 2018, at 12.00 A.M. (Paris time - GMT+1).

The proposals and annexes (in French or English) can only be submitted by email to the above-mentioned email address.

Only the time and date of reception of the email will be taken into account.

The submission email object must be: "Proposal: LGBTI-2018-03 – *[name of the organisation]*, *[the country]*".

The same organisation cannot present more than one proposal or be part of more than one consortium responding to this call for proposals.

Project proposals containing unreadable or corrupted files will not be examined.

Information about the LGBTI Fund current call (annexes 1, annex 2 and annex 3) is available on the Expertise France website: <https://www.expertisefrance.fr/web/guest/collaborer-avec-nous> under "Achats et subventions".

9. EVALUATION CRITERIAS

Submitted proposals will be strictly analysed against evaluation criteria as detailed in annex 3 of the terms of reference. This annex provides a list of admissibility criteria and presents the marking scheme that will be applied to each proposal received under this call.

In addition to indicators related to violations of basic human rights (see 3. *Geographic and thematic focus*), evaluators will assess whether projects clearly demonstrate:

- Sustainability beyond this grant.
- Ability to strengthen local structures/organisations.
- Genuine long-term local partnerships.
- Human rights-based approach with a wide union strategy with other human rights organisations, ability to take advantage of strong international mobilization (International day of Human Rights, International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia).
- Consistency and/or complementarity with existing cross-border or sub-regional strategies and programmes.
- Impact on social representation of LGBTI persons in order to achieve better acceptance of gender, sexual orientation and characteristics diversity.

10. PROJECT VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Given the security context of countries or regions where grant beneficiaries operate, the visibility of each project financed by the fund will be managed on a case by case basis in accordance with each organization's need for visibility.

If possible, information regarding the fund's projects will be published on Expertise France's website and social media pages. A flyer and visual identity was designed following the publication of the first call for proposals. These communication materials will be updated and used to promote the fund's activities.