



ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT:

Annual Program Statement (APS)

Under Sida Funded Program No:

Funding Opportunity Title:	HUMAN RIGHTIVISM PROJECT
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Deadline for Questions:	15 Nov 2020
Deadline for Submission:	30 Nov 2020
Submit Concept Papers to:	grants@kcdf.org

Community Development Fund:

The Community Development Fund's 20 years of robust project and funding management experience, spreading across donors, sectors, and topics, all of its approx. USD 75 Million implemented projects—have one common characteristic, their focus on the communities, their empowerment, local development efforts, and overall beneficiary-centered approach on all topics it has covered thus far within the Human Rights areas that are covered in a cross-cutting context. On the other hand, given the extensive in-country expertise, the inclusion of key CSO partners to implement certain activities is an added value and a unique opportunity to bring proven and tested partners as another layer of insurance for a successful and competent implementation of this Project.

Human Rightivsm Project:

The human rights project supported by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) amounting 4.9 Million EUR over 4 years period. The overall goal is to create and sustain critical mass and educational approach proposed for each of the target audiences of core interest to HUMAN RIGHTIVISM project. The project seeks to bring together highly crucial CSO partners all over Human Rights and Education, Documentation, Watchdog and Strategic Mitigation, and Environmental rights component to further evolve the Human Rights areas that have been lacking capacities or neglected by relevant stakeholders, and that are natural, genuine, and common group interest based.



The human rights aim to create and sustain critical mass and educational approach proposed for each of the target audiences of primary interest to HUMAN RIGHTIVISM project, this project represents a unique and genuine attempt from the target group citizens to shift from passivism into activism, from us and them, into simple unified common group of interests, from individual prism into group prism.

In the project, special emphasis will be given to provide support to gender empowerment at the grassroots level, in implementation of grants-funds and outreach to young women at the grassroots level (i.e. by working with women leaders at civil society level, youth, community level, local government, assembly members and central level as well) to ensure that the project reaches its targets for female beneficiaries. Creating gender inclusion and sustainable human rights approach projects requires the capacity building of relevant offices/units for Human Rights in Gender tackling the local and central level.

Human Rights Environment in Kosovo:

Kosovo's legal framework provides for a solid system of guarantees fundamental human rights. In this regard, provisions of international human rights-related instruments for civil and political rights are directly applicable in Kosovo and supersede the national laws in cases of inconsistency. Through its Constitution and laws, Kosovo is committed to guaranteeing and promoting fundamental rights. However, as European Commission 2019 Kosovo Progress Report on enlargement process reveals additional efforts are needed with regard to enforcement. Implementation of human rights strategies and legislation is often undermined by inadequate financial and other resources, particularly at the local level, as well as limited political prioritization and lack of coordination.

As stated in European Commission Report 2019, according to Ombudsperson's Institution of Kosovo it was evident that large part of population was not aware of neither what their human rights are nor how to protect them; therefore, the transparency of the institutions and the efficiency of legal system can only be guaranteed if the population is aware of its rights. Despite the ongoing reforms, the justice system continues to have a large case backlog thus presenting an obstacle to guaranteed rights of persons belonging to different ethnic groups in particular of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, who continue to experience discrimination. The EC 2019 report also found that journalists and human rights defenders were subject to threats and attacks during the last years. Unfortunately, after so many years Kosovo is still not able to effectively ensure gender equality in practice, especially concerning remains the issue of domestic violence and discrimination against women; gender-biased sex selection; child abuse; human trafficking; discrimination against minorities, especially Roma; inadequate support for persons with disabilities; poor conditions in mental health facilities; sporadic ethnic tensions; and child labor in the informal sector. Furthermore, there are still major concerns regarding practices of sexual harassment. There are some institutions that endorsed regulations on sexual harassment especially University of Prishtina where many cases were declared but not punished. Unfortunately, the judicial institutions in Kosovo are not well capacitated to successfully and swiftly deal with such cases. Furthermore, sexual harassment at the workplace is common and is often not reported due to fear of physical retaliation or dismissal, and therefore the public awareness for sexual harassment continues to remain low.

Civil and political rights are constitutionally guaranteed and are generally in line with European standards. Although the International Convention on Social Economic and Cultural Rights (ICESC) and the European Social Charter (ESC) are not listed in Kosovo Constitution among the human rights instruments that are directly applicable, the right to education, public health care, housing, a living wage, decent working



conditions and other social goods are explicitly listed in and covered by both- other directly applicable instruments and the Chapter II of Kosovo Constitution. In 2018, the Kosovo Assembly adopted the Resolution on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). However, due to lack of resources and political will, implementation is hindered and the violation of rights, such as domestic violence or hate crimes often remain unsolved. An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group for Human Rights was established in May 2016 with an aim to devise a strategy for efficient enforcement of rights; again there is still no coordinated response to comprehensive human rights issues, in place.

In January 2016, a National Preventive Mechanism Against Torture (NPMAT) was introduced as a separate body within the Ombudsman Institution with the mandate to inspect places where people are deprived of their liberty. This formally brought such practice in line with the Optional Protocol to the Covenant Against Torture (OPCAT) With the adoption of the “package of human rights legislation” in 2015. Ombudsperson Institution has been introduced as a national equality mechanism. Progress regarding freedom of expression and assembly was quite limited, if not negative following intimidation of journalists, including threats and attacks¹. Kosovo Serbs regularly complain about the bias of courts assessing crimes against their community². The protection of people with mental disabilities is quite weak. The Law on protection from Discrimination and the Law on Gender Equality, adopted in 2015 is not being implemented. Human rights CSOs report that Kosovo society is very homophobic, and LGBT groups face violence and threats and the cases are not properly investigated³. Women’s rights are guaranteed in theory. However, women have, in practice, fewer career opportunities compared to their man counterparts, and are substantially underrepresented in political life (save for cases where it is mandatory by law to have women represented) and still have limited access to property ownership, which decisively hampers women’s full enjoyment of their rights. Credible international reports find that overall women continue to face real challenges as regards property ownership and inheritance. They own less than 20% of properties.⁴

Kosovo’s justice system has undergone substantial reforms following the 2008 Declaration of Independence. New laws are in place, courthouses have been renovated or newly constructed, and judges and prosecutors were vetted for reappointment in 2010. At the same time, CSOs have become increasingly active as watchdogs and advocates, engaging citizens and institutions to advance access to justice, the recognition of rights, and the promotion of complaint mechanisms for public accountability. Nevertheless, the wave of reform and activism has not yet translated into increased trust in political institutions and the justice system. In its 2018 corruption report, Transparency International ranked Kosovo 93rd out of 180 countries⁵. The two institutions cited as most corrupted were political institutions and the judiciary. This trust deficit is worsened by the perception that justice institutions perpetuate corruption through the lack of prosecution of corruption-related offenses and ineffective disciplinary systems. Public perception often conflates important distinctions of law. Pending cases may be considered unsolved, and cases that are

¹ Freedom of Expression, Media and Information in Kosovo An Assessment Based on Council of Europe Indicators for Media in a Democracy, Kosovo 2.0, Çohu and Kosovo Press Council, 2018, available at: https://crd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Freedom_of_Expression_Media_and_Information_in_Kosovo_529396.pdf.

² Potentially Ethnically Motivated Incidents: Challenges in Defining and Reporting, Equal Rights for All Coalition, available at: http://www.ecmikosovo.org/uploads/Pemi_ENG.pdf.

³ Case Study The Treatment of LGBTI cases by Kosovo’s Justice System, Center for Social Groups Development, 2016, available at: http://csgd-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Report_Treatment-of-LGBTI-cases-ENG.pdf.

⁴ See: 2019 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy, pg. 18, available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-kosovo-report.pdf>

⁵ Mapping assignment for continued Swedish support to the human rights defenders in Kosovo, Dana Landau and Fredrik Ugglå NIRAS / TAN, November 2018.



pursued or dismissed may be considered as selective justice. The resulting lack of trust in institutions is a key obstacle to increasing demand implementation of Human Rights in Kosovo and overcoming the sense that corruption is so entrenched that any attempt to advance accountability is futile.

A major challenge to civil society's engagement is ensuring a proactive and meaningful involvement beyond advocacy efforts to policy-making through constructive and focused leadership that commands attention and compels action in the implementation of laws and regulations that guarantee human rights. CSOs uniformly recognize the need to educate and engage young people to ensure advocacy efforts reach the audience that is most likely to be the driver of change. Despite being diverse and vibrant CSOs in Kosovo, still, suffer from high levels of fragmentation and donor-dependency. One of the opportunities for the engagement of civil society in human rights issues in collaboration with the Ombudsperson Institution, as it remains one of the most trusted institutions in the country. Substantial intervention is needed to enhance the CSOs' capacities to identify, refer, address and strategically litigate cases pertaining human rights violation. This becomes specifically crucial in the context of gender issues due to complexity of such matters and the social context in need for a substantial shift of mindset to achieve gender equality and eradicate practices of gender-based discrimination.

Critical Environmental issues with particular emphasis on air and water pollution are one of the greatest health risks and well-being of local communities. Therefore, it is crucial that environmental pollution is the focus of priorities of central and local institutions. Factors affecting air and water pollution in Kosovo are the energy industry, metallurgical industry, mining, industrial and urban dumpsites, transport, agriculture, etc. Lack of proper urban planning that resulted in chaotic urbanization, reduced green spaces continuously. Lack of required sufficient technical skills and capacities of CSOs, functioning outside the capital of Kosovo is evident. In addition, there is a limited number of Environmental Experts engaged in CSOs.

Annual Program Statement Scope:

The Annual program statement (APS) is seeking applicants to propose creative and effective approaches that will improve human rights over three project components, that of the Education and Activism in Human Rights Areas; Watchdog, Documentation and Strategic Mitigation; and Environmental Rights. These approaches could include activities that have a positive impact on women and youth, community engagement, watchdog, documentation awareness and/or perception about human rights areas. Applicants may choose among a range of initiatives or scale up small projects that demonstrate success.

Below are some illustrative examples of grant activities eligible for funding:

C1: Education and Activism in Human Rights Areas:

- *Facilitating educational, cultural and any other recreational events for women and youth to tackle human rights areas, education and advocacy;*
- *Amplifying the voices of community leaders, women, youth and other representative of positive change through advocacy mechanism and communication means to raise the awareness on the Human Rights areas;*
- *Developing the skills of young leaders to serve as catalysts for positive change in their communities;*



- *Efforts to disseminate information on the priority issues on its agenda, including sustainable development, empowering women and young people, and addressing human rights matters, among others;*
- *Create critical mass and encouraging civil society organizations to innovate, provide education and increase public awareness on Human Rights;*
- *Supporting the capacity of grassroots CSOs on advocacy and lobbying on human rights and rights of people with disabilities;*
- *Marginalized group rights and protection.*

C2: Watchdog, Documentation and Strategic Mitigation:

- *Addressing the Human Rights and through local level and demonstrating suitable mechanism of intervention at the local level;*
- *Strengthen the civil society capacity in their role as prime promoters of human rights and good governance principles;*
- *Provision of training and capacity building of youth, local institutions, and watchdog institutions on documentation and strategic mitigation on Human rights;*
- *Monitoring accountability for Human Rights;*
- *Documenting Violations, instrumenting the right approach;*
- *Social Media impact on Human Rights.*

C3: Environmental Rights:

- *Human Rights and the Environment, tackling the environmental problems, notably pollution and degradation of nature.*
- *The relationship between human rights and the environmental law protection in Kosovo.*
- *Strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations in youth environmental education and activism;*
- *Capacity building of civil society organizations in exchange of Information and organization of environmental campaigns;*
- *Strengthen of capacities of civil society organization in environmental monitoring and reporting on the negative causes of environmental pollution.*
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AWARD INFORMATION

Concept papers will be reviewed on a rolling basis. It is likely that all of the available funds for this APS may be allocated to awards in the earlier stages of the review. CDF will be funding activities up to 10,000 EUR. All award activities must have a period of performance of no more than 12 months and be closed out by December 2021. CDF may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). The number of awards and amount of available funding is subject to change and CDF reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS.



MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to meet minimum eligibility criteria for grant award, the applicant or its concept paper application must:

- Be a civil society or private-sector organization, officially registered in Kosovo.
- Demonstrate how they are contributing resources from their own private or local sources for the implementation of this program through direct or indirect of (at least 5% of total grant must be cost -shared or in-kind contribution on the grant amounts up to EUR 10,000.
- Be submitted by the deadline as stated in the APS
- Not be affiliated with a political party

CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION

All applicants are required to submit a concept paper no longer than **3 pages** (including cover page) that is specific, complete and concise. The concept paper should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. All materials must be in English. The concept paper must be submitted by email to: grants@kcdf.org no later than the deadline on the cover page of this APS or subsequently announced deadlines if additional reviews are announced. All correspondence must include the relevant APS number and title. Applicants whose concept papers successfully align with the objectives of Human Rightivism project will be asked to submit a full application.

Concept Papers must include:

- Cover Page (1 page)
- Technical Approach (2 page)
- Cost Summary (1 page)
- Documents required: Copy of organization's certificate of registration/fiscal number and Tax Verification (proving that organization doesn't have any debt to tax authorities)

Cover Page (no more than one 1 page) must include:

- APS number & Name
- Address of organization
- Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, etc.);
- Contact point (lead contact name; relevant telephone, fax, e-mail information);
- Signature of authorized representative of the applicant

Technical approach (no more than 2 page):

Technical approach will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the APS, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativity. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will



contribute to improved Human Rights areas within three project components. This section should also address the program summary and selected objectives in Section I of this document and should include:

- Concise title and objectives of proposed activity
- Discussion of the objectives, activities proposed, the method of approach, the amount of effort to be employed, the anticipated results, and how the work will help accomplish Human Right's goals
- Type of support the applicant requests from CDF, try to be as specific as possible.

Cost Summary (no more than 1 page)

Applicants should include an overall summary budget defined by general program activities, and include the following:

- Proposed total estimated cost; Brief cost breakdown (e.g., salaries, travel, etc.)
- Proposed amount of the applicant's financial and/or in-kind cost-share, if applicable
- Proposed amount of prospective or existing partner(s) financial as well as in-kind participation, if applicable

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the APS, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativity, according to the evaluation criteria identified below:

- Demonstrates a creative, concrete plan to that aligns with APS objectives
- Proposes measurable activities that can show results of grant/project goal
- Realistic budget that reflects true cost of implementation, with in-kind or in cash cost-share demonstrated
- Ability to be implemented (timetable, realistic budget, and scope of project)

The concept paper will be evaluated by Review Evaluation Committee (REC) consist of internal and external members.

CDF POINT OF CONTACT

The point of contact for this S-APS and any questions during the APS process is:

grants@kcdf.org

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this APS must request it in writing by the stated deadline for questions (15 Nov'20) to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this APS, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.



OTHER INFORMATION

- Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of CDF, nor does it commit CDF to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. CDF reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Further, CDF reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS or extend the deadline or re-announcement as required.
 - Eligible organizations could include, for example, foundations, associations, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations/groups and/or organizations grouped together in an application as a formal or informal consortium.
- All applications must be duly filled and submitted electronically to grants@kcdf.org by 30 November 2020. The email should be marked as per components for example: ***“C1: Education and Activism in Human Rights Areas”*** - in the subject line – depending on which component you are applying for. Failing to do so might compromise your submission.

INFORMATION SESSION

A public information session will be held on **Nov 9, 2020 at 13:00 PM** through CDF and Human Rightivism Social media platform, the entire information session will recorded and uploaded on the following official web pages: www.kcdf.org, www.kcdf.org/humanrightivism and <https://www.facebook.com/HumanRightivism>