



**Request for Applications (RFA)**  
**Under Sida Funded Program No: RFA001**

<b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b>	<b>HUMAN RIGHTIVISM PROJECT</b>
<b>Announcement Type:</b>	<b>Request for Applications (RFA)</b>
<b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b>	<b>RFA 001</b>
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<b>Deadline for Questions:</b>	<b>13 Jul 2022</b>
<b>Deadline for Submission:</b>	<b>25 Jul 2022</b>
<b>Info Session</b>	<b>7 Jul 2022</b>
<b>Submit applications to:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:grants@kcdf.org">grants@kcdf.org</a></b>



## 1. Contents

1. Community Development Fund: .....	3
2. Human Rightivism Project: .....	3
3. RFA Objectives.....	4
4. Award Information.....	7
5. Minimum eligibility criteria.....	7
6. Application submission instructions & information .....	7
7. Evaluation criteria: .....	8
8. CDF point of contact.....	9
9. Responsiveness .....	9
10. Information session.....	9
11. Other information .....	9



## **1. 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.

## **2. Human Rightivism Project:**

The human rights project supported by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) amounted to 5.1 Million EUR over 4 years' period. The overall goal is to create and sustain a critical mass and educational approach proposed for each of the target audiences of core interest to the HUMAN RIGHTIVISM project. 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 as well represents a unique and genuine attempt from the target group citizens to shift from passivism into activism, from us and them, into a simple unified common group of interests, from individual prism into group prism.

In the project, special emphasis will be given to providing 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 the 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 levels.

The methods and approaches proposed to begin transforming through the educational and cultural activities in fundamental Human Rights areas, followed by organic integration of cross-cutting approach through all over three components of the project, followed by creation of required CSOs including grassroots CSO's capacities to watchdog, document, and provide strategic litigation to promote human rights in general (with gender equality at the center) and environmental rights.

The project seeks to bring together highly crucial CSO partners all over three components, to make further improvements the Human Rights areas that have long been needed, and that are natural, genuine, and common group interest-based.

Additionally, the Project seeks to bring individual and community motivation and restore optimism and build confidence that only through active engagement of all the good-willing, can we ensure change occurs. Robust participatory and transparent decision-making practices, and particularly the demand-driven approach enshrined throughout Human Rightivism supported activities, are the key two filters to be used that no further harm is done when attempting to improve relations.



### 3. RFA Objectives

Though designed with the over-all HUMAN RIGHTIVISM objectives in mind, this RFA aims to solicit more focused applications pertaining to initiatives that respond to these challenges as described below.

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 EC 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.

The objective of this RFA is to support small and grassroots civil society initiatives in the above described context that

1. Enhance the community engagement on Human Rights areas and mobilize the target communities with a required human rights defense actions.
2. Improve protection of citizens' rights through legal remedies, victims support, advocacy and access to credible, consultative, gender sensitive and responsive transitional justice mechanisms for affected people
3. Enhances active citizen participation and inclusivity in reconciliation, constitutional reform, strengthening democratic processes and accountable governance mechanisms
4. Work on a proactive investigative journalism targeting Human Rights cases.



### 1.3 Illustrative Tasks and Expected Results

This RFA is designed to support small scale CSO efforts within Kosovo. It is intended for interventions that will be implemented, and have impact, either nationally or across multiple, diverse provinces. Similarly, research or empirical studies should be directly relevant to the objectives stated. Though a variety of approaches may be used, such as those below, the objective of such approaches should be to support greater participation and capacity building in order to ensure more consultative and accountable institutions and systems.

In pursuing the RFA objectives the applicants should consider from a full range of interventions as is to be expected from Civil society. These include (a) bringing issues/problems to the attention of decision makers (b) working with the target communities and influencing prioritization and agenda setting (c) formulating participatory solutions, providing alternatives and constructive suggestions, (d) helping in implementation, (e) collecting and channeling feedback, particularly with regard to the impact on affected populations, and (f) building the capacity of stakeholders to be able to do the above.

Supporting the RFA objectives could be realized though the following illustrative tasks (not exhaustive). Proposed activities should reflect your organizational objectives, experience and capacity.

- Mobilization and empowering of individuals/communities to articulate their demands and voice out on issues that support RFA objectives
- Awareness raising and facilitation of informed consultation processes with relevant stakeholders
- Convening forums with relevant actors including representatives from the government and civil society
- Strengthening citizen participation and inclusion in design of systems, mechanisms and laws
- Advocacy campaigns aimed drawing attention to particular issues and influencing decision makers
- Establishing community and CSO monitoring and engagement with mechanisms like the independent commissions
- Improving relations between diverse communities and ensuring inclusivity in interventions
- Supporting rights awareness, documentation of violations, seeking legal remedies and citizen protections
- Seeking specialized technical expertise to support in legal processes and design of mechanisms and instruments.
- Advancing the participation and empowerment of youth in these process
- Advancing the participation and empowerment of women in these process
- Building capacity of local media (mainstream and social media) to support RFA objectives
- Research and empirical studies that directly support RFA objectives
- Strengthening policies and practices that support RFA objectives

Expected results (illustrative and not exhaustive)

- A credible, consultative and responsive accountability and reconciliation mechanism brought about due to concerted citizen activism



- Greater accountability in governance brought about by active citizen engagement in democratic institutions like the independent commissions
- A truly participatory and inclusive constitutional reform process in which citizens engage in an informed manner.
- Watchdog and investigative journalism

Additionally, the proposed activities should:

- Be designed to support broad development objectives that promote citizen participation and a citizen-friendly public administration.
- Seek to take advantage of the expanded space for civil society to operate using approaches such as advocacy, media, government engagement or networking that may not have been possible previously.
- Take into account the long-term process of building amicable co-existence between diverse communities, a process which requires a diversity of approaches, including but not limited to people-to-people approaches and community-level inter-ethnic strategies.
- Be implemented by organizations that have shown an ability to organize and empower communities for social and economic action and for supporting processes that enhance inclusion.
- Expand successful community level initiatives across provinces or through networking and building alliances with like-minded organizations as well as public and private sector stakeholders, OR
- Incorporate gender considerations to ensure that activities are equitable
- Take into consideration the sustainability of change brought about by the intervention
- Carrying out participatory and inclusive processes for identifying specific needs and addressing them,
- Adapting the support tools for easy access of the partner organizations acting on behalf of vulnerable groups, in particular, LGBTI and People with Disabilities.
- Ensuring that its project interventions are complementary and improve Kosovo's general Human Rights situation aligned with specific overarching indicator results according to the following SDG goals:

Meeting the following program overarching SDG Goals:

- **SDG 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- **SDG 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Applicants can propose initiatives that address any one of the above areas, or more than one area. Applicants are encouraged to network with like-minded organizations and engage government institutions where useful to increase their impact and widen their reach; and where applicable to leverage various media platforms, including mainstream, social, and alternative



media, to amplify the impact of their initiatives. Application should attempt to identify anticipated impact in terms of achieving changes in policies, practices, knowledge, attitudes and/or behaviors.

#### 1.4 Gender and Diversity Considerations

All applications must demonstrate how gender considerations have been incorporated in the needs analysis, problem definition, design and implementation plan of the proposed intervention. Applicants are expected to ensure that the stakeholder consultations used to identify proposed interventions involve a broad cross-section of actors and reflect gender, age and where applicable ethnic/religious balance. The stakeholders consulted should represent a variety of political viewpoints and include both women and men in roughly equal numbers. They should have consulted and incorporated the perspectives of youth. Applicant must give an indicative number of people that the project seeks to benefit, disaggregated by gender.

This Call for Applications is tailored to support grassroots Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in diverse areas relevant to human rights. The crucial role of human rights in the harmonious development of societies and the adequate protection of civil and political rights becomes even more relevant in times of economic or other crisis, when there may be temptations to neglect the rule of law and democratic principles.

Eligible organizations invited to identify their specific needs in terms of topic, methodology, and implementation of the action concerning one or several objectives listed above. Then, the activity can be implemented through different methods:

#### 4. Award Information

CDF will be funding activities up to 10 grants up to 5,000 EUR. All award activities must have a period of performance of no more than up to 6 months. CDF may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). The number of awards and amount of available funding are subject to change and CDF reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this RFA.

#### 5. Minimum eligibility criteria

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

- Be a civil society/institutes, officially registered in Kosovo.
- Be submitted by the deadline as stated in the RFA
- Not be affiliated with a political party

#### 6. Application submission instructions & information

All applicants are required to submit an application no longer than **3 pages** (including the cover page) that is specific, complete, and concise. The applications should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. All materials must be in English. The applications must be submitted by email to: [grants@kcdf.org](mailto:grants@kcdf.org) no later than the deadline on the cover page (25 Jul'22) of this RFA or subsequently announced deadlines if



additional reviews are announced. All correspondence must include the relevant RFA number and title (*example – RFA001\_NGOName\_project name*).

**Applications must include:**

- Cover Page (1 page)
- Technical Approach (2 pages)
- Budget/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:

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

**Technical approach** (no more than 2 pages):

The technical approach will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the RFA, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativity. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will contribute to improved Human Rights. This section should also address the program summary and selected objectives of this document and should include:

- Concise title and objectives of the 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 rights 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 proposed total estimated cost; Brief cost breakdown (e.g., salaries, travel, etc.) .

**7. Evaluation criteria:**

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

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



The applications will be evaluated by the Review Evaluation Committee (REC) consisting of internal and external members.

## 8. CDF point of contact

The point of contact for this RFA and any questions during the RFA process is:

[grants@kcdf.org](mailto:grants@kcdf.org)

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must request it in writing by the stated deadline for questions (13 Jul'22) to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this RFA, if that information is necessary for submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

## 9. Responsiveness

Those applications that are not submitted in accordance with the RFA requirements will not be considered for review.

## 10. Information session

A public information session will be held on **July 07, 2022, at 13:00 PM** through CDF and Human Rightivism Social media platform, on the following official web pages: [www.kcdf.org](http://www.kcdf.org), [www.kcdf.org/humanrightivism](http://www.kcdf.org/humanrightivism) and <https://www.facebook.com/HumanRightivism>

## 11. Other information

- Issuance of this RFA 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 RFA 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](mailto:grants@kcdf.org) by 25 July 2022.
- Interested applicants are required to download Full RFA documents (Technical proposal, budget) in following website: <https://kcdf.org/humanrightivism/request-for-applications-rfa/> or request [by email grants@kcdf.org](mailto:grants@kcdf.org)