



Request for Applications (RFA)
Under Sida Funded Program No: RFA002

Funding Opportunity Title: HUMAN RIGHTIVISM PROJECT

Announcement Type: Request for Applications (RFA)

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA 002

Issuance Date: 20 March 2023

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Info Session 31 March 2023

Deadline for Submission: 20 April 2023

Submit applications to: grants@kcdf.org

Find details: <https://kcdf.org/procurement/>



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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 95 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 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.

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 2022 Kosovo Progress Report on enlargement process reveals that fundamental rights issues need to feature higher on the political agenda. Human and financial resources are still lacking and relevant authorities are still dependent on donor support and guidance and need to assume greater ownership.

As stated in the European Commission Report 2022, the government's capacity to streamline and oversee fundamental rights policies and legislation requires improvement, including in coordinating the mechanisms to protect human rights, gender equality and non-majority communities, at both central and local levels. On the rights of of lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) persons, the Constitution protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender. Nevertheless, public awareness on the rights of the LGBTIQ persons and their acceptance remains low. The draft Civil Code , which includes provisions for civil partnerships for same-sex partners, was not approved by the Assembly. The discussions on the Civil Code gave rise to use of homophobic language, including from MPs and the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Missing Persons. This has exacerbated the discrimination and prejudice toward LGBTIQ persons. The EC report also found that more needs to be done to effectively guarantee the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including Roma, Ashkali communities, recommending implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali communities 2022-2026. The EC report has also highlighted the need for the country to take steps to ensure gender equality in practice. This includes adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women. Additionally, the report recommends that Kosovo continue its efforts to ensure the proper functioning of the system of protection, prevention and adjudication of all forms of gender-based violence by implementing the relevant strategy and action plan.

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 (ICSEC) 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.

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.

RFA Goal:

The Community Development Fund (CDF) is announcing a Request for Applications (RFA) for small grants to support civil society organizations working in the fields of Human Rights Education and Activism and Documentation, Watchdog and Strategic Mitigation. These grants are intended to provide financial support to organizations that are actively engaged in promoting and protecting human rights, documenting and mitigating human rights violations focusing on human rights education for media, privacy data protection, advancement of gender equality, addressing the issues of domestic violence and violence against women, and the empowerment of non-majority communities, particularly the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities. Through these grants, the CDF hopes to help these organizations gain access to the resources and support them in addressing the above mentioned issues.

The objectives of this RFA are divided into two SLOTS:

SLOT 1. Human Rights Education and Activism will award up to 5 grants in the amount of up to 10,000 Euro.

- To support grassroots civil society organizations to raise awareness on human rights and engage in initiatives that enhance active involvement of community members to address human rights issues that affect them, and improve human rights advocacy and protection, primarily of vulnerable groups including the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and women, through improved access to human rights education and knowledge of available mechanisms and policies to enhance their access to basic services and opportunities, including access to formal education, information, government subsidies, employment, vocational training, free legal aid and preservation of cultural identity.
- Strengthen media knowledge on human rights and ways to apply that knowledge into investigative journalism that target human rights issues as well as educate civil society organizations and media on legal provisions and guidelines concerning the right to privacy and data protection.

SLOT2. Watchdog and Mitigation will award up to 5 grants in the amount of up to 6,000 Euro.

- To support grassroots civil society organizations in monitoring the implementation of relevant law and policy in the area of protection and promotion of human rights and



produce a report to address the gaps identified to serve as a basis for improvement in relevant human rights field as well as organizing public events to advocate for solutions that will help to mitigate the gaps identified in the monitoring findings.

- Identify, document and report human rights violations and the effects of those violations on individuals and communities, exploring the causes or developing strategies to protect and promote human rights. The report could also be used to inform legal cases and provide evidence for advocacy campaigns;

Organizations applying for the RFA under both SLOTS should tailor their proposed activities to reflect their own objectives, experience, and capacity. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that the RFA's objectives are met in a way that is tailored to the organization's unique needs, experience and capacities and may include the following:

- Awareness raising activities to facilitate informed consultation processes with relevant stakeholders;
- Strengthening civic involvement in the process of decision making at local level, including their involvement in local mechanisms for communities' participation and representation;
- Targeted advocacy aimed to draw attention to particular issues and influencing the decision makers at local level;
- Improving inter-community relations through cooperation among different communities at local level initiatives that affect them;
- Supporting human rights education and awareness, documentation of human rights violations;
- Advancing the participation and empowerment of youth and women in grassroots initiatives;
- Capacity building of media to equip them with the necessary skills and resources to effectively report on human rights issues and create awareness of human rights;
- Produce reports that involve studying the effects of human rights violations on individuals and communities;
- Monitoring and reporting on implementation of policies that protect the rights of vulnerable and marginalized communities in the field of education, healthcare, access to free legal aid and representation in decision-making processes.

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.

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 Request 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.

Award Information:

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.

Minimum eligibility criteria

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

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 no later than the deadline on the cover page (20 Apr'23) of this RFA or subsequently announced deadlines if additional reviews are announced.

All correspondence must include the relevant RFA number and title (**example – RFA002_NGOName_SLOT#_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.) .

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

CDF point of contact

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



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 (7 Apr'23) 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.

Responsiveness:

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

Information session:

A public information session will be held on **March 31, 2023, at 14:00 PM** through CDF and Human Rightivism Social media platform, on the following official web pages: www.kcdf.org, www.kcdf.org/humanrightivism and <https://www.facebook.com/HumanRightivism>

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 by 20 April 2023.
- Interested applicants are required to download Full RFA documents (Technical proposal, budget) in following website: www.kcdf.org, www.kcdf.org/humanrightivism and <https://www.facebook.com/HumanRightivism> or request [by email grants@kcdf.org](mailto:grants@kcdf.org)