



UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2016 Call for Proposals

Call Opens: 24 March 2016

Deadline for Online Submissions: 4 May 2016, 11:59 pm (EDT)

Online Application System: <https://grants.unwomen.org/>

March 2016

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1. Introduction to the 2016 Call for Proposals

The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (“UN Trust Fund”) is a global multi-lateral mechanism supporting national efforts to end one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. Established in 1996 by UN General Assembly Resolution 50/166,¹ the UN Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on behalf of the United Nations System.

The movement to prevent and end violence against women and girls has made enormous strides since the UN Trust Fund's establishment 20 years ago. However, despite clear progress, violence against women remains a human rights crisis affecting girls and women all over the world, regardless of class, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation or culture.

Such violence is at the extreme of a spectrum of discrimination that denies women and girls a whole range of rights and is one of the key cross-cutting challenges identified in *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (the SDGs), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

It is in this context, that the UN Trust Fund launches its Call for Proposals 2016. With its 20th grants cycle, the UN Trust Fund looks to support organizations that qualify for funding under: (a) the three programmatic areas of the UN Trust Fund's *2015-2020 Strategy*; (b) the “special window” addressing violence against women and girls in the context of the current refugee crisis; and (c) the “By Invitation only” category.

Special attention will be paid to applications from women's rights, women-led, and small organizations (including youth organizations) in recognition of the contribution these make to reaching women and girls at the grassroots level. The UN Trust Fund advocates for a demonstration of a minimum of 50 per cent of women in leadership positions of organizations it funds, and will take into consideration the gender composition and ratio of applicant organization's management, senior management and board levels. Attention will also be paid to those targeting the most underserved groups (such as women and girls with disabilities, LBT, internally displaced and refugees, indigenous, older women and members of ethnic minorities).

To be considered a “women's rights organization”, the organization's core work must be in the field of women's rights, gender equality, the elimination of violence against women, and sexual and gender based violence.

To be considered a “women-led organization”, the organization must have at least 50 per cent women in leadership positions, including in management, senior management and board levels.

To be considered a “small organization”, the organization's annual operational budget must have been lower than US\$ 200,000 over the last three years.

An organization's track record of implementing projects and programmes focused on the elimination of violence against women and girls, sexual and gender based violence, as well as demonstrated capacity and expertise in these fields will be considered an asset.

¹ General Assembly Resolution 50/166: The Role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in Eliminating Violence against Women, 22 December 1995.

2. About the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women launched its new Strategic Plan in 2015. Its mission over five years (2015-2020) is to advocate for and finance innovative and replicable approaches for preventing and ending violence against women and girls, to catalyze learning from global evidence collected from the projects it funds, and to leverage its unique mandate and convening power to foster global giving for ending violence against women and girls (EVAW/G). The ultimate vision of the UN Trust Fund is *a world without violence against women and girls* that is aligned with international human rights standards and humanitarian law of which gender equality and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls is an integral part.

The UN Trust Fund operates based on the voluntary contributions of UN Member States, non-profit organizations, foundations, the private sector and concerned individuals. Its governance and grant-making is guided by consultative committees at global and sub-regional levels comprised of UN agencies, leading experts from civil society and other key stakeholders.² Information on the UN Trust Fund, including its history, past grantees and donors, can be found on our website.³

Since its establishment, the UN Trust Fund has been an important source of support to women's, grassroots and other civil society organizations, nurturing innovation, catalyzing change and mobilizing key actors and constituencies – from community to national and international levels. Through provision of grants, the UN Trust Fund contributes to raising awareness about the issue, advocates for development and implementation of laws grounded in human rights standards, promotes access to services and develops capacity of its grantees for continued progress. Grantees – comprising governments, non-governmental organizations, and UN Country Teams (2008-2013) – engage diverse actors, such as women's, men's, adolescents and youth groups, indigenous communities, religious and traditional leaders, human rights organizations and the media in action to stop violence against women and girls. To date, the UN Trust Fund has supported 426 initiatives in 136 countries and territories with over US\$ 115 million.

The UN Trust Fund is also a vehicle for responding to the UN Secretary-General's call to prevent and end violence against women and girls in the context of his *UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign*.⁴ Through its grants, the UN Trust Fund contributes to the UNiTE Campaign by placing emphasis on its five key outcomes as relevant to national laws, multi-sectoral action plans, data collection systems, social mobilization and addressing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. At the same time, the UNiTE Campaign is a key advocacy platform of the UN Trust Fund which provides a way to communicate the work and achievements of the Fund's grantees as well as support for advancing its resource mobilization efforts and goals.

² In 2015, Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members at the global and regional levels included: the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-Women), United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), regional commissions New York, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Intergovernmental organizations and other experts at the global and field levels – including representatives from the Centre for Women's Global Leadership and Equality Now – were also actively involved in the grant-making process.

³ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/un-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women/application-guidelines>

⁴ See <http://endviolence.un.org/>.

3. The 2016 Call for Proposals

3.1. Guiding Principles of the UN Trust Fund

The UN Trust Fund promotes initiatives based on the following principles:

- *Human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches* that place paramount priority on promoting, protecting and fulfilling the human rights of all women and girls, as well as strengthening institutional capacities at local and national levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
- *Focus on impact, specific and measurable results* which make a concrete difference in lives of women and girls.
- *Holistic and multi-sectoral responses* that address women and girl's inter-related rights and needs in terms of prevention and response to violence, including safety and protection, access to health, legal, property and inheritance rights, and economic security and rights.
- *Focus on underserved groups*, especially excluded or disadvantaged women and girls (such as women and girls with disabilities, LBT, internally displaced and refugees, indigenous, older and members of ethnic minorities), ensuring *responsiveness to diversity*.
- *Coordination and partnership-building*, including among government entities, civil society organizations, especially women-led and small organization, women's specialist service providers and EAW thematic networks.
- *Commitment to sharing knowledge*, by documenting, monitoring, evaluating and disseminating results.
- *Evidence-based programming*, building on documented research, lessons learned and recommended practices, to ensure optimal results and use of resources.

3.2. Invitation for Proposals

With its 20th funding cycle in 2016, the UN Trust Fund will fund organizations that qualify for grants:

(1) under the three programmatic areas of the UN Trust Fund's 2015-2020 Strategy;

(2) under the "special window" addressing violence against women and girls in the context of the current refugee crisis; and

(3) under the "By Invitation only" category.

In all cases, emphasis will be placed on the applicant's ability to clearly articulate the contextual challenges, expected, specific and measurable results and strategies to achieve them, with a focus on tailored approaches and interventions to adequately address the proposed form of violence. Special attention will be paid to women's rights, women-led and small organizations (including youth organizations), as well as to the institutions and organizations working with local women's rights organizations.

The ideal proposal will include references to rigorous and documented evidence to justify the investment on the basis that the approach is likely to be effective in addressing violence against women and girls at the local or national level. As the UN Trust Fund aims to expand the global knowledge base on 'what works' to end violence against women and girls, applications from organizations piloting, testing, up-scaling or replicating evidence-based innovative and promising results-based approaches that carry a promise of broader application are also welcome.

3.2.1 UN Trust Fund Priority Programmatic Areas

The UN Trust Fund's programmatic areas will complement existing national and UN-led efforts to protect human rights and promote gender equality in the context of Sustainable Development Goals and all other existing international commitments to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

If submitting an application under the programmatic window, proposals must contribute to one or more of the following areas, which are the focus of the UN Trust Fund's Strategic Plan 2015-2020:

- (1) Improving access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services to end violence against women and girls;
- (2) Increasing effectiveness of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems to prevent and end violence against women and girls; and
- (3) Improving prevention of violence against women and girls through changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices.

By way of illustration only, applicants submitting a proposal under one of the UN Trust Fund's three priority programmatic areas might consider:

- *Developing specific strategies for primary prevention* of violence against women and girls, that is, strategies that will lead towards stopping violence from occurring altogether in the first place. Examples include: community and/or school-based approaches and interventions or working with men and boys on changing gender norms and the acceptability of violence, among various others.
- *Ensuring survivors' access to justice*, by strengthening implementation of existing national legislation, and alignment with international and regional human rights' standards; and to *quality health and other services and supports*. This may include establishing or expanding access to services such as hotlines, safe spaces, legal assistance and crisis counseling, among others.
- *Empowering women to understand and claim their rights and mobilizing communities on 'zero tolerance'* through legal literacy about international, national and local laws, policies and action plans, as well as through socio-economic (including employment) opportunities for women and girls to break out of the cycle of violence.
- *Strengthening efforts to address the full range of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, including efforts to prevent and address rape as a systematic method of warfare* by State and non-state actors.⁵
- *Responding to the needs and rights of especially excluded and underserved groups*, such as women and girls living in poverty, adolescents and youth, migrant women workers, domestic workers, indigenous communities, women and girls living with HIV or disabilities, women and girls who have been trafficked, among others; or on *especially neglected forms of violence or issues*, such as sexual violence against girls and young women, abuse during pregnancy or economic violence.
- *Securing strategic policy commitments and budgets for implementation*, by working to ensure that ending violence against women and girls is incorporated into leading national development and funding frameworks, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies, National Development *Plans*, National HIV and AIDS Plans, Sector-Wide Approaches, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction frameworks, or upcoming post-2015 related plans.
- *Enlisting relatively 'new' stakeholders* who have a critical, but largely untapped, role to play in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls, such as *working with men and boys, young people, faith-based organizations, employers and trade unions*, among other strategic groups.

⁵ See also UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, <http://www.stoprapienow.org>

- *Supporting the implementation of all internationally and regionally agreed human rights instruments, and recommendations* as relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee, and the recommendations of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Status of Women.
- Overall, *supporting implementation* of national and local laws, policies and action plans, at inter-sectoral and sectoral levels.

3.2.2 Special window addressing violence against women and girls in the context of the current refugee crisis

2015 likely exceeded all previous records for global forced displacement, with the number of refugees and internally displaced expectedly surpassing 60 million, mainly driven by the Syrian war and other protracted conflicts.⁶ The number of women and girls seeking safe destinations is also rapidly increasing. However, security risks and threats faced by refugee women and girls remain mostly invisible and minimized, while it is well-documented that violence against them rises dramatically through the entire forced migration process and manifests in multiple forms, including domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, early marriage etc.

In the context of the current conflict-related refugee crisis, there are clearly large gaps in addressing violence against refugee women and girls, in host and in transit countries. Therefore, this **special window of grant-making will focus on providing funding to organizations specifically addressing the issue of sexual and gender based violence experienced by women and girls refugees**. The aim is to enhance protection efforts at the stage of the transit process and to increase the provision of basic information and adequate basic services targeting the needs of all refugee, IDP and migrant women and girls in both transit and host countries.

The UN Trust Fund will prioritize proposals from the following target countries: **Egypt, FYR Macedonia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia and Turkey**. Organizations working on refugee crisis related issues in other ODA recipient countries⁷ are also welcome to apply through this special funding window.

By way of illustration only, proposals might consider:⁸

- *Creating SGBV referral pathways*, aligning medical, psychological, legal and judicial response services and providing training and coordination with all humanitarian responders at transit sites on basic SGBV response (preposition post-rape kits, establish clear procedure to accompany rape survivors to local hospitals and ensure access to needed medications).
- *Ensuring the existence of women-only safe places in refugee and transit camps*, adequately resourced with female staff specialized in providing urgent medical assistance, equipped to prevent and respond to sexual violence, as well as psychological support and assistance to traumatized women and girls.

⁶ The UN Refugee Agency, "2015 likely to break records for forced displacement – study". *News Stories*. 18 December 2015, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/5672c2576.html>.

⁷ The UN Trust Fund follows the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/DCD-DAC list of countries available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>.

⁸ Applicants are encouraged to review and build their programming on the 2015 *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action*, available at gbvguidelines.org.

- *Creating efficient information systems* to inform women refugees about the possible security risks and threats on the transit routes, in the transit centers, as well as advice on how to avoid dangers and seize opportunities to access basic services, medical care, child and/or women friendly spaces.
- *Providing information and prompt response to women and girls exposed to risks and threats related specifically to trafficking in human beings* in transit and host countries.
- *Establishing efficient cross-border mechanisms of information exchange* between authorities and/or service providers regarding traffickers, criminal groups, perpetrators and potential and existing women and girl refugee victims/survivors to assist them and prevent further exposure to abuse.
- *Ensuring the availability of female language interpreters* and female intercultural mediators to inform women and girls in refugee transition camps of available services for survivors of violence.
- *Establishing and providing sufficient gender-sensitive basic services* and protection from violence and exploitation for women and girls, including responding to the needs and rights of especially excluded and underserved groups among refugees, including single women travelling alone, female-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, unaccompanied minors and persons with disabilities.
- Supporting innovative approaches aimed at *reducing the acceptance of child marriage* and empowering girls as well as their family members with the knowledge, skills and resources to delay marriage and continue their schooling. This includes establishing “safe spaces” for out-of-school girls at the highest risk of violence aimed at decreasing their social isolation by building their basic literacy, life skills, reproductive health education, and knowledge of how to protect themselves from violence through the development of specific safety plans.
- *Creating early warning systems to assess and monitor specific protection risks* in relation to sexual and gender-based violence in local communities, refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) camps, and detention centers.
- *Increasing the availability of safe spaces and psychosocial support* to women survivors of violence, as well as innovative approaches to *support their socio-economic reintegration*.
- *Promoting the healthy development and community re-integration* of war-affected and displaced women and girls through case management, psychosocial care, educational/vocational training and employment.

3.2.3 By Invitation Only

As part of its 2015-2020 programmatic strategy, the UN Trust Fund may specially invite a select number of its past grantees to submit applications. Such an invitation might be extended based on a rigorous assessment of the results and a specific and measurable impact of previously funded initiatives. Proposals from invited applicants will proceed directly to the final round of appraisal. (See section 4.3 for details on the appraisal and selection process).

3.4 Grant amount and duration of proposals

For large civil society organizations and governments: US\$ 125,001 to US\$ 1 million for 2 or 3 years.

For small civil society organizations: US\$ 50,000 to US\$ 125,000 for 2 or 3 years.

For purposes of grant allocation, the UN Trust Fund considers an organization “small” if its annual organizational budget is less than US\$ 200,000. Organizations with a larger annual budget are not eligible to apply for a small grant.

Determination of budget requests should be based on an organization's operational and absorptive capacity. In general, an organization cannot request a grant amount that is more than twice its annual organization budget. Absorptive capacity will be assessed against the audit reports and annual organization budget information provided by applicants in the concept note application.

4. Application and Selection Process

4.1. Who can Apply?

Applicants from, or working in, countries and/or territories in the "List of Eligible Countries"⁹, as follows:

- Women-led and women's rights organizations that are legally registered in the country of implementation and that have specialized knowledge, expertise and track record of working in women's human rights and prevention and/or elimination of violence against women and girls.
- Civil society organizations that are legally registered in the country of implementation.
- Regional/international civil society organizations and networks that have national presence in the country and/or territory of implementation. In this case, the proposal must be focused on a single country and demonstrate how the proposed intervention will contribute to national change and/or capacity development and ownership of national and local organizations in the implementation. Organizations must also demonstrate that they or their national implementing partners are legally registered in the country (or territory) of implementation.
- Operational research/evaluation institutions specialized in gender equality and gender-based violence.
- Government authorities at central/national, sub-national and/or local levels, including National Women's Machineries and other sectoral Ministries.

Proposals should ideally reflect partnerships among civil society and government. Special attention will be paid to organizations with a demonstrated record of working with local women's organizations, especially grassroots women's organizations and EAWG specialized networks. Proposals from more than one organization or entity as co-applicants must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

The UN Trust Fund will not consider applications:

- Submitted for interventions in countries and territories that are not in the "List of Eligible Countries";
- Submitted for implementation in more than one country or territory;
- Submitted by individual UN agencies or by UN Country Teams;
- Submitted by individuals without any organizational affiliation;
- Submitted by organizations that do not have a legal status in the country of operation;
- Submitted by civil society organizations, government entities, or UNCTs currently implementing a grant from the UN Trust Fund;
- Submitted by an organization that has been a recipient of a UN Trust Fund grant over the last three years (between 2012 and 2015) unless the organization has been specifically invited to submit a new application by the UN Trust Fund;

⁹ The UN Trust Fund follows the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development/DCD-DAC list of countries available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>.

- Submitted by an international organization whose affiliate/s or country office is currently a recipient of a UN Trust Fund grant;
- That have incomplete documentation, including blank or missing annexes;
- Requesting grants to fund on-going programmes or services - such as medications, counseling and treatment services, infrastructure or construction, etc. However, innovative piloting and evaluation of an existing programme or services intended as a model for learning and scaling up may be considered on a discretionary basis, provided it falls within the scope or purview of the overall objectives outlined in the UN Trust Fund Call 2016;
- Requesting funds to cover costs of infrastructure such as purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, construction or repair of existing buildings or offices, including for example, the building and furnishing of service facilities, shelters or short-stay homes;
- Requesting funds for stand-alone general awareness raising and campaigns;
- Requesting funds for stand-alone research and data collection.

4.2. Where and When to Apply?

Applicants are expected to submit proposals online in the form of a brief **Concept Note**.

Applications can be submitted in the following languages only: **English, French and Spanish** (please note that while the UN Trust Fund's Call for Proposal is also available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian, **applications will only be accepted in English, Spanish or French**).

For preparation of the **Concept Note**, refer to the following annexes:

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Annex 1: | Concept Note Form |
| Annex 2: | Budget Summary |

The online **concept note application will be available from 24 March to 4 May 2016** at: <http://grants.unwomen.org>. All information must be entered using the online application software.

The **deadline for submission of the Concept Note is 4 May 2016, 11:59pm New York Time (EDT)**. Concept Notes received after the deadline will not be considered.

The UN Trust Fund will acknowledge receipt of a submitted online application through a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive the confirmation email, please contact the UN Trust Fund immediately.

Please note that due to the high volume of applications, the UN Trust Fund cannot respond individually to those not selected for further consideration.

Please contact the UN Trust Fund Secretariat (New York, USA) by email at untf-gms@unwomen.org in the event of technical problems with the online application.

Applicants will be informed of updates on the application process via email.

4.3 Appraisal and Selection Process

The UN Trust Fund awards grants through an annual open and competitive process. All proposals will be assessed based on their overall quality, results-oriented nature of the proposed project, alignment with the UN Trust Fund strategy 2015-2020 and priorities of the UN Trust Fund's 2016 Call for Proposals.

The application process will consist of two rounds. The first round will involve the submission of a Concept Note and only those successful in the first round will be invited to submit a full-fledged proposal. Full-fledged proposals will be appraised by independent experts and the UN Trust Fund's Technical Review Group, and a subset of final applicants will be considered for grants. The review process will take place during the period May-October 2016. Final grant approvals, signing of donor agreements and first disbursements will take place between November – December 2016.

All successful grantees are expected to work closely with the UN Trust Fund Team to incorporate full technical feedback, and ensure high-quality standards of programme design and rigorous monitoring and evaluation plans in the final programme document. Online support and guidance on how to complete the full-fledged proposal will be available for smaller organizations with less capacity but high potential that are selected in the first round. In all cases, ethical and safety considerations will be prioritized to ensure data is collected in a way that respects confidentiality and human rights and does not jeopardize safety (that is, in accordance with WHO ethical and safety recommendations for researching violence against women).

5. Useful Resources

The following resources may be especially useful to consult when developing your proposal:

- **A framework to underpin action to prevent violence against women.** UN Women, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNOCHR, WHO. 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/11/prevention-framework#sthash.4AD5v2bQ.dpuf>
- **Essential services package for women and girls subject to violence.** UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC. 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence>
- **Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery.** Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2015. <http://gbvguidelines.org/>
- **Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women.** WHO. 2013. <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241548595/en/>
- **M&E and Results Based Management Terms.** The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation available in English, French and Spanish. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf>
- **M&E Standards and Guidelines.** The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluations, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22
- **Knowledge Management.** OHCHR. Share! Learn! Innovate! Methods and Technologies to Share Human Rights Knowledge and Ideas <http://slitoolkit.ohchr.org/>
- **The Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls.** UN Women. Step-by-step programming guidance. <http://endvawnow.org/> (searchable by language)
- **Global Evidence Reviews** commissioned by the UK-funded, What Works to Prevent Violence Global Programme to End Violence against Women. <http://www.whatworks.co.za/resources/all-resources/publications>

- **Researching Violence against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists** WHO and PATH. (2005)
<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9241546476/en/index.html>
 In Spanish: <http://alianzaintercambios.org/documentos?idtipodoc=10&iddoc=136>
- **Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence** WHO. (2001) Violence. <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/womenfirtseng.pdf>
 In French: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/68353/1/WHO_FCH_GWH_01.1_fre.pdf
 In Spanish: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70445/1/WHO_FCH_GWH_01.1_spa.pdf
- **Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence. WHO (2010)** English, French, Portuguese and Spanish
http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/en/