

Call for Proposals

**GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST IMPUNITY FOR
INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AND SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS: MAKING JUSTICE WORK**

**GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES
UNDER THE EU GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST IMPUNITY**

Opening Date	17 July 2024
Closing Date	17 August 2024, 23:59 CET
Grant Budget Ranges	EUR 30,000 – EUR 80,000
Grants Duration	From 6 to 18 months

BACKGROUND

Over the past decades, numerous initiatives have emerged to address impunity and seek justice for serious human rights violations and international crimes. Despite progress, some challenges persist. These challenges encompass various issues, including fragmented approaches from accountability-seeking entities, insufficient involvement of victims and survivors in justice processes, the proliferation of disinformation undermining the voices of those fighting against impunity, and the erosion of justice systems. Furthermore, there are gaps in documenting violations, weak adherence to international law, and a failure to address the root causes of impunity. Consequently, accountability remains elusive, impunity prevails, grievances worsen, abuses continue, institutional trust diminishes, and conflicts persist, perpetuating cycles of violence. These challenges underscore the need for a more cohesive and inclusive approach to justice and accountability.

THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST IMPUNITY: MAKING JUSTICE WORK

The “**Global Initiative Against Impunity for International Crimes and Serious Human Rights Violations: Making Justice Work**” is a programme co-founded and initiated by the European Union, whose goal is to promote inclusive, integrated, comprehensive justice and accountability for serious human rights violations worldwide. This action is implemented by a Consortium of nine organisations and two associate partners:

- The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) as the lead agency
- Civil Rights Defenders,
- The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR),
- Impunity Watch (IW),
- Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA),
- Redress,
- TRIAL International,
- Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ)
- Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC),
- The Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (AIPG), associate partner
- The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), associate partner

Through this collaborative effort, the programme endeavours to strengthen the global response to serious crimes and human rights violations, ultimately promoting a culture of accountability and respect for human rights worldwide.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

The FSTP scheme bases its operations and development on the following guiding principles:

Sustainability: Proposed activities should demonstrate potential for sustainability beyond the financial support period, contributing to long-term impact in the field.

Cost-effectiveness and cost efficiency: The budget should be cost-effective (resources are allocated to the right activities in relation to objectives), and cost-efficient (resources allocated are used in an efficient way).

Inclusivity: The applicant should demonstrate inclusivity in their approach, ensuring that activities benefit diverse communities and stakeholders affected by impunity.

Compliance: The applicant must comply with regulations and guidelines outlined in the financial support contract, including financial management and reporting requirements.

1. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

The FSTP scheme supports projects addressing gaps and less documented issues, ensuring a holistic approach to transitional justice. Project proposals are expected to be contributing to integrated actions for comprehensive justice and accountability for serious human rights violations.

The project proposals must align with one or more of the following **specific objectives**:

- Increased agency and participation of right-holders (victims, survivors, civil society organisations (CSOs)) in formal and informal justice processes,
- Enhanced effectiveness of the accountability frameworks and systems to fight impunity and ensure victim-centred, trauma-informed and gender- transformative justice.

The project proposals must contribute to at least one or more of the following **expected results**:

- Strengthened capacities of CSOs, victims and survivors (right-holders) to claim and fulfil their rights to justice, truth, and reparation in serious Human Rights Violations (HRV) and to enforce States' obligations (duty-bearers) to prevent, investigate, punish and redress serious HRV.
- Increased availability of legal and non-legal (trauma/psychological, security, financial, translation) gender responsive, victim-centred and trauma-informed support to victims and survivors across all stages of holistic justice and accountability processes.
- Increased capacities of CSOs to lead justice and accountability networks and knowledge-sharing mechanisms.
- Increased availability of documented cases of serious HRV and analytical research on justice and accountability.
- Enhanced knowledge management system for CSO oversight, advocacy, and increased agency on the issues of accountability in serious HRV cases (the Global Initiative Against Impunity online resource platform).
- Increased opportunities for national dialogue between justice providers and policy makers (duty-bearers) and victims, survivors, CSOs (right-holders) on reforming the legal systems and specific laws and enhancing accountability for serious HRV.
- Increased opportunities for international dialogue between the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international accountability mechanisms (duty-bearers) and victims, survivors, CSOs (right-holders) on accountability.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of national decision-makers (duty-bearers) on addressing impunity, accountability and promoting victim-centred, trauma-informed and gender transformative justice in the framework of the Rome Statute and other international criminal justice mechanisms.
- Increased opportunities for regional and international dialogue between relevant decision makers and CSOs and victims on enhancing implementation of existing legislation on international criminal justice.

2. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS

The minimum amount awarded per grant will be EUR 30,000 and the maximum amount will be EUR 60,000. On an exceptional basis, grants up to EUR 80,000 will be awarded when a project requires a higher level of financial support in order to achieve the objectives (*such as when requiring the participation of regional or international organisations to strategic workshops or for organisational strengthening at the regional level*).

A CSO can apply several times, but the total amount awarded over the course of the four-year action cannot exceed EUR 60,000, and on the exceptional basis EUR 80,000. The amount of financial support will be assessed for each case, based on specific criteria tailored to the needs of the applicant and the nature of their activities.

3. ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, the applicant must:

- Be a registered CSO, including those operating in exile. Non-registered CSOs will be eligible for consideration within this call for proposals. CSOs established for non-profit purposes with a mandate or a strategic priority in the fight against impunity.
- Be a CSO established for non-profit purposes actively participating in shaping judicial processes, engaging with decisions-makers on the fight against impunity and/or working on holistic justice and accountability processes.
- Have sufficient capacity and readiness to manage the financial support requested and to provide reports on its use and impact.

3.1 Eligible Actions

3.1.1 Duration of the Action

The implementation period is minimum 6 months and maximum 18 months with possibility for minor changes not involving additional funding (*like partial reallocation of existing funds or no-cost extension*).

3.1.2 Fixed List of Activities

The applicants are encouraged to develop proposals that include one or more of the following activities:

- Capacity building activities, such as skills training and exchange of experiences and lessons learned workshops on issues related to the fight against impunity such as on methodology to monitor and to document the gravest violations of human rights, including Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV); using open-source investigations tools; data security, long-term preservation, records and archives management, risk/security/conflict analyses.
- Seminars, workshops, events and meetings to facilitate dialogue with justice providers and decision-makers.
- Strategic workshops with multiple CSOs from one country or several countries to develop strategies to fight against impunity.

- Documentation (fact-finding/criminal investigations missions), reports, studies to gather evidence.
- Legal work in relation to case-building/case preparation and case work.
- Policy briefs, surveys, research, studies analysing justice-related issues.
- Participation in major events on the fight against impunity such as the ASP and/or activities or initiatives of the consortium.
- Awareness raising and advocacy campaigns.
- Software for databases to secure data related to the collection of evidence.
- Holistic support to victims and survivors, such as judicial, medical, psycho-social or other.
- Support to victims in the legal process.
- Organisational strengthening.
- Support to victim organisations, grassroots actors and CSOs supporting victim groups to carry out their work.
- Constitution of local, national chapters of the Coalition for the ICC; and or strengthening participation of organisations in initiatives of the CICC.
- Initiatives to advance understanding and civil society advocacy around emerging issues such as ecocide, decolonisation of justice, equality issues, and others as identified to be in line with the outcomes of the action.

3.2 Eligible Costs

To be eligible, all costs must be:

- Indicated in the estimated budget proposal;
- Incurred during the implementation period;
- Necessary for the implementation of the project activities;
- Identifiable and verifiable - in particular, recorded in the accounting records and supported by financial documents;
- Reasonable, cost-effective, and comply with the principles of sound financial management, procurement and applicable tax and social legislation;
- Direct VAT and taxes that have been paid in the project implementation but are not recoverable by the grantees.

The following costs shall **not be considered eligible**: debts, bonuses included in costs of staff, provisions for losses and future liabilities, negative interest's charges by bank, credit to third parties, currency exchange losses, costs declared financed by other funds/donors that qualify as double funding, in-kind and volunteer contributions.

4. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the selection process if:

- The organisation does not comply with the selection criteria, as prescribed in point 3-Eligibility, in this Guideline.
- The organisation does not comply with prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH).
- The organisation's legal representative is proven to be guilty of grave professional misconduct.

- The organisation representatives are subject to a conflict of interests or are not compliant with the Civil Rights Defenders and Impunity Watch Anti-Corruption and Complaints policy.
- The organisation is on the EU Sanctions list: <https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/>.
- The organisation resorts to or has resorted to violence or incitement to violence.

5. HOW TO APPLY

The following table shows the chronological steps of the application process.

Steps	Description
1. Call for proposals	Call for proposals will be open on the 17 July 2024. Applicants will have one month to submit the applications in English, alongside relevant documents. If documents are missing, applicants are notified about it and must provide the required documents as soon as possible.
2. Online Information Sessions	<p>Online Information sessions in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic for this call will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hour info session in English, on the 23 July, 11:00, CET • One hour info session in Spanish, on the 23 July, 17:00, CET • One hour info session in Russian, on the 24 July, 10:00, CET • One hour info session in Arabic, on the 24 July, 14:00, CET • One hour info session in French, on the 25 July, 11:00, CET <p>Organisations interested in attending the information session, can register their participation at this LINK. Registrations will be closed on 22 July 12:00 CET.</p>
3. Deadline and Inquiries	<p>Deadline to submit applications is 17 August 23:59 CET. Proposals should be submitted to the following email address: makingjusticework@civilrightsdefenders.org</p> <p>Inquiries should be submitted to the following email address: inquiries.makingjusticework@civilrightsdefenders.org</p>
3. Assessment and Approval	<p>In September 2024, upon completion of the review and selection process successful applicants will be notified via email.</p> <p>Project team together with grantees will identify indicators that will be monitored and reported on during the project.</p>

5.1 Application Content and Formats

Applicants must complete and submit their applications in English. The proposal must be composed of:

- A narrative proposal detailing the action (use of template in Annex I)
- A budget proposal in EURO (use of template in Annex II)
- Proof of registration (for registered organisations). The organisation's most recent yearly report and/or financial statements (if available)
- Supporting document for payment details (bank document or screenshot from online banking)

5.2 Mainstreaming the Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equality and Environmental issues

Applicants are encouraged to utilize a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) focusing on promoting and protecting human rights at every stage. This approach emphasizes the empowerment of right-holders, ensuring their active participation and engagement, while also holding duty-bearers accountable.

Fostering women's leadership and active participation in projects, along with integrating gender aspects within their thematic scope, is strongly advocated in alignment with the [EU principles of gender equality](#). Grant applicants are also encouraged to adhere to [EU Environment policy](#) regulations, promoting environmental responsibility, conservation, and impact mitigation in their projects. Embracing both gender equality and environmental sustainability ensures projects contribute to a more inclusive and ecologically responsible future.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT AND REPORTING

Following the decision on the awarding of a grant, the applicant will sign a financial support agreement with Civil Rights Defenders and will receive the briefing package as well as the reporting templates. In general terms, the reporting will consist of reports in written form submitted latest one month after project completion:

- *Narrative project report*, tracking jointly agreed indicators of project implementation and performance.
- *Financial project report* with a detailed list of expenditures, accompanied by supporting documents for subsequent financial verification purposes.

Projects with a duration of 12 months or more are obliged to do progress report after 6 months of implementation detailing the status of their projects. An approved progress report will be basis for further financial disbursements.

By signing financial support agreement, the applicant authorises Civil Rights Defenders and the European Commission to access project-related documents and spending proofs. Personal data will be processed in accordance with Civil Rights Defenders' [Privacy Policy](#), governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GRANTS IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Key Components of Monitoring and Evaluation Process

Identifying the Indicators: Project team will collaborate with grantees to identify key indicators that will be tracked and reported on throughout the project duration.

Progress Report and Final Report: Grantees are required to submit progress reports detailing their activities, challenges, and achievements.

Risk Assessment: Grantees will identify risks and corresponding mitigation measures which will be assessed and followed during the grant period and evaluated at the end of the project.

Field Assessment and Dialogue: Field assessments will observe project activities, engage with organisations, and evaluate progress and quality. Project team will maintain ongoing dialogue with grantees on human rights, security developments, and capacity building.

Ex-post evaluation: Grantees are expected to actively engage in evaluation activities by sharing insights and experiences from their implementation efforts and be prepared to participate in evaluation exercises by the grant-making organisation or the Contracting Authority (e.g., the European Commission), detailing successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

8. ANNEXES

Annex I: Project proposal template

Annex II: Budget proposal template