



ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROMOTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY



General Information

Introduction

The Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) was established in 1996 by the newly-elected government of President Mandela together with the European Union (EU), to implement the first joint EU/South Africa human rights programme through grant-making to civil society.

The Foundation's mission is to address the historical legacy of apartheid, to promote and advance transformation in our country and to build a human rights culture using the Constitution as a tool. The Foundation has successfully implemented two programmes between 1996 and 2007, funded by the European Union, disbursing more than R300 million to civil society and supporting more than 1 400 projects nationally.

Third Programme

Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights Programme (Strengthening civil society 2009-2012)

The Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) initiated a third human rights programme titled: "Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights Programme (Strengthening Civil Society)".

Aims and Objectives of the Programme

The overall aim of the Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights Programme is to contribute to the promotion, protection and realisation of rights established in the Constitution through three key objectives:

- improving access to justice
- raising awareness of constitutional rights
- strengthening democracy through partnerships with civil society.

Strengthening Civil Society

The Government of South Africa has consistently affirmed that a viable independent civil society is integral to building a vibrant democracy. An active civil society is an essential partner in building a constitutional democracy. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) has committed itself through the "Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights Programme" to partnering with civil society in the promotion, protection and realisation of rights in accordance with the Constitution.

Funding

The Foundation intends under this programme to provide grants through Calls for Proposals to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), who promote a human rights approach in their work and to partner with CSOs through Calls for Expression of Interest in providing services to vulnerable and marginalised groups and which:

- enables citizens, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, to access information and understand policies and laws impacting on their rights as set out in the Constitution
- strengthens policy dialogue and engagement with government on issues of human rights and good governance, poverty and inequality, as well as local democracy initiatives, and
- strengthens the capacity of civil society to engage in related activities.

Target Beneficiaries

The Foundation will prioritise programmes which benefit vulnerable and marginalised groups as listed below:

- Women • Children • Rural and urban poor communities • Farm workers • People affected by HIV and AIDS • Gay, lesbian, intersex and transgender communities • Child-headed households • People affected by: • Violations of their socio-economic rights • Race and xenophobia • Lack of land rights • Their advanced age • Persons with disabilities • Youth, including youth in prisons.

Calls for Proposals and Calls for Expression of Interest

1. Calls for Proposals

The Foundation is seeking project proposals from eligible CSOs for funding and will provide grants and grant management support to successful CSOs. The Foundation will favour CSOs that use a rights-based conceptual frame work in their programmes. The projects to be funded should enable Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to engage effectively with each other, government, vulnerable and marginalised groups and/or donor agencies in the promotion of human rights.

Funding Guidelines

Organisations interested in applying for funding are advised to read the "Overview of Programme and Funding Guidelines" published by the Foundation together with the Specific Guidelines for the particular Call for which you are applying. The documents can be found on the Foundation website www.fhr.org.za. Alternatively, print copies of the documents may be requested from the Foundation. **(Please Note: Guidelines and Application forms will be available on the FHR website ON THE 17 March 2010).**

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant organisations must be a legal entity/organisation established in accordance with South African law (registered with the Department of Social Development) as a non-profit organisation and whose core mandate is the promotion, protection and advancement of rights. Applicants must be able to demonstrate their ability to implement the project and to transfer knowledge at local level. They must demonstrate that they have basic financial management and report writing skills and have a bank account operated with clear and transparent guidelines in line with acceptable financial management practice. Organisations must also demonstrate that they have in place an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system.

Screening for Eligibility and Compliance with Administrative and Technical Provisions

All grant application proposals received will be registered and screened for eligibility and compliance with the administrative and technical provisions set out in the Call for Proposals before being assessed on the substantive components of the application. Any application that fails to comply with the eligibility criteria will not be considered for funding under this Call.

Assessment of Grant Applications: Assessment Criteria

Following this first step, the assessors will carry out an in-depth assessment of the substantive components of eligible applications, based on four areas:

- **Relevance:** of project activities and outcomes to the Foundation's programme and specific Call for Proposals
- **Methodology:** appropriateness of methodology and sustainability
- **Capacity:** operational capacity and expertise
- **Cost-effectiveness:** of programme activities
- **Sustainability:** of the programme and its benefits.

PLEASE NOTE: The FHR does not employ any organisation or persons to complete applications for a fee or for any other compensation. Any person or organisation claiming to be an agent and/or consultant charging a fee to complete a proposal should be reported to the Foundation immediately.

2. Calls for Expression of Interest

The Foundation will enter into partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who provide support services to vulnerable and marginalised groups which are aimed at the protection, promotion and advancement of rights in accordance with the Constitution. The Foundation invites organisations who fall within this category and who are willing to partner with the Foundation to apply under the Call for Expression of Interest.

The Foundation will provide funding support to eligible organisations through a service level agreement (SLA). The Foundation will favour CSOs that use a rights-based conceptual framework in their programmes. The projects to be funded should enable Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations to engage effectively with each other, government, vulnerable and marginalised groups and/or donor agencies in the promotion of human rights.

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Target Beneficiaries

The Foundation will prioritise programmes which benefit vulnerable and marginalised groups mentioned above.

Application Procedure

Applicants who are interested in applying for a grant and/or are interested in partnering with the Foundation to provide services to vulnerable and marginalised groups may apply to the Foundation for the Guidelines for a specific Call for Proposal and/or the Terms of Reference for a specific Call for Expression of Interest to be sent to them. These may also be downloaded from the Foundation's website at www.fhr.org.za.

Where and how to send the applications: All applications must be placed in a sealed envelope and delivered to: The Grants and Services Manager, Foundation for Human Rights, 8th Floor, 209 Smit Street (corner Rissik Street), Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

Applications may also be posted to: The Grants and Services Manager, Foundation for Human Rights, Private Bag X124, Braamfontein, 2017

PLEASE NOTE: No faxed or electronic applications will be accepted.

The application must be placed in an envelope and the applicant must ensure that the specific request for proposals Reference Number as well as the applicant's name, address, contact person(s) and contact details are clearly indicated on the outside of the envelope.

All applications must contain the specific request for proposals Reference Number where required in the application form.

Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision of the Foundation. The decision to reject or approve applications is final.

Accessing information: Potential applicants may solicit advice and make enquiries in respect of these calls for proposals from the Grants Unit at the Foundation, Telephone (011) 339 5560.

Calls for Grant Proposals

Access to Justice: Advice Offices

Reference No. ACPCD/RA1.1 AOE/S01

Closing Date: 26 April 2010

Introduction

The Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) is committed to ensuring that vulnerable groups have access to justice especially in rural and urban poor areas. Advice Offices provide essential services in this regard for communities and this Call is intended to provide support for the increased establishment of these structures.

Key Activities

The Foundation will concentrate on funding the establishment of Advice Offices that provide the following services:

- Access to social security, e.g. social grants and pensions, applications for identity documents, birth and death certificates
- HIV/AIDS awareness raising and counselling
- Labour issues, e.g. unfair labour practices and dismissals, provident funds, Unemployment Insurance Fund, Workmens' Compensation, company pensions
- Awareness and prevention of abuse of children and women
- Farm worker evictions and issues related to security of tenure
- Referrals around civil matters, e.g. divorce, motor vehicle accidents
- Consumer issues, e.g. micro-lending, hire purchase agreements, debt management
- Awareness raising around legislation and policies impacting on individuals and communities, in particular vulnerable groups such as women, children, the aged, and people with disabilities.

Strengthening Democracy through Building the Capacity of Civil Society

Reference Number: AJPCD/RA3.2CB/S01
Closing Date: 14 May 2010

Introduction

This call seeks to support partnership projects in which well established Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a successful track record in the human rights field, partner with CSOs based in rural and disadvantaged urban areas, to implement capacity building programmes that share experiences, knowledge and skills.

Initiatives that concretely advance women's equality are encouraged, as are initiatives that concretely tackle the race and class dimensions of vulnerability and marginalisation. Preference will be given to interventions that target and capacitate as great a number of CSO staff and members in the most cost-effective and beneficial way possible.

Activities

The FHR would like to support, in particular, the following dimensions of capacity building:

- Strengthening a Human Rights Based Approach to Development – theory and practice
- Using the Constitution and enabling legislation as tools for accessing human rights and for strengthening participatory democracy
- Engaging state institutions (local, provincial and national) to strengthen participatory democracy
- Strengthening campaigning, organizing, advocacy and lobbying for greater rights realisation
- Strengthening organisational good governance for improved accountability, democracy and transparency
- Strengthening institutional capacity of CSOs to promote organizations equipped with effective skills to sustain themselves (reading & writing skills; administration and financial skills; information technology skills; media skills; personal finance management; etc)
- Strengthening activity that advances women's equality within organizations and in society at large.

Who can apply: Please see guidelines for lead partner requirements and non-lead partner requirements.

Grants: Small Grants not exceeding R120,000. Medium Grants not exceeding R500,000.

REGISTER YOUR CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS!
For those civil society organizations in need of skills training and capacity building relevant to this human rights programme kindly register online at www.fhr.org.za. FHR will assess these responses and may develop a strategy to assist. Organisations that do not have access to internet can contact FHR at 011 339 5560.

Calls for Expression of Interest by Service Providers

Access to Justice: Restorative Justice/Diversion
Reference No. AJPCD/RA1.3 RJD/S01
Closing Date: 28 April 2010

Introduction

This is an invitation to civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the field of restorative justice, and who may be interested in assisting the Foundation to provide services, develop educational materials and programmes and conduct workshops in the field of restorative justice, to express their interest in doing so by responding to this Call.

Key Activities

- Organisations who work in the field of restorative justice and who are experts in their field and have an interest in assisting the Foundation:
- to design and develop an appropriate model for diversion and correctional supervision which includes education and training materials as well as workshops
 - with diversion and correctional supervision cases in the different magisterial districts
 - to design and develop appropriate community programmes which facilitate accountability and reintegration.

Human Rights Awareness – Raising Awareness through Events & Campaigns

Reference No. AJPCD/RA2.1CE/S01
Closing Dates: 15 May 2010;
30 June 2010; 30 September 2010
(see Deadlines for Submissions below)

Introduction

The Foundation invites civil society organisations and networks at a community, provincial and national level to apply for funding for programmes through which they provide services to facilitate events and campaigns which promote an awareness of the rights set out in the Constitution.

Key Activities

Applications must include projects which support and promote awareness of human rights relating to:

- Rights relevant to communities in rural areas and urban poor areas, as well as members of vulnerable groups
- Eradication of Xenophobia in our communities and the promotion of a deeper understanding of African culture and identity
- Protection of women who experience Gender Based Violence
- Public Events and Human Rights Celebrations proposals should be linked with key human rights days as outlined in the guidelines/ terms of reference of this Call.

Deadlines for Submissions

For events/campaigns scheduled for the period June - August the closing date is **15 May 2010**.

For events/campaigns scheduled for the period September - November the closing date is **30 June 2010**.

For events/ campaigns scheduled in December, the closing date is **30 September 2010**.

Support and Assistance to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Undocumented Migrants

Reference No. AJPCD/RA2.2 SRAUM/S01
Closing Date: 30 April 2010

Introduction

The Foundation is inviting applications from organisations who work in the field of Access to Justice and whose mandate includes the following:

- Promoting and protecting the rights of refugees, undocumented migrants and asylum seekers in accordance with the Constitution
- Conducting applied research which advances the rights of this vulnerable group
- Education and awareness programmes as well as advocacy initiatives which advance the rights of this vulnerable group.

Key Activities

Applications must include projects which support and assist refugees, undocumented migrants and asylum seekers to protect, promote and realise their rights in accordance with the Constitution.

Public Policy Dialogue

Reference No. AJPCD/RA3.1 PPD/S01
Closing Dates: 3 May 2010; 30 June 2010;
17 September 2010
(see Deadline for Submissions below)

Introduction

The quality of participation by vulnerable communities in policy-making and the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such policies is essential for the realisation of participatory democracy. Vulnerable groups are not adequately represented in policy dialogue in all levels of government. This leads to frustrations with the existing participation mechanisms made available through the Constitution.

To have a serious impact on policy dialogue, CSO submissions need to demonstrate evidence-based advocacy. The presentation of evidence needs to make a credible case, and include clear proposals, if policy is to be influenced in a meaningful way.

This Call for Proposals is open to CSOs which aim to engage in public policy dialogue initiatives, from building local democracy through to provincial and national levels of policy-making. Both responsive and proactive initiatives may be supported.

Key Activities

- Activities undertaken should demonstrate how public policy dialogues may be initiated and influenced, and more specifically how the target groups may be involved at all levels of project implementation. The applicant needs to specify as far as possible which areas of public policy are to be engaged with and should include:
- Advocacy and lobbying activities by CSOs to influence policy
 - Community campaigns to enhance participation in public policy dialogues
 - Research activities aimed at supporting effective means and models of engagement with government and stakeholders to ensure rights-based policy-making
 - Activities that seek to enhance public policy dialogue between government and civil society as well as public policy debates/discussions within civil society
 - Activities to promote meaningful engagement with parliamentary processes such as participation in public hearings by vulnerable groups and CSOs
 - CSO and community participation in local and/or provincial government planning, implementation, monitoring and impact assessment
 - Innovative ways to enhance the participation of vulnerable communities and people in public policy dialogue.

Deadline for Submissions

Please note that applications will be treated on a "first-come first-served" basis. While there are three staggered deadlines, it is important to note that should a sufficient number of applicants be successful by the first deadline and/or the second deadline, and should the funds for this Call be exhausted, the Call in respect of the remaining deadline/s may be cancelled. Before submitting applications for the second and/or third deadlines, please check the Foundation website or contact the Foundation to find out whether funds are still available for disbursement.

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