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## Call for Proposals: Supporting the Needs of Ukrainian CSOs Working on the Protection of Human Rights<sup>1</sup>

### Background

With the support of the European Union, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) is executing a project “Resilient Civil Society and Media Respond to the Ukraine War”, in consortium with People in Need (PIN) and Prague Civil Society Centre (PCSC). The project aims to strengthen the resilience of civil society and independent media in the EaP+ region with the skills and financial resources to respond to the needs of the conflict-affected population effectively.

The majority of human rights defenders (HRDs) and their organisations in Ukraine have stayed in the country since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022. Most of them continue their work in at least some capacity, focusing their efforts on providing services to the affected populations and on documenting war crimes, but also continuing to monitor attacks against civil society activists. However, since the outbreak of the war, these organisations have been operating in constant crisis mode. In order to be able to continue their work effectively, they require financial assistance to address their direct emergency needs, as well as to develop or readjust their strategy, and be able to continue their current activities, such as the documentation of war crimes and supporting individual HRDs.

Within the framework of this project NHC organizes FSTP (financial support to third parties) schemes, in order to enable CSOs working on the protection of human rights, whose existence further came under threat as a result of the war in Ukraine, to continue and adjust their work in the current circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> This document was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

## Objectives of the Call

NHC aims to provide grants to civil society organisations in Ukraine that work on promotion and protection of human rights. These grants are aimed at:

- Better protecting their staff and addressing their most immediate basic needs
- Purchasing equipment and supplies needed to continue their work to monitor and protect human rights
- Adjusting their activities to the current situation
- Developing new strategies and project plans and fundraising for them

## Grant amount and duration

NHC aims to provide approximately 5 grants, each grant between 9,001 and 25,000 EUR.

The anticipated starting date for the selected projects is 1 July 2023. Selected projects should be implemented within 8 months from the starting date of the project.

## Eligibility Criteria

This grant can be received by non-profit CSOs in/from Ukraine that work on the promotion and protection of human rights and are registered as legal entities in Ukraine.

The organisation that applies should have a demonstrated track record of human rights work before Russian invasion in Ukraine 2023;

The work of the organisation should have been severely impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Media organisations or organisations working exclusively on media rights are not eligible to apply for this call.

Public administration institutions, state agencies, local or regional authorities, political parties or organisations affiliated with political parties are not eligible for this call.

## Eligible Costs

The grants may be used to cover organisational costs that help these CSOs continue their work in the new reality affected by the ongoing war. Strategy development and readjustment, as well as current activities of these organisations, such as documentation of war crimes and support to individual HRDs may also be covered by these grants.

The costs included in the budget may cover, but are not limited to:

- Purchase of protective gear and medical supplies;
- Costs for relocation of staff;
- Costs for equipment necessary to continue work;
- Costs to enhance digital and physical security;

- Costs related to capacity building or purchasing of goods in relation to adjusted activities.

As the current needs of the Ukrainian CSOs are diverse and can differ per organisation based on their situation and where they are located, support will be provided in an accessible, flexible and tailor-made way.

## Ineligible Costs

The budget must be in line with the activities described in the application form. The following activities and expenditures are not eligible under this call:

- Humanitarian support to third parties;
- Military purposes or support to military;
- Retrospective activities that occurred before 24 February 2022 and/or are not related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine;
- Medical or any other unexpected (emergency) expenses;
- Commercial activities;
- Infrastructure projects (constructing roads, bridges, buildings, etc.);
- Purchase of land or property;
- Political or religious activities;
- Environmentally harmful projects;

## Application Process

Interested organisations are asked to apply **ONLINE** in English or in Ukrainian no later than **31 May 2023**.

The following documents need to be attached to the online application form:

- [Filled out budget form](#) (in English or Ukrainian)
- Registration certificate of the organisation
- Statute of the organisation

For questions regarding the call for proposals or the application procedure, please send us an email to [hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com](mailto:hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com) no later than 24 May 2023.

Only full applications consisting of a completed online application form and all requested additional documents will be assessed.

## Proposal Selection Process

An independent evaluation committee will evaluate submitted proposals based on the following criteria:

	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
1	Compliance of the proposal with the overall goals of the call	20
2	Description and justification of the needs of the organization	30
3	Sustainability of activities after the end of the project	25
4	Realistic and feasible budget	15
5	Analysis of risks and mitigation measures	10
<b>Total:</b>		<b>100</b>

The applicants will receive feedback on their proposals within 3 weeks after the submission deadline via email.

Any concerns or feedback related to the proposal selection process can be submitted to the NHC via e-mail to [hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com](mailto:hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com).