

Together Against Discrimination: Grants for Equality and Anti-discrimination

Anti-discrimination grants Call for Proposals for Rights-Based Organizations Working on Discrimination in Turkey:

Towards building experience in complaint handling, monitoring, outreach and submission of applications to National Human Rights Institutions

*This project is funded by the European Union.



Background	2
Objectives of the Call	3
Target countries and regions	4
Eligibility	4
Grant amount and duration	5
Ineligible costs	5
Application Process	6
Additional information	6
Proposal selection process	7

Background

Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER) and the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) are launching a call for proposals within the EU-funded project “Together against discrimination: Building a civil society coalition to improve access to justice for victims of discrimination” that aims to support and empower civil society in the protection and promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms and thus contribute to the opening of civic, democratic and civil society space. The project focuses on improving the civil society response to discrimination as a key condition for the protection and promotion of human rights in Turkey. In particular, it aims to strengthen the capacity of rights-based organisations in complaint handling in discrimination cases, strategic litigation, engaging with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and facilitating networking and coalition building. These enhanced capacities contribute to more resilient CSOs and to the opening of civic, democratic and civil society space in Turkey.

As part of this wider initiative, this programme supports a sub-granting process with the main goal of strengthening civil society’s involvement in monitoring the functioning of National Human Rights Institutes (NHRIs) and advocating and providing recommendations for the implementation of policy reform.

The Anti-Discrimination Grant Program has a primary focus on non-discrimination, not only looking at specific groups which are experiencing discrimination but also looking at how the response to discrimination in general can be improved, focusing on how civil society can play a role in handling complaints and bringing cases before NHRIs, in addition to developing advocacy against discrimination practices.

At least six grassroots projects will be funded for a maximum of 12 months to encourage cooperation between CSOs and bar associations or lawyers to combat discrimination and to advocate for more effective, independent human rights mechanisms. Both AMER and NHC will support the sub-granting process, including the selection, implementation and monitoring of activities.

This call for proposals is soliciting proposals for grants to address these issues in 2023-2024.

Objectives of the Call

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are well placed to challenge the barriers around access to legal and non-formal remedies in response to discrimination. This call will support CSOs aiming to build their experience in monitoring discrimination, outreach and complaint handling of victims of discrimination inter alia racial, ethnic and religious minorities, women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+ and homeless people who more often experience intersectional discrimination.

In this respect, the sub-grant programme will be an important tool that targets the needs of CSOs, providing them with resources to support victims of discrimination in establishing local coalitions among stakeholders, outreach and providing legal support to victims of discrimination. This call will also support actions to prevent all forms of discrimination by raising awareness among different groups, collecting and reporting data, using national mechanisms such as the Turkey National Human Rights Institution (TİHEK) and Ombuds Institutions in Turkey.

A sub-grant programme of maximum 12 months and max. EUR 78.000 will be distributed with a maximum of 13.000 EUR per sub-grant for at least six grass-root projects which are designed and distributed to encourage cooperation between CSOs and Bar Associations or lawyers to combat discrimination and to advocate for more effective, independent human rights mechanisms.

We seek to provide grants for activities that support advocacy and policy development in connection to the discrimination of vulnerable groups and the functioning of NHRIs. One aim is therefore to build and strengthen national consortia for agenda-setting. Applicants are required to propose their own activities that support them in setting their own agenda at the national level. Examples of activities are as follows:

- Networking among the local actors to tackle discrimination
- Monitoring and reporting discrimination cases, outreach to persons who experience discrimination and complaint handling
- Legal support for submitting applications to NHRIs or other related institutions
- Possibility to hire lawyers or cooperate with Bar Associations to assist victims of discrimination to advocate for their rights

At the same time, AMER will offer capacity development for those organisations that receive funding for the above in the form of coaching activities. Sub-grantees will be required to follow a 1-day Result Based Management training on the grant procedure including finance and programme implementation and monitoring after contracts are signed. AMER's project and communications assistant will also assist the CSOs that will receive a sub-grant in their outreach activities developing specific outreach campaigns per group that experiences discrimination.

Examples of expected outputs may be:

- Strengthened local cooperation between CSOs and other actors such as bar associations, and unions to tackle discrimination
- Increased number of qualified applications submitted to and/or accepted by the NHRI

- Increased number of groups or persons who report discrimination and feel strengthened through legal support or legal consultation
- Increased awareness among groups or persons who experience discrimination

Organisations may work together with the others that receive funding within this call.

Target countries and regions

Proposed projects should target CSOs in Turkey

- The focus will be given to those that also address vulnerable groups in the earthquake-affected region
- Proposals can be country-wide or limited to certain regions

Eligibility

This call for proposals is open to non-profit-making Civil Society Organisations or consortia of non-profit-making Civil Society Organisations with the status of a legal person, established in Turkey. The following structures cannot apply under this programme:

cooperatives, non-profit small scale-business entities, professional organizations, chambers, workers' and employers' unions, chambers of commerce and industry, other professional organizations, their federations and confederations, universities, research institutes, public administration institutions, state agencies, local or regional authorities, political parties, universities or organisations affiliated with political parties.

Applicant CSOs can cooperate with other organizations; bar associations, universities, and professional chambers. However, within the scope of the project, these organizations cannot benefit from the grant except for meeting expenses, travel expenses and/or per diems.

In case of consortia, the main applicant will be responsible for the overall implementation of the action.

Applications should provide evidence of the following:

- Registration status as a non-profit organisation registered under national legislation
- Experience with managing budgets of similar size

Each CSO can submit more than one application under this call for proposals; however, an applicant cannot benefit from more than one grant under this call for proposals. A leading applicant can be a co-applicant in another application.

Grant amount and duration

The sub-grants for rights-based organisations will be provided for legally registered Civil Society Organisations for a maximum duration of 12 months and a maximum of 13.000 EUR per sub-grant. The sub-grant call will be open for applications for 30 days after the date of publication. At least six contracts will be awarded to grassroots projects which will focus on the cooperation of CSOs with Bar Associations or lawyers in the area of discrimination and advocacy for effective and independent human rights mechanisms.

NHC and AMER reserve the right to suggest applicants to adapt or merge proposals, particularly with regard to project design.

Under the sub-grant programme, grant beneficiaries will submit two reports during the project period. The first technical and financial reports will be submitted after the first half of the project. The final technical and financial reports will be submitted 30 days after project completion. At the end of the first half of the sub-grant programme period, monitoring visits will be made to the grant implementers by AMER (contracting authority).

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:

- Infrastructure projects (constructing roads, bridges, buildings, etc)
- Purchase of land or property
- Political or religious activities
- Environmentally harmful projects
- Retrospective activities (costs related to activities implemented prior to signing the grant agreement)

Eligible costs include all costs necessary to perform the work including the reporting process, such as staff salary costs or fees, travel costs, event organisation, daily allowances, printing costs, publication costs, telephone costs and other administrative costs.

Application Process

Applicants must submit the following:

- Annex 1 – Application Form (English or Turkish)
- Annex 2 – Budget (prepared in Euro)
- Registration certificate of the organisation
- Statute of the organisation (if possible in English)
- Evidence of experience in project-related work in the field of human rights or discrimination in the last two years
- Annual financial reports prepared for the Turkish finance authorities over the last two years
- Structure of the team with a division of work and time sheet (2-3 paragraphs)
- If the proposal is submitted by a consortium: an outline of the cooperation process and the division of tasks between individual members in the application form (annex 1).
- If the proposal is submitted by a consortium, all partners need to sign the project application declaration form that has been prepared by the consortium.

All submitted applications must be signed by the head of the applicant organisation, scanned and sent electronically.

The application package should be submitted to Christy Gamboa at CGamboa@nhc.nl.

The deadline for submission of full applications is **8 August 2023 by 17.00 (CMT +2)**. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Additional information

You may submit your proposal-related questions until 28 July 2023 via email: mlaxminarayan@nhc.nl.

Questions will be responded to within 3 working days.

Proposal selection process

Submitted proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Technical Control:

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- I. Has the deadline been met? If the deadline has not been met, the proposal will be excluded.
- II. Does the application meet all the criteria set out in the eligibility criteria?
- III. Are the requested documents complete and correct. If they are not, they may be rejected and will not proceed to the evaluation stage.
- IV. Does the application meet the financial eligibility criteria for the duration of the project and the requested grant amount?

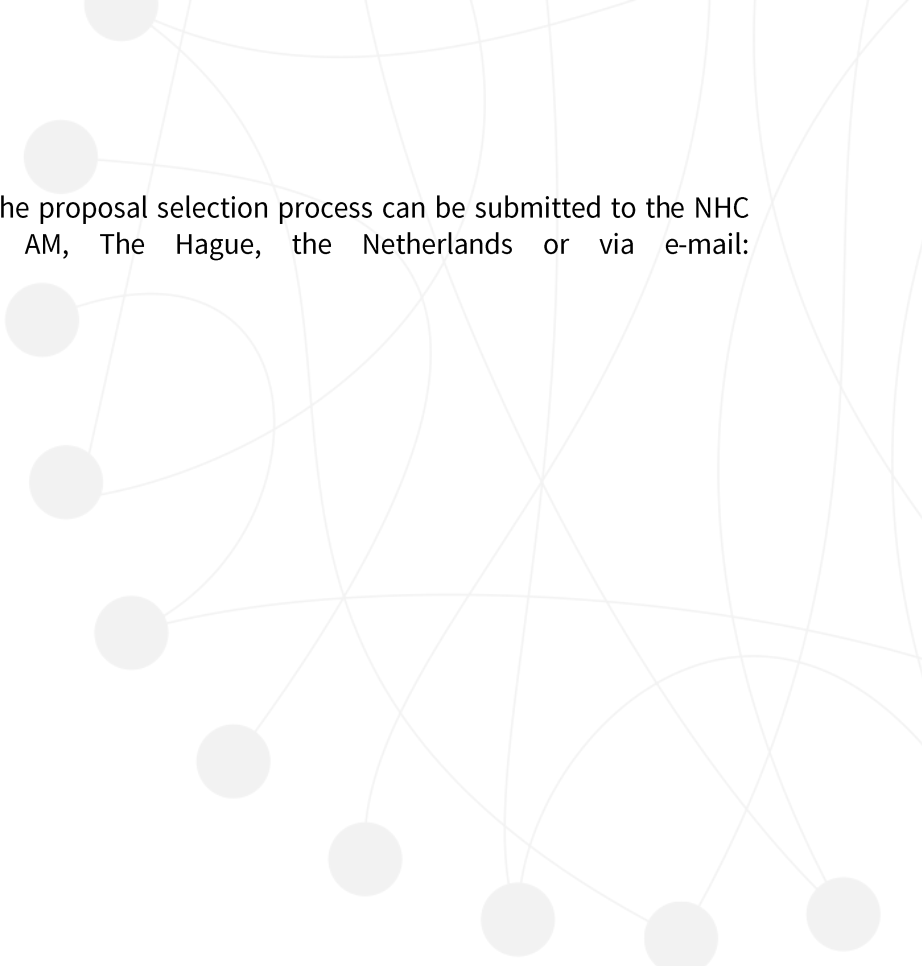
2. Proposal Evaluation:

The evaluation of the quality of the projects, including the proposed budget, and the capacity of the applicant and its partners will be based on the Proposal Selection Criteria Table below.

Priority will be given to Civil Society Organizations that work on discrimination, are victim-centred, have a gender perspective, a rights-based approach and can establish local partnerships.

	Proposal Selection Criteria	Maximum score
1	Cost-effective and realistic budget	15
2	Relevance If the aim of the Project is relevant to the aim of the call If the activities fit the priority of the call and are described clearly Advocacy experience (or interest in gaining experience) and feasible and relevant plan to approach NHRIs (Target group and their needs should be sufficiently described)	30
3	Methodology including gender equality and rights-based perspective	20
4	Analysis of risks and mitigation measures	10
5	The extent to which the project is victim-centred or victim-led	10
6	Continuity and sustainability	10
7	Project management (monitoring and evaluation, communication)	5
Total:		100

Applicants will receive feedback on their proposals no later than **15 September 2023** via email. The earliest starting period of the Project is 15 September 2023.



Any concerns or feedback related to the proposal selection process can be submitted to the NHC office at Riviervismarkt 4, 2513 AM, The Hague, the Netherlands or via e-mail: mlaxminarayan@nhc.nl.

Visiting address
Het Nutshuis
Riviervismarkt 4
2513 AM The Hague
The Netherlands

Tel +31 (0)70 – 392 6700
Fax +31 (0)70 – 392 6550
E-mail mlaxminarayan@nhc.nl