

Call for Proposals for Researchers Working on Discrimination in Turkey:

Producing evidence-based knowledge on equality, anti-discrimination and
role of equality bodies

23 August 2023



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BACKGROUND	2
OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL	3
Target countries and regions	3
ELIGIBILITY	4
Grant amount and duration	4
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.

This wider initiative, with the main goal of “Improved access to justice for victims of discrimination in Turkey by improved effectiveness of national human rights institutions through increased pressure from national and international advocacy coalitions to adhere to recommendations based on research and best practices from other European NHRIs, as well as establishing coalition and cooperation between national and international actors” supports the Research Grant Program, a sub-granting process. This outcome will be achieved by supporting academic research on equality, discrimination and the functioning of NHRIs. In Turkey, more academic work is required both on discrimination and the role of NHRIs. The project will support academics to bridge the gap in equality and discrimination studies in Turkey by involving them in the work of the Equality Watch Centre (EWC) and providing research grants, and facilitate international exchanges with academics from The Netherlands. As a result, academics will have the social impact of their research increased, and with it be more embedded in society and its struggle for justice.

The Research Grant Program for equality and anti-discrimination has a primary focus on non-discrimination, not only looking at specific groups who are experiencing discrimination but also looking at how the response to discrimination in general can be improved. Research grants will be allocated through this open call for proposals and additionally a small travel budget to present papers at the international or national conference will be provided if the research result is approved by the selection committee based on the researcher applications. Simultaneously, a grant program is running for CSOs; through this coordinated approach targeting academia, bar-associations and CSOs, advocacy towards the NHRIs become better informed and more effective, which will increase pressure on these institutions for better functioning.

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

Objectives of the Call

In order to contribute to knowledge on discrimination patterns, anti-discrimination laws and human rights protection mechanisms in Turkey, including NHRIs, a small-scale 6-12 months policy-oriented research for a minimum of 3 researchers for a grant of maximum EUR 5000 will be organized to support academic research. Both AMER and NHC will support in the sub-granting process, including selection, implementation and monitoring of activities.

The research grants are intended to address the shortcoming on academic work regarding anti-discrimination policies and human rights mechanisms in Turkey, especially the NHRIs. For this reason, it is important that the application includes information on the current research that may already exist on the topic and emphasize where the gaps are existing.

The research grant encourages researchers

- To produce evidence based knowledge on discrimination patterns and practices from a wide range of disciplines, including but not limited to social science, law, political science etc.;
- To review the legal framework of anti-discrimination laws in Turkey and the gap between the discrimination of practices and implantation of related laws and regulations;
- To analyze judgments on discrimination by judicial and quasi-judicial mechanisms' (including NHRIs) as well as policies and attitudes of public authorities on discrimination;
- To produce recommendations to fill the gaps between discrimination patterns and anti-discrimination laws and regulations;
- To produce knowledge on the role of NHRIs and tools for their effectiveness;
- To establish national and international academic cooperation to bring discussion on comparative practices and knowledge on anti-discrimination acts;
- To establish coalition and cooperation between academics and various civil society actors including civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and communities of victims of discriminations;
- To create evidence based knowledge for civic actors' activities such as advocacy, awareness raising or monitoring.

Researchers may work together with the others that receive funding within this Call.

Target countries and regions

Proposed projects should involve academics in Turkey.

- Proposals can be country-wide or limited to certain regions;

Eligibility

This call for proposals is open to early-stage (first 10 years) academics interested to work in the area of discrimination, policy and human rights mechanisms to undertake research.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Academics, Master's or PhD students who are citizens of the Republic of Turkey and affiliated by the Universities in Turkey can apply for the research grant.
- Turkish citizens affiliated with Turkish universities but temporarily residing outside Turkey for a short-term study can apply for the grant.
- The applicant can carry out the research individually or together with a research group. Research groups are formed with the participation of individuals who can be affiliated by different universities abroad. Collaboration with researchers from different Universities in Europe is encouraged.
- If the application is made on behalf of a research group, the applicant researcher assumes the role of "Research Coordinator". If the research is awarded a grant, the research coordinator will be a party to the contract to be signed with the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.
- Each applicant can participate in the programme with more than one application. If more than one application is eligible for a grant, only the highest scoring research proposal will be supported.
- Research proposals involving commercial and/or governmental organisations will not be considered for the evaluation.

The following structures cannot apply under this program:

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, research institutes, civil society organisations, bar associations.

Grant amount and duration

The sub-grants for researchers will be in the amount of maximum 5.000 euros and for a duration of 6-12 months. The sub-grant will be open for applications for 30 days. Three contracts will be awarded based on the Selection Committee's decision.

Applicable Budget Items and Financial Obligation:

All expenses incurred during the research must be directly related to the research activities.

Eligible costs include all costs necessary to perform the work including the reporting process: such as researchers salary costs or fees, travel costs, printing costs, publication costs, telephone costs and other administrative costs.

If the research proposal is part of another research that is already being conducted or will be conducted, information about the additional funding should be provided and it should be declared by the researcher that the budget items will not be funded twice. Expenditure documents of the research should be kept by the research team for one year following

the research to be documented upon request. Expenditures that cannot be associated with the research and are not included in the budget are not accepted.

The researchers of successful proposals will be signatories to the agreement and will be legally responsible to the Netherlands Helsinki Committee for the administration of the research budget. Payments to the researcher will be made in two parts. The first payment is 2/3 of the entire grant and will be made to the researcher no later than two weeks after the signature of the contract, while the remaining 1/3 will be made after the submission of the research and budget reports. In case the research cannot be completed before the specified date, the relevant clauses of the contract will be processed.

Under the sub-grant program, grant beneficiaries will submit one final report with the outputs obtained at the end of the research, within 30 days of the end of the project.

Outputs of the Research:

- (i) research report,
- (ii) financial report,
- (iii) (work towards) an article written in accordance with academic criteria related to the research topic; or extended outline of research or draft paper

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)

The budget does not include foreign travel expenses, conferences, seminars, or course participation fees. Additional travel expenses may be provided to the researcher to participate in conferences to submit their research outputs based on the approval of the result by the selection committee.

Expenses such as office rent or operating system purchases cannot be included in the budget. Expenditures for technical equipment that may be related to the research such as audio recorders, external memory or software programs can be included in the budget, but high-cost technical equipment such as computers or cameras may not be included in the budget.

Application Process

Applicants must submit the following:

- Annex 1 – Research Proposal (English or Turkish)
- Annex 2 – Budget (prepared in Euro)
- Personal CV
- List of related publications or project implemented in the field of human rights or discrimination or in any related field in last five years

All submitted applications must be signed by the head of the applicant organisation or an independent researcher if there is no affiliation, scanned and sent electronically.

The application package should be submitted to Christy Gamboa at Cgamboa@nhc.nl. If you experience technical difficulties with the submission, please note it will arrive to us within 1 day through the spam filter.

Deadline for submission of full applications is **24 September 2023 by 23.59 (CMT +2)**. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Additional information

You may submit your proposal related questions until 18 September 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. whether the deadline has been met; if the deadline has not been met, the proposal will be excluded.
- ii. It will be assessed whether the application meets all the criteria set out in the eligibility criteria.
- iii. If any of the requested documents are incomplete or incorrect, they may be rejected and will not proceed to the evaluation stage.
- iv. It will be assessed whether the application meets 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.

	Proposal Selection Criteria	Maximum score
1	Relevance - the aim of the research should be relevant and clearly fill a gap in current (academic) research	30
2	Research methodology with realistic timeline	30
3	Gender perspective of the project	20
4	Policy-oriented and practical – leading to concrete recommendations	10
5	Dissemination plan; how s/he will disseminate their own research result	10
Total:		100

In the evaluation phase, proposals that include fieldwork and/or prepared in cooperation with human rights researchers from different disciplines can be used as additional evaluation criteria in cases where preference is required.

The methodology of the research should have methods and tools that comply with human rights research and ethical standards and that take into account gender equality criteria. Research where the main object of study is human beings is subject to ethical evaluation; it is evaluated in terms of its compliance with the ethical standards and rules set forth by the social and behavioural science communities.

In order for the application to be evaluated, the Application Form and Budget Form, must be completed. The application form should be prepared as a Word document in either Turkish or English. The budget form should be prepared in Excel and can be prepared in Turkish or in English using EURO budget. A realistic timeline should also be included.

The evaluation is carried out in two stages: Proposals that meet the application conditions are sent to the preliminary evaluation jury consisting of three independent evaluators. NHC plans to award grants to the three highest-scoring studies, but this number and ranking may vary depending on the nature of the applications, the organization's priority areas of work and budget.

All research outputs and copyrights belong to the researcher. NHC is not responsible for the publication, distribution, sale, etc., but the research result can be used as a source of information for the advocacy campaigns of the project. The successful researchers can be awarded by the travel grant upon request and approval for the research result by the evaluation committee to disseminate their research at the national and international conferences.

You will receive feedback to your proposals no later than **24 October 2023** via email. Earliest starting period of the research is 1 November 2023.

Any concerns or feedback related to the proposal selection process can be submitted to the NHC office at Riviervismarkt 5, 2513 AM, The Hague, the Netherlands or via e-mail: mlaxminarayan@nhc.nl.



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