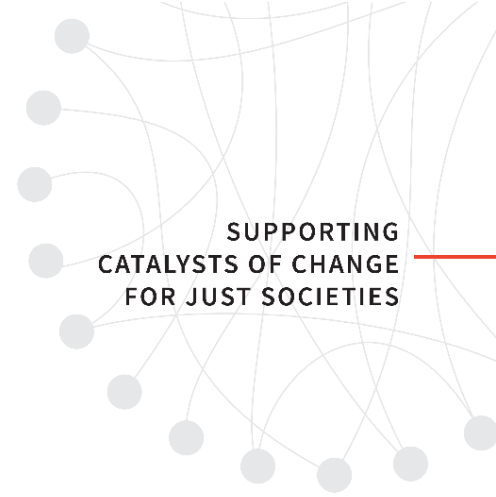




NETHERLANDS
HELSINKI
COMMITTEE



SUPPORTING
CATALYSTS OF CHANGE
FOR JUST SOCIETIES

Call for Russian Experts to Support the Exiled CSOs Working on the Protection of Human Rights

Project Background

Since the introduction of the law on “foreign agents” in 2012, the legislative framework for civil society organisations (CSOs) in Russia has become increasingly restrictive and prohibitive. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the scale of the crackdown on civil society escalated further. A series of new laws adopted, in combination with the impact of the sanctions in response to the war, increased the risk faced by human rights organisations and limited the possibilities for them to receive support from outside of the country, making their work nearly impossible. The intensification of persecution and official liquidation of CSOs has increased the demand for their teams to relocate in order to be able to continue human rights work in exile. CSOs and individual human rights defenders in exile also face various challenges, including legal obstacles, difficulty to open bank accounts, and personal issues related to visas, insurance, and housing. Supporting these organisations is crucial to keep the human rights community in and from Russia alive and to maintain the civil society infrastructure to the extent possible so that these organisations are ready to return whenever the circumstances allow.

The NHC provided emergency assistance to the exiled Russian CSOs working on the protection of human rights to ensure that these organisations could re-locate their staff members, re-calibrate and continue their work from exile. These grants covered costs related to the relocation and adjustment of the strategy of these organisations to the current circumstances.

Objective of the Call

Within the scope of the project, the NHC is now looking for a qualified expert from Russia to work with the dedicated NHC staff on this project. Local knowledge and expertise are crucial for addressing the context-specific needs of the exiled CSOs that are supported under this project, as well as for strategically adjusting activities where necessary in relation to the needs of the exiled organisation on the ground. In this regard, the selected expert will serve as a focal point for the NHC and will play a strong role in the effective implementation of project activities.

Responsibilities and tasks

The selected expert will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Providing support to the NHC throughout the sub-granting process, which includes reviewing reports from local partners, monitoring and evaluating awarded grants,

participating in M&E visits if necessary; supporting NHC project staff in drafting narrative reports for the donor.

- Playing a strong role in coaching of and communicating with the selected local partners. This includes providing advice on protecting their staff and adjusting their operations and strategy based on their needs.
- Supporting the NHC in planning and executing advocacy-related activities aimed at amplifying the voices of human rights organisations and defenders from the affected region on the international level.
- Providing advice to the NHC on visibility of the project and, where relevant, drafting communications initiatives about the project, such as social media outlets and posts, interviews, anonymous success stories, press releases, etc.

Required qualifications and skills

Prospective applicants are required to have the following qualifications and skills:

- A minimum of five years' experience and expertise in developing and implementing activities in one or more of the following areas particularly in the field of protection and promotion of human rights:
 - Organisational support for CSOs, crisis management and strategy readjustment;
 - Advocacy campaigning for CSOs at regional/international arena;
 - Supporting good governance practices and prevention of burnout in CSOs.
- A comprehensive understanding and expertise on the Russian civil society organisations is required, with the added benefit of having a pre-existing network with the CSO community.
- Demonstrable experience in supporting sub-granting processes, from assessment and selection of local partners to supporting implementation of projects through the provision of coaching, administrative support, and/or monitoring and evaluation;
- Professional fluency in English and Russian;

Confidentiality

Throughout the assignment and for five years after the date of final payment for service, the expert must agree to keep confidential all data, documents, or other materials in any format disclosed in writing or orally concerning the project.

Application Process

The NHC will contract one selected expert for a period of one year, with the possibility of extension if deemed appropriate.

We ask interested candidates to **APPLY ONLINE** no later than **13 October, 2023**.

For questions regarding the project or the application procedure, please contact us by email to hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com no later than 6 October, 2023.

Only full applications consisting of a completed online application form and CV will be assessed.

Selection Criteria

	Criterion	Maximum score
1	Knowledge of the Russian civil society and understanding of current needs of those exiled organizations that promote and protect human rights	30
2	Expertise in coaching local CSOs on organizational development in crisis conditions	30
3	Experience in supporting the sub-granting process and monitoring and evaluating awarded grants	15
4	Vision of planning and executing advocacy-related activities on international arena	15
5	Cost-effective and realistic daily rate	10
	Total:	100