CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Combatting Violence and Hate in the Context of COVID-19

a. Background
The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT) is a Sri Lankan philanthropic organisation that supports social justice, human rights and reconciliation initiatives. It was established in 2001 after the assassination of Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam - a Sri Lankan legislator, constitutional scholar, peacemaker and institution builder, who actively worked to build peace through non-violent means. Since its founding, the Trust has striven to extend and continue his legacy by contributing towards the protection and promotion of human rights, transparency and accountability, and promoting pluralism, diversity and ethnic harmony. With this aim, NTT provides grants to support the work of civil society organisations (CSOs) island wide. NTT also supports arts and culture initiatives that serve as a conduit for strengthening inter-community relations and furthering social justice.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses an overwhelming challenge to Sri Lanka and demands a targeted approach, both to address the short- to medium-term humanitarian needs as well as the unaddressed deeper, structural issues that are manifesting themselves during this period. In the wake of the COVID-19 crises there has been an increase in hate speech, as well as specific incidents of violence. This includes a sharp spike in domestic violence, and the targeting of specific communities, such as ethnic, sexual and other minorities. There has been limited action by the state and other actors to monitor or take steps to mitigate or address these issues, and to assist those who have been affected. Hence, more concerted and targeted interventions are required.

b. Objectives:
This call is to support interventions crafted to address hate speech, discrimination and resultant violence across Sri Lanka.

c. Programme areas and type of activities:
This call for proposals specifically seeks to address interventions aimed at countering hate speech, strengthening the protection of ethnic, sexual and other minorities and responding to instances of violence. Proposals that focus on interventions to address the needs of domestic violence victims, respond to acts of misogyny, analyse the different manifestations of domestic violence post-COVID-19, create awareness about disinformation campaigns, respond to disinformation about minority groups and protect the human rights of communities that have been discriminated against post- COVID-19 are encouraged.

The following are few examples of the type of activities that will be supported:
• Monitoring and reporting on hate speech post – COVID-19
• Initiatives to counter disinformation about minority groups
• Engaging in fact check and analysis, including through the use of RTI
• Monitoring tri-lingual media reportage of domestic violence
• Monitoring tri-lingual media reportage of discriminatory practices against ethnic, sexual, and other minorities.
• Strategies to promote ethical media reporting
• Strengthening response systems to address gender-based violence, including psycho-social counselling.
• Creating awareness of support services available to those affected by domestic violence post-COVID-19
• Initiatives to counter misogyny and gender discrimination.

d. **Grant amount:**
The maximum grant amount that can be approved for a particular project at a time is limited to Rs.3,000,000.00. Applications submitted with budget over Rs.3,000,000.00 will be considered based on the merits of the proposed activities. Applicants are encouraged to look for co-financing opportunities to ensure sustainability of the project beyond the project period.

If a grant is approved for an organisation, as a policy the particular organisation will not be able to apply for another grant until the existing grant is concluded.

e. **Who is eligible to apply:**

The applicant organisation must meet the following criteria:
- Be a civil society organisation legally registered in Sri Lanka
- Have previous experience in implementing similar activities.
- Have the required experience and human resources to implement the proposed activities.
- Have a bank account (current) registered to the organisation’s name.

Who is not eligible to apply:
- For-profit organisations
- Individuals
- Political parties
- Organisations with political affiliations or governmental bodies
- Existing partner organisations with on-going projects

f. **When to apply:**
Funds will be available from October 15, 2020 and applications will be evaluated on a first come first serve basis. All activities must be completed on or before May 31, 2021.
g. Application forms:
Please visit our website ([www.neelan.org](http://www.neelan.org)) to download the grant application formats. Applications should be submitted using the appropriate grant application format downloaded from our website in any language (English, Sinhala, Tamil). All grant applications along with the required supporting documents should be forwarded to the following email address [grant.applications@neelan.org](mailto:grant.applications@neelan.org).

Please mention ‘Combatting Violence & Hate in the Context of COVID 19 - NTT/OCT/2020/06’ in your email subject area.

If you are sending the hard copies of the grant application, please send it to the following address, preferably by COURIER to avoid delays. Please remember to mention ‘Combatting Violence & Hate in the Context of COVID 19’ on top of the envelope. All communications to be addressed to:

The Manager, Programme & Grants
Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust
22 Flower Terrace
Colombo 07