



**Contracting Body:** OXYGen Foundation for Protection of Youth and Women Rights

**Funding Agency:** European Union, within framework of the  
EU-Armenia: Partnerships for Change Programme

**Project:** EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia

**CALL for PROPOSAL (CfP) for a Subgrant**

**Improvement of service quality for victims of domestic violence**

**Reference number:** EU4GE-OxY-FSTP06

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 25 July 2024 at 18:00 Yerevan time**

**Notice:** To help applicants to clarify any **uncertainties to the extent possible/allowable** before the online submission, an on-line information session via Zoom will be organized on **Thursday, 18 July 2024 at 15:00**.

Should you be interested in this session, please send an email by **Wednesday, 17 July, 13:00** to [grants@oxygenfund.am](mailto:grants@oxygenfund.am) indicating: name, surname, and email address of the persons who are going to participate as well as the organisation they represent. **An on-line link will be e-mailed one day before the session to all registered participants.**

**Expected subgrant duration:** up to 10 months

**Size of the subgrant:** 20,000 Euro

**Starting date of the subgrant:** August 2024

**Open to:** organizations legally registered in Armenia; non-profit; with experience relevant to the topic of the call. Organizations that have already been awarded a subgrant under the project EQUAL cannot be eligible for this subgrant.

**Language of the proposal:** English (preferred because there are international partners in the selection committee) or Armenian.

**Number of awards:** Only one subgrant will be awarded.

**Application:** Applications should be sent to [grants@oxygenfund.am](mailto:grants@oxygenfund.am) no later than the deadline. No links/Google files will be accepted.

More details on the application process are provided under **Article 7**.

### 1. OxYGen Foundation

OxYGen Foundation for Protection of Youth and Women Rights (OxYGen) is an independent advocacy and development foundation driven by its vision of an Armenia free of poverty and suffering, in which women and men can exercise their rights and influence decisions that impact their lives.

OxYGen is implementing its program interventions based on its 5-year strategy in line with its strategic priorities: Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment, Accountable Governance, Economic Justice, and Resilience Building and Humanitarian assistance.

### 2. The Project EQUAL

**EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia** project (referred to as **EQUAL**) is funded by the EU. The project **EQUAL** aims to elevate and empower women in Armenia to bring about societal change across the country. To do so, **EQUAL** responds to the direct needs of vulnerable groups of women through ensuring access to quality support services, providing them access to economic resources, enhancing capacity for entrepreneurship, equal access to labor relations and new opportunities for economic self-development. **EQUAL** adopts a cross-cutting approach to tackling women's issues that are often pushed to the margins of policymaking, stimulating a survivor-centered approach and sharing international best practices for ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.

**EQUAL** employs a three-level financial support to third parties (FSTP) schema, targeting Coalitions, CSOs and individual women. FSTP allows involvement of CSO coalitions and consortiums working with women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, as well as safeguard their meaningful participation with their priority interventions and solutions to detected issues through financial and technical support.

#### **Objectives of the project EQUAL**

**Overall objective:** State and non-state actors take meaningful actions to address and prevent all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination and contribute to gender equality in Armenia for women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity.

**Strategic objective:** strengthen their resilience and ability to take meaningful action to address and prevent all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination in Armenia.

Main components of the project **EQUAL**: **Freedom from Gender-based Violence and Discrimination in Armenia**.

This subgrant and the following ones, all together will allow involvement of NGOs working with women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence, as well as safeguard their meaningful participation with their priority interventions and solutions to detected issues through awarding-supported interventions.

### 3. The Proposal

The current Call for Proposal is envisaged within the project EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia.

Gender based violence (GBV) remains a widespread issue in Armenia, with domestic violence being particularly prevalent. Around 700 cases of domestic violence are reported each year, though underreporting continues being a significant issue. The hotlines of Coalition to Stop Violence against Women continue to receive over 3,000 calls per year. Moreover, GVB has extended into the digital realm, with social media and the internet becoming platforms for sexism, misogynistic assaults, threats, and sexual harassment directed at women. As to women with disabilities, they face heightened vulnerability to various forms of violence and discrimination, exacerbated by cultural beliefs and practices that further marginalize them.

On 08 December 2017, Armenian Parliament adopted the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence and Restoration of Family Solidarity. On April 12, 2024, the National Assembly introduced amendments to the Law entering into force on July 01, 2024. The amendments establish a comprehensive framework for addressing domestic violence, enhancing protection and support for survivors of domestic violence, upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals affected by domestic violence. It includes clearer definitions of abuse, stronger legal protections for children, expanded medical care for victims, and stronger measures to hold perpetrators accountable.

By the Government decree N 786-Ն of 10 July 2018 a Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (DV) was established adjacent to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA). This participatory body aims to discuss and make recommendations related to the state strategy for prevention of DV and related policies, legislative amendments, victim protection and support, public awareness, and other issues. With the recent legislative amendments, a need to amend the bylaws has risen, including the scope of responsibilities, composition of the above-mentioned Council to ensure its effective operation and addressing the challenges of the field and system. Starting from 2020, the MLSA provides state grants to regional non-governmental organizations to offer services to DV victims. Currently, the services are provided in all the regions of Armenia and the capital Yerevan. There are also two shelters operating in Armenia specifically catered toward women and children of domestic violence. These shelters provide a 24/7 hotline, social and psychological counseling, legal representation, educational workshops, and more.

With the recent legislative changes, establishing minimum quality standards for shelters has become imperative. The standardized protocols, quality benchmarks and implementation of minimum quality standards approved by the state are important to ensure that all shelters across Armenia provide a uniformly high level of services and support.

Moreover, these standards will facilitate better coordination, enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the support system for domestic violence survivors. They will also serve as a basis for regular monitoring and evaluation, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement in service delivery.

Establishing these standards aligns with the overarching goal of the project EQUAL to foster a safer and more equitable environment for all individuals, and to ensure that survivors of domestic violence receive the comprehensive support they need to rebuild their lives.

**Objective of the call:** Promote the safety, well-being, and empowerment of women affected by domestic violence and improve the legislative framework.

### **Outcomes**

a/ Unified minimum quality standards for domestic violence shelters are developed and adopted by the state.

b/ The responsibilities (i) and composition (ii) of the Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is revised and adopted by the State.

### **Activities may include**

- Conduct desk review, involving a thorough review of existing domestic violence (DV) shelter standards, both locally and internationally, and stakeholder consultations to identify gaps and best practices for DV shelters that can be integrated into the Armenian context
- Seek feedback from stakeholders, including survivors, NGOs, experts to refine, revise and finalize the standards
- Conduct a review of current responsibilities, composition and other points assigned to the Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, identify gaps and areas for improvement
- Conduct a review of the state documents such as Government decree N 786-Ն of 10 July 2018, Prime Minister's decree N 1685-Ս of 28 December 2018, and Government decree N 364-Ն of 29 March 2019
- Collaborate closely with the NGOs providing services to DV survivors, members of the Council state and non-state institutions
- Collaborate with the MLSA to ensure promotion and adoption of the proposed documents by the state

Applicants must specify clearly what the funding will be used for, and how this responds to the objective of the call.

### **The following types of activities are ineligible**

- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses
- actions supporting political parties
- actions supporting charitable fundraising

**Note:** *The subgrant may not be used to finance actions which have already been completed. Financed activities cannot commence prior to the award of the subgrant. Double funding of activities is not acceptable.*

## **4. Application package**

If the application deadline is not met, it will be automatically rejected.

Only full packages of applications will be considered for review.

Full package of documents will comprise of the following:

- a. The proposal and budget prepared in the proposed format attached to this CfP as **Annex 1: Grant Application Form** and **Annex 2: Budget Template**
- b. Scanned version of the **State Registration Document**

## 5. **Criteria for the proposals' evaluation**

The proposal packages will be evaluated by the selection committee (also referred to as "SelCom"), against the below criteria.

### **5.1 Relevance of the planned project: max. 35 points**

- Quality of the problem analysis and potential solutions: the specific policy issues and the interests of the target groups, beneficiaries and other involved parties have been comprehensively appraised.
- Quality of proposed interventions: considering their adequacy to address the identified problems.
- Gender empowerment and social inclusion: to what extent the proposed project contributes to strengthening gender equality and promoting social inclusion, making sure it leaves no one behind.
- Participation and engagement of beneficiaries at grassroots level: the project allows equal participation of all target groups, without discrimination based on gender, race, social status, or religion.
- Experience of implementing projects of similar nature

### **5.2 Feasibility of the planned project: 30 points**

- Consistency of the logic of intervention: coherence between the project objective, planned outputs and expected outcomes.
- Implementation methodology: based on previous experience and lessons learned from best practices, the proposal must showcase how the expected results are achievable
- Project planning: the proposed timeframe and activity planning realistic under the given circumstances and with the budget available.
- Clear management structure - responsibilities, coordination, and collaboration modalities.
- Risk assessment and mitigation measures.
- MEAL: modes of data gathering and monitoring, defined data sources, accountability and learning.

### **5.3 Sustainability of the planned project: 20 points**

- Sustainability planning: the applicant has demonstrated clear consideration and a comprehensive understanding of the project's sustainability and of the steps required to ensure the positive effects and impacts after the project's closure.

- Capacity building: the proposal contributes to capacity building at the level of the individual and/or the organization/institution.

#### 5.4 Financial criteria: 15 points

- Alignment with activities: the proposed costs detailed in the Budget Template directly correspond to activities described in the Grant Application Form.
- Budget transparency: the budget includes a detailed breakdown of all costs, and these are clearly **justified in narrative form in the corresponding sheet of the Budget Template**.
- Cost effectiveness: the proposed costs are reasonable and within the range of what would typically be expected for similar products
- Legal and regulatory compliance: all proposed costs comply with relevant laws and regulations.
- Logical proportionality: the admin and activity budgets are reasonably shared.

## 6. Decision

The results of the evaluation will be fixed in the **“Grantee selection”** protocol signed by the SelCom designating (i) those to be rejected, (ii) the best candidate and (iii) the second best who will be put on the reserve. They will receive respective emails from OXYGen.

The best candidate will undergo a risk and capacity assessment by OXYGen and be requested to clarify/revise activities and budget lines as needed. None of these final corrections shall be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants or call into question the grant award decision. The only situation when the grant award decision can be annulled is when the nature and extent of the risks are assessed as high and poor performance by the recipient is probable. The SelCom will be notified on this and the second-best applicant that has been put on the reserve will be sent an additional letter of pre-award and assessment.

After the final award decision is made, the contracting process will commence.

## 7. From Application to Contracting

- Applications should be sent to [grants@oxygenfund.am](mailto:grants@oxygenfund.am) no later than the deadline for the lot of your interest.

Each applicant may submit **only one application**.

Reference number: **EU4GE-OxY-FSTP06**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **25 July 2024 at 18:00** Yerevan time

- **Important:** Please indicate in the subject line of your e-mail: **The reference number of the call and the applicant name**

**Attached to the email message:** (i) Registration certificate. (ii) The proposal file must be in an unprotected PDF or Word format. (iii) The budget will be in the Excel format. **Note: no links/Google files will be accepted.**

- A submission confirmation notice of No-Reply will be sent to each applicant.
- The shortlisted applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee.
- After the evaluation conducted and selection decision is made, each shortlisted applicant will be notified about being rejected or put on a reserve or selected for an award. The latter will receive a pre-award notice from OXYGen.
- Final award notice will be sent after the risk and capacity assessment is completed satisfactorily.
- The contract will be signed.

[Annex 1: Grant Application Form](#)

[Annex 2: Budget Template](#)

**“EQUAL - EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia”** project is implemented by OXYGen Foundation, European Partnership for Democracy NGO, Netherlands Helsinki Committee NGO, Women’s Support Center NGO, WINNET Goris Development Foundation in cooperation with Winnet Sweden NGO. The project is funded by the European Union.