



**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**

**"Empowering Communities for Gender Equality: Strengthening GBV Awareness and Community-Based Support in Armenia"**

**Reference number:** EU4GE-OxY-FSTP10

**Deadline for submission:** 12 January 2025 at 22:00 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 **24 December 2024 at 11:00**.

Should you be interested in this session, please send an email by **23 December, 15:00** 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 before the session to all registered participants.**

**Expected subgrant duration:** Should be completed by September 30, 2025

**Size of the subgrant:** 60,000 Euro

**Starting date of the subgrant:** February 2025

**Open to:** Local coalitions/networks/consortiums with **combined experience** in women's rights, GBV, service provision to victims of domestic violence; journalism and media.

**Eligibility requirements:** Legally registered in Armenia; non-profit; with expertise relevant to the topic of this call.

\*Non-registered applicants (coalition/network or a consortium of 3 members minimum) are eligible and shall apply through a single application. If selected, OxYGen will sign a subgrant contract with a lead organization. The same Eligibility Requirements apply to all organizations within a consortium.

**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.

**Note:** No links/Google files or zipped packages 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 is funded by the EU (referred to as **EQUAL**).

The project “EQUAL - EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia” aims to elevate and empower women in Armenia to bring about societal change across the country. To do so, EQUAL provides women with support to exercise their political, economic, and socio-cultural rights, targeting specifically those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. EQUAL adopts a cross-cutting approach to tackling women's issues that are often pushed to the margins of policymaking, including human trafficking, sexual and reproductive education, harassment in the workplace, or the impact of gender norms in social groups.

One of the main pillars of EQUAL supports public information campaigns on shifting stereotypes and perceptions hindering women empowerment, notably through capacitating local organizations into doing so – with 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.**

The project EQUAL implies the subgrant component via financial support to third parties (FSTP). **This particular subgrant and the previous and 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

As a member of the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe, the Republic of Armenia has ratified several human rights conventions and has undertaken the obligation to eradicate historically rooted inequality between women and men and to protect women's rights, such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (acceded 1993), the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) (ratified 2002), and the European Social Charter (ratified 2004). Moreover, equality before the law and the prohibition of discrimination are also set forth in the Armenian Constitution – articles 29,30, 86.

In 2017, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of the Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence, and Restoration of Solidarity in the Family (hereafter the DV Law).

Protecting victims is a fundamental aspect of responding to violence against women and domestic violence. This protection must be integrated with comprehensive measures for prevention, the provision of support services, and effective prosecution. Ensuring the safety of domestic violence victims, particularly in situations of immediate danger, is best achieved by creating physical separation between the victim and the perpetrator. DV support centers, social and health care services, law enforcement structures, media – all play a significant role in DV prevention and protection of DV victims.

In July 2024 the amendment to the DV law strengthening protection and accountability, entered into force. One of the notable revisions relates to the definition of “a person subjected to domestic violence - a natural person who, according to a warning, urgent intervention, a protective order or a legally binding judgment of a court, has suffered from domestic violence” which now reads as “a person subjected to family and domestic violence - a natural person (including a child witnessing violence within the family) who, according to a warning, urgent intervention, protection decision or a legally binding judgment of a court, suffered from family and domestic violence”, meaning that causing a child to witness domestic violence is equal to an act of violence also towards the child.

Much needs to be done. There are viable factors that hinder the progress towards violence- and discrimination-free and gender sensitive society: lack of services provided by the state and co-operation between state bodies, stereotypes - including in the media, low level of legal awareness, and lack of trust in state bodies, low level of involvement of LSGs in the combat, underreporting and absence of correct statistics on DV cases, inadequate awareness and sensitization of those responsible and acting in the chain of DV services.

The media has an ethical duty to avoid normalizing violence against women by refraining from spreading messages that trivialize or perpetuate such violence. It is also responsible for raising public awareness and sensitivity toward violence against women by addressing its various forms and consistently linking

these issues to gender equality and women's human rights. Additionally, the media can play a key role in preventing and addressing violence against women while promoting awareness of equal rights for all. As a valuable resource, supported by Council of Europe, a Guideline on Gender Equality and Violence Against Women for Armenian Journalists and Media Workers has been developed in 2020 and Guidelines for Gender-Sensitive Journalism – in 2024.

The current Call for Proposal is envisaged within the project EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia. **The subgrant focuses on campaigning for changing public perceptions and addressing harmful practices that perpetrate discrimination.**

The proposal under FSTP10 is to be developed around the following:

**GOAL:** To promote gender equality and combat GBV by building community capacity and piloting a replicable model to support DV victims.

**Objective 1:** Strengthen the capacity of community-level representatives (including members of Trusteeship and Guardianship Committees, Unified Social Services, community social workers) to identify, prevent and address GBV and gender discrimination through targeted sensitization and capacity-building workshops.

**Outcome 1:** Capacitated and sensitized community representatives, including Members of Trusteeship and Guardianship Committees, Unified Social Services to combat GBV and gender discrimination.

**Activities** [*\*the list of these and below activities is indicative, not obligatory, not exhaustive*]:

- Conduct ToT based on the modules approved by MLSA (the implementer should apply to MLSA and receive approval).
- Conduct tailored workshops for Trusteeship and Guardianship Committee members, social service providers, social workers, case managers of state and non-state institutions to identify and prevent GBV, raise awareness on recent legislative changes, domestic violence prevention mechanisms, support services for people subjected to domestic violence, etc.
- Raise awareness on best practices for handling gender-sensitive cases and promoting gender equality, with a focus on national mechanism, and legal procedures, and present the system in place on this in Armenia.
- Promote cross-sector coordination of local support networks to enable collaboration, share knowledge, and provide ongoing support for gender-sensitive initiatives.

**Objective 2:** Pilot a community-based replicable model to support domestic violence (DV) victims, ensuring close collaboration and coordination among all parts of the DV system and promoting local self-governance contributions and active involvement.

**Outcome 2:** Established community-based model of services for DV victims.

This outcome aims to pilot a community-based model that demonstrates effective coordination among DV service providers, in collaboration with the MLSA, it includes regular system-wide meetings and financial contributions from local self-governance structures to ensure sustainability.

**Activities:**

- Establish a community-level multi-disciplinary working group comprising representatives from DV centers, social services, child protection institutions, law enforcement, healthcare providers, local government, etc. to ensure cohesive and continuous collaboration for DV case management.
- Pilot the model in two or more communities based on specific criteria and assess its efficiency after the pilot.
- Facilitate monthly coordination meetings among stakeholders to streamline case management, improve service delivery and identify and address systemic gaps in DV response at community level. The monthly coordination meetings can also serve to update stakeholders on legislative changes, best practices, and available resources.
- Advocate for and secure financial buy-in from local self-governance structures for future contributions based on needs assessment and resource allocation plan, focusing on such priorities as economic empowerment, extension of services, etc.
- Raise community awareness on the importance of supporting DV survivors by providing information on existing support services and incident response agencies and engage local self-governance bodies to prioritize DV prevention and response in their agendas.
- Document and evaluate the model, providing recommendations for replication to relevant bodies and scaling in other communities/regions of Armenia.

**Objective 3:** To enhance the awareness, understanding and ethical reporting skills of journalism students in universities regarding gender-based violence/domestic violence, gender discrimination and legal framework for gender equality and the prevention of discrimination in Armenia.

**Outcome 3:** Increased awareness and sensitivity among journalism students of universities towards GBV, DV and discrimination issues. As a result, the target groups will be equipped to report on these issues ethically and responsibly, address hate speech and change public perception.

**Activities:**

- Conduct gender sensitization workshops and seminars for journalism students, covering topics such as the impact of gender stereotypes, GBV awareness, sexism, hate speech, and the role of media in challenging discrimination
- Conduct training programs to help students develop skills in gender-sensitive communication, including advocating for gender equality and preventing the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes, addressing hate speech and change public perceptions.
- Organize panel discussions that allow students to engage with professionals in the field and learn about the importance of responsible media coverage.

- Collect feedback from participants of the gender sensitization workshops and seminars to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. This feedback can serve as an initial foundation for future efforts by academic institutions and CSOs to refine and scale similar programs

**Note:** the inclusiveness requirement implies that among project beneficiaries must be PWDs (people with disabilities) and other vulnerable groups, where

- At least 70% of project direct beneficiaries should be girls and women
- At least 20% of the project direct beneficiaries should be PWDs
- At least 30% of the project direct beneficiaries should be youth

The applicant must specify clearly what the funding will be used for, and how the sought objectives will be achieved.

#### 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.

#### 4. The application package

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

Only full packages of applications will be considered for short-listing.

**Full package** of documents will comprise of the following:

- The proposal and budget prepared in the proposed format attached to this CfP as **Annex 1: Grant Application Form** and **Annex 2: Budget Template**
- Scanned version of the State Registration Document
  - of the **registered** coalition/network, or
  - of the lead applicant of **non-registered** coalition/network, or
  - of all members of the **consortium**
- Declaration (**Note:** this does not refer to registered coalition/network)
  - signed by lead applicant of non-registered coalition/network. The template is attached to this CfP as **Annex 3a: Declaration by non-registered coalition or network**,

or

- signed by all the members of the consortium. The template is attached to this CfP as **Annex 3b: Declaration by consortium.**

## **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, ethnicity, 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 final award decision is made at OXYGen, after (i) the co-creation phase with activities, methodology and budget details discussed, revised as necessary and mutually agreed upon with the 1<sup>st</sup> best organization (the latter is identified by the combined score of evaluation conducted by the SelCom) and (ii) it has successfully passed the capacity and risk assessment by OXYGen. The entire process of selection will be documented, and 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.

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

Reference number: **EU4GE-OxY-FSTP010**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **12 January 2025 at 22:00** 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:** The proposal file must be in an unprotected PDF or Word format. The budget will be in the provided Excel format. **Note: no links/Google files or zipped folders will be accepted.**

- A submission confirmation notice of No-Reply will be sent to each applicant.
- After the evaluation conducted by the SelCom and selection decision is made, the short-listed 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 capacity and risk assessment and the co-creation are completed satisfactorily.
- The contract will be signed.



[Annex 1: Grant Application Form](#)

[Annex 2: Budget Template](#) (**Attention:** the latter has two must-complete sheets)

[Annex 3a: Declaration by non-registered coalition or network](#)

[Annex 3b: Declaration by consortium](#)

*“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.*