

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Strengthening Association and Assembly Rights in Africa using the *Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa*

Background

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes an enabling legal environment for civil society, freedom of association, assembly and expression, and public participation around the world. ICNL has provided technical, research and capacity-building assistance to support the reform of laws affecting civil society organizations (CSOs) in over 100 countries. We draw upon a worldwide network of partners and experts to produce innovative research and analysis on legal topics affecting civil society. To learn more about ICNL's programs in Africa, visit www.icnl.org.

For several years, ICNL has worked closely with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' (ACHPR) Study Group on Freedom of Association and Assembly to develop [Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa](#) (the Guidelines) under the supervision of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders in Africa. The ACHPR adopted the Guidelines in 2017. In addition to their persuasive value, the Guidelines are a useful tool for states to ensure compliance with their obligation to protect fundamental freedoms of association and assembly and, more practically, to guide their work on state party reporting and drafting of internationally compliant laws. The Guidelines are also essential for the monitoring, advocacy and engagement undertaken by national human rights institutions, CSOs and media, amongst others.

Following the ACHPR's adoption of the Guidelines, ICNL supported regional networks of human rights organizations to disseminate and popularize the Guidelines within their memberships and develop regional initiatives to support the practical use of the Guidelines. It is essential to ensure that continental and regional action is complemented by efforts at national level.

ICNL is now pleased to invite proposals to support pilot national initiatives identified by members of the various regional networks as part of its "**Strengthening Association and Assembly Rights in Africa through the ACHPR Guidelines**" program. ICNL aims to support innovative and impactful action by CSOs on the African continent to use the Guidelines to promote and protect the fundamental rights of association and assembly

in Africa, and to expand space or navigate restrictions. To achieve these program goals, ICNL will provide small grants and technical assistance as needed.

Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following fully completed items via email to africa@icnl.org with the subject “**Strengthening Use of ACHPR Guidelines**”

- Application Coversheet;
- Proposal (no more than five pages); and
- Line-item Budget (**no more than \$15,000**).

Content of Proposal

In **no more than five (5) pages**, please describe your project proposal, which may address one or more of the following issues:

- i. Developing contextually appropriate data collection tools and monitoring systems to assess implementation of the Guidelines;
- ii. Conducting research on compliance of local laws with the Guidelines;
- iii. Engaging in national and regional advocacy campaigns for legislative reform based on the Guidelines and other relevant legal instruments;
- iv. Undertaking innovative media and public outreach to increase awareness and use of the Guidelines;
- v. Developing educational tools, training material and other knowledge products to increase knowledge and understanding about the Guidelines;
- vi. Facilitating engagement with state actors to use the Guidelines to improve the operating environment for civil society.

The proposal should include the following information:

- ✓ An overview of the proposed project, including a description of proposed activities, outputs, and outcomes;
- ✓ The proposed activity plan and timeline for the project;
- ✓ Specific goals, their feasibility, and how results will be measured (including a monitoring and evaluation plan);
- ✓ The plan to sustain the impact of the project beyond the grant support.
- ✓ Applicant’s experience in working on civil society legal reform, the rights to freedom of association, assembly, or expression, or other civic space related issues; and
- ✓ Existing initiatives by the applicant or other entities dealing with similar or related issues and, where applicable, the plan for ensuring complementarity between the proposed project and existing initiatives.

Please also attach a **line-item budget** (which does not count toward the 5-page limit for the proposal)

Eligibility Requirements

Proposals are welcome from any non-profit organization operating in Africa.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- i. Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- ii. Demonstrated commitment of applicant to protecting civic space and understanding of the ACHPR system;
- iii. Quality of proposed project, including:
 - level of innovation and potential impact or multiplier-effect of the proposed project,
 - the proposed methodology/design, and
 - project feasibility (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable);
- iv. Likelihood that the proposed project will enhance civic space in Africa;
- v. Sustainability of the proposed project beyond the grant period;
- vi. Proposed budget and apparent value for money;
- vii. Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success; and
- viii. Level of collaboration and inclusion in the project of other organizations within the applicant's sector and/or across sectors.

Additional information

Interested applicants can apply by completing the **application coversheet** and submitting it, along with all required documents by email (see instructions below). All grant recipients will be required to submit progress reports during the grant period and a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements. All project activities must be completed by the end of February 2020.

Please contact us at africa@icnl.org should you have questions.

Deadline

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all grant funds are awarded. Applicants should submit their applications no later than **June 30, 2019**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

APPLICATION COVERSHEET

Please fill out the coversheet completely and submit it, along with your proposal and resume or CV, to the contact information listed on the previous page. If you do not receive confirmation that your application was received within 48 hours, please contact us again by email.

Click on the boxes below to fill out the form:

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application:

- I have attached a proposal that is no more than five pages in length.
 - I have attached a line-item budget.
 - This is a nonprofit organization operating in Africa.
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