

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Country Researchers - Digital Association and Assembly Rights in Latin America

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The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite applications from local partners in **Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Argentina, and Brazil** for research grants on digital association and assembly rights. Applications should be submitted directly to ICNL as specified below.

### 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, 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 Latin America, visit <http://www.icnl.org/programs/lac/index.html>.

In January 2019, ICNL supported a convening in Mexico City of CSOs and tech organizations from 14 Latin American countries to discuss their experiences in exercising the rights of peaceful assembly and association in the digital space. Key issues identified by participants as requiring deeper interrogation included the impact on these rights of:

- A. Laws, policies and administrative practices relating to cybercrime; registration of platforms, online content and telecom services; false news and hate speech;
- B. Content regulation policies;
- C. Network disruptions and internet and telecom shutdowns;
- D. State surveillance against activists, CSOs and media by government and the private sector, and
- E. Collection and use of personal data.

In follow up to this consultation, ICNL is soliciting research proposals to promote learning and exchange on the exercise of the rights of association and assembly in the digital space. Specifically, the research should examine:

- (i) the laws, regulations, policies and government practices that affect or are relevant to the exercise of association and assembly in the digital space and through digital technologies;
- (ii) the compliance of the identified laws, regulations, policies and practices with international human rights law;
- (iii) how states are implementing these laws, regulations, policies and practices to regulate digital space; and
- (iv) the impact (positive and negative) that these laws, regulations, policies and practices have had on the exercise of the freedoms of association and assembly in the digital space by non-profit organizations and social movements.

ICNL may consider the research reports for publication.

## Content of Research

**ICNL seeks to provide grant support to researchers** to conduct a review of laws and government practices affecting the exercise of association and assembly in the digital space, analyze those laws in accordance with domestic jurisprudence, and compare those laws to international standards and principles. ICNL will provide an overview of international standards and principles, as well as a template to guide the research so that findings are comparable across countries. ICNL will work with the research teams to develop a plan and timeline and explain the research template before the researchers begin implementation. Applicants may propose to carry out the research in teams to ensure that they provide sufficient expertise in both the laws governing CSOs and those governing digital space.

The grant recipient will be responsible for all desk and field research, and for drafting and submitting a Country Report detailing the research findings to ICNL at the end of the grant. ICNL and its Latin America technical partners will work with the researchers to review and finalize the Country Reports. Research reports must be finalized by January 30, 2020.

## Application Instructions

Applicants must submit the following fully completed items, with the Application Coversheet, via email, with the subject “**Digital Space in Latin America**” to Anna

Santiago and Claudia Guadamuz via email to [asantiago@icnl.org](mailto:asantiago@icnl.org) and [cguadamuz@icnl.org](mailto:cguadamuz@icnl.org):

- Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), or other supporting information for each team member explaining his or her work and educational history (no more than 3 pages); and
- Line item budget (not more than 1 page and not to exceed **US\$ 7,000**); and
- Proposal (see below).

## Content of Proposal

In no more than three (3) pages, please describe the following:

- i. Your experience and expertise on issues relating to the freedom of association and assembly, including the legal framework relating to regulation of not-for-profit organizations;
- ii. Your experience and expertise on the legal framework relating to regulation of digital technologies;
- iii. Likely sources of documents/information that will be investigated, including whether you intend to conduct interviews and other field research;
- iv. Proposed timeline for: completing the research, submitting an initial and second draft of the Country Report, and submitting a final draft of the Country Report.

## Eligibility Requirements

This research call is open to individuals or teams of researchers proposing to conduct research in **Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Argentina, and Brazil**. Each application may propose work in only one of these five countries.

Applicants are expected to comply strictly with submission deadlines. Submission of a final research report must be completed by January 30, 2020. Applicants must submit an initial draft of the Country Report no later than mid-October and an additional draft by mid-December, to provide opportunity for ICNL and its technical partners to comment on the drafts. Earlier timelines for the project and submission of drafts are preferred and are a favorable factor in the application review process.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- i. Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;

- ii. Demonstrated expertise on the laws, rules, practices and treaty obligations applicable to freedom of association, assembly and digital rights in the selected country;
- iii. Demonstrated knowledge of developments in digital technologies and their regulation, impact and consequences on fundamental freedoms;
- iv. Excellent research, analytical and writing skills;
- v. Quality of proposal, including feasibility of the research (e.g., the research is targeted to answer the relevant questions, the scope of the research is achievable within the time frame); and
- vi. Competitiveness of the budget, consultancy rate, time availability and value for money.

### Additional information

All grant recipients must submit a final report on the use of the funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements.

Please contact us via email at [asantiago@icnl.org](mailto:asantiago@icnl.org) and [cguadamuz@icnl.org](mailto:cguadamuz@icnl.org) should you have questions.

### Deadline

The deadline for applications is **September 16, 2019**.