

## Call for Proposals: Defending Tunisia’s CSO Legal Environment

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The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite proposals for grants to defend the legal environment for civil society in Tunisia. ICNL seeks to provide three grants to support Tunisian civil society organizations (CSOs). Proposals should address one of the following activities: (1) raising awareness of the positive impact of civil society in Tunisia; (2) researching the potential impact of proposed foreign funding and other restrictions on the economy, civil society, and the public; and (3) researching and documenting solutions to the incremental encroachments on civic space through restrictive practices in implementation of Decree 88 on Associations and other Tunisian laws and policies.

The ceiling for each subgrant is USD \$10,000. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis and are due by **January 15, 2023**. All activities should be completed by May 30, 2023. For details and application instructions, please see below.

### Background

ICNL works with governments, civil society organizations, and the international community in more than 100 countries to improve the legal environment for civic space, including the freedom of association. We believe that when people have the space to come together, positive, lasting change can be made. Learn more about our work and browse our research at [www.icnl.org](http://www.icnl.org).

After its 2011 revolution Tunisia adopted one of the most progressive and enabling legal frameworks for civil society in the MENA region. However, the government has reportedly prepared a draft law that would impose new restrictions on Tunisian civil society. CSOs have reported that the government has already started imposing new restrictions on civil society. For example, Decree 88 requires a CSO to simply notify the government of its intent to establish an association, but in practice, CSOs are required to obtain a receipt from authorities, i.e. the “pink paper,” before publishing their notice in the Gazette and finalizing their establishment. CSOs have reported that it can take 6 months – 1 year to obtain the “pink paper,” a stark contrast to the simple process set forth in Decree 88. CSOs have also reported on banks freezing CSOs’ accounts until the Central Bank approves the receipt and use of funds, a requirement that is not included in Decree 88. In addition, the Central Bank sometimes requires other Ministries to approve the funding or requires security checks on CSO founders.

The types of subgrant activities that ICNL could support include (but are not limited to):

- Interviews with prominent and popular service providers to examine how restrictions will impact the delivery of services in Tunisia;
- Research examining the impact of CSO funding restrictions on Tunisia’s economy;

- A social media campaign to raise awareness of how a ban on foreign funding might impact Tunisia' compliant rating under FATF;
- Research examining whether CSOs could bring a claim under Tunisia's bilateral investment treaties if Tunisia bans all foreign funding for CSOs;
- Videos and educational materials highlighting CSOs' important contributions to Tunisian society; or
- Workshops to identify potential solutions to address the restrictive implementation practices undermining proper implementation of Decree 88.

## Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following items in English or Arabic:

- Application Coversheet (see below);
- Proposal (see below);
- Resumes/CVs of leading project staff;
- Background of organizational expertise;
- Line-item budget between \$5,000-\$10,000 (please use the attached template)

## Content of Proposal

In **five pages or less**, please describe your proposed activities. The proposal should include the following:

- Context;
- Objective and anticipated results;
- A description of your proposed project, including a description of proposed activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact;
- Organizational capacity, including applicant's experience in working on legal reform, the right to peaceful assembly, other human rights or civic space related issues, and existing initiatives by the applicant. Where applicable, a plan for ensuring complementarity between the proposed project and existing initiatives;
- The proposed activity plan and timeline for the project; and
- Reasonable indicators to monitor the project's success.

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

## Eligibility Requirements

This Call for Proposals is for any non-profit or civil society organization based in Tunisia.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;

- Experience working on the freedom of association and expertise on the topic;
- Quality of proposed project, including the innovativeness of the proposal, the proposed methodology/design, feasibility of the project (e.g. activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable);
- Likelihood that the proposed project will help defend the CSO legal environment in Tunisia;
- Sustainability of the proposed project beyond the grant period;
- Proposed budget and apparent value for money; and
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.
- Note: we cannot fund lobbying activities.

### How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it, along with all required documents by email to [mena@icnlalliance.org](mailto:mena@icnlalliance.org). Please ensure that the subject of your email is “Defending Tunisia’s CSO Legal Environment.”

### Terms of Reference

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.

### Deadline

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all grant funds are awarded. Applicants should submit their applications no later than December 31, 2022. Only shortlisted or selected candidates will be contacted.

## Application Coversheet

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax 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 two pages in length.
- I have attached a line-item budget of no more than \$10,000.
- I have attached a background of organizational expertise that is no more than one page in length.