

Call for Proposals

Malaysia - Internet as a Human Right

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite proposals for grants as part of its work to promote digital rights and the use of the internet to enhance civic freedoms. One grant of up to \$12,000 USD is available for a project meeting the criteria discussed below. The activities funded by the grant must be completed by December 31, 2021.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until October 1, 2021 or until available funds are depleted.

Background

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, visit <http://www.icnl.org>.

Internet access is increasingly being viewed as a human right, and is intrinsic to the exercise of many fundamental rights, from the freedom of expression and opinion, to the ability to associate, to the right to work, education, and health. On August 30, 2021, Malaysia's newly appointed Minister of Communications and Multimedia stated that internet access—as with other basic necessities such as food and shelter—is a human right, and that internet access would be a priority for his ministry.

In this context, ICNL seeks to support a CSO in Malaysia to carry out short-term activities to engage with the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia in implementing a comprehensive, inclusive, and rights-based understanding of access to the internet as a human right, grounded in international standards.

The applicant may select from a broad range of activities designed to achieve the grant's objective. Examples of activities that ICNL is likely to support include:

- Collecting information around issues related to various dimensions of internet access —such as through research, a townhall meeting, roundtable discussion, interviews, surveys, or other methods—including with regard to particular factors impacting internet access of women,

children, indigenous communities, and individuals from marginalized groups.

- Developing legal analyses, white papers, or policy briefs, including a set of principles or standards to protect and promote a comprehensive and rights-based understanding of internet as a human right.

Application Instructions

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

- Application coversheet (see below).
- Proposal (see below).
- Line-item budget (no more than \$12,000 USD).
- Resumes/CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.
- Background information about the applicant organization (e.g., website links or informational materials).
- Copy of notarized registration certificate confirming the status of a legal entity of the applicant.

Content of Proposal

In *two pages or less*, please describe your proposal. The proposal should address the following topics:

- Identify issues related to internet access for various groups in Malaysia, and in what ways these must be accounted for in proposed or enacted government policies, laws and regulation(s).
- Provide an overview of the proposed initiative to ensure a comprehensive, inclusive, and rights-based approach to recognizing internet access as a human right, including specific activities and anticipated outcomes.
- Describe applicant's experience implementing similar activities proposed in this call.
- Identify other CSOs, government bodies, and other stakeholders that will be engaged in the activities outlined in the application.
- Provide a proposed activity plan with specific goals and a timeline, recognizing that grant activities must be completed no later than December 31, 2021.

Please also attach a line-item budget (which does not count toward the 2-page limit for the proposal).

Eligibility Requirements

Open to any civil society organization registered in Malaysia, or any civil society organization with offices and/or substantial ties to Malaysia.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures.
- Demonstrated commitment of the applicant to improving civic space.
- Quality of proposed project, including the project's innovations, the proposed methodology/design, and 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 enhance civic space.
- Proposed budget and value for money.
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

Terms of Reference

The grant recipient will be required to submit a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursement. All project activities must be completed no later than December 31, 2021.

Deadline

Applicants should submit their applications no later than October 1, 2021; applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the deadline or until grant funds are depleted. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

How to Apply

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents, to digital@icnl.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is "Malaysia Internet as Human Right Grant Application 2021." Please email us should you have questions about the application process.

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:

Background information about the applicant organization (e.g., website links or information materials):

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 the CVs of staff to be engaged in the project.
- I have attached a line-item budget of no more than \$12,000.
- I have attached the registration certificate for my civil society organization.