



Call for Proposals

Promoting Civic Freedoms and Increasing the Participation of Marginalized Groups in Civic Space in Malawi

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 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.

ICNL is pleased to invite proposals for small grants as part of the Protecting Rights, Openness and Transparency - Enhancing Civic Transformation (PROTECT) project. PROTECT is a FCDO-funded consortium partnership for knowledge and learning in Malawi, Kenya and Myanmar aimed at countering shrinking civic space, easing pressure on independent media and infomediaries, and enhancing transparency through better civil society access to data and information. Specific interventions under PROTECT in Malawi will be geared towards empowering civil society organizations (CSOs), marginalized groups, human rights defenders and infomediaries to hold government accountable with the aim of expanding and protecting civic space.

To achieve these program goals, ICNL will provide small grants to support innovative, impactful projects, which may address the following priority interventions:

- Local or national advocacy initiatives to address civic space threats or opportunities in Malawi.
- Increasing civil society engagement with the government with respect to key international human rights mechanisms, such as the Open Government Partnership, the Financial Action Task Force or the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

- Engagement with local state actors to support their work in creating an enabling environment for civil society. This can include strategic convenings and dialogues, or other creative initiatives to advance advocacy for legal reforms.
- Advancing public participation for women and other marginalized groups in law and policy making through outreach, advocacy, capacity-building or other means.
- Conducting roundtables, seminars, or informational campaigns to identify legal reform priorities and formulate civil society strategies to proactively achieve such reforms.
- Innovative outreach, sensitization and capacity-building of marginalized groups and communities on public participation, freedom of expression, association, assembly and digital rights, or access to information, and initiatives to include and integrate them in broader advocacy efforts on civic space issues.
- Advocacy aimed at improving the implementation of the Access to Information Law.
- Conducting research on and monitoring of violations of individuals' or CSOs' civic freedoms and/or implementation of the government's commitments to international human rights mechanisms.

This list is illustrative, and ICNL strongly encourages applicants with innovative ideas and approaches not described above to apply.

Application Instructions

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

- Application coversheet (see below);
- Proposal (no more than five pages);
- Line-item budget (no more than USD \$30,000); and
- Resumes/CVs of person responsible for the proposed project.

Content of Proposal

In *five pages or less*, please describe your project proposal and ensure the following information is included:

- An overview of the proposed project, including a clear description of proposed activities, outputs, and outcomes;

- An explanation of how the proposed project will increase the ability of women or other marginalized groups to exercise their civic freedoms;
- The proposed activity plan and timeline for the project, recognizing that grant activities must be completed no later than the end of October 31, 2021;
- Specific objectives, 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 legal reform projects, the rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly, or digital freedoms or other civic space related issues in Malawi; and
- Existing initiatives by the applicant or other entities dealing with similar or related issues. Where applicable, the plan for ensuring complementarity between the proposed project and existing initiatives.

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

Eligibility Requirements

Open to any organization operating in Malawi. Proposals from community-based organizations and organizations representing marginalized groups are especially encouraged.

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, positive impact on marginalized groups 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, particularly by increasing the participation of women or other marginalized groups in civil society and/or public affairs.
- Proposed budget and value for money.
- Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it, along with all required documents, by email (see instructions below).

Additional Information

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 October 31, 2021.

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

Deadline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until **May 10, 2021** or until available funds are depleted. Due to the number of expected applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Application Coversheet

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents, to africa@icnl.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is "PROTECT Grant Application 2021."

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 five pages in length.
- I have attached the CVs of person responsible for the project.
- I have attached a line-item budget of no more than \$30,000.