

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Promoting an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Organizations in Zambia

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### 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. Learn more about ICNL's programs in Africa [here](#).

As part of its *Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Policy*, the Government of Zambia has committed to repealing and replacing the current, restrictive *Non-Governmental Organizations Act of 2009* (NGO Act). In December 2020, the Parliament of Zambia enacted the [Non-Governmental Organisations \(Amendment\) Act, No. 13 of 2020](#), which imposes new and potentially restrictive obligations on NGOs relating to their financial obligations and operations. Government has also recently increased its focus on combating money laundering and terrorism financing, which can have negative implications on the operations of CSOs. These processes present an important opportunity to capitalize on engagement by both government and civil society to develop new, enabling civil society legal and administrative frameworks.

ICNL is thus pleased to invite proposals for small grants as part of its “**Promoting an Enabling Environment for CSOs in Zambia**” program. Through this program, ICNL aims to support initiatives that advocate for inclusive, consultative processes to ensure that the legal framework for, and regulation of, CSOs aligns with international standards and enables a vibrant and sustainable civil society sector in Zambia. ICNL will provide one or more small grants to support innovative, impactful projects focused on mobilizing civil society involvement in reform processes and engaging in wider advocacy and public awareness efforts relating to the enabling environment for civil society. Proposals from community-based organizations, and those that include or prioritize engagement of women, youth and other special interest groups in reform processes are especially encouraged. ICNL will provide technical assistance to grantees as needed.

## Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following fully completed items via email to [africa@icnl.org](mailto:africa@icnl.org) with the subject “**Zambia small grant application**”

- Application Coversheet;
- Proposal (no more than five pages); and
- Line-item Budget (**no more than \$30,000**).

## Content of Proposal

In **no more than five (5) pages**, please describe your project proposal, which should focus on mobilizing civil society involvement in reform processes and engaging in wider advocacy and public awareness efforts relating to the enabling environment for civil society through, for example:

- i. Innovative research on a topic related to freedom of association in Zambia to inform legal or policy reforms or amplify the voice of CSOs in their advocacy for increased protection of this freedom;
- ii. Innovative public outreach to deepen understanding of the impact of restrictive laws on civil society and encourage involvement in protecting freedom of association in Zambia;
- iii. Engagement with 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 reform;
- iv. Innovative communication and information-gathering platforms that provide data on civic space for use in advocacy including blogs, newsletters, etc.;
- v. Innovative outreach and sensitization of marginalized groups and communities on freedom of association, and initiatives to include and integrate this in broader advocacy efforts on civic space issues.

These are illustrative examples, and we encourage applicants to suggest their own innovative activities. 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, recognizing that grant activities must be completed no later than the end of December 2021;
- ✓ 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, particularly the rights to freedom of association, or other civic space-related issues;
- ✓ 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; and
- ✓ A **line-item budget** (does not count toward the 5-page limit for the proposal)

## Eligibility Requirements

Proposals are welcome from registered non-profit organizations operating in Zambia.

## 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;
- iii. Quality of proposed project, including innovation and potential impact of the proposal, the proposed methodology/design, and feasibility of the project (e.g., activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results that are realistic and attainable);
- iv. Likelihood that the proposed project will enhance civic space in Zambia;
- v. Sustainability of the proposed project beyond the grant period;
- vi. Proposed budget and apparent value for money; and
- vii. Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.

## Additional information

Interested applicants can apply by completing the **application coversheet** and submitting it, along with all required documents by email (see instructions above). 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 December 2021.

## Deadline

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all grant funds are awarded. Applicants should submit their applications no later than **May 31, 2021**. Only successful candidates will be contacted. This call for applications does not constitute an obligation or commitment of any kind by ICNL, nor does it commit ICNL to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

## APPLICATION COVERSHEET

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Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your proposal and other application documents to [africa@icnl.org](mailto:africa@icnl.org). Please ensure that the subject of your email is: **"Zambia small grant application."** Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Full Name:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address Line 1:

Mailing Address Line 2:

Mailing Address Line 3:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

**Check the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.**

- I have attached a proposal that is no more than five (5) pages in length.
- I have attached a line-item budget.
- Our organization is a registered non-profit organization operating in Zambia.