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Call for proposals “Shelter Initiatives” programme

**Support for creating and consolidating local and regional
Temporary Relocation Programmes for HRDs at risk.**

PROTECTDEFENDERS.EU

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1. “Shelter Initiatives” programme

ProtectDefenders.eu, the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism, through its “Shelter Initiatives” programme, aims to support human rights defenders (HRDs) who are carrying out their activities in the most difficult contexts and facing immediate risks, to make sure they have access to comprehensive temporary relocation programmes. The “Shelter Initiatives” programme contributes to ***enhancing and increasing the capacity of shelters and other initiatives for the temporary relocation of HRDs at risk at local and regional level***, and its specific objectives are:

- Providing direct material and financial support to new and emerging shelter programmes to develop and strengthen their capacity to deliver effective temporary relocation through a call for proposals;
- Providing advice and expertise and facilitating networking opportunities and knowledge-sharing between initiatives.

This component complements international relocation programmes by supporting local and regional initiatives in need of increased support and capacity building and which respond more specifically to the needs of HRDs according to the local and regional context. It thus benefits from best practices identified by local entities in terms of better access to support at local and regional level.

It also takes into account the fact that differences in terms of language, culture, climate and distance play a crucial role in some HRDs’ at risk’s decision as to whether to relocate or not. Strengthening local and regional initiatives is being prioritised as we recognise the importance of first-hand local knowledge of the context and risk environment, as well as of close existing relationships with actors working on human rights issues in the countries of origin, the ability to react quickly to emergency situations without having to navigate cross-regional visa requirements, and the ability to provide in depth follow-up once the HRDs return to their home country.

2. Scope of this call

2.1. Specific objectives

The submitted proposals shall aim to contribute to enhancing local and regional Temporary Relocation Programmes (TRPs) for HRDs at risk, and aim to achieve, at least, one of the following specific objectives:

- Implement a feasibility research to decide on the establishment (or not) of a new TRP at local/regional level and its characteristics;
- Establish new TRPs working at local/regional level;
- Amplify the scope of existing TRPs working at local/regional level (by including family members, incorporating new countries of origin, including new profiles of HRDs from the groups of “particularly targeted defenders”, adding a new relocation method, increasing the number of HRDs hosted, etc.)





- Strengthen existing TRPs working at local/regional level in order to guarantee a holistic or integral approach to protection as well as a measurable gender perspective (by consolidating the existing and/or offer new activities for HRDs during their relocation, by strengthening the capacities of the team working in the programme, improving the space where HRDs live during their relocation, etc.)
- Look for advice and expertise, networking opportunities, knowledge-sharing between initiatives.

2.2. Scope

Human Rights Defenders (HRDs): Individuals or groups who act to promote, protect or strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms through peaceful means according to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Temporary Relocation: The HRD intends to return to his/her country of origin after a temporary relocation (normally lasting between three months and one year). Initially, the HRD is NOT seeking permanent relocation. It is not expected that the risk conditions will disappear during the relocation period. The aim during temporary relocation is to strengthen the capacities of the defender or to provide a space for rest and respite.

Local/regional level: The relocation of HRDs at risk must be implemented in the same country or region where defenders work.

Integral approach: TRPs should adopt a holistic approach, which goes beyond the relocation itself, considering it as part of a process aimed at protecting and strengthening the capacities of HRDs at risk in different aspects of their holistic security, such as: psychosocial, legal, digital and physical.

Gender perspective: Taking into account the particularities pertaining to the lives of women, men, trans, non-binary intersex people and people with indigenous gender identities, while aiming to eliminate inequalities and promote gender equality, including an equal distribution of resources, therefore addressing and taking into account the gender dimension.¹

Particularly targeted defenders: WHRDs (Women Human Rights Defenders), LGBTI+ HRDs, environmental, land, and indigenous peoples' rights defenders, defenders operating in conflict areas, defenders from remote areas & less connected, defenders with disabilities.

Non-eligible countries (where the entities and the shelters cannot be based - other regions are being prioritised as there is already considerable capacity in Western countries): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic,

¹ Examples of how to conduct TR of HRDs in a gender sensitive manner: support relocation with family members, consider the need to provide further assistance to WHRDs during relocation, where they may be subject to gendered violence, including domestic violence, provide alternative solutions for education/schooling for children, provide alternative solutions for protection measures where relocation is not possible due to legal restrictions that require a husband or male guardian approval for a visa or travel permit, provide childcare, etc.



Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

Non-eligible costs²: Costs related to individual support for HRDs for emergency or temporary relocation are NOT eligible in this call (except during the pilot stage of a new initiative).³

Based on its objectives, the “Shelter Initiatives” programme proposes different selection criteria, eligible activities, and the maximum amount available per category: feasibility researches, new initiatives, and existing initiatives.

3. Amount granted and implementation period

Maximum amount to be allocated to an entity per category:

- Feasibility researches: EUR 12 000
- New initiatives: EUR 48 000
- Existing Initiatives: EUR 60 000

Length of implementation of the proposed initiative per category:

- Feasibility researches: Six months maximum
- New initiatives: Eight months maximum
- Existing initiatives: Eighteen months maximum

Implementation period: June 12nd 2023 - November 30th 2024.

ProtectDefenders.eu shall not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation, transfer, or presentation of any materials submitted as a part of this application.

4. Eligibility criteria and eligible activities

The proposed initiative has to include the temporary relocation of HRDs at risk working in a country other than those listed in the non-eligible countries in point 2.2, ensure that HRDs at risk are temporarily relocated in the same country or region where they work as defenders, guarantee an integral approach to the protection of HRDs during the relocation, and incorporate gender perspective.

² Not eligible costs include: per diem (food, transport, hotel, communications), plane tickets, monthly allowance, health/dental care expenses, individual activities in an external institution, temporary rent, subsidy for family members who remain in the country of origin, subsidy for the return, implementation of secure measures for the return.

³ In addition to the “Shelter Initiatives” programme, ProtectDefenders.eu implement two specific grants programmes for activities related to the direct support of individual HRDs at risk and their family (Emergency Programme and Temporary Relocation Programme). If the applicant wants to apply for support for an individual HRD through these programmes, click [here](#) to find more information about the application processes.



4.1. New initiatives or feasibility studies

4.1.1. Eligibility criteria for new initiatives or feasibility studies

Eligible applicants:

- Entities legally established⁴ (non-profit organisations, cities, universities, rehabilitation programmes, etc.) in a country other than those listed in the non-eligible countries in point 2.2.
- Entities with proven experience in the field of human rights, preferably with HRDs, and more specifically in the protection of HRDs.

4.1.2. Eligible activities for new initiatives or feasibility studies⁵

- Feasibility research: consultant/staff to do the research, travel (to visit key actors, to build or strengthen networks, to attend key events), organisation of events for discussion and consultation (regional or national meetings, workshops, etc.), administrative costs.
- Planning/Pilot stage and Implementation stage: administrative and operational costs, staff, consultants, equipment/improvement/expenses of the space in which HRDs will live, meetings, workshops, training for the programme staff, organisation of events for discussion of protocols and guidelines with key actors, creation of promotional materials; administrative and operational costs (up to 35%, assessed on a case-by-case basis), expenses related to the logistics of receiving up to two HRD(s) for up to three months during the pilot stage.

4.2. Existing shelters and other relocation initiatives

4.2.1. Eligibility criteria for existing initiatives

- Entities legally established⁶ (non-profit organisations, cities, universities, rehabilitation programmes, etc.) in a country other than those listed in the non-eligible countries at point 2.2.
- Entities hosting a temporary relocation programme for HRDs at risk in the same country or region where hosted HRDs carry out their human rights activities.

4 If your organisation is not registered, please mention this and the Coordinator will follow up with you to understand the local context.

5 It is unlikely that the financial support provided by this programme will be enough to cover all expenses related to the establishment of a new temporary relocation initiative with an integral approach. It is highly probable that the applicant will need to ask for other funds from different donors to complement the funds offered by this programme.

Sustainability is one of the key criteria for the assessment of the applications. ProtectDefenders.eu encourages applicants to look for other donors to cover all additional expenses, especially those related to the reception of HRDs (see non-eligible costs).

6 If your organisation is not registered, please mention this and the Coordinator will follow up with you to understand the local context.



4.2.2. Eligible activities for existing initiatives⁷:

Payroll of staff/consultants, recruitment of relevant expert staff/as consultants (psychologist, doctor, lawyer, childminders, etc.), team well-being, training, learning exchanges, participation in related events, organisation of events, ground missions, refurbishment/maintenance/improvement/equipment/services/rent of the space in which participants live during their relocation, digital improvements, development of promotional materials, external evaluation, networking/fundraising strategies, sharing of experiences, research, systematization, administrative and operational costs (up to 35%, assessed on a case-by-case basis).

5. Application process

The application process will consist in a 2-step process.

1st Phase: Concept Note

To apply for the support offered by the “Shelter Initiatives” programme, the applicant must submit a description of the proposal through a brief concept note in Arabic, English, French, Russian or Spanish, of maximum 2 pages (See “Concept-Note-Template”).

Applications submitted in a different format will NOT be considered.

Deadline for concept notes	Selection of shortlisted applications
05/04/23	28/04/23

The application must be submitted via E-mail to shelters@protectdefenders.eu, with the subject “Concept Note-NAME OF THE ENTITY”.

If the application submitted is shortlisted, the applicant will be invited to submit a full application in the second phase.

Due to the number of proposals that are expected to be received, only pre-selected candidates will be contacted and/or those cases in which some point of the proposal needs to be clarified.

2nd Phase: Application form and support documents

Applicants who receive written confirmation that the application has been shortlisted, must:

- a) Complete the application form in all its parts in Arabic, English, French, Russian or Spanish with accurate data, including the Annexes;



⁷ Please note that this grant it is NOT to guarantee ongoing operational costs of an existing programme for a certain period of time. This grant is to support specific activities to strengthen the initiative and achieve positive changes from a structural point of view.



- a) Attach all documents requested in the application form to the application.
- b) Submit the application via E-mail to shelters@protectdefenders.eu, with the subject “Full Application-NAME OF THE ENTITY”;
- c) Send additional information requested by the Secretariat of ProtectDefenders.eu (where necessary).

Deadline to submit full applications	Final selection of applications
12/05/23	02/06/23

The Coordinator of the “Shelter Initiatives” programme will be available to support shortlisted candidates in completing the full applications and preparing the support documentation.

6. Evaluation of applications

Applications will be evaluated based on quality, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the project proposal.

PD.eu reserves the right to consider proposals for modification at any time before the support is awarded.

During the 1st phase, a selection committee composed of ProtectDefenders.eu consortium partners and the Coordinator of the “Shelter Initiatives” programme will be in charge of the assessment and the selection of the shortlisted applications. During the 2nd phase, the final selection will be the responsibility of the Board of ProtectDefenders.eu. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the applicant in writing.