

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES



UNDERTAKING A STUDY ON THE REALISATION AND ENJOYMENT OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION IN UGANDA DURING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE

APRIL, 2019

NATIONAL COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN UGANDA (NCHRD-U)



ABOUT THE NATIONAL COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda (NCHRD-U) is a registered organization of various organizations and individual Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) that was formed in 2013. It seeks to strengthen the work of HRDs throughout the country through synergy and collaboration at national and international level to enhance the protection mechanisms for HRDs and their capacity to effectively defend human rights. NCHRD-U focuses its work in all regions in Uganda.

NCHRD-U's purpose is to protect and promote the work of HRDs in safe and secure environment through linkages with national, regional and international entities. Individuals and organizations working to promote the protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRD) in Uganda. Further information about the Organisation and what it does, can be found on our website: www.hrdcoalition.org

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The right to freedom of expression, assembly and association are well established under the International Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995. At the international laws, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) establish the three fundamental freedoms. At the regional level, the Banjul Charter further recognizes the freedoms at the continental level. At the national level, the Constitution of Uganda guarantees the freedoms under Article 29 (a) (d) and (e). To ensure respect of the freedoms for all, including HRDs, the values of equality and non-discrimination are firmly founded as a unifying theme.

In exercise of their functions and service to society, HRDs exercise these fundamental freedoms to be able to defend human rights, seek justice for victims and survivors, or lobby for progressive changes in policies, practices, and laws. The freedoms are the oxygen of the defenders work. For example, many HRDs across the country work together under civil society organisations in exercise of their association rights to champion a specific mission that advances human rights. In the implementation of their activities, they exercise the right to hold opinions without interference and freedom of expression to seek, receive and impart information and ideas to achieve the desired objectives. When a peaceful protest becomes a necessary advocacy tool, HRDs should be free to come together to petition and demand for respect of rights, justice, or any other just cause.

However, in practice, many circumstances suggest that HRDs struggle to freely exercise these freedoms as expected in a free and democratic society. The situation tends to worsen with heightened political climate. Whereas the said freedoms are not absolute, there have been situations where the rights are unfairly restricted through legislation and practice. This has had an impact on the ability of HRDs to organize and peacefully carry out their work of defending and augmenting human rights. Often, the challenges come with personal risk to the defenders. As noted, the threats to these freedoms often spikes towards electioneering periods when stakes are high.

In the run-up to the 2021 General Elections in Uganda, this activity seeks to review and analyze patterns and trends of threats to these freedoms and the impact on the work of HRDs to inform action points.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of the assignment is to assess the extent to which journalists/media (as HRDs) realize and enjoy the right to **Freedom of Association, Expression and Assembly** while undertaking their professional work and calling.

The study report will inform strategies towards strengthening the NCHRD-U and other partner's responses to effectively lay strategies to ensure HRDs have access to relevant and timely mechanisms that protect and support their effective participation in the 2021 General Elections in Uganda.

3.0 TIME FRAME OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The time frame of the study will be the period from October 2015 – April 2019. Geographically, the study will review situations that involve selected HRDs across the country after the sampling process. In terms of content, the study will include any matters that are connected to freedom of expression, assembly and association rights of HRDs.

The Consultant is expected to submit an inception report that ideally includes the planning phase, nature and development of research tools and submitting them to the coalition for approval, pre-testing of the tools, field work, data collection and analysis, report writing, presentation, and reporting. The consultant is expected to work closely with the Advocacy and Networking Unit of the Coalition during the process.

4.0 EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

The required outputs from this consultancy shall include but not limited to;

- I. A comprehensive report on the state of HRDs access, realization and enjoyment of the **right to Freedom of Association, Expression and Assembly** in Uganda. The report will detail findings and recommendations on what should be done to mitigate or address the challenges and gaps identified;

- II. A policy brief or/and matrix describing the specific recommendations for advocacy purposes and easy dissemination to relevant stakeholders; and
- III. One PowerPoint presentation to the HRDs for report validation;
- IV. One PowerPoint presentation to the various stakeholders during the launch of the study report.

5.0 DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment is expected to be carried out over a period of 30 working days or less within the months of May, June and July, 2019

6.0 REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

The Consultant should have the following competencies:

- I. University degree in Journalism, law, development studies, social sciences, human rights and post graduate studies in any of the aforementioned field shall be an added advantage;
- II. Over 10 years' experience working in Governance and human rights, civic space and rule of law fields with particular attention to HRDs' operating legal and social operating environment;
- III. Excellent research, writing and presentation skills;
- IV. Demonstrated ability to complete multifaceted tasks in an apt manner and convey quality results.

7.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested and qualified consultants should submit their application which should include the following:

- I. A technical proposal including the consultants understanding of the terms of reference, an inception report detailing the proposed work plan and details of similar tasks completed successfully;
- II. A financial proposal in detail (avoiding where possible, block figures);
- III. Current Curriculum vitae;
- IV. Submissions should be made via email to executive@hrdcoalition.ug or hand delivered to The Executive Director, NCHRD-U **Plot 148, SEMAWATTA ROAD, NTINDA, KAMPALA**
- V. The closing date for receiving both the technical and financial proposals is **Thursday 16th May, 2019 at 5:00pm.**
- VI. Only short listed consultants/firms will be contacted