

British Embassy Bucharest calls for project proposals to improve police handling of domestic violence

The deadline for submitting project bids has been extended to 4 October 2021.

This project is part of a wider British Embassy portfolio of projects which seeks to support the Romanian government and civil society in responding to gender based violence.

Domestic violence affects people across the world and social backgrounds every day, in both normal and crisis situations. UN statistics show that, globally, one in three women is a victim of physical aggression. Moreover, in times of crisis, cases of domestic violence tend to escalate. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, emerging data and reports, have shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, have intensified. In a country like Romania where, unfortunately, family abuse is often normalised this is a worrying trend.

Statistics from 2018 show that 24% of Romanian women have suffered violence from their partner, while 28% knew other victims amongst their friends and relatives. Only 47% of the surveyed women were aware of the legislation protecting them from domestic violence and 74% were unaware of the existence of a specialised support system. In 2019, the Romanian police registered 44,094 cases of domestic violence and 51 deaths. This means that a Romanian woman was killed almost every week.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement restrictions had an impact on everyone's lives, but a particularly dramatic one on the lives of domestic violence victims.

Romania did not deviate from the global trend and reported an increase in the number of cases soon after the restrictions were put in place and continued throughout 2020.

Police officers are often the people who are the first to have contact with victims and are the first point of contact for them as they navigate the system that is in place to offer them protection.

Objective

To promote a better understanding of gender-based violence amongst police officers who handle domestic violence cases and to facilitate the inclusion of victim-centred care practices and trauma informed care in their response to and work on prevention of domestic violence. It should also include forms of gender-based violence beyond physical violence, for example, coercive behaviour, financial control and emotional abuse.

Scope of work

The project should have a national reach, while also paying special attention to vulnerable communities, where victims of domestic violence are likely to stay in abusive relationships.

Activities

It is essential that the project implementer builds effective relationships to secure buy in at a policy and operational level for this project to be successful. Potential activities could include:

- policy development with government, police departments and those with lived experience on victim-centred responses and trauma informed care in domestic violence situations
- development of training materials for operational partners who respond to domestic violence incidents and/or have contact with survivors in a policing context
- support for those with lived experience of domestic violence to engage with policy makers and operational partners on the development of materials and training packages
- training on victim and trauma focused responses and signposting to specialist support networks
- creating a support network for police officers who work on domestic violence issues
- supporting materials to raise awareness of victim-centred approaches across police teams to increase awareness of domestic violence issues linked to other reported crimes

This is not an exhaustive list. The embassy welcomes innovative proposals from potential implementing partners that suggest additional or alternative activities to deliver the key objectives.

Project approach

Bidders are asked to submit a project proposal which will be approved by the British Embassy Bucharest and will form the basis for project planning. The proposal should set out how the implementing partner will deliver activities to support the objectives set out above with an implementation plan and supporting activity based budget. The British Embassy Bucharest will oversee the project planning and provide the necessary contacts to the implementers.

The project implementer will manage project logistics, including travel plans, lodging, car hiring etc. and is expected to consider the pandemic context and its possible impact on the project implementation when submitting the bid.

The embassy will provide contact persons and focal points for UK institutions or experts that might be needed in the process.

How to bid

The deadline for submitting project bids has been extended to 4 October 2021.

Project bids must include:

Activity based budgets should list the activities needed to deliver the outcomes (results) of the project. All costs should be in Romanian Lei (RON).

Bids should be completed in English.

Send all completed forms to rsvp.bucharest@fcdo.gov.uk and anamaria.dima@fcdo.gov.uk.

State in the subject line of the email: Name of implementing organisation and title of the project.

Reporting

The reports to be produced during the course of this project are to be delivered in English:

- an inception note detailing approach and proposed activities. This should also set out key stakeholders who will be engaged, a proposed schedule of activities, risks, safeguarding approach and any additional details, including a communications plan
- a draft report
- three-monthly financial reports
- the final report, following a facilitated process of commenting

Composition of the project teams

The British Embassy Bucharest will nominate a Project Director, British Embassy Bucharest (Tanya Collingridge, Deputy Head of Mission) and a Project Manager (Ana Maria Dima, Senior Political Officer) to oversee the project delivery.

Project proposals should demonstrate that the implementing partner's staffing levels are appropriate to deliver the aims of the project and that the staff have relevant expertise and experience in domestic violence victim support, as well as detailed knowledge of the domestic violence situation in Romania.

Timing and scope of input

The bidding round is an open and competitive process, assessed by the British Embassy in Bucharest. Results will be issued by late September to early October. Once a bid is approved, a Grant Agreement will be signed with the successful bidder.

Your organisation will be expected to sign the contract within one week of the funds being awarded. Failure to do so may result in the funds being re-allocated. The implementing organisation will be required to submit report updates and a final evaluation of the project.

There are no pre-payments. Reimbursements will be completed once activities have taken place and all receipts submitted. Implementing organisations will request repayments using an invoice (including receipts and a financial report of spend) and the repayments will be carried out during those dates agreed upon in the respective contract.

The budget should be presented in RON. All payments will be made in RON to a bank account held in Romania.

Send any questions on the call for bids to anamaria.dima@fcdo.gov.uk.

It is expected that the project will be carried out from October 2021 to February 2022. The crucial milestones will be the submission of the draft report (early March 2022) and the final report (April 2022).

Budget

Grant applications must include an estimated budget of up to £17,500 or equivalent of 84,875 RON. Depending on the quality of the proposals, the British embassy reserves the right not to grant all or part of the available funds. The embassy also reserves the right to award a grant of less than the amount requested by the applicants. In such a case, applicants will be asked to increase the amount that they co-finance, to propose other co-financing means or to decrease the total costs without altering the substance of the proposal.