# FCO_UK_PS_BK test

Human Rights and Democracy Programme

GUIDANCE FOR POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTERS

Financial Year 2015-16

Human Rights and Democracy Department

## CONTENTS

[INTRODUCTION](#_INTRODUCTION)……………………………………………………………………..3

[WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW](#_WHAT_YOU_NEED)……………………………………………………...4

[BIDDING ROUND TIMETABLE FOR 2015-16](#_BIDDING_ROUND_TIMETABLE)……………………………………5

[STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO MAKING PROJECT PROPOSALS](#_STEP-BY-STEP_GUIDE_TO)…………….....6

[HOW TO WRITE A PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE (PCN)](#_HOW_TO_WRITE_1)……………………….7

[HOW TO WRITE A FULL PROPOSAL](#_HOW_TO_WRITE)………………………………………….....8

[FULL PROPOSAL: THE ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET](#_FULL_PROPOSAL:_THE)………………………….10

[HOW PROPOSALS ARE ASSESSED](#_HOW_PROPOSALS_ARE)…………………………………………….11

[DETAILED THEMATIC BIDDING GUIDANCE](#_DETAILED_THEMATIC_BIDDING_1)…………………………………...12

[Abolition of the Death Penalty](#_Abolition_of_Death)………………………………………..…..12

[Business and Human Rights](#_Business_and_Human)……………………………………………..13

[Democratic Processes](#_Democratic_Processes_(DEM))…………………………………………………….14

[Freedom of Expression](#_Freedom_of_Expression)…………………………………………………...15

[Freedom of Religion or Belief](#_Freedom_of_Religion)……………………………………………16

[Global Torture Prevention](#_Global_Torture_Prevention)………………………………………………...17

[Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict](#_Preventing_Sexual_Violence)………………………………....18

[Promoting Women’s Rights](#_Promoting_Women’s_Rights)………………………………………………19

[ANNEX A: EXAMPLE ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET](#Annex)……………………………...20

## 

## INTRODUCTION

**What is the Human Rights and Democracy Programme?**

The Human Rights and Democracy Programme (HRDP) is the FCO’s dedicated annual fund supporting human rights and democracy work overseas. Through targeted projects, it aims to lift the capacity of governments and civil society to promote and protect human rights.

**Who is this bidding guidance for?**

This document provides comprehensive bidding guidance for:

* prospective implementers; and
* project teams at British Embassies and High Commissions.

**Before bidding you should also familiarise yourself with:**

* the 2015-16 HRDP strategy;
* the standard grant contract; and
* the project concept note form.

Please read all guidance and ensure that project proposals are designed and submitted in accordance with the guidance. Proposals that do not meet the criteria and follow the guidance will be rejected.

**Please send any questions, comments or suggestions to:** [**HRD.Programme@fco.gov.uk**](mailto:HRD.Programme@fco.gov.uk)

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Funding available**

The HRDP will have approximately **£5.5 million** of funding available for the financial year 2015-16.

The HRDP team will allocate approximately £1.6 million of this to projects aligned to the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI). This will complete the 2013 G8 Declaration commitment by the former Foreign Secretary to spend £5 million on PSVI projects through the HRDP over three years. The remainder of the fund will be allocated across the other seven priority areas.

HRDP will fund projects up to the value of £200,000. Projects in excess of this amount may be considered exceptionally after consultation with the HRDP Team.

## Thematic Priorities

By funding human rights projects across eight thematic priorities, the HRDP targets areas that are important to us and where we consider we can make the greatest impact. Go to the [detailed thematic bidding guidance](#_DETAILED_THEMATIC_BIDDING) for more information.

**Priority Countries**

See Annex A in the 2015-16 HRDP Strategy for the HRDP priority countries.

The HRDP does accept proposals for countries not on this list; please ensure that any project proposals for non-priority countries clearly set out a strong rationale for funding.

**Restrictions on number of proposals**

There are no restrictions on the number of proposals an implementer can submit for funding. However, each Embassy or High Commission is only able to submit a limited number of full proposals to the HRDP Programme Board in London for final assessment.

* Priority countries are restricted to a maximum of four proposals for submission to the HRDP Programme Board in London.
* Non-priority countries are restricted to a maximum of two proposals for submission to the HRDP Programme Board in London.

**Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

98% of HRDP funding is reserved for ODA projects (see the [OECD website](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm) for a list of ODA eligible countries). However, we also fund a small number of proposals each year from non-ODA eligible countries.

**Eligibility**

The HRDP accepts project proposals from civil society, governments, think-tanks and other UK government departments.

## BIDDING ROUND TIMETABLE FOR 2015-16

Please note: the bidding deadlines listed below for submission of project concept notes (PCNs) and full proposals (FPs) are subject to the local conditions of the relevant Embassy or High Commission. Please check deadlines with the relevant Embassy or High Commission before submitting any proposals.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **STEP** | **DATE** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| **1** | **4Nov 2014** | **HRDP bidding opens**  Potential implementers are invited to develop concept proposals for submission to the relevant Embassy or High Commission in the country they wish to work in.  **Please see the list of UK Missions overseas** [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/government/world)**.** |
| **1 Dec 2014** | **Deadline for project concept notes (PCNs)**  This deadline is set locally; please confirm with the relevant Embassy or High Commission before submission. |
| **2** | **5 Jan 2015** | **Deadline for full proposals to Embassy or High Commission**  UK Missions will assess all PCNs received; they will then ask those implementers who submitted successful PCNs to work their concept up to a full proposal |
| **23 Jan 2015** | **Fulll proposals submitted to HRDP Team**  Deadline for UK Missions to submit their highest-scoring project proposals to the HRDP Team in London.  No proposals will be accepted after this date. |
| **3** | **6Feb 2015** | **HRDP sifting of all proposals complete** |
| **13Feb 2015** | **Unsuccessful implementers from the sifting phase notified** |
| **6March 2015** | **HRDP Thematic Programme Boards complete** |
| **4** | **16March 2015** | **Successful and unsuccessful bidders are notified** |
| **31March 2015** | **Project grant contracts agreed** |
| **April 2015** | **2015-16 projects commence** |

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO MAKING PROJECT PROPOSALS

**STEP 1 – Project Concept Note (PCN)**

**For single-country proposals:** submit PCNs to the relevant Embassy or High Commission by their agreed deadline.

**For multi-country proposals:** submit PCNs to the relevant thematic Human Rights and Democracy Department (HRDD) desk officer in London (see the “detailed thematic bidding guidance section” of this document for contact details).

It is a good idea to discuss your project idea in advance with the relevant, Embassy, High Commission or HRDD desk officer.

**Successful PCNs** will be invited to submit a full proposal by mid-December 2014; those who submit **unsuccessful PCNS** will be notified.

**STEP 2 – Full Proposal Submission**

A full proposal (FP) comprisesf a Project Proposal Form and an Activity Based Budget (ABB).

FPs must be submitted to the relevant Embassy, High Commission or HRDD desk officer by **5 Jan 2015** (unless advised differently by the local Embassy or High Commission). Next, they are assessed by the local Programme Board against the local human rights strategy.

**Successful FPs:** the top proposals approved by local Programme Boards are submitted to London for assessment by the HRDP Thematic Programme Board.

**Unsuccessful FPs:** proposals which are not supported by the local Programme Board will not be sent to London and the bidder will be informed.

**STEP 3 – HRDP Programme Board**

**Sift:** the HRDP Team, with the expert advice of human rights advisers and thematic leads, sifts the proposals to approximately 15 proposals per priority area.

**Thematic Programme Boards:** a Programme Board for each priority theme is held; this comprises FCO human rights and project experts, and an independent expert. The HRDP Programme Board agrees a final list of projects.

**STEP 4 – Project Approval**

All implementers will be informed of the outcome of the board by **13 March**, with projects anticipated to begin in **April 2015**. Feedback on unsuccessful proposals will be returned by the Embassy, High Commission or relevant HRDD desk officer.

All projects must have the Grant Agreement signed by both parties prior to commencement

## HOW TO WRITE A PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE (PCN)

## Before writing a full proposal, implementers should submit a completed PCN, consulting with the relevant local Embassy, High Commission or HRDD desk officer. The PCN template is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/human-rights-and-democracy-programme).

## Guidance on what we look for in the key sections of the PCN:

* **Project title:** a clear and concise title e.g. “Promoting Legal Protection for the Media in China”.
* **Project purpose:** in no more than one sentence, clearly state the change that the project will deliver. This is the reason the project should go ahead *(you will expand on this in the section “what change the project will deliver”).*
* **Implementing agency:** provide full contact details and the name of the agency’s lead officer for the project.
* **What change the project will deliver:** in one paragraph, explain what the project will achieve and how. Summarise the project outputs or expected results, and the main activities that support each output. Include a sentence describing the proposed steps to ensure the sustainability of project.
* **Background:** in one paragraph, explain the country context and the problem that the project addresses, and how this relates to HRDP objectives. Explain why the UK is the best donor for this project.
* **Risks:** provide brief details of any serious risks to the success of the project and how these will be mitigated.
* **Start and end date:** all projects must be completed in the 2015-16 financial year. Projects can start at any time. The expected end date should be no later than 28 February to allow time for the project to wind down and payments to be completed by the close of the financial year.
* **Post comments:** the project officer at the Embassy or High Commission must complete this section.

The Embassy, High Commission or HRDD desk officer may accept or reject the PCN. The bidder will be notified within a reasonable time of the decision.

**ALL PCNS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WORD FORMAT. PDFS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

## HOW TO WRITE A FULL PROPOSAL

## Section A - Details of the project

## This is to be completed by the implementing organisation only on approval of the Project Concept Note (PCN) by the relevant Embassy or High Commission (for multi-country projects the HRDD desk officer must have approved the PCN).

## The bidder must also include a detailed [Activity Based Budget](#_FULL_PROPOSAL:_THE) (ABB) in Microsoft Excel; the project proposal will not be considered without this.

**Section B – Post Project Officer Assessment**

## To be completed by the Embassy, High Commission, or relevant HRDD desk officer.

## Project Values

## There are three different full proposal forms for proposed projects of different values (below £10,000, £10,000-£80,000, and above £80,000); please ensure that you use the correct form.

## Guidance on what we look for in the key sections of the full proposal:

* **Context and need for the project:** in no more than 200 words, provide background to the country context and the human rights issue(s) that this project will address; state what the expected final outcome will be; and, where applicable, state why the UK should fund this project.
* **Short Project Summary:** in no more than 200 words, explain what the project plans to achieve and how.
* **Cost to the FCO**: the Activity Based Budget should provide a full cost breakdown. So, in this section, please give headline figures: total cost of project, cost per year, and total amount requested from the HRDP.
* **Co-funding:** provide details of any co-funding, whether budgetary or in-kind. Include any funding or support from external parties, cost-sharing arrangements and self-financing.
* **Have you bid for funding from the FCO in the past three years?** Provide details and dates of any previous full project proposals you have submitted (even if unsuccessful) and/or projects implemented.
* **Project Plan:** detail how the project purpose will be achieved, clearly setting out each output and activity, along with how successful delivery of the outputs and purpose will be measured.
* **Purpose or Objective:** state the project purpose or objective – this must be identical to the purpose set out at the top of the form.

Please note: for projects above £80,000 you must give a clear explanation of how you will measure to what extent the project purpose has been achieved. You will also need to set out the following for the project purpose:

* + Indicator: what will be measured
  + Baseline: the current status
  + Sources: where information on the baseline data has come from
  + Milestones: the key points at which progress will be tracked
  + Target: what the project will deliver
  + Date: the date by which the purpose will be delivered
* **Outputs:** list the specific results that the projects will deliver. Outputs are delivered as a direct result of the related activities. The outputs must be sufficient to achieve the project purpose. Each output will also need to be measured, as with the purpose above.
* **Activities:** list all the tasks to be carried out in order to deliver each output. The activities must be sufficient to deliver the outputs.
* **Sustainability:** make it clear how the project will ensure that its benefits are sustained after the project has ended. If future funding is likely to be required, specify where it will come from.
* **Monitoring:** monitoring reports will be required on at least a quarterly basis. In this section, state how the project’s progress will be monitored, how often, and by whom.
* **Project Risk Analysis:** list the key risks involved in running the project and how these risks will be managed. Consider risks at all levels of the project, for example: political; administrative; internal; practical etc. Please ensure the entire risk matrix is complete.
* **Project Stakeholders:** explain here who the main project stakeholders are, what their interest in the project is, and how you plan to engage or involve them. This is the part of the proposal where you can demonstrate existing buy-in with stakeholders.

**ALL FULL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WORD FORMAT.**

**PDFS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

## FULL PROPOSAL: THE ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET

## All budgets must be submitted in an Activity Based Budget (ABB) format. This means that your costs should be broken down by cost per activity, per unit per month. An example of an ABB is in [Annex A](#Annex).

## For each activity in your project proposal you should:

## Create and save the budget in Excel (pdfs not accepted);

## Create a sub-heading in the budget;

## List all costs associated with that activity;

## Enter the costs in the month you expect the activities to be completed; and

## Provide as much detail as possible, (e.g. break down costs for a workshop into venue, catering, travel costs etc.).

**Points to Consider**

**Administration costs**

The combined total of management fees, overheads and administration costs must not exceed 10% of the overall project cost. Administration costs should be broken down into component parts.

**Co-funding**

Co-funded activities should be clearly labelled within the ABB. The ABB should be separated to show the total cost to the co-funder and to the FCO (see Activity 1.1 of the example ABB at [Annex A](#Annex)).

**Equipment**

Programme funds should not be used to purchase equipment, such as laptops, vehicles etc., unless the provision of the item is essential to the delivery of the project.

**Local context**

Please ensure that project costs are reasonable and in line with the costs in the host country.

**Personnel costs**

Please make it clear who will be working on the project, and what staff costs will be spent on, i.e. whether overheads are included in the cost or not. Please ensure different types of staff are listed on separate budget lines.

**Travel costs**

Please ensure any travel is absolutely necessary for the project, and is of reasonable value. First-class travel is by exception only and should be clearly specified in the budget.

## HOW PROPOSALS ARE ASSESSED

1. **Value for money**

All FCO-funded projects spend UK taxpayers’ money; therefore a significant part of project proposal assessment considers whether the project is value for money. Proposals must be supported by a realistic and detailed Activity Based Budget (ABB).

1. **Alignment with HRDP Strategy and FCO’s Foreign Policy Priorities**

Proposals should clearly align with one of the eight HRDP thematic priorities; we are unable to support any human rights projects that do not fall under one of these themes.

1. **Evidence of local demand or need**

The proposal must give clear evidence of local demand and/or need for the project. Evidence of stakeholder engagement and local buy-in (where applicable) is preferred.

1. **Project viability, including capacity of implementing organisation(s)** Projects should be realistic in the results they aim to deliver in the 12-month period.
2. **Project design, including clear, achievable impact**

It is vital that each project clearly demonstrates how its outputs will deliver real-life impact in its target area.

1. **Sustainability**

To increase the long-term sustainability of projects and their impact, we want to maximise opportunities to support local civil society. This might mean working through a national Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) to deliver a project, or using an international NGO to support the work of a network of local NGOs. When working with international partners, the focus should be on building the skills of local partners to continue the work.

1. **Risk and stakeholder management**

Risks should be identified and a risk management plan put in place. Projects that can leverage host government support or engagement are more likely to succeed, and proposals should therefore demonstrate how they will engage host governments and key stakeholders. However, we will continue to support work that challenges host country views, and we do not believe that change is impossible without host government support.

## DETAILED THEMATIC BIDDING GUIDANCE

|  |
| --- |
| Abolition of Death Penalty (ADP)See also the FCO’s [Death Penalty Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-for-abolition-of-the-death-penalty-2010-2015) |
| Projects that would be of interest |
| Projects which will effect a clear change, such as:   * initiating a discussion on the death penalty with new target groups; * assisting parliamentarians or local experts to draft legislation for abolition; * strategic litigation which challenges the constitutionality of the death penalty, or opens more opportunity for defence or mitigation in capital cases; * helping to set up and/or strengthen new civil society organisations or networks. |
| Priority countries for abolition of the death penalty projects |
| Particular countries of interest are: China, Iran, the Commonwealth Caribbean, countries across South East Asia, and the USA. |
| Projects that would not be considered |
| * Academic studies, unless integrated into practical work. * Any legal aid projects. |
| Examples of successful previous projects |
| * China:engaging on a technical level with judiciary and prosecutors behind the scenes to bring about a moderated approach to sentencing in capital cases, leading to a marked decrease in executions. * Caribbean: funding civil society speaking tours and other public activities in order to challenge public opinion on the death penalty. * Multi-country: funding overseas lobbying visits by the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Abolition of the Death Penalty – projects involving parliamentarians from other countries could also be of value. |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal |
| There is likely to be increased focus on the use of the death penalty for drug offences; the United Nations General Assembly is holding a Special Session on world drugs policy in 2016. This is of significance since, in many countries; the death penalty is most often applied to drugs couriers. |
| FCO thematic contact |
| Christopher Layden: [Christopher.Layden@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Christopher.Layden@fco.gov.uk) |
| Business and Human Rights (BHR) | |
| Projects that would be of interest | |
| * Supporting host governments to:   + develop National Action Plans on BHR;   + improve the regulatory and policy framework protecting human rights, and address governance gaps; and   + reduce barriers to judicial and non-judicial remedy for those affected by business * Working with companies and industry bodies to:   + develop due diligence systems for human rights;   + promote best practice;   + put in place/participate in grievance mechanisms for those affected by their activities. * Working with human rights defenders, NGOs, trade unions or local community groups to improve access to remedy through judicial or non-judicial means; * Projects which have a multiplier effect - for example, by working with trade associations or chambers of commerce - or which take a sectoral approach focusing on industries of economic significance in the host country. | |
| Priority countries for business and human rights projects | |
| Particular countries of interest are: Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, and Qatar. | |
| Examples of successful previous projects | |
| * **Colombia:**  supporting the design of the Colombian BHR National Action Plan; delivering a draft of the BHR chapter of the national Human Rights Public Policy to the government; and assisting in the development of a BHR monitoring system. * **Worldwide:** funding an online hub, in six languages, providing guidance and information on the UN Guiding Principles, where companies and States can share outcomes and best practice. * **Burma:**  developing a BHR resource centre to sensitise incoming investors to the importance of taking human rights considerations into account. | |
| Projects that would not be considered | |
| * Anti-corruption or bribery projects. * Projects that aim to critique specific companies, rather than to improve their performance. * Projects that could be financed by the companies themselves. | |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal | |
| * Activities around “Access to Remedy”, including: the handling of complaints; the establishment of grievance mechanisms; and addressing gaps in governance and judicial systems; * Projects which incorporate the “Ruggie principles” of protect, respect and access to  remedy, and the sharing of the UK experience of developing a national action plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles | |
| FCO thematic contact | |
| Philip Gilbert: [Philip.Gilbert@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Gilbert@fco.gov.uk) | |
| Democratic Processes (DEM) | | |
| Projects that would be of interest | | |
| Projects aimed at **strengthening democratic processes** in line with international standards, including improving the credibility of elections, in particular:   * improving the **quality of electoral processes** throughout the electoral cycle e.g. the monitoring of elections. Activities should be designed to have sufficient time to have a positive impact on the election process; * **increasing participation in the democratic process for civil society**, especially for marginalised groups. | | |
| Priority countries for improving democratic processes projects | | |
| There is not currently a list of priority countries for the democratic processes theme. However, proposals will be prioritised from countries where there are concerns about the fairness of elections and/or where they are undergoing democratic transition. | | |
| Projects that would not be considered | | |
| Funding for political parties – (those types of projects can be funded through the [Westminster Foundation for Democracy](http://www.wfd.org)) | | |
| Examples of successful previous projects | | |
| * **Cambodia**: increasing youth access to information about civic life and opportunities for participation through public service announcements, via radio and TV, at peak times in the build-up to the National Assembly election in July 2013. * **Philippines**: strengthening democratic processes by improving credibility of elections and compliance with international standards.  The project served as a platform for various groups to learn the importance of a party system in the electoral process. * **Nepal: UK** parliamentary visit to Nepal to observe the Constituent Assembly elections in November. The elections were seen by all international and domestic observers as credible, free, fair and largely peaceful. | | |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal | | |
| * **Young people and democratic engagement**: working with young people on political processes, governance and active participation. This could include training on lobbying parliaments; youth voter registration; and educating young people on democracy * **Elections:** training independent election monitors in-country who have deep local knowledge and understanding, especially in countries where international NGOs may not monitor elections. Capacity building, such as electoral reform, training the trainer packages, election media training, and election management for long-term sustainability. * **Countries undergoing a political transition**: supporting political dialogue with the aim of strengthening democratic processes. | | |
| FCO thematic contact | | |
| Emma Kouki: [Emma.Kouki@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Kouki@fco.gov.uk) | | |

|  |
| --- |
| Freedom of Expression (FOE) |
| Projects that would be of interest |
| * Carefully planned and focused advocacy and campaigns at the national, regional or multilateral level, including work with relevant UN human rights mechanisms; * Activities focused on changing laws or policies which limit civil society space or inhibit opportunities to exercise freedom of expression; * Safety of, and support for, journalists and human rights defenders, including through lawful use of technology; * Building the capacity of government officials, media professionals, and human rights defenders * Working with governments (and others) on approaches to managing hate-speech and promoting tolerance. |
| Priority countries for freedom of expression projects |
| Projects are encouraged from all countries, but particularly where there is a real chance of encouraging greater openness, or where action would be helpful in preventing a move to a closed society.  Particular countries of interest are: Burma, Cambodia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Tunisia. |
| Projects that would not be considered |
| We would wish to avoid stand-alone training or one-off events where there is no evidence of the wider context or follow-up action. |
| Examples of successful previous projects |
| We have carried out successful projects focused on training journalists, and editors, enabling them to be more effective in environments where maintaining independence is particularly challenging. We have approved projects even in countries where the short-term prospects of positive change are limited, especially where the maintenance of open dialogue and the assistance to promote an active civil society is important, and where there are wider regional or global implications, for example the country’s role in an international organisation. |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal |
| * There is an increasing threat to freedom of expression, particularly through the application of national laws which has the effect of limiting press freedom or of restricting the space for civil society more generally to operate. * Whilst we are keen to continue with more traditional projects focused on building the capacity of journalists and editors, including to take a critical view of information being fed from state-controlled organs, we would also welcome projects which look more broadly at the legal framework journalists and civil society operate in. * We are also, increasingly, seeing the UK’s approach to press regulation, or the use of data collection for national security and crime prevention being used as a justification for repressive measures in undemocratic countries. Projects that show how tolerance and critical debate can be promoted, and how the press can operate in a responsible but open and critical manner, to promote freedom of expression would be worth exploring. |
| FCO thematic contact |
| Stephen Lowe: [Stephen.Lowe@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Lowe@fco.gov.uk) |
| Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB)See our online [toolkit](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/freedom-of-religion-or-belief-how-the-fco-can-help-promote-respect-for-this-human-right) on freedom of religion or belief |
| Projects that would be of interest |
| * **Awareness raising:** of international norms on freedom of religion or belief; * **Capacity building**: working with civil society (human rights defenders, NGOs and faith leaders) on the importance of FoRB for all and enabling civil society to be more effective in creating demand for change; * **Building tolerance:** projects that bring together faith groups to work on an issue which has previously been a source of division, in order to identify practical initiatives to foster reconciliation; * **Policy reform:** working with government to reform laws that disproportionately affect religious minorities and non-religious groups, and are incompatible with international human rights norms; and incentivising respect for the rights of minorities. Projects with practical outcomes that could be publicly referenced would be particularly welcome. |
| Priority Countries for freedom of religion or belief projects |
| There is not currently a list of priority countries for the FoRB theme. |
| Projects that would not be considered |
| * Aone-off conference that does not have clear indicators of impact or sustainability; * Projects that promote a single faith, rather than tolerance. Projects will only be supported where the implementer is advocating FoRB for all; * It is also important our activity is directed at promoting the rights of believers, rather than advocating on behalf of the beliefs themselves, or seeking to protect beliefs from criticism. |
| Examples of successful previous projects |
| * Grassroots meetings bringing together people from different faiths to combat sectarian violence; such projects have been implemented in the Middle East and North Africa region; * Projects seeking to promote dialogue between faith groups and government; * Offering technical advice to local government officials on how to bring laws into line with FoRB international human rights standards; * Bringing advocates together from across a region to promote understanding of how to use the UN system to defend FoRB, and to advocate for all faiths. |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal |
| * We would be interested in collaborative projects with other key partners interested in FoRB, particularly the EU, US or Canada; * Themes may include challenging laws that promote one religion or belief at the expense of all others, oradvice on drafting constitutions to ensure FoRB is protected; * Many projects are likely to be context specific, so we are open to innovative ideas as to what may work in the country or region. |
| FCO thematic contact |
| Simon Block: [Simon.Block@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Block@fco.gov.uk) |
| Global Torture Prevention (GTP)See also the FCO’s [Torture Prevention Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fco-strategy-for-the-prevention-of-torture) | |
| Projects that would be of interest | |
| * Encouraging states to sign, ratify and implement the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT); * Providing technical assistance to develop and strengthen National Preventative Mechanisms (NPMs); * Providing practical assistance with criminal justice reform; * Providing technical assistance to increase successful litigation; * Encouraging approaches that support accountability and develop complaints mechanisms. | |
| Priority Countries for “global torture prevention” projects | |
| There is not currently a list of priority countries for torture prevention. However, we will focus our efforts where:   * we have serious concerns based on reporting; * we can make the greatest difference, for example where there is already momentum to implement CAT or OPCAT or make reforms; * where it is strategic or timely to intervene; and * where we have other interests such as security, prosperity and British nationals in prison. | |
| Projects that would not be considered | |
| The UK’s central torture prevention policy is to encourage states to sign, ratify and implement CAT and OPCAT. Under this policy and strategy, we are unlikely to fund projects providing rehabilitation, legal aid, and assistance to non-criminal justice institutions. | |
| **Examples of successful previous projects** | |
| * Strategic advocacy building to support ratification and implementation of the relevant treaties; * Technical assistance that builds a human rights based approach to prison management; * Technical assistance to build knowledge and effectiveness of NPMs and other monitoring bodies; * Strategic litigation as an approach to support accountability & prevention; * Advocacy and technical assistance with law reform and policy implementation; * Technical assistance to police, prisons, judiciary etc. on preventative procedures and safeguards; * Practical assistance to civil society organisations to strengthen the effective implementation of OPCAT and preventative safeguards. | |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal | |
| * Projects that have a tailored approach, developed to the local context; * Encouraging momentum and will on torture prevention through the lens of criminal justice reform; * Helping states that have already signed, or are considering signing, OPCAT to implement its requirements effectively; | |
| FCO thematic contact | |
| Natalie Doherty: [Natalie.Doherty@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Natalie.Doherty@fco.gov.uk) | |
| Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI) | |
| Projects that would be on interest | |
| Projects funded under this theme will focus on the work that civil society can do to hold governments to account against commitments made to address sexual violence in conflict. They will also focus on practical protection and prevention approaches that can have a demonstrable and measureable impact. Funding will be made available for civil society organisations, and specifically for projects and programmes, that address rape and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts.  In particular, we will look for:   * projects implemented by (or partnered with) a local grassroots organisation; * projects that work to prevent, protect, or move towards accountability for, survivors of sexual violence in conflict, be they women, girls, men or boys; * training projects (on the documentation of crimes of sexual violence) to field-test/use the International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Sexual Violence in Conflict; * projects that are active at the community level - the primary focus should not be building capacity with the military, police or other state structures; and * projects that support human rights defenders. | |
| Priority Countries for PSVI projects | |
| Particular countries of interest are: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burma, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Kosovo, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. | |
| Projects that would not be considered | |
| Projects aimed at capacity building in state institutions would not fit the UK government PSVI strategy. | |
| Examples of successful previous projects | |
| Successful projects have included:   * The creation of “women’s peacekeeping teams” who could identify risk areas or times in their community, and devise protection mechanisms. These projects also facilitated engagement between these groups and security actors to increase understanding of their different security needs; * A project working through religious organisations to increase understanding of conflict-related sexual violence within the community. | |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal | |
| * Ensuring that projects are accessible to male survivors of sexual violence; * Improving political empowerment/participation of women to ensure their voices are heard; * Challenging gender perceptions that can perpetuate gender-based violence. | |
| FCO Thematic Contact | |
| Jess Jambert-Gray: [Jessica.Jambert-Gray@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Jambert-Gray@fco.gov.uk) | |

|  |
| --- |
| Promoting Women’s Rights (WR) |
| Projects that would be of interest |
| * Tackling violence and the structural causes of violence against women and girls; for example, gender stereotypes, honour killings, discriminatory legal systems, and access to justice; * Ensuring representation of women, in political and public life, and especially in leadership and positions of influence; * Promoting an active and supportive civil society, women’s rights movement and/or women’s human rights defenders. For example, lifting legal and administrative restrictions, and ensuring that violations against them are investigated promptly and impartially; * Promoting women’s economic empowerment. |
| Priority Countries for “women’s rights” projects |
| Particular countries of interest are: Afghanistan, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. |
| Projects that would not be considered |
| * Projects which are purely development focused; * Generic funding for countries or organisations to mainstream gender into their policies; * On-going core administrative funding to women’s organisations; * Workshops without a sustainable outcome. |
| Examples of successful previous projects |
| Successful projects in a range of countries have focused on:   * **Burma**: supporting Burmese women to take leadership roles and training senior government officials in international human rights law, leading to implementation of Burma’s first “National Strategic Plan on the Advancement of Women”. * **Colombia:** increasing women’s access to Colombia’s flagship “Victims and Land Restitution Law” and promoting their participation within local level implementation policies. * **India:** producing gender sensitive legal guidance for the judiciary and women survivors of sexual violence. |
| Emerging themes and innovative approaches to consider in your proposal |
| * Challenging the objectification and representation of women in traditional media and online; * Challenging traditional notions of a women’s role and promoting the use of positive role models; * Times of national transition can offer both a golden opportunity and a threat for the promotion and protection of women’s rights; * Gender sensitive approaches to law enforcement and judicial processes; * Protection of the girl child as a pre-requisite for women’s rights. |
| FCO thematic contact |
| Annie Eshelby: [Annie.Eshelby@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Annie.Eshelby@fco.gov.uk) |

**ANNEX A: EXAMPLE ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET**

