

## **CALL FOR BIDS: PROMOTION OF GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE SOUTH-KAZAKHSTAN REGION**

The British Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan is now accepting project proposals for the 2018/2019 financial year (April 2018-March 2019).

This year the British Embassy Astana is seeking to support projects in Kazakhstan that focus on promotion of girls' empowerment in the South-Kazakhstan region.

We are particularly interested in project proposals aiming towards the following outcomes:

1. Measurable increased awareness of school girls about their rights and opportunities;
2. Increased recognition of the existing problems of early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancies by the local community and the local community's increased responsibility and commitment to tackle these problems;
3. Improved access of local teachers to the international best practice on how to effectively promote girls' empowerment and protection of girls' rights;
4. Enhanced policy mechanisms to tackle early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancies;
5. Improved position of the South-Kazakhstan region in gender-related rankings and statistics.

The more detailed information can be found in the attached Terms of Reference.

### **Bid Guidance:**

- Projects are funded for a single financial year running from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, with no expectation of continued funding beyond this period;
- Minimum budget limit: £20,000;
- Maximum budget limit: £62,000.

### **Assessment:**

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Alignment with the above mentioned thematic priorities and outcomes;
- Outcomes are achievable within the funding period;
- Project design includes clear monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- Sustainability demonstrating that project benefits continue after the funding ends;
- Risk and financial accountability procedures;
- The organisation's safeguarding policies that ensure protection of beneficiaries;
- Overall value for money.

### **Process:**

1. Project proposals must be received by midnight on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**. Late proposals will not be considered;
2. Proposals must be submitted using the attached forms only (Project Proposal and Activity Based Budget);
3. Proposals must be submitted to [Assemgul.Kaliyeva@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Assemgul.Kaliyeva@fco.gov.uk);
4. Project proposals selected for further consideration will be notified on **29<sup>th</sup> June 2018**;
5. The British Embassy Astana aim to sign grant agreements with successful project implementers by **15<sup>th</sup> July 2018**.

**Contacts:**

Assemgul Kaliyeva, Projects Officer, [Assemgul.Kaliyeva@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Assemgul.Kaliyeva@fco.gov.uk)

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### For a project on girls' empowerment in the South-Kazakhstan region

<b>Recruiter</b>	British Embassy Astana, Kazakhstan	<b>Consultancy type</b>	Organizations (national or international)
<b>Contract duration</b>	July 2018 – February 2019	<b>Beneficiary</b>	Girls and wider population in South-Kazakhstan region

#### 1. Background

Kazakhstan's gender policy is characterised with the government's proactive position with regards to gender issues, which are reflected in several national strategies and concepts. The key documents are the Strategy for Gender Equality, which implementation was completed in 2016, and the new Concept for Family and Gender Policy until 2030, which was signed by President in April 2017.

Despite some progress towards promotion of gender equality and government's support at the central level, there are certain regions in Kazakhstan, where girls' and women's rights are frequently breached. The South-Kazakhstan oblast (i.e. the most densely-populated oblast in the country) is still experiencing challenges related to protection of girls' rights. The following factors prevent the region from effectively contributing to the government's efforts to promote gender equality: certain social-cultural practices, lack of information about girls' rights; lack of gender-related training and education; underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions;

As a result, the South-Kazakhstan region is one of the regions of Kazakhstan with high rates of early and forced marriages, gender-based violence, and the lowest number of women in decision-making positions. The incidences of teenage or early pregnancies are high in the region, and this makes girls and young women from the South-Kazakhstan region one of the most vulnerable groups of population in Kazakhstan.

#### 2. Objective

The objective of this project is to promote girls' empowerment in the South-Kazakhstan region through provision of gender-based educational support and tailored social activities.

#### 3. Expected impact, outcome, outputs and activities

The expected impact from the project is the strengthened girls' and women's empowerment and improved gender equality in the South-Kazakhstan region.

It is expected that the project will deliver the following outcomes:

1. Measurable increased awareness of school girls about their rights and opportunities;
2. Increased recognition of the existing problems of early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancies by the local community and the local community's increased responsibility and commitment to tackle these problems;
3. Improved access of local teachers to international best practices on how to effectively promote girls' empowerment and protection of girls' rights;
4. Increased number of teachers, capable to provide support to school girls in vulnerable conditions;
5. Enhanced techniques to deliver girls' empowerment education policies;

6. Enhanced policy mechanisms to tackle early/forced marriages and teenage pregnancies;
7. Improved position of the South-Kazakhstan region in gender-related rankings and statistics.

Expected outputs include:

1. A list of teachers, who participated in trainings of trainers on communication and confidence-building activities for girls;
2. Digital content on girls' rights in social media and other online resources;
3. Printed leaflets on girls' rights.

Expected activities include:

1. Trainings of trainers on communication and confidence-building activities for girls;
2. Girls' empowerment activities at the example of The International Awards (Duke of Edinburgh Awards in the UK);
3. Awareness-raising campaigns, conferences and round tables on exiting gender-related issues, protection of girls' rights and girls' empowerment.

#### **4. Selection criteria**

The project implementer should have:

- Extensive knowledge of social and political developments in Kazakhstan;
- Good understanding of issues related to Kazakhstan's gender and child protection policies;
- Excellent project management skills;
- Proven record of implementing and delivering similar projects.

#### **5. Reporting Requirements**

We require quarterly written narrative, results and financial reporting, alongside ad hoc meetings with the British Embassy Astana staff. A project completion/handover report should be submitted upon project completion.

#### **6. Budget and duration**

- Project is funded for a single financial year running from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, with no expectation of continued funding beyond this period;
- Minimum budget limit: £20,000;
- Maximum budget limit: £77,000;
- The combined total of management fees, overheads and administration should not exceed 10% of the overall project cost.