

1. INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT

Invitation to apply to evaluate the Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership programme Women's Spaces

Women's Platform is delighted to invite suitably qualified professionals to submit applications to externally evaluate the Women's Spaces Programme, funded by the Irish Government as a Reconciliation Fund Strategic Partnership. The terms of reference for the project are outlined in this document.

2. DETAILS OF THE PROJECT

Women's Platform: works to promote the implementation of international human rights standards and UN resolutions in Northern Ireland, including the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Women's Platform acts as the link between the women's sector in Northern Ireland and international networks and seeks to amplify the voices of women and girls in Northern Ireland internationally. This includes coordination of Northern Ireland representation in UN mechanisms for human rights such as CEDAW and CSW, as an organisation in special consultative status with ECOSOC.

Lead Partner: Women's Platform as Lead Partner will provide overall management & accountability for this project. Women's Platform will also contribute to delivery.

Our partners are:

Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA): works towards the elimination of inequalities affecting women by delivering focused programmes to develop, support and sustain programmes that address inequalities, including capacity building programmes, leadership and confidence building, employment support as well as varied health related programmes.

Women's Support Network: advocate for the established women's centres all over our Region and host the Rape Crisis Service NI. WSN sit on the Anti-Poverty Strategy co design group, expert panel for Gender Equality and carry out regular research on issues impacting women including poverty, community-based training & education and engagement.

NI Rural Women's Network: is the voice for Rural Women providing vital support services, education, campaigning, and lobbying. NIRWN sit on the expert panel for Gender Equality Strategy, Anti-Poverty Strategy, Covid Emergency Leadership Group. NIRWN is a membership-based organisation with over 400 groups and 400 individual members. NIRWN provides advocacy representation for rural women at local and regional levels as well as at UK, Ireland, EU, and international level.

Delivery Partners (WSN, WRDA, NIRWN, Women's Platform): Through their extensive collective networks and links to grassroots women and women's organisations the partners will ensure that the targets are achieved. This will be done through collaborative working; regular planning and review structures and practical engagement with stakeholders, including grassroots women. Staff dedicated to delivery will be employed by NIRWN and WRDA, and will focus on capacity building, engagement with grassroots women and developing opportunities to engage policy and decision makers. WSN will assist with identifying and engaging participants, and Women's Platform will contribute to capacity building, while also acting as overall coordinator and focal point for the programme. The team has extensive experience, over 100 years combined, in the delivery of results-

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orientated & outcome-based community capacity development and advocacy at all levels of policy making from the local and regional, to the national and international. This dynamic and progressive team, has a long established successful proven track record in engaging with hard-to-reach women in divided and marginalised communities regionally, and also has developed strong advocacy models and structures with policy and decision makers through collaboration, partnership and support of the existing women's sector infrastructure in NI.

Steering Group: The Steering Group involves Delivery partners, who will take overall responsibility for delivery. Project co-ordinators will also participate in steering group meetings. It is anticipated that an advisory group of stakeholders and participants will also be established to support strongly user led delivery.

Project co-ordinators: will be employed by NIRWN and WRDA, and will have day to day responsibility for running the Programme. Working directly with participants on capacity building, Project Coordinators will develop and deliver capacity building and evidence collation workshops, contribute evidence to policy making processes and engage with stakeholders, including media where relevant.

Community Women's Organisation/Centres: will provide safe and welcoming training venues and address childcare/eldercare needs for participants removing barriers and creating safe spaces for women to explore new skills. Increased flow of women using the centres, increases their capacity building and sustainability. Childcare workers are embedded in the Women's Centres providing stability and security for all participants.

Qualified Training Practitioners: Training delivery will be supported wherever necessary by accredited trainers and Community Facilitators who are qualified and experienced. Trainers/Facilitators will deliver in the community-based women's centres/groups, removing multiple barriers for women's participation.

3. INVITATION TO TENDER

Women's Platform is seeking tender submissions from experienced and professional evaluators to design and deliver a longitudinal evaluation of the programme, starting in May 2022 and completing by June 2025. The approach outlined in your tender response will be agreed with Women's Platform and the Steering Group before commencement.

The project will deliver the following Project Indicators and Outcomes and the appointed Evaluator will measure its success:

Project Impact Indicators:

People:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| • Urban | 200 |
| • Rural | 150 |
| • Migrant/refugee/asylum seeking | 50 |
| • Total | 400 |

Workshops:

- 12 per year, on core issues and specific issues identified as needs through engagement

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- Annual conferences to launch, review and highlight outcomes of programme
- Total 39

Organisations:

- Voluntary sector 30
- Total 30

Outcome 1: Spaces created for women to engage with issues of women and peacebuilding: 36 workshops with at least 400 people will be involved in workshops over the course of this programme

Outcome 2: Opportunities created for women to engage with policy making: At least two specific opportunities per year created and up to 6 opportunities through other mechanisms utilised.

Outcome 3: Tools and resources provided to support both women and decision makers to effectively engage women in policy making: One toolkit and series of up to three additional resources created.

Outcome 4: Priorities of women beginning to be better reflected in policy making: Reference to issues raised through programme in at least three policy making processes

Outcome 5: Confidence of women to engage in policy and decision making processes strengthened: At least 40 women supported to engage in consultation processes, and at least 5 people supported to engage formally with public appointment and/or election processes

Outcome 6: Capacity of women built and women enabled to participate in international human rights processes: Annual training on CEDAW and CSW provided and at least 60 women enabled to engage in evidence sharing processes

4. TENDER SUBMISSION

Candidates are required to provide:

- A proposal for the evaluation framework and detailed methodology
- An indication of fees per day and a total costing of number of hours provided and breakdown of the work provided
- The Evaluation will be conducted in a manner that support the ethos and values of Women's Platform
- Selection of the evaluator will consider criteria such as proven expertise as well as the relevance/credibility of the proposed evaluation framework and the total cost

The contractor will be required to have experience and knowledge in the following areas:

- An understanding of the gendered nature of leadership, community development and peace building, including an understanding of the gendered impacts of conflict
- An understanding of the women's sector in Northern Ireland

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- A strong understanding of how social background and disadvantage can impact women
- An understanding and knowledge of women's opportunities to participate in all aspects of policy and decision making in Northern Ireland and how ability to participate is impacting on women's ability to play an equal role in society, as well as how representation shapes policy outcomes
- Experience of undertaking research and developing accessible evidence resources
- A commitment to the ethos and values of Women's Platform

4.1 METHODOLOGY

In your submission, please provide examples of two similar pieces of work within the last three years. **(Maximum - one half page)**

Please outline the monitoring systems and processes that you propose, which will provide for full and complete evaluation of the programme to professional standards. All templates will be uniform and disseminated throughout the delivery agents to ensure information is collated and consolidated. **(Maximum - one page)**

Further to this please outline in **no more than 500 words** how you will evaluate each of the project deliverables below, using qualitative and quantitative methods. Interim Reports are required at the end of Year 1 and Year 2 to provide interim, up to date information and recommendations for any amendments based on evaluation, and a final report that can be used to identify impacts and develop follow up initiatives.

We ask the Evaluator to evaluate and report on the following deliverables – please outline your approach to each:

- If the initial project design is appropriate, and any proposals for amendment
- If targets are met in timely fashion
- If the outcomes are met
- If the project delivers value for money
- If delivery is of a high quality
- If management of the project is of an excellent standard
- On lessons learned at each stage of the project are shared, with recommendations clearly highlighted
- How this project links to local, regional & national government strategies and the Reconciliation Fund strategic objectives
- Please outline your approach to developing accessible, detailed and appropriate information that can be shared and disseminated by Women's Platform and the delivery partners

5. REFEREES

Please provide the names and addresses contact details of one previous client where a similar project was delivered, plus one who can comment on your professional approach to projects.

6. Timeframe for the selection and implementation of evaluation process:

Closing Date for Submission of Applications Friday 29 April 2022

Interviews and confirmation of selection w/b 9 May 2022

Begin the evaluation process Monday 16 May 2022

Submission of First Interim Report 31 May 2023

Submission of Second Interim Report 31 May 2024

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Submission of Third Interim/Final Draft Report 31 May 2025

Submission of Final Report 30 June 2025

Regular evaluation meetings will take place to support the work and provide an opportunity to guide further development. The contractor can invoice quarterly, or as agreed, for payment during the project.

Applications should be sent via e-mail to Jonna Monaghan, Director of Women's Platform by 12noon Friday 29 April 2022 at info@womensplatform.org.