



The use of human rights-based approaches by civil society in London

Call for tenders for a learning partner to support a five-year project seeking to increase the use of human rights-based approaches to address discrimination and disadvantage in London.

Introduction

In 2023, City Bridge Foundation and the Baring Foundation committed to a new partnership supporting London based civil society organisations (CSOs) to use human rights-based approaches to tackle discrimination and disadvantage amongst the communities they serve.

This five-year project has begun with a year-long development process to identify possible themes and CSO partners. If this is successful, there will be funding for a further four years to support four projects which will work with communities to use human rights-based approaches (HRBAs) to realise social change.

We hope that the first year of development will enable us to understand the broad thematic areas across London's vibrant communities, test appetite for the use of HRBAs amongst CSOs, and identify partners to take the project forward. We will then work with our CSO partners to narrow down these themes to undertake a four-year project supporting communities to use HRBAs to achieve change.

The expert human rights organisations leading the design and delivery of this work are [Just Fair](#) and the [British Institute of Human Rights](#). This project is funded by [City Bridge Foundation](#) and the [Baring Foundation](#).

We are looking for a learning partner to support us throughout the lifecycle of the project to reflect on progress, identify areas for improvement, and support dissemination of learning.

Human rights-based approaches (HRBAs)

A human rights-based approach empowers people to understand and work towards securing their rights, resulting in tangible social change. HRBAs are often used to support

communities to participate in the development of policy and practices which affect their lives. Often, this approach will also increase the ability of those with responsibility for fulfilling rights to appreciate the importance of respecting those rights and how they fulfil their duties.

The building blocks of this approach are often described through the [PANEL principles](#) of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, empowerment and legality.

Effective HRBAs are those that are designed by communities. Just Fair and the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) are bringing distinct expertise and experience of HRBAs to this project. Just Fair will focus on economic, social, and cultural rights, and BIHR will focus on the Human Rights Act 1998.

Learning partner aims

We would like a learning partner to support us throughout this project to enable thoughtful reflection of our activities, support networking, and identify and document the outcomes during the lifetime of the project. We will refine the objectives for this learning partnership with the successful applicant, but anticipate these to include:

- Identify what is working well and what is working less well in the project, making recommendations as the work progresses;
- Understand the strengths of using HRBAs which focuses on the Human Rights Act 1998 and international economic, social, and cultural rights frameworks;
- Track and record the outcomes the project is having for CSOs and communities;
- Engage and share with key stakeholders learning from the project at opportune moments in the project lifecycle; and
- Identify further arguments in support of human rights frameworks and approaches more generally.

Activities we envisage the learning partner to undertake include:

- conducting a range of primary and secondary research using a range of methods which may include interviews, focus groups, and literature reviews;
- producing reports, briefings, and blogs;
- providing advice and guidance to the project partners;
- working with BIHR and Just Fair to facilitate meetings and deliver workshops; and
- working with BIHR and Just Fair to plan and host events for CSOs, funders and policymakers.

These activities are purely illustrative. We will discuss and agree final activities and outputs together over the course of the partnership.

By the end of this five-year project, in addition to direct project outcomes, we hope to have a greater body of evidence highlighting how HRBAs can help communities to work together to realise their rights. Our key audiences for this body of evidence would be non-legal CSOs, policymakers, and funders.

Criteria

We are looking for a learning partner(s), who has the following skills, knowledge, and experience:

- Knowledge of both international and domestic human rights legal frameworks;
- Experience in developing monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks and tools, and working with partners to implement these;
- Experience of both quantitative and qualitative data collection approaches;
- Experience of working in or with CSOs, including to collaborate on activities such as undertaking data collection or planning events;
- Ability to develop and maintain relationships with community groups (genuine excitement about the possibilities of meeting new people is a must!);
- Ambitious with the ability to dream big whilst being able to focus on the potential change which could happen in the present;
- Knowledge/experience of grassroots movement building and campaigning;
- Ability to be honest and provide constructive criticism on a project;
- Experience of planning and facilitating engaging meetings and workshops for a range of stakeholders;
- Demonstrable commitment to human rights and equality;
- Ability to reflect individually and in a group on actions; and
- Excellent organisational skills and experience of project/programme management.

We know that one person is unlikely to meet all the criteria above, hence our openness to tenders from teams.

Eligibility to tender

We welcome tenders from organisations with the right experience and expertise, including not-for-profit organisations, companies, and universities. Individuals are also welcome to apply but need to demonstrate that they have the skills, capacity, and infrastructure to meet all objectives for a learning partner.

Duration

We expect this learning partnership to begin in February 2024 for a five-year period, taking us to February 2029. This end take will be six months after the end of the project, ensuring adequate time to capture and share learning from the five years.

We expect to review the learning partnership every year to reflect on performance, outputs and working style. We will renew the contract on annual basis.

The contract will be between the Baring Foundation and the successful applicant. Full terms and conditions will be provided upon offer of the contract. The work undertaken by the learning partner will be managed by BIHR.

Budget

We have a budget of £35,000 over five years for this work. This is inclusive of all time, expenses, taxes, and any other associated costs. If required, additional budget is available to cover costs related to events and communications.

Timetable

Call for tenders	Monday 30 October 2023
Deadline for tender submissions	Midday, Monday 4 December 2023
Shortlisted applicants notified	by Thursday 21 December 2023
Interviews with shortlisted applicants	w/c Monday 15 January 2024
Learning partner appointed	by Wednesday 24 January 2023
Work begins	Monday 26 February 2024

Process for tendering

To tender for this contract, we require you to send us the information below by midday on Monday 4 December 2023:

1. Proposal

The proposal must be no more than 2,000 words and should cover your:

- interest in this learning partnership and motivation for tendering;

- view on what you see as the role of the learning partner for this project and how you would approach the work. This should include the challenges and opportunities you think this project may face.
- skills and experience. Outline your skills and experience as a learning partner and how it is relevant to this tender, focusing on requirements provided in the criteria section above;
- knowledge of domestic and international human rights frameworks;
- approach to building and maintaining relationships with CSOs; and
- questions for the Baring Foundation. Please tell us what additional information you would need from us to undertake this learning partnership.

2. Budget

A preliminary budget outlining how you plan to budget and account for this role, including the capacity you can provide within the proposed budget. Your budget should also include any additional costs you expect this budget to cover such as expenses or professional fees.

3. CVs

The CVs of all the people who will be involved in this work.

4. References

Details of two referees who can speak about your experience relevant to this tender. This should include their name, contact email, their profession, and your relationship to them. We will request references as part of the due diligence process before any contract is drawn-up.

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The documents at 1-4 above should be sent as separate files in one email to baring.foundation@ing.com by midday on Monday 4 December 2023, with the subject line "SCS learning partner - name of applicant".

Contact

If you have any questions about this tender, please contact Jannat Hossain at the Baring Foundation via email at Jannat.Hossain@ing.com, by 5pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023.

The Baring Foundation
18 October 2023