

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

Call for tenders for a learning partner to support a four-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 facing the communities they serve.

This five-year project has begun with a year-long development phase to identify themes and CSO partners. We will use learning from this year to support four CSOs to work with their communities to use human rights-based approaches (HRBAs) to realise social change.

In the year-long development phase (July 2023 – July 2024), we sought to understand the broad thematic areas of concern across London's vibrant communities, test appetite for the use of HRBAs amongst CSOs, and identify partners to take the project forward. We will work with our CSO partners to narrow down these thematic areas to undertake a four-year project which will support communities to use HRBAs to achieve change.

We are looking for a learning partner to support this second part of the project, starting in August 2024, and concluding in July 2028. The focus of this partnership will be to capture learning and insights on the use of HRBAs across the four years, enabling dissemination on progress and identifying areas for increased development.

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

Human rights-based approaches (HRBAs)

Human rights-based approaches empower people to understand and advocate towards

securing their rights, and work towards achieving broader 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 also increases 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.

As part of the development year, BIHR and Just Fair have produced the following resources to support London community groups:

- [What are human rights?](#) [Text]
- [What are human rights?](#) [Animation]
- [The value of using human rights](#) [Text]
- [The power of human rights](#) [Animation]
- [Our everyday human rights](#) [Animation]
- [Stories of a human rights-based approach](#) [Text]

Additionally, drawing on four sets of open days across London, BIHR and Just Fair have also mapped emerging themes and issues raised by community groups.

Learning partner aims and activities

We are looking for a learning partner to work with BIHR, Just Fair and selected community partners across the four-year project. We want this learning partnership to enable thoughtful identification and documentation of the project outcomes, as well as enable honest reflection on the delivery of the project. The learning partner would do this for each year of the project.

We will refine the aims for this learning partnership with the successful applicant, but anticipate these to include:

- Identify of what is working well and what is working less well in the project, making recommendations as the work progresses;
- Track and record the outcomes the project is having for CSOs and communities; and

- Understand the strengths of using HRBAs based on the Human Rights Act 1998 and international economic, social, and cultural rights frameworks.

We will discuss and agree the final activities and outputs with the successful applicant, but these may include:

- research focused on tracking outcomes across the four years, which could include interviews, focus groups, and desk research;
- producing internal reporting and external sharable learning to contribute to the body of evidence on the value of CSOs using HRBAs to realise rights, at key regular touchpoints, including annual reflections; and
- working with BIHR and Just Fair to support dissemination of learning, e.g., at events, meetings, workshops.

Criteria

We are looking for a learning partner, with the following skills, knowledge, and experience:

- understanding and experience of UK civil society organisations, including the political and economic context;
- substantive experience of using qualitative and quantitative monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks and their use in working with CSOs;
- demonstrable knowledge of human rights-based approaches, with a familiarity with both domestic and international frameworks.

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 the aims of the learning partnership.

Duration and relationship management

We expect this learning partnership to begin in August 2024 for a four-year period, ending in August 2028.

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 Baring Foundation expects to review and renew the learning partnership contract annually, to reflect on performance,

outputs and working style. This will tie in with annual reporting on learning from the project. BIHR will manage the work undertaken by the learning partner.

Budget

We have a budget of £35,000 over four 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	Wednesday 27 March 2024
Deadline for tender submissions	Midday, Monday 20 May 2024
Shortlisted applicants notified	by Friday 31 May 2024
Interviews with shortlisted applicants	Afternoon of Monday 10 June (online)
Learning partner appointed	Friday 21 June 2024
Work commences	Thursday 1 August 2024 (to be agreed with successful applicant)

Process for tendering

To tender for this contract, we require you to send us the information below by midday on Monday 20 May 2024:

1. Proposal

This 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; and
- questions for the Baring Foundation. Please tell us what additional information you would need from us to undertake this learning partnership.

2. Preliminary budget

Outline 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 20 May 2024, 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 Wednesday 8 May 2024.

The Baring Foundation
March 2024