



### Expression of Interest for

## **“Establishing a Forum on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) for increasing opportunities and supporting knowledge-sharing, networking, partnerships and joint advocacy for gender equality and women’s empowerment and ending violence against women and girls”**

The Spotlight Initiative Timor-Leste invites interested Civil Society Organizations, in particular national and local/grassroots organizations including women’s rights, feminist and women-led organizations, to apply on the following:

Objective	To establish an EVAWG Forum and increase opportunities and support to organizations in Timor-Leste to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for gender equality and women’s empowerment and ending violence against women and girls
Duration	September 2020 – December 2021 (lifetime of the Initiative), with a review period in early 2021
Deadline:	18 September 2020
Organizational Unit	UN Women
Location	Timor-Leste

A briefing session about this opportunity will be held on Friday, August 21 at 11 am in the UN Compound in Dili. A maximum of 20 participants can be in the room (based on physical distancing guidelines). If you would like to attend in person, please RSVP to Ubalda Alves [Ubalda.alves@one.un.org](mailto:Ubalda.alves@one.un.org). The language of presentation will be in Tetum. There is also an option to participate via Zoom and translation to English will be available through this link. Please RSVP to receive this the link. The session will be recorded.

### 1. Introduction

#### a. Background/Context for required services/results

To address the global challenges of violence against women and girls (VAWG), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations have partnered on a new multi-year programme, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative aims to support transformative change on the ground to end violence against women and girls. The overall vision of the Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste is that women and girls enjoy their right to a life free of violence, within an inclusive and gender equitable Timor-Leste. The programme is aligned to the Timor-Leste *National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence (2017-2021)* and National SDG Roadmap, particularly on SDGs 5 and 16. It will contribute to the National Strategic Development Plan and reinforce Timor-Leste’s Development Plan and reinforce Timor-Leste’s implementation of commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action, the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, among other international obligations.





The program was globally launched in 2017 and began implementation in Timor-Leste in 2020. There are five UN agencies participating in the Timor-Leste Spotlight Initiative. There are the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) provides overall strategic oversight and coordination for the Spotlight Initiative within the UN, with UN Women acting as the Technical Lead.

Despite progress which has been made, violence against women and girls, and particularly intimate partner violence remains widespread with 38% to 59% of women between the ages of 15 to 19 experience violence in their lifetime<sup>1</sup>. As stated at the State Report on CEDAW in 2019 and the report for the Beijing Platform of Action +25, there is a need for a comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative will contribute to the elimination of domestic violence, including intimate partner violence (DV/IPV), by responding to the needs of women and girls and addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, using a multi-sectoral and intersectional approach across the ecological model. This will involve strengthening and widening partnerships and solidarity across civil society, government, media, private sector and development partners.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in advancing shared strategic objectives to promote gender equality, women’s rights and empowerment as well as addressing VAWG at all levels. CSOs continue to be an important constituency, working to hold the government accountable in order to deliver on commitments. However, despite the potential of civil society and women groups to advance women’s rights, including ending VAWG, they have faced gaps in funding, strategy and capacity development opportunities.

It is important to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) principle of national ownership and the commitment to leave no one behind. These are both key goals of the Spotlight Initiative. Civil society networks and organizations have been accorded a unique role in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Spotlight Initiative at country level. This will be an opportunity to further empower CSOs particularly those which working locally and at the grassroots.

With regards to knowledge-sharing, stakeholders highlighted that despite coordination mechanisms on gender equality, there is a need for stronger sharing of CSO knowledge on lessons in EVAWG programming, and exposure to promising global practices, which often is limited to larger NGOs or international NGOs. This reduces the sustainability and impact of efforts to prevent and respond to EVAWG and limits the potential contribution of the women's movement in Timor-Leste.

#### b. General Overview of services required/results

Vision: To enable women and girls enjoy their right to a life free from violence, within an inclusive and equitable gender in Timor-Leste.

<sup>1</sup> The Asia Foundation 2016. *Understanding Violence against women and children in Timor-Leste. Findings from The Nabilan Baseline Study: Summary Report*. The Asia Foundation. Dili





Key Objectives:

1. Facilitate tailored mentoring and accompaniment on reflective practices regarding foundational concepts for working on ending violence against women and girls, rights-based programme design, monitoring and evaluation, and self-care practices for women's groups and grassroots feminist organizations
2. Strengthen existing peer support networks/communities of practice on EVAWG
3. Establish a national EVAWG Forum which would be a series of face to face or virtual gatherings in order to:
  - improve collaboration and solidarity across groups working on EVAWG
  - document promising EVAWG practices
  - raise visibility of CSO advocacy on provision of services for EVAWG
4. Share lessons learned, current practice and challenges within the Spotlight Initiative in Timor-Leste and globally

**2. Description of required services/results**

Registered non-governmental organizations (including partnerships between organizations submitting under a single coordinating organization) are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in Outcome 6 and Output 6.1 of the Spotlight Initiative: *Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment and ending VAWG, including domestic violence and intimate partner violence, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.*

**Specific activities:**

The Output aims to promote visibility of people with experience and knowledge on EVAWG and evidence-based practices across Timor-Leste by facilitating knowledge-exchange and discussion of capacities within CSOs and grassroots organizations. This will include CSOs selected as implementing partners under SI, and a wider range of civil society representatives. This will further strengthen linkages between groups involved in EVAWG, such as women's rights groups, disabled people's organizations, domestic workers' associations, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans (LGBTI) communities, informal youth and girls' networks, men's organizations working to prevent violence, media organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS and support skills-building and organizational development.

The organization(s) will be engaged to:

- develop **tailored mentoring and accompaniment on reflective practices** on issues such as: power and EVAWG, rights-based programme design, monitoring and evaluation, self-care practices, advocacy
- **strengthen existing peer support networks/communities of practice** on EVAWG and expand networks to groups not traditionally working on EVAWG
- establish a **national EVAWG Forum** for:
  - a) **improving collaboration and solidarity** across diverse groups working on EVAWG, including media organizations, faith-based organizations, organizations and projects





- engaged in response and prevention of violence against women and girls, particularly with priority groups of Spotlight
- b) **documenting promising EVAWG practices** (through media such as documents, video, TV/radio program, poster presentations, , performance art, music), including with groups not yet involved in working on EVAWG
  - c) **raising visibility of CSO engagement** in EVAWG response and identifying advocacy opportunities on this
  - d) **sharing lessons learned** in-country and internationally including using virtual platforms
  - e) **sharing experience and knowledge** on essential services for women and girls who experience violence, particularly people who experience multiple barriers, with a focus on priority groups for Spotlight
  - f) **sharing experiences on evidence base advocacy for policy change and reform**, including engaging with members of National Parliament and government as well as judicial actors, in coordination with other activities within Spotlight
  - g) providing capacity development to relevant CSOs on EVAWG to enable them to **capture learning and processes** that can be replicated or adapted to other contexts as relevant
  - h) sharing experiences through involvement in **regional and international** seminars, workshop and trainings on EVAWG

### 3. Competencies

Organizations wishing to apply for the grant should meet the following requirements and competencies:

1. Be a registered non-governmental organization with proven experience and expertise on areas related to ending EVAWG, gender equality, child protection, women's empowerment, legal reform, providing services to survivors of violence
2. Organizations should be registered with relevant bodies, such as Ministry of Justice and National NGO Forum (FONGTIL)
3. Previous and/or current experience in planning events, seminars, webinars and projects, particularly with a participatory approach.
4. Proven credibility among stakeholders in Timor-Leste, especially in terms of working towards gender equality and with grassroots groups.

Those interested in participating in the process should forward their expression of interest to UN Women [procurement.timor-leste@unwomen.org](mailto:procurement.timor-leste@unwomen.org); by 18 September 2020 enclosing the information listed below.

- Full legal name and address of applying Institution (including partnerships if there is a proposed collaboration between more than one organization)
- Copy of valid legal registration in Timor-Leste – if the organization is not legally registered, a description of the current legal status of the organization
- Mandate or mission statement of organization
- Description of the organization's existing operations in the subject matter area, including how long the operations have been carried out.
- Information about the people involved including information on any organizations that would be partners in the proposal and the experience of collaboration

Upon receipt of the above information from prospective Responsible Parties, UN Women will review applicants for placement on a short-list of potential Responsible Parties.





**Inisiativa  
Spotlight**  
*Atu elimina violéncia  
Kontra feto ho labarik-feto*

Those short-listed organizations may be invited to submit formal proposals using the standard UN Women Call for Proposal template to become a Responsible Party. The Call for Proposal will provide a more detailed description of the scope of work.

