

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) Request for Statements of Interest:**

*STOPS: Stopping Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) and  
Operationalizing Prevention Strategies*

|                                              |                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Statement of Interest (SOI) Deadline:</b> | March 31, 2023 11:59 PM EST                                                        |
| <b>Federal Agency Contact:</b>               | <a href="mailto:SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov">SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov</a> |
| <b>Date Opened:</b>                          | February 3, 2023                                                                   |
| <b>Questions Deadline:</b>                   | March 3, 2023 11:59 PM EST                                                         |
| <b>Funding Mechanism Type:</b>               | Cooperative Agreement                                                              |
| <b>Estimated Number of Awards:</b>           | 1-2                                                                                |
| <b>Estimated Funding Amount:</b>             | \$3,000,000                                                                        |
| <b>Cost Sharing:</b>                         | Not required                                                                       |
| <b>Length of Project Period:</b>             | Up to 4.5 years                                                                    |
| <b>Fiscal Year of Funding:</b>               | FY 2022                                                                            |
| <b>Type of Funding</b>                       | Economic Support Fund                                                              |
| <b>CFDA Number</b>                           | 19.801                                                                             |
| <b>Anticipated Award Date:</b>               | August 2023                                                                        |
| <b>Estimated Program Start Date:</b>         | No later than September 30, 2023                                                   |

## **I. Funding Opportunity Synopsis**

S/GWI announces a Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) outlining concepts and capacity to design, implement, manage, and evaluate a project that will provide technical and capacity support for civil society in preventing, mitigating, and responding to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV),<sup>1</sup> in at least one region.

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Government definition of TFGBV: *A threat or act of violence committed, assisted, aggravated, and amplified in part or fully by using information and communication technologies or digital media that is disproportionately targeted at women, girls, and gender non-conforming individuals. It is part of a continuum of multiple, recurring, and interrelated forms of gender-based violence that can take place both online and offline. Examples can include but are not limited to, online harassment and abuse; non-consensual distribution of intimate digital images; cyberstalking; sextortion; doxing; malicious deep fakes; livestreamed sexual violence; rape and death threats; disinformation; and intimate-partner violence. Some forms of technology-facilitated gender-based*

The *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally*<sup>2</sup> affirms that preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence is a cornerstone of the U.S. government's commitment to promoting democracy, advancing human rights, and furthering gender equity and equality. Gender-based violence is a human rights abuse, a form of discrimination, and a manifestation of unequal power based on gender. It occurs in every country and at every level of society, with direct and indirect costs to individuals; families; communities; economies; global public health; development; and human, national, and regional security. The United States Government has committed to address TFGBV, through the *Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse*,<sup>3</sup> which will bring together countries, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to better prioritize, understand, prevent, and address the growing scourge of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The Global Partnership is also an action coalition as part of the Denmark-led Technology for Democracy initiative and a deliverable for the Summit for Democracy.

S/GWI is looking for statements of interest that enhance and expand the capacity of civil society organizations to prevent, mitigate, and respond to TFGBV to support full, meaningful participation in society by women and girls in all their diversity.

**Note: S/GWI strongly encourages applicants to immediately access [SAMS Domestic](#), the required system for submission, in order to obtain a username and password. For further instructions, please see Section IV below.**

The submission of the Statement of Interest (SOI) is the first step in a two-step process. Applicants must first submit a SOI consisting of a concise, four-page concept note that clearly communicates a program idea and its objectives. This is not a full proposal. The purpose of the SOI process is to allow applicants to submit program ideas for evaluation prior to requiring the development of a full proposal application. Upon a merit review of eligible SOIs, selected applicants will be invited to expand on their program idea(s) by submitting a full proposal application. Full proposals will go through a second merit review before final funding decisions are made.

Each **prime** applicant may submit up to two SOIs. There is no limit to the number of SOIs on which an applicant may serve as a **sub**-awardee. Upon review of eligible SOIs, S/GWI will invite selected applicants to expand their ideas into full proposal applications. In the event that a prime applicant has submitted two SOIs and both are deemed competitive, the applicant will be asked to submit a full proposal for the more competitive of the two.

**This notice is subject to availability of funding.**

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violence violate criminal and civil laws; others do not but are nonetheless harmful. <https://www.state.gov/2022-roadmap-for-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/united-states-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gender-based-violence-globally-2022/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.state.gov/2022-roadmap-for-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>  
<https://techfordemocracy.dk/action-coalitions/action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

### **Priority Regions and Countries:**

Applicants must propose work equal to the planned funding amount (\$3,000,000) to be able to provide global support to civil society in preventing, responding, and mitigating TFGBV. S/GWI recommends applicants suggest **one or more region(s)** in the Statement of Interest, highlighting civil society partnerships and locations where civil society is interested in and ready to address TFGBV. This description should include civil society partners' approach or approaches to advocating for positive changes in addressing TFGBV; and proposed education, outreach, advocacy, training, or other activities for preventing, responding, and mitigating TFGBV. Final selection of locations will be confirmed in consultation between the successful applicant and S/GWI.

### **S/GWI Priority Regions**

- **East Asia and the Pacific (EAP)**
- **South and Central Asia (SCA)**

***Other regions will be considered with appropriate justification.***

S/GWI does not, as a general matter, use foreign assistance resources to fund programs to benefit developed countries. Developed countries are considered to be those in the high-income category as defined<sup>4</sup> by the World Bank using the GNI per capita (Atlas method).<sup>5</sup> The World Bank's list of countries by GNI can be found on their website.<sup>6</sup>

Applicants to this RSOI should be aware of, complement, build on, and not overlap with existing in-country, regional, and global programming.

### **Cost Sharing or Matching: optional**

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Organizations submitting SOIs must meet the following criteria: ***[include all that apply, and indicate US, foreign, or both.]***

- Be a U.S.- or foreign-based non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO); or
- Be a private, public, or state institution of higher education; and
- Have existing, or the capacity to develop, active and **equitable** partnerships with in-country partners, entities, and relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and private sector actors; and
- Have demonstrable experience administering successful and preferably similar programs in size, scope, and focus. S/GWI reserves the right to request additional background information on organizations that do not have previous experience administering federal awards. These applicants may be subject to limited funding on a pilot basis.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

<sup>5</sup> <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

<sup>6</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD>

Public International Organizations (PIOs) are not eligible to apply as prime applicants under this RSOI, though they may partner on a proposal as a sub-awardee.

S/GWI maintains an anti-discrimination policy in all its programs and activities. S/GWI welcomes SOI submissions irrespective of race, ethnicity, heritage, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status. S/GWI is dedicated to promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms, and equality for all and seeks partners that will strive to inclusively implement these democratic values.

S/GWI works to ensure the integration of gender equality and the advancement of women and girls in U.S. foreign policy. S/GWI programs are flexible, civil society-focused, and global in reach. They are designed to incubate locally informed and implemented civil society-based solutions, inspiring and providing promising practices to advance women's equality and empowerment as a keystone of U.S. foreign policy. Learning from this program will inform other U.S. policy, programs, and partnerships.

### **Required Registrations:**

All prime organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration with the SAM.gov **before submitting an application**. S/GWI may **not** review applications from or make awards to applicants that have not completed all applicable UEI and SAM.gov requirements. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards.

***Note: As of April 2022, a DUNS number is no longer required for federal assistance applications.***

The 2 CFR 200 requires that sub-grantees obtain a UEI number. Please note the UEI for sub-grantees is not required at the time of application but will be required before the award is processed and/or directed to a sub-grantee.

***Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.***

Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), a Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code, and a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov.

Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS, but do need a UEI number prior to registering in SAM.gov. **Please note that as of December 2022, organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards are no longer required to have a NATO CAGE (NCAGE) code to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove an NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should [submit a help](#)

desk ticket (“incident”) with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov) to seek guidance on how to do so.

**Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:**

Step 1: Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

**Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:**

**Step 1:** Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

- NCAGE Homepage: <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx>
- NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT): <https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/Codification/CageTool/home>

For NCAGE help from within the United States, call +1 (888) 227-2423.

For NCAGE help from outside the United States, call +1 (269) 961-7766.

Or, email [NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil](mailto:NCAGE@dlis.dla.mil) for any problems in applying for an NCAGE code.

**Step 2:** After receiving an NCAGE code, proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

**All prime organizations** must also continue to maintain active SAM.gov registration with current information at all times during which they have an active Federal award or application under consideration by a federal award agency. SAM.gov requires all entities to renew their registration once a year in order to maintain an active registration status in SAM.gov. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure it has an active registration in SAM.gov and to maintain that active registration. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements at the time of application, the applicant may be deemed technically ineligible to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Please refer to 2 CFR 25.200 for additional information.

**Note: SAM.gov is not the same as SAMS Domestic. It is free of charge to register in both systems, but the registration processes are different.**

*Information is included on the SAM.gov website to help international registrations, including “Quick Start Guide for International Registrations” and “Helpful Hints.” Navigate to [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov), click “HELP” in the top navigation bar, then click “Explore” and “New to SAM.gov?” for general information. Please note, guidance on SAM.gov and the guidance on GSA’s website about requirement for registering in SAM.gov is subject to change and is*

*currently being updated. Applicants should review the website for the most up-to-date guidance.*

The attached “AQM Guidance for NCAGE-SAM.gov for Grant Applicants as of Dec. 2022” is a compilation of resources gathered by the Department’s Office of Acquisitions Management (AQM). Any content shown from SAM.gov is not owned by the Department of State. This guidance and instruction are to the best of our knowledge based at the time of posting this solicitation. **Where guidance in these attachments differs from the SAM.gov website, SAM.gov prevails and the applicant is encouraged to seek and document responses provided by the SAM.gov help desk.**

## **II. Requested Objectives for Statements of Interest**

### **Background Information:**

The United States has committed to preventing, mitigating, and responding to TFGBV.<sup>7</sup> While technology has been a tool that has expanded the way in which people can learn, communicate, connect, advocate, work, etc., the misuse of technology has also expanded the space in which gender-based violence can be perpetuated. This was evidenced further during the COVID-19 pandemic, when a stronger reliance on digital platforms was created and occurrences of technology-facilitated abuse increased.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, with a global pattern of democratic backsliding and patriarchal authoritarianism, women and girls in all their diversity are at a greater risk of experiencing TFGBV. All individuals should be able to freely access, enjoy, utilize, and experience digital spaces and technology without fear or threat of TFGBV.

The U.S. Government defines TFGBV as a threat or act of violence committed, assisted, aggravated, and amplified in part or fully by using information and communication technologies or digital media that is disproportionately targeted at women, girls, and gender non-conforming individuals. It is part of a continuum of multiple, recurring, and interrelated forms of gender-based violence that can take place both online and offline. Examples can include but are not limited to, online harassment and abuse; non-consensual distribution of intimate digital images; cyberstalking; sextortion; doxing; malicious deep fakes; livestreamed sexual violence; rape and death threats; disinformation; and intimate-partner violence. Some forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence violate criminal and civil laws; others do not but are nonetheless harmful.<sup>9</sup>

TFGBV is a growing global phenomenon, but significant gaps remain in data collection related to this issue. There is an absence of reliable and comparable global and regional data on prevalence, forms, and impacts. This gap in an established evidence base necessitates a locally

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-by-the-governments-of-canada-chile-and-the-united-states-regarding-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/11/24/online-abuse-surged-during-pandemic-laws-havent-kept-up-activists-say/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.state.gov/2022-roadmap-for-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

driven approach that can iterate, adapt, and apply consultation, learning, and documentation throughout implementation.

This new mechanism will support civil society in preventing, mitigating, and responding to TFGBV. This is a relatively new field, and technology continues to evolve quickly, challenging civil society and service providers, as well as anyone utilizing technology and digital spaces to determine how to safely access and engage in technology-created or influenced spaces. S/GWI supports local civil society in exploring innovative ways to prevent, mitigate, and responding to TFGBV and foster a more inclusive and safe future related to technology.

### **Policy Statement:**

The project resulting from this RSOI will support S/GWI's implementation of the *National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality*<sup>10</sup> as well as the *U.S. Women, Peace and Security Act* of 2017,<sup>11</sup> the 2019 U.S. Strategy on WPS,<sup>12</sup> the 2020 *State Department Plan to Implement the U.S. Strategy on WPS*,<sup>13</sup> the 2022 *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV Globally*,<sup>14</sup> and the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse (Global Partnership).<sup>15</sup> S/GWI programs further our support for human rights and inclusive democracy around the world by furthering gender equity and equality.

The *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally*<sup>16</sup> affirms that preventing, mitigating, and responding to all forms of gender-based violence is a cornerstone of the U.S. government's commitment to promoting democracy, advancing human rights, and furthering gender equity and equality. Gender-based violence is a human rights abuse, a form of discrimination, and a manifestation of unequal power based on gender. It occurs in every country and at every level of society, with direct and indirect costs to individuals; families; communities; economies; global public health; development; and human, national, and regional security.

The *Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse*, or the Global Partnership,<sup>17</sup> was announced at the Summit for Democracy in December 2021 and was officially launched at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2022 to bring together countries, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to better prioritize,

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/National-Strategy-on-Gender-Equity-and-Equality.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ68/PLAW-115publ68.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS\\_Strategy\\_10\\_October2019.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WPS_Strategy_10_October2019.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.state.gov/the-department-of-states-plan-to-implement-the-u-s-strategy-on-women-peace-and-security/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/united-states-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gender-based-violence-globally-2022/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.state.gov/2022-roadmap-for-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

<https://techfordemocracy.dk/action-coalitions/action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/united-states-strategy-to-prevent-and-respond-to-gender-based-violence-globally-2022/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.state.gov/2022-roadmap-for-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

<https://techfordemocracy.dk/action-coalitions/action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse/>

understand, prevent, and address the growing scourge of technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

*The Declaration for the Future of the Internet (DFI)* was launched on April 28, 2022 by the White House and 60 other countries (currently endorsed by a total of 67 countries) to advance a positive vision for an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet – one that fosters competition, privacy, and respect for human rights.<sup>18</sup>

*The Freedom Online Coalition (FOC)* is a group of 36 likeminded countries that work together to advance Internet freedom, mainly through shaping global norms by issuing joint statements; through multistakeholder engagement; and through coordinating bilateral and multilateral diplomatic initiatives and interventions, including at relevant international fora. As part of our Summit for Democracy technology commitments, the United States pledged to strengthen and expand the FOC. To put this commitment into action, as was previously announced by Secretary Blinken at RightsCon in June 2022, the United States recently assumed the Chairship of the FOC for 2023.<sup>19</sup>

### **Inclusive Programming Approach:**

S/GWI is committed to equity, equality, and respect for human rights. S/GWI programs are expected to foster and/or address:

- **Inclusive Environments**, which means programs that foster involvement, respect, and connection in which the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives are valued for all individuals.
- **Social Inclusion**, which means improving how individuals and groups take part in society – enhancing the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity.
- **Intersectional** nature of power and identity, which means how intersecting aspects of identity (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, class, religion, race, ethnicity, age, disability, nationality, etc.) interact with overlapping systems of discrimination and the need to address the impact these have on systemic access.

### **RSOI Results Framework:**

#### **Theory of Change:**

If women leaders and women-centered civil society organizations are equipped to prevent, mitigate, and respond to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) and if allies within government, the private sector, the media, and academia align with and support these efforts from within their own entities, **then** women and girls in all their diversity will more freely and safely access on-line spaces and use technology to meaningfully participate in all aspects of society.

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Declaration-for-the-Future-for-the-Internet\\_Launch-Event-Signing-Version\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Declaration-for-the-Future-for-the-Internet_Launch-Event-Signing-Version_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-assumes-the-2023-chairship-of-the-freedom-online-coalition/>

**Goal:**

To enhance and expand the capacity of women leaders and civil society organizations to prevent, mitigate, and respond to TFGBV to support full, meaningful participation in society by women and girls in all their diversity.

**Objectives:**

- **Help narrow the gender digital divide by increasing online/technology-related safety:** Support women, girls, and any persons vulnerable to TFGBV safely access technology and participate in online spaces.
  - This may include facilitating access to gender-sensitive digital safety tools, training, support systems or other resources and technical expertise depending on the context and needs identified through the community-led design process.
- **Amplify civil society TFGBV prevention and response:** Support survivor-centered approaches to advocating for strengthening public and private governance of relevant technologies and civil society efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to TFGBV.
- **Promote women's leadership in identifying and responding to TFGBV:** Support women and girls in creating initiatives to identify, prevent, mitigate and respond to TFGBV.
  - This may include through applied research, advocacy, and/or partnerships with academia, the private sector, regulatory bodies, the media, or others, depending on the context and community-led design process.

**Intended Results:**

Possible intended results may include:

- Civil society is supported as they engage in online spaces and use technology that may contribute to TFGBV risks, and in identifying, preventing, responding to, and mitigating TFGBV in a survivor-centered manner.
- Civil society provides community education to raise awareness of and resources to respond to TFGBV.
- Activists and educators advocate for improved oversight, regulation, or legislative support in preventing, responding to, and mitigating TFGBV.
- Women, girls, and all people feel safe to fully and meaningfully participate in technology and digitally facilitated civic and economic spaces.
- There is increased access to support and/or remedies in addressing TFGBV across communities.
- Women, girls, and any people vulnerable to TFGBV are supported with tools, training, and technical support for dealing with TFGBV.
- Survivors of TFGBV are supported, whether through referral networks, community outreach, or any other activities to help them in their recovery and in accessing gender-sensitive digital safety tools and expertise.

**Indicators:**

Indicators for inclusion in a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan at the later full proposal stage should include at least some of the following as relevant:

- GNDR-1: Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed or adopted with USG assistance designed to promote gender equality or non-discrimination against women or girls at the national or sub-national level
- GNDR-2: Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)
- GNDR-4: Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities
- GNDR-5: Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed, or adopted with USG assistance designed to improve prevention of or response to sexual and gender-based violence at the national or sub-national level
- GNDR-6: Number of people reached by a USG funded intervention providing GBV services (e.g., health, legal, psycho-social counseling, shelters, hotlines, other)
- GNDR-8: Number of persons trained with USG assistance to advance outcomes consistent with gender equality or female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations
- DR.4.2-2b: Number of women's rights civil society organizations (CSOs) receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions
- DR.4-1 Number of USG-supported activities designed to promote or strengthen the civic participation of women

Applicants may also propose other indicators relevant to the proposed activities for consideration. S/GWI eventually expects **at least one outcome indicator for each objective** in the final MEL plan to reflect the overarching logic model for the proposal, but respects that those will be finalized during the start-up stages of an award.

### **SOI Requirements:**

**Applicants should propose sufficient yet lean and scalable staffing structures that provide adequate oversight and central management but maximize appropriate and local expertise and leadership (rather than defaulting to in-house experts).** S/GWI welcomes creative partnership structures, such as rosters of smaller NGOs or technical experts that can serve as short-term consultants to complement existing local leadership and expertise. **As a general guideline however, at least 30 percent of funding under the award should go to local organizations and their activities—this may include Contractual and Other Direct Costs in support of local organizations, for example, but generally should not include prime grantee staffing, travel, overhead etc. Support for the establishment of new in-country offices is not envisioned under this RSOI.**

While landscape assessments; gender and inclusion analyses; monitoring, learning, and evaluation (MEL) plans; risk assessment and mitigation plans including safeguarding and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA); provision of psychosocial support for staff and beneficiaries; and detailed sustainability plans are **not** required as part of the SOI, all organizations that are invited to submit a full proposal **will** be required to submit this information at that time. Full proposals, once solicited, should also seek to minimize the harmful effects of local competition for resources in their program designs. Please review this RSOI in full –

including all annexes – to inform your SOI design and ensure your requested budget amount sufficiently covers these award requirements.

Applicants are advised that an award may be conditioned upon vetting to evaluate the risk that funds may benefit terrorists or their supporters.

### **Substantial Involvement:**

Applicants submitting SOIs should be aware that if their application results in an award, S/GWI will be involved in the program and management performance of the grant in the form of a cooperative agreement, which allows S/GWI consultation and technical collaboration rights on specified project activities. Examples of substantial involvement can include:

- a) Approval of Recipient annual work plan, including planned activities for the following year and changes to any activity to be carried out under the agreement;
- b) Collaboration in identifying/developing/approving additional countries/projects for implementation in consultation with U.S. embassies, as appropriate;
- c) Collaboration on identifying/approving additional international partner organizations who may work in coordination with S/GWI and recipient.
- d) Approval of sub-award recipients, concurrence on the substantive provisions of the sub-awards, and coordination with other cooperating agencies;
- e) Review of any notice of funding opportunities and selection of recipients;
- f) Approval of the MEL plan for the Recipient and sub-award recipients;
- g) Approval of Terms of Reference (TOR) for program evaluations;
- h) Approval of hiring/opportunity announcements and selection/assignment of technical experts in areas such as gender, climate, including but not limited to key personnel;
- i) Collaboration in assessing progress and identifying issues that might affect the success of the program; and
- j) Other approvals that will be included in the award agreement.

**Program Performance Period:** The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

### **III. Funding Restrictions**

This cooperative agreement will be funded from money appropriated under the “Economic Support Fund” (ESF) heading in the Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 2022 (Div. G, P.L. 117-103) (SFOAA). ESF is available for foreign assistance programs supporting economic or political stability. Under section 531(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended, ESF may not be used for military or paramilitary purposes. Given restrictions under section 660 of the FAA, assistance may be provided to law enforcement forces only under certain circumstances. Activities that involve assistance to law enforcement will be subject to vetting to ensure compliance with section 620M of the FAA (“[Leahy Vetting](#)”).

The recipient is reminded that funds provided under this agreement must be used in a manner fully consistent with U.S. law. The recipient agrees that none of the funds provided by this award shall be used to lobby for or against abortion. The recipient agrees that none of the funds provided by this award shall be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions.

All beneficiaries and country locations must be approved in advance by S/GWI.

The following activities and costs **will not** be entertained under this announcement in SOIs or in subsequent proposals submitted by applicants to S/GWI:

- Construction
- Activities that appear partisan or that support individual or party electoral campaigns.
- Engagement with religious leaders and communities is encouraged; however, direct support or the appearance of direct support for any religious organization for the sole purposes of promoting religious beliefs cannot be included for funding.
- Duplication of services immediately available through municipal, provincial, or national government.
- Funds for market research, advertising (unless public service related to grant program) or other promotional expenses.
- Initiatives directed towards a permanent diaspora community as ultimate beneficiaries.
- Projects that have a predominant academic or basic research focus.
- Social welfare projects that purely provide service-delivery or humanitarian assistance.
- Costs incurred to complete activities begun with other funds.
- Medical and psychological research or clinical studies using human subjects.
- Projects exclusively of a commercial or profit-making nature.
- Cultural presentations, cultural research, cultural clubs, or festivals, etc. unless they have a specific programmatic purpose.
- Entertainment costs (e.g., receptions, social activities, ceremonies, guided tours) unless they have a specific programmatic purpose.

#### **IV. Submission Instructions and Technical Eligibility**

##### **Required Documents:**

Complete SOI submissions **must** include the following:

1. Completed and signed SF-424 and SF424B and SF-LLL, as directed on SAMS Domestic; and,
2. Program Statement (not to exceed four [4] pages in Microsoft Word) that includes:
  - a. A table listing:
    - i. Name of the organization;
    - ii. The target countries;

- iii. The total amount of funding requested from S/GWI, total amount of cost-share (if any; cost share is NOT required), and total program amount (S/GWI funds + cost-share); and,
  - iv. Program length;
  - b. A synopsis of the program, including a brief statement on how the program will have a demonstrated impact and engage relevant stakeholders. The synopsis must address how the applicant will conduct gender and inclusion analysis and MEL as well as foster sustainability. The SOI should identify local partners as appropriate;
  - c. A concise breakdown explicitly identifying the program's objectives and the activities and expected results that contribute to each objective; and,
  - d. A brief description of the applicant(s) that demonstrates relevant organizational and staff expertise and capacity to implement the program and manage a U.S. government award.
3. Proposed Locations and/or Partners (not to exceed one [1] page, to include a minimum of two regions or countries.

**Applicant Questions:**

Questions must be submitted by the Questions Deadline to [SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov](mailto:SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov) using the email subject line, "STOPS TFGBV: [Applicant Organization Name] Questions." To maintain fairness and transparency in competition, S/GWI will compile any substantive questions received along with the responses and post them in a document on grants.gov and SAMS Domestic. Substantive questions will not be fielded outside of this process or after the deadline.

With the exception of technical submission questions, during the solicitation period, U.S. Department of State staff in Washington D.C. and overseas will not discuss this competition with applicants until the entire proposal review process has been completed and rejection and approval letters have been transmitted.

**Technical Eligibility:**

S/GWI reserves the right to award more or less than the funds requested, including estimated individual award floor and ceiling amounts, under such circumstances as it may deem to be in the best interest of the U.S. government.

Technically eligible SOIs are those which:

- 1. Arrive electronically via SAMS Domestic (see below) by the deadline, under this announcement.
- 2. Are in English.
- 3. Heed all instructions and do not violate any of the guidelines stated in this solicitation

For all SOI documents please ensure:

- 1. All pages are numbered;
- 2. All documents are formatted to 8 ½ x 11 paper; and,

3. All documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Captions and footnotes may be 10-point Times New Roman font. Font sizes in charts and tables can be reformatted to fit within one page width.

SAMS Domestic automatically logs the date and time a submission is made, and the Department of State will use this information to determine whether it has been submitted on time. Late submissions are neither reviewed nor considered unless [SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov](mailto:SGWIProjectProposals@state.gov) is contacted prior to the deadline and is provided with a screenshot or other evidence of a system error caused by SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>) that is outside of the applicant's control and is the sole reason for a late submission. Applicants should not expect a notification from S/GWI upon receiving their SOI(s). It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all material submitted in the SOI package is complete, accurate, and current.

### **Submission:**

All application submissions must be made electronically via SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>). S/GWI will **not** accept SOIs submitted via grants.gov, email, fax, the postal system, delivery companies, or couriers.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that it has an active registration in SAMS Domestic. Applicants are required to document that the application has been received by SAMS Domestic or Grants.gov in its entirety. S/GWI bears no responsibility for disqualification that result from applicants not being registered before the due date, for system errors in either SAMS Domestic or Grants.gov, or other errors in the application process. Additionally, S/GWI strongly encourages applicants to save a screen shot of the checklist showing all documents submitted in case any document fails to upload successfully.

Faxed, couriered, or emailed documents will **not** be accepted. Reasonable accommodations may, in appropriate circumstances, be provided to applicants with disabilities or for security reasons. Applicants must follow all formatting instructions in the applicable NOFO and these instructions.

S/GWI encourages organizations to **submit applications during normal business hours** (Monday – Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00PM Eastern Standard Time [EST]). If an applicant experiences technical difficulties and has contacted the appropriate helpdesk but is not receiving timely assistance (e.g., if you have not received a response within 48 hours of contacting the helpdesk), you may contact the S/GWI point of contact listed on page 1 of this RSOI. The point of contact may assist in contacting the appropriate helpdesk.

**Note: The Grants Officer will determine technical eligibility of all applications.**

### **SAMS Domestic Applications:**

Applicants using SAMS Domestic for the first time should complete their “New Organization Registration.” To register with SAMS Domestic, click “Login to <https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>” and follow the “create an account” link.

Organizations must remember to save a screen shot of the checklist showing all documents submitted in case any document fails to upload successfully.

**SAMS Domestic Help Desk:**

**For assistance with SAMS Domestic accounts and technical issues related to the system, please contact the ILMS help desk by phone at +1 (888) 313-4567 (toll charges apply for international callers) or through the Self Service online portal that can be accessed from <https://afsitsm.service-now.com/ilms/home>.** Customer support is available 24/7.

**V. Application Review and Selection Process**

The Grants Officer will determine technical eligibility for all SOI submissions. All technically eligible SOIs will then be reviewed against the same five criteria by an S/GWI Review Panel: Organizational Capacity and Past Performance; Program Strategy; Gender Analysis, Inclusion and Do No Harm; Performance Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation; and Sustainability.

Additionally, the Panel will evaluate how the SOI meets the solicitation request, U.S. foreign policy goals, and S/GWI's overall priority needs. Panelists review each SOI individually against the evaluation criteria, not against competing SOIs. To ensure all SOIs receive a balanced evaluation, the S/GWI Review Panel will review each document up to the specified page limit and no further. All Panelists must sign non-disclosure agreements and conflict of interest agreements.

S/GWI Review Panels generally include representatives from S/GWI policy and program teams as well as other State Department offices; it may also include external expertise. Once a SOI is approved, selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposal applications based on their SOIs. Unless directed otherwise by the applicant organization, S/GWI may also refer SOIs for possible consideration for other U.S. government related funding opportunities.

The Panel may provide conditions and/or recommendations on SOIs to enhance the proposed program, which must be addressed by the organization in the full proposal application. To ensure effective use of limited S/GWI funds, conditions and recommendations may include requests to increase, decrease, clarify, and/or justify costs and program activities.

S/GWI reserves the right to make a final determination regarding all funding matters, pending funding availability.

**Review Criteria:**

*The following criteria are listed in no particular order of importance:*

**1. Organizational Capacity and Past Performance (25/100 points):**

- Applicant demonstrates an institutional record of successful relevant programs in areas such as:
  - Experience addressing TFGBV, GBV, and technology/on-line risks and safety support, survivor-centered engagement with survivors of GBV and TFGBV,

engaging civil society and leaders in advocating for equitable access to technology and digital spaces.

2. Program Strategy (25/100 points):

- Applicant proposes evidence-based approaches to addressing the objectives of the RSOI.
- Applicant demonstrates concrete approaches for equitable partnership with a range of existing women and/or girl-led or –serving civil society organizations to further their impact.
- Application complements / builds on / does not overlap with existing in-country efforts.
- Applicant proposes sufficient yet lean and scalable staffing structures that leverage appropriate internal and external expertise, but maximize support and funding for local leadership. At least 30 percent of funding goes to local organizations and their activities.

3. Gender and Inclusion Analysis, Do No Harm (20/100 points):

- Applicant demonstrates plans and capacity for effectively applying a gender and inclusion analysis to program design and implementation.
- Applicant describes sound approaches to inclusion, including but not limited to ethnic and religious minorities, individuals with disabilities, and other historically marginalized groups.
- Applicant demonstrates application of Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity principles.

4. Performance Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) (15/100 points):

- Applicant clearly describes the results to be achieved and demonstrates capacity to measure progress towards those results in a way that reflects local perspectives.
- Proposed outcomes are tangible and achievable within the grant program period.

5. Sustainability (15/100 points):

- Applicant articulates an approach to building local partner capacity to continue their work once funding from this program ends.

**VI. Additional Information**

S/GWI will not consider SOIs that reflect any type of support for any member, affiliate, or representative of a designated terrorist organization.

S/GWI may ask successful applicant(s) to incorporate coordination of an implementer and stakeholder meeting into the Scope of Work of the final project. S/GWI will discuss this possibility with particular applicant(s) during the proposal negotiation phase.

Organizations should be aware that S/GWI understands that some information contained in SOIs may be considered sensitive or proprietary and will make appropriate efforts to protect such information. However, organizations are advised that S/GWI cannot guarantee that such information will not be disclosed, including pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or other similar statutes.

The applicant/recipient of the award and any sub-recipient under the award must comply with all applicable terms and conditions, in addition to the assurance and certifications made part of the Notice of Award. Before submitting the SOI, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply if a full proposal application is requested and awarded, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include: 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 600, and the Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions which are available at: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/U.S.-Department-of-State-Standard-Terms-and-Conditions-10-21-2020.pdf>.

Organizations should be aware that if ultimately selected for an award, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth in 2 CFR Chapter 200 (Sub-Chapters A through F) shall apply to all non-Federal entities, except for assistance awards to Individuals and Foreign Public Entities. Please note that as of December 26, 2014, 2 CFR 200 (Sub-Chapters A through E) now applies to foreign organizations.

In addition, applicants/recipients of the award and any sub-recipient under the award must comply with the S/GWI-specific award provisions included in Annex A.

The information in this solicitation including its Annexes is binding and may not be modified by any S/GWI representative. **Explanatory information provided by S/GWI that contradicts this language will not be binding.** Issuance of the solicitation and negotiation of SOIs or applications does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government. S/GWI reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program evaluation requirements.

This solicitation will appear on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and SAMS Domestic (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>) although **SOI submissions will only be accepted through SAMS Domestic.**

## **ANNEX A: Bureau-Specific Award Provisions**

### **I. Gender Analysis**

Prior to implementing activities, the Recipient must document a gender analysis in consultation with local partners for each of the countries or geographic areas where they propose to program. The gender analysis must demonstrate how activities account for the different ways in which they might impact, and be impacted by men, women, boys, and girls<sup>1</sup> of all backgrounds how this has been integrated into the program design in order to narrow existing gender inequities. S/GWI may approve the Recipient to do the initial gender analysis either before or during a project start-up / assessment phase.

The Recipient shall regularly monitor and reflect upon the gender analysis together with local partners and propose in writing any significant adjustments to the program design for S/GWI concurrence. This process shall take place at the frequency set out in the Recipient's proposal, unless otherwise agreed with S/GWI in writing.

Within its Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) and its final evaluation(s), the Recipient will report specifically on progress towards addressing the gaps and opportunities identified in the gender analysis.

### **II. Risk Assessments and Do No Harm**

In line with Do No Harm principles, Recipient risk assessment and mitigation plans must address risk to project beneficiaries in addition to risks to staff and project implementation. These should explicitly address gender-related risks and mitigating actions, as identified in the gender analysis.

#### ***I. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse***

The recipient will take all practical steps in accordance with their internal controls and existing policies and procedures to address the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). In accordance with the internal control requirements in 2 CFR 200.303, which require the recipient to establish standards of conduct for its employees, the recipient must ensure that all its employees adhere to these standards of conduct in a manner that incorporates safeguarding against the sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries, including but not limited to updating internal policies and procedures, as applicable and appropriate, and conducting appropriate monitoring of beneficiaries, as required by 2 CFR 200.329, which stipulates that the "non-Federal entity must monitor its activities under Federal awards to assure compliance with applicable Federal requirements." If the recipient determines that the conduct of any recipient employee is not in accordance with this requirement, the recipient must address the situation in accordance with the recipient's internal policies and procedures.

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<sup>1</sup> This list is a starting point of people to include, but other communities or countries may have or prefer different titles or breakdowns, such as "youth," "children," "elders," "Kinnar," "fa'afafine" or many more groups/categories. This list is not meant to limit your analysis, but to be a helpful reminder to consult for the program context.

## *II. Non-Discrimination*

S/GWI policy requires that the recipient not discriminate against any beneficiaries in implementation of this award, such as, but not limited to, by withholding, adversely impacting, or denying equitable access to the benefits provided through this award on the basis of any factor not expressly stated in the award. This includes, for example, race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or veteran's status. Nothing in this provision is intended to limit the ability of the recipient to target activities toward the assistance needs of certain populations as defined in the award.

## **III. Program Impact, Highlights, Success Stories**

In quarterly reporting, the Recipient shall share success stories and/or highlights--or confirm that there were none for that quarter. Examples include program impact stories about (a) individual beneficiaries; (b) organizational, project, or program-level highlights; and (c) lessons learned and adapted to during implementation. The Recipient should indicate whether the information can be used in public communications by S/GWI and/or the broader U.S. Government. This may include, but is not limited to, use in remarks, social media, and website text. The privacy and safety of program beneficiaries is paramount; the Recipient shall ensure that appropriate permissions have been granted by those included in text and photos and that risks have been assessed and mitigated prior to including the information in quarterly reporting. The reporting should include high-resolution photos, photo credit information, and confirmation that appropriate permissions have been obtained from subjects/photographers for using the photos, where applicable.

## **IV. Program Evaluations**

The Recipient is required to budget and arrange for independent program evaluations in accordance with its approved proposal and any subsequent changes agreed with S/GWI in writing. In the spirit of the Evidence Act,<sup>2</sup> S/GWI ask that evaluation reports be written with the expectation that they will be made public. **S/GWI prioritizes the safety and security of partners, participants, and beneficiaries of its work.** The Recipient should therefore aim to limit the amount of sensitive, potentially sensitive, or personal identifying information (PII) in evaluation narratives to allow this information to be easily redacted. Alternatively, this type of information can be placed in an annex that can be withheld from publication. In the event that this is not feasible or there is any concern for partners', participants', or beneficiaries' safety, an evaluation will not be made public. S/GWI will make this determination on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Recipient.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174>