



Call for consultants: PEACE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: PROTECT, EMPOWER, ADVOCATE, CONNECT AND ENGAGE Mid-term review of project

About Human Rights House Foundation

Human Rights House Foundation (HRHF) is an international human rights organisation dedicated to advancing human rights through protecting and empowering human rights defenders and strengthening independent civil society. HRHF's mission is to connect, empower and co-operate with human rights defenders, Human Rights Houses, and other organisations to advance and fulfil the fundamental rights that underpin independent civil society and make it possible to hold institutions and individuals accountable.

HRHF initiated the establishment of the network of Human Rights Houses in 1994 and coordinates and facilitates it. The network continues to grow and today independent human rights organisations work together in 17 Human Rights Houses in 11 countries across Eastern and Western Europe, the Caucasus, and the Balkans. Within the network, all Houses are independent and united by a [Code of Conduct](#) and an informal network agreement. The Houses are locally owned and run, and have independent from HRHF governing structures, statutes, strategies and work methods.

Project Background

HRHF's efforts are grounded in our strategy and results framework for 2019-2023, and we work towards achieving change based on the following four outcomes:

1. The network of Human Rights Houses has functional members that effectively address the human rights needs of their communities through collaborative efforts.
2. Collaboration within and sustainability of the network of Human Rights Houses is strengthened through the efforts of HRHF.
3. Human rights defenders are better protected through the efforts of HRHF and the network of Human Rights Houses.

4. HRHF advances the human rights agenda on the four rights (freedom of expression, assembly, association, and the right to be a human rights defender) in collaboration with Houses and other partners internationally and nationally.

In addition to having a role of a coordinator of the network, and partner of some Houses within specific projects and initiatives, HRHF is also a donor to some of the Houses.

Through the project “Human Rights Defenders: Protect, Empower, Advocate, Connect and Engage” HRHF aims to achieve Stronger and better protected human rights organisations and human rights defenders in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Belarus. More specifically: Human Rights Houses, their member organisations and HRDs in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Belarus shall enjoy

- stronger governance
- increased cooperation
- greater visibility and political influence on human rights agenda
- improved protection.

By protecting, empowering and supporting human rights organisations nationally, HRHF aims to enable them to respond to local needs for protection and promotion of human rights. And by assisting the human rights organisations building long-term strategies for joint work and securing good governance, HRHF gives them vital tools to survive in repressive environments.

Purpose of the review

The objectives for the review are:

- to identify the key factors for success and/or key factors preventing HRHF’s support from being effective to in order to reach the goals set in the targeted Human Rights House
- provide recommendations for the implementation of the current intervention and the design of new projects

HRHF will use the learning from the review to improve the impact of our further work with the Houses. More specifically, this means:

- Sharing the findings and recommendations of the evaluation with each House covered under the grant agreement and ensuring that recommendations are incorporated in their strategic planning.
- Incorporating recommendations of the evaluation into future HRHF plans, including grant-making schemes
- Sharing the learning with partners, donors and other stakeholders.

HRHF seeks the external review to assess:

1. Re: Outcome 1 in HRHF`s result framework: *The network of Human Rights Houses has functional members that effectively address the human rights needs of their communities through collaborative efforts*
 - To what extent has HRHF’s support contributed to enhanced institutional capacity and improved governance of the Belarusian HRH in exile, HRH Yerevan and HRH Tbilisi over the last 2 years?

- To what extent has HRHF’s support to and engagement with the three Houses led to strengthened capacities of the Houses to address human rights needs of their communities and to bring about human rights gains through collaborative efforts?
2. Re: Outcome 2 in HRHF’s results framework: *Collaboration within and sustainability of the network of Human Rights Houses is strengthened through efforts of HRHF*
- What is the impact (or potential for impact) of selected House-to-House projects on addressing human rights needs of their local communities?
 - To what extent has House-to-House fund contributed to increased cooperation and knowledge exchange among the Houses?
3. Re Outcome 3 in HRHF’s results framework: *Human rights defenders are better protected through the efforts of HRHF and the network of Human Rights Houses*
- To what extent has HRHF’s support contributed to better coordination of protection work among HRHF, the Belarusian HRH in exile, HRH Chernihiv and HRH Tbilisi?¹
 - To what extent has HRHF’s support contributed to better protection of human rights defenders in the three countries?

The selected consultant is expected to reflect upon the indicative questions listed above during the inception phase, discuss them with the assigned HRHF representatives, and propose a final version for approval in the Inception Report.

Methodology

The consultant will be responsible for developing the evaluation design and methodology in order to meet the evaluation’s objectives. Details about the approach and the data collection methods to be employed to undertake this task should be included in the technical proposal.

The evaluation methodology, process and outputs must adhere to the OECD Development Quality Standards for Development Evaluation². These standards include a requirement for the consultant to be mindful of gender roles, ethnicity, ability, age, sexual orientation, language and other differences when designing and carrying out the evaluation. The evaluation is to be conducted following ethical practices in evaluation, which should be outlined in the proposal

The HRHF envisages that the evaluation methodology will include:

- Desk research/literature review on the external environment for the human rights movement and civil society environment, particularly in Eastern Europe and Caucasus, including emerging opportunities and challenges. However, the evaluator will be expected to already have this knowledge and expertise.
- Desk research/literature review, to read background documents provided by the HRHF and Houses, to ensure familiarity with the House concept and its history.
- Interviews – in-person and remotely – with relevant stakeholders, to answer the evaluation questions.

¹

² <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/eval-criteria-global-consultation.htm>

The consultant must conduct a participatory evaluation and should travel to at least one Human Rights House. The decision on the location(s) of the field phase must be explained in the proposed methodology.

The consultant shall receive all the required documentation and contacts from HRHF.

Schedule and Deliverables

The consultant will prepare:

<i>Draft Inception Report (IR) with a draft Evaluation Workplan</i>	A draft detailed workplan will be submitted within two (2) weeks of the signing of the contract. It is envisioned that the contract will be signed by end-April 2020.
<i>Final Evaluation Workplan and an updated Inception Report</i>	Within one (1) week of receiving HRHF's comments on the draft IR and detailed workplan, the evaluator will produce a final evaluation workplan.
<i>Draft Evaluation Report</i>	The evaluator will submit a draft evaluation report for review by HRHF within eight (8) weeks of producing the final workplan. For the avoidance of doubt, the draft report must be submitted by the end of June 2020.
<i>Final Evaluation Report</i>	Within two (2) weeks of receiving HRHF's comments on the draft report, the evaluator will submit a final evaluation report, including an evaluation abstract/executive summary. The report must be finished by mid July.

The timeline of the project will be April 2020 to June 2020. The project is budgeted with up to 20 consultant days.

The tenderer shall quote a total price for the assignment exclusive of costs for travel and related expenses. Travel and related expenses will be covered by the HRHF, in accordance with its rules and procedures on travel.

Required Experience, Skills and Qualifications

The consultant will need the following experience, skills and qualifications:

- Extensive experience in conducting evaluations and a proven record in delivering professional results.
- Experience undertaking evaluations of complex human rights programmes.
- Experience working in civil society and preferably in the human rights field, with strong knowledge of the human rights movement.
- Knowledge of donor and civil society environment in Eastern Partnership countries.
- Experience of working in at least one Eastern European or Caucasus countries is desirable.
- Experience undertaking evaluations for European funded programmes is desirable.
- Fluent in English and preferably in Russian (the evaluation report must be written in English).

Call for proposals

Any individual or firm interested in undertaking this evaluation should submit a proposal by April 14th 2020 to Birgitte Brekke: birgitte.brekke@humanrightshouse.org

They should include:

- Technical proposal, including the proposed evaluation methodology and brief workplan (no more than two (2) pages);
- Financial proposal, including the proposed fee and breakdown (no more than one (1) page);
- CV(s), including examples of other evaluations undertaken by the individual(s) (no more than two (2) pages each);
- A list of at least three referees for each individual, including contact details;
- Information on their legal form and ownership structure where applicable;
- Confirmation of their good standing and that they are an eligible tenderer as defined in the rules and principles for procurement for projects funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (template to be sent by request); and
- Confirmation that they are not aware of any conflict of interest that may arise in undertaking the evaluation (template to be sent by request).

The HRHF will reject any proposal should it suspect any illegal or corrupt practices and may terminate any contract to undertake the evaluation should it find that illegal or corrupt practices have taken place.

For any questions, please email Birgitte Brekke, as above.