



Seeking Consultant for External Evaluation of the Norwegian Human Rights Fund

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Scope

Purpose:

The NHRF is seeking a review that can assess our programme work for the period 2019 to 2024 and to provide strategic learnings for the further development and strengthening of NHRF's programme work. The review shall assess the relevance and coherence of the NHRF's programme work and sustainability of NHRF's partnerships with local partner organisations in the below defined geographical areas.

The main audience for the evaluation will be the NHRF Secretariat, its donors, and its member organizations.

Scope:

The consultancy will look at NHRF's support to organisations and networks in the period from 2019 to 2024, covering the work supported in selected NHRF prioritized countries: **Mexico, India and Indonesia**. The consultancy will not review the NHRF's work in other prioritized countries nor the Breathing Space City-programme.

Background

The NHRF is an organization with the mandate to protect and promote human rights by directly supporting organizations working in the first line of defence for human rights internationally. We work with the values of courage, flexibility and solidarity in providing direct support to local organizations working for the rights of vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups.

The NHRF was established in 1988 and sprung out of Norwegian civil society, academia and workers' unions. The following organizations and institutions contribute strategically, professionally, and financially to the NHRF's work and are represented in the NHRF's Board:

- Amnesty International Norway
- Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
- The Atlas Alliance



- The Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations
- The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions

The NHRF supports grassroot organizations within our selected priority countries, among them; Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Mexico, and Colombia, which for the latter we have a country office. We also support a thematic portfolio that is not bound to prioritized countries, supporting organizations and networks working with human rights defenders at risk and the right to protect rights. This evaluation will particularly, assess and evaluate our programme work for the period 2019 to 2024 covering the work supported in Mexico, India and Indonesia. The selected geographical scope of the evaluation will provide a representative range of different thematic areas of work, human rights contexts and grantee partner organisations. The evaluation will cover projects supported by MFA/NORAD along with other donors working towards the goal of marginalized and vulnerable individuals and groups can claim their human rights and their rights are fulfilled. The NHRF works towards this goal through three strategic tools:

- Direct financial support for human rights work (grant making)
- Networking and capacity strengthening.
- Advocacy, communications, and strategic alliance building.

Thematically, we provide financial support to organisations and networks working one or more of the following three thematic areas:

- Fight against impunity and for access to justice
- Dismantling discrimination, inequality and marginalization
- Protecting human rights defenders and the right to defend right

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund sees great value in conducting an external evaluation of its programme work at this point in time. Since the last external evaluation of NHRF's programme work in 2017, the NHRF has grown, expanded its work and developed continuously as a donor. At the same time, the human rights situation in many contexts has seen marked changes including positive and negative developments affecting the work of local civil society organisations including our grantee partners and their strategies. It is in this context, that the timing of the evaluation will provide valuable insights to strengthen NHRF's work and offer strategic learnings to guide the programme's development supporting organizations working in the first line of defence for human rights.

Methodology

The methodological framework is to be specified by the Consultancy in the tender, according to the objectives for the evaluation. The detailed evaluation plan, methodology, and methods for data collection and analysis are expected to be fully presented in the inception report which will be commented and finally approved by the NHRF.

The methodological framework should consist of the following principles/elements:

- The evaluation shall be done in an inclusive and participatory process that involves direct engagement, interaction with, and feedback from the grantee partners and their constituencies and allows for active participation and input from relevant stakeholders
- The Consultancy shall actively try to balance inputs and influence from different categories of stakeholders over the evaluation process and results.
- The evaluation shall give emphasis to gendered power dynamics and inclusion of groups that are marginalized.
- The methodology for the consultancy should be based on OECD's [*Evaluation Criteria*](#) throughout the assessment period,
- The evaluation should ensure a diverse range of sources and methods including both internal and external sources and ensuring strong evaluation standards, triangulation and disclosure of limitations.

Questions to be answered in the evaluation:

The following questions should be addressed when assessing the results achieved by the NHRF and its grantee partners. Adjustments to the questions may be suggested in the inception report but shall be approved by the NHRF.

1. Relevance

To what extent do the grantee partners of the NHRF report that the support from the NHRF, financially and in terms of networking, capacity building, communications, advocacy and strategic alliance building has responded to the needs and priorities of their organisations and the communities they support?

2. Coherence

To what degree does the NHRF have an added value as a human rights donor in the countries where it operates? Where and how does the NHRF fit within the bigger picture, or rather



ecosystem, of donors, international organizations and grassroots human rights organizations?

3. Sustainability

In what way is the NHRF's process of coming to an end with a partnership sustainable, or not, for the partners and their potential for project-continuation after NHRF's exit?

Team and qualifications needed

We are searching for a consultant, preferably a team of consultants, that will lead an inclusive and participatory process that involves direct engagement, interaction with, and feedback from the grantee partners, their constituencies and relevant stakeholders. The consultant(s) should have the following qualifications:

- Language requirements: English. Ability to speak Spanish, Bahasa Indonesia, Kannada or any other local language in southern India will be considered an asset.
- Local presence of consultant(s) in the selected countries, India, Indonesia and Mexico will be considered an asset.
- Demonstrated strong knowledge of human rights work and NGO organisational development.
- Demonstrated strong knowledge of working with local human rights groups especially from within the geographical scope of the evaluation.
- Extensive experience with evaluation, monitoring, and learning work, especially within human rights.
- Demonstrated experience with the use of participatory methods.
- Experience with grant management organisations/funding mechanisms.
- Knowledge of the field of protection of human rights defenders' work

Time Frame and Deliverables

The assessment process should ideally start in February 2025 and conclude by May 2025.

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| • Submitting an application to the call: | 14 ^h January 2025 |
| • Decision on consultant(s) by NHRF: | Before end of January 2025 |
| • Startup meeting and inception report: | First week of February 2025 |
| • Active phase of the evaluation: | Mid-February to 30 th April 2025 |
| • First draft of report to NHRF: | 30 th of April 2025 |
| • Final report to NHRF (30 pages max): | 15 th of May 2025 |
| • Presentation of the report to the NHRF | Before end of May 2025 |



Budget

The NHRF has a budget of up to 350 000 NOK for the assignment. This shall include VAT and *all* costs for the consultant(s), including potential travels etc.

How to apply

Interested candidates should submit the following:

- a project proposal (max 2 pages) describing how the assignment will be solved, including a work plan, proposed methodology and comments to the proposed evaluation questions.
- a budget containing all expected costs to the assignment, including daily rates, travel costs, meeting costs and any other expected cost. **The budget shall also include VAT and be within the limits of 350 000 NOK.**
- CV and references for each team member

The above documents should be submitted to Head of Programme Kristin Storaker Skutlaberg at kristin.storaker@nhrf.no by **January 14, 2025**. Questions to the consultancy may be directed at Head of Programme on the e-mail above or over phone at +47 41 60 38 37.

The selection process will be conducted based on the quality of the proposal, the experience of the applicants and price.

- Quality of proposal, 35 % weighted
- Experience of the applicants, 35 % weighted
- Price, 30 % weighted