

**Request for Expression of interest**

UN Women Nigeria invites interested institutions/organizations/associations to apply on the following:

**Description of Requirements:**

*Provide the overall project aim together with a summary of the proposal and the start and end date, including target for full application to be submitted.*

Nigeria has ratified most of the international and regional instruments on women’s rights such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the Maputo Protocol. However, critical challenges remain in the application and domestication of these frameworks, causing Nigerian women to be underrepresented and marginalized from political decision-making processes. Currently, women’s political representation in Nigeria is abysmally low with 7.9% and 3.6% in the House of Senate and House of Representatives respectively – the lowest figures for sub-Saharan Africa and globally. The last two political cycles have seen a regression in the numbers which in 2015 stood at 6.4% and 6.7% in the higher and lower Houses of Assembly. Furthermore, women make up approximately 16% of ministerial appointments and in state legislatures only 4.43% of representatives are women. The factors making for this unfortunate situation are varied and include: a lacking legislative framework to guarantee a minimum representation of women; absence of mechanisms to unite women in politics across party lines to advocate for gender-responsive reforms that seek to actively promote equality—this involves actions to empower women in their households/communities and broader reform processes including paid care work. There are also socio-cultural factors and barriers leading to marginalization and limited leadership opportunities for women in public life; insufficient positive role models of women in politics and oftentimes insensitive portrayal of women aspiring for political leadership in the media; high levels of patriarchy, coupled with limited male champions on gender equality concerns; and inadequate coordination among key partners working to support a reversal of the low representation of women in politics. Moreover, the views of grassroots and vulnerable women are hardly sought in the development of legislations and policies designed for them or on their behalf. Young women in particular experience a double jeopardy as a result of gender and because young people are equally marginalized in politics.

To address the above challenges, UN Women Nigeria, under funding of the Government of Canada, is implementing a programme to strengthen the women’s political leadership and participation, as well as gender-sensitive reforms to ensure that affected communities, especially marginalized women and persons with disabilities, are fully engaged to advocate and participate in the development of policies/legislations, in elections and other political processes affecting them. The programme aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. Improved gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies by political/democratic institutions at state and federal levels in Nigeria.
2. Increased women’s participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions at ward, state and federal levels in Nigeria
3. Increased capacity and aware-ness of stakeholder groups, including media, community influencers, male allies and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women’s political leadership.

The implementing partner will be expected to implement the following activities by priority area:

1. **Legal frameworks/policies and institutional reforms**:

* Strengthen the capacity of legislators to enact gender-responsive laws at federal and state levels in Nigeria
* Enhance the capacity of political parties and electoral bodies to develop gender-responsive policies that promote gender balance in political leadership positions at ward, state and national levels
* Improve partnership among cross-party women parliamentarians to collaborate on promoting gender issues

1. **Women’s participation and leadership**:

* Strengthen the capacity of young women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, state and federal levels
* Enhance the capacity and awareness of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes

1. **Coordination among partners and engagement with key stakeholders**

* Improve the ability of WPE implementing and development partners to network and collaborate at state and national levels
* Increase the capacity and aware-ness of stakeholder groups, including media, community influencers, male allies and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women’s political leadership
* Strengthen capacity of networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight mechanisms to better prevent and respond to VAWP, SGBV and other forms of VAW

**Outputs:**

Expected outputs under the 3 outcome areas of the UN Women’s WPE project include:

1. **Legal frameworks/policies and institutional reforms:**

* Advocacy and knowledge enhancement meetings held to advance the adoption of the GEOB and gender reforms in the Constitution
* Provisions developed and adopted by the National Assembly (NASS) to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks (with focus on the GEOB and the Constitution)
* Men and women legislators trained at federal level and in targeted states on gender-responsive budgeting, constituent relations, lawmaking, and political advocacy
* Capacity building interventions (technical trainings, international study tours and regional lessons sharing retreats) held for NILDS staff and legislators to institutionalize gender in parliaments and influence the adoption of gender-responsive laws at federal and state-levels
* Gender-responsive policies, strategies and implementation plans developed by political parties and electoral bodies
* Training manual developed, and parliamentarians trained on gender sensitive legislation including gender responsive budgeting
* Meetings organized at federal level and 6 states to establish a cross party parliamentary caucus on gender
* Experience sharing meetings convened by women parliamentary caucuses at regional, federal and state levels

1. **Women’s participation and leadership:**

* Young women political candidates trained through academy programmes across the 6 selected states
* Intergenerational mentorship programs organized for young women in politics
* Women aspirants, members of the African Women Leaders’ Network (AWLN), and the Nigerian Governors’ Wives Forum trained in leadership and advocacy skills
* Women-focused voter education (including voter registration) campaigns conducted
* Elected female parliamentarians trained on constituent relations, lawmaking and political advocacy

1. **Coordination among partners and engagement with key stakeholders**

* Mapping of key stakeholders and initiatives on women’s political participation undertaken
* A retreat convened to establish the WPE coordinating working groups at federal and state levels
* HeForShe events promoting women’s political leadership organized in 6 target states
* Media practitioners trained to positively portray the image of women candidates
* Grassroots level town halls and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women groups (including vulnerable and marginalized women) on the benefits of women’s political leadership and to solicit contributions for drafting gender-responsive legislations and policies
* Advocacy dialogues between women in politics and Nigeria Chapter of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa (COTLA) organized
* Women election officers, observers and security officials trained by the security sector agencies on the prevention of VAWP
* Reports channeled to the Women’s Situation room on election-related violent incidents targeting/affecting women
* Mediation sessions held by the National Women Mediators network on political-related cases affecting women
* Technical support provided to existing peacebuilding architectures to prevent VAWP in hot spot target states
* Capacity building support interventions targeting state governments and stakeholders implemented for the review, adoption and implementation of the VAPP Act

**Eligibility criteria**

The Expression of Interest is open to organizations legally registered in Nigeria belonging to the following categories:

* Non-Government Organizations (national/local/international)
* Academic or research institutions
* Governmental institutions
* Women’s rights organizations, women-led organizations, and networks

Proponents need to meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Must be Legally registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Nigeria with a proven track record in promoting women’s participation, and women’s human rights, and empowerment of women.
2. Must have strong track record in understanding the specific local context in the areas of targeted location
3. At least 5 years of operation with minimum 3 years of specific experiences working to promote GEWE.
4. Demonstrated a strong track record in development of tools and guidelines that will be applicable for the assignment
5. Strong experience in programme management and implementation particularly on elections, capacity-building of women’s leadership, law enforcement agents (Police, Civil Defence corps, etc.).
6. Experience in working with EMB (INEC), law enforcement and legislation on GEWE,
7. Demonstrated experience in working at community level and coordination with formal and informal justice system, including women networks system
8. Proven organizational experience in working with networks of relevant civil society organizations, local and national government agencies, including key local stakeholders in the target states.
9. Proven experience in integrating gender equality and political participation and representation; including proven experience integrating gender equality and electoral cycle, women’s political participation, and gender based electoral violence mitigation
10. Must have strong governance and management structures, a qualified team of capable staff members, and working administrative procedures including a record and evidence of organizational culture of accountability, such as a written code of conduct, measures on anti-corruption, child protection and sexual harassment policy
11. Proven credibility in the target states, especially in terms of working towards gender equality and women’s political empowerment

*UN Women will examine the outcome of this request for EOI and will consider those organizations that have expressed their interest providing the required information as to their ability to fulfill UN Women’s Request for Proposal (RFP) requirement. The RFP will only be disseminated to those companies that will have fully met the EOIs requirements.*

**Submission details**

Interested proponents with experience in implementing the above-mentioned priority areas are required to forward their expression of interest to UN Women by **24 May 2022**, **23.00 hours.** At minimum, the expression of interest should include:

1. Brief description of the organization, geographical areas of operation and main areas of work/expertise in the target states.
2. Description of the organization’s experience in a selected priority area of WPE. Please clearly state the priority area(s) selected among those stated above and attach two recently conducted evaluations/reviews of work in the areas of concern.
3. Completed EOI checklist (below):

• Proof of Legal Registration

• Organizational chart and staffing chart

• List of board/steering committee members and board/steering committee minutes

• Sample of an annual report / equivalent

• Sample of a recent donor / partner report

• Links to recent publications / examples of recent gender related publications

• Links to recent communications / social media

**UN Women will not consider applications:**

* Submitted by individuals without any organizational affiliation.
* Requesting grants to fund on‐going programmes or services of the requesting organizations
* Requesting funds to cover costs of infrastructure such as purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, construction or repair of existing buildings or offices, including for example, the building and furnishing of service facilities, shelters or short stay homes.
* Requesting funds for stand‐alone general awareness raising and campaigns.
* Requesting funds for stand‐alone research and data collection.

*Note: Due to the high volume of expected, UN-Women is not in a position to confirm receipt of the expression of interests. Only shortlisted partners will be contacted.*