

# URGENT ACTION FUND

## FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

### Advocacy Assessment Consultant - Scope of Work

#### **About Urgent Action Fund**

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAF) is a feminist fund that protects, strengthens and sustains women, transgender, and gender non-conforming (W/T/GNC) human rights defenders at critical moments. We intervene quickly when activists are poised to make great gains or face serious threats to their lives and work.

UAF builds the resilience of intersectional feminist movements in three key ways:

- **Rapid Response Grantmaking:** We award rapid response grants to women and transgender human rights defenders in Central Asia, the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Russia, Turkey, the United States, and Canada. Activists apply for grants of up to \$8,000 USD in any language on any day of the year and are guaranteed a response within 72 hours.
- **Advocacy and Alliance Building:** We leverage the power we have as a funder to advocate with and for women, transgender, and gender non-conforming human rights defenders.
- **Global Consortium of Urgent Action Funds:** We are one of four Urgent Action Funds. Together with our sister funds: Urgent Action Fund - Africa, Urgent Action Fund - Latin America and Caribbean, and Urgent Action Fund - Asia Pacific we collectively support gender justice and human rights movements globally.

As a feminist activist fund, advocacy has been a key part of UAF's work from the beginning. Informed by the trends emerging from our advocacy RRGs, we engage in philanthropic and policy advocacy in partnership with W/T/GNC activist movements. We strive to collectively build a world where the leadership of these activist movements is recognized, they influence decision-making and gain political power, they are safe and sustained, and they are abundantly resourced to continue their transformative work.

#### **Consultancy Scope**

Intersectional feminist movements are a key transformational force that is changing the world. Yet they experience increasing attacks and threats, they remain critically under-resourced, and their contributions are still too often unrecognized and undermined. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these inequities, posing an existential threat to intersectional feminist movements. Additionally, across every region, anti-rights, anti-gender forces threatening W/T/GNC activists have been gaining ground among both state and non-state actors. Therefore, it is particularly urgent and timely to center the leadership of intersectional feminist movements and ensure their holistic protection as well

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as their access to robust, abundant, sustainable, predictable, flexible, rapid, unrestricted resources so they can continue their essential work to build a world that is more just, equitable, and safe for all.

In this context, we are seeking a consultant to conduct a comprehensive assessment of our advocacy work so far, examining our strengths and areas for improvement to help inform our strategic direction moving forward. The consultant will be expected to gather information from diverse UAF grantee partners, funders, advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders about how they see UAF's role and impact and what they identify as key challenges, needs, and advocacy priorities. The assessment methodology may include phone or video calls, focus groups, and online surveys.

### **Desired Outcomes**

The main objective of this consultancy is to assess UAF's advocacy work to date in order to inform the development and refinement of our advocacy strategy. This will be done by consulting key stakeholders for their critical feedback, providing clarity on UAF's main successes and strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement, and recommending actionable steps on how to move forward to most effectively leverage our power, access, and resources. The consultant is expected to finalize the assessment and support the UAF team with the development of an actionable advocacy strategy by November 2022.

### **Key Deliverables**

- Co-design methodology for advocacy assessment and draft project implementation work plan;
- Design data collection tools and conduct information gathering activities with relevant stakeholders including feminist activists, previous and current UAF grantee partners, donors, advocacy organizations, advocacy targets, and other key informants;
- Analyze data, undertake assessment, and develop a report of the findings of the assessment of UAF's advocacy work to date, including main successes and strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement, and actionable recommendations for next steps;
- Work with UAF team to develop and refine a robust and comprehensive advocacy strategy and action plan, integrating findings and recommendations from the advocacy assessment.

### **Timeline and Budget**

**Timeframe:** Project to be implemented by November 2022

**Length of Contract:** June - November 2022

**Budget:** US\$20-26,000

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The Consultant is an independent contractor and is not an employee of UAF. The consultant shall not be eligible for any benefits paid or otherwise afforded to employees of UAF.

### **Skills and Experience**

We are seeking a consultant with the following skills and experience:

- previous experience conducting comprehensive assessments of advocacy or other programmatic work;
- demonstrated ability to guide the development of a robust advocacy strategy with clear actionable steps;
- excellent research, analytical, creative communication and writing abilities, knowledge and expertise in research design, approaches, and implementation;
- deep understanding of international advocacy for feminism, gender justice, and human rights;
- experience working with feminist organizations and commitment to feminist principles and values;
- ability to engage with diverse stakeholders and understand cultural differences;
- solid project management and organizational skills and exceptional attention to detail;
- resourcefulness and the ability to problem-solve, demonstrated capacity to prioritize tasks and work well under pressure
- excellent verbal and written English skills required; ability to speak/understand Arabic and/or Russian and/or other languages spoken in the regions we cover a plus

### **How to Apply**

To apply, please submit the following materials **by June 7, 2022**:

- a resume;
- a cover letter with your rate;
- examples of any research, advocacy, or assessment materials you have been part of developing
- a two-page proposal summarizing your approach to the work and a timeline;
- at least three professional references (candidates will be notified in advance of any outreach to their references)

Please email the materials to [consultants@urgentactionfund.org](mailto:consultants@urgentactionfund.org) with "Advocacy Assessment Consultant [Full Name]" in the subject line. Please submit PDF or Microsoft Word files only, preferably with all materials in one combined file. Resume reviews begin immediately and only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please.