# FEMINIST OPPORTUNITIES NOW (FON)

# FORM FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIP

# FUNDING WINDOW 2: DEVELOPMENT (USD 13,000 - USD 47,000)

# BACKGROUND

The project [“Feminist Opportunities Now (FON)”](https://feministnow.org/), implemented by the consortium of organizations with the lead of the [International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR),](https://africa.ippf.org/) in collaboration with [CREA](https://creaworld.org/), [Empow'Her](https://empow-her.com/), the [International Federation on Human Rights](https://www.fidh.org/en/), and [Médecins du Monde France (MdM-FR)](https://www.medecinsdumonde.org/). Funded by the [Agence Francaise de Développement (AFD)](https://www.afd.fr/fr), FON’s overarching goal is to strengthen the capacity of feminist movements to address gender-based violence (GBV) through sub-grants to feminist organizations, with a focus on reaching small, often unregistered, feminist organizations. The project will be implemented across ten countries in three regions: Mexico and Colombia (led by MdM), **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (led by CREA),** and Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Mali (led by IPPFAR).

FON objectives are:

* Improve the sustainability of feminist organizations at the organizational and technical level by proposing an inclusive approach to capacity development.
* Support the resilience and diversity of feminist Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) through access to sustainable, flexible, and adapted financing for small and/or informal and/or structurally excluded ones.
* Strengthen the networking of feminist CSOs from the South, bringing them closer to networks at the national, regional, and international levels, to bring their voice to the public agenda.

# ‘DEVELOP’ GRANT WINDOW

Flexible and adapted financing for feminist CSOs is one of the main activities of FON. This window intends to partner with Feminist CSOs that address gender-based violence (GBV). Following initiatives are encouraged through this funding window:

* Basic financing (core funding) to ensure the operations of your organization.
  + to ensure sustainability of the organization and to cover organizations’ expenses without linking them to the implementation of a project, when these expenses are dedicated to strengthening your organizational and technical capabilities.

examples of these could be the cost of a consultancy to provide support at an organizational level (financial management, internal audit, governance, etc.), equipment costs (i.e., purchase computers, office supplies...), consumables (i.e., papers, ink cartridges, etc.), operating expenses (i.e., rent, transportation, electricity, communications)

* Financing for an intervention/ project in particular. Either a new or an existing initiative to address GBV:
  + Develop your work from a technical point of view, i.e. conduct research and analysis on serious violations of women’s rights to design and implement GBV projects in humanitarian settings.
  + Develop initiatives: the reformation of existing discriminatory laws, policies or institutions; initiatives to address GBV, i.e., promoting dialogue, sharing among feminist CSOs aiming at transformative and systemic changes; contribute to the body of knowledge; developing (drafting and testing) media toolkits to address GBV
* Combination of both categories mentioned above- funding for core and intervention.

**Grant amount:** USD 13,000-47,000

**Duration:** twelve to eighteen months [within the span of 1 September 2024- 30 April 2026]

**Keywords:** sustain, thrive, prevent and respond to GBV

# ELIGIBILITY

The CSOs which can apply for a sub-grant under the FON project must:

* be committed in favor of gender equality and implement actions to prevent and/or address GBV.
* be a Feminist Civil Society Organization working with/ for structurally excluded people
* be based in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh
* Civil Society Organizations working with structurally excluded communities, those created by young

feminist activists.

* Registered organizations and organizations/ platforms of movements with no legal entity (unregistered) due to practical or political reasons, are eligible to apply.

**Encouraged to apply:**

Particularly encouraged to apply to organizations working with or led by people who, in their local context, may face particularly high discrimination, gender inequalities, and gender-based violence, such as:

* Members of the LGBTI+ community and, in general, people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities
* People living with disabilities
* People living with HIV/AIDS
* Racial, ethnic or indigenous minorities (in the local context)
* Internally displaced, migrant and refugee people
* Sex workers
* Youth groups
* Members of any other community that in their local context face particularly high discrimination, gender inequalities and gender-based violence.

**Ineligible:** Initiatives by individuals, Initiatives presented by public/governmental institutions, and organizations not working in the GBV sector.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

* The CSO should be based in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh.
* Level of commitment of the organization to gender equality and implement actions to prevent and/or address gender-based violence. i.e. organization's feminist commitment, its commitment to diversity, to providing services to the most vulnerable and structurally excluded communities without discrimination and with gender justice, management capacity, the contribution of the CSO to address GBV and gender equality.
* Relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the initiative proposed in the project; tangible results, important multiplier effects.
* Those who face limitations in access to funding will be granted particular attention when awarding the sub-grants.

More details of the process, agreements, and commitments can be found in the annex A to this document.

# IMPORTANT DATES

* Applicants submit the concept notes by 20 May '24
* If your concept note is selected, CREA invites to submit full application by 3 June '24
* The invited applicants submit the full application by 3 July '24
* The selection committee reviews the full applications and inform you if you are selected for due diligence 31 July '24
* CREA carries out the due diligence process and informs the finalization of the selection process. 10 Aug '24
* Organizations who are selected, will sign Agreements with CREA by 23 Aug '24

# SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

* CREA hereby invites feminist organizations/ groups to submit expressions of interest.
* Model application form in English can be found at the Annex B to this document.
* Application forms in Bangla, English, Sinhala, and Tamil can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hw4BgIhkyhSYVvqY8rPWUEETxU-9XvU8?usp=drive_link>

* Send the filled application form to ‘fon@creaworld.org’ by 20 May 2024. The subject of the email should be mentioned as ‘*EOI-Develop grant: ‘name of your organization’*.

# SUPPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

* We, at CREA, strive to assure equal access to all the groups that submit partnership applications. We encourage you to fill the grant application in a language that you are most comfortable with, and we will assure you are given equal attention in the selection process.
* If you have any other difficulties or require any support in filling this application form, please reach out to us via ‘fon@creaworld.org’.

# ANNEX A: MORE DETAILS ON THE PROCESS, AGREEMENTS, AND COMMITMENTS

**Applications process**

* CREA will analyze the concept notes. Shortlisted organizations will receive an email requesting for the full application documents.
* The complete applications will be assessed by the Regional Coordination and Advisory Committee for Asia (RCAC-Asia) members and presented to the committee for the final selection of the beneficiary CSO. The assessment process respects the principles of impartiality, confidentiality, and absence of conflict of interest.
* Transparency, impartiality, and protection of personal data will be ensured.
* RCAC members undertake to study CSO funding requests with complete transparency and impartiality and to protect their data. Applicable national and/or regional data protection laws will apply.

**Information and contractual provisions**

* If the decision is positive, CREA, as leader of the consortium in Asia, will proceed to sign the contract detailing the commitments and obligations of both parties to allow the transfer of funds, as well as the transfer mechanism of these (according to the installment schedule agreed in the contract). CREA will also ensure monitoring of the implementation of the funded activities.
* The unregistered entities will be required to provision a partnership with a registered non-profit entity during the agreement signing.
* All documents and communications related to the awarded grant may remain confidential if justified by the beneficiary CSO, particularly in the case of existing or potential security threats.

**What do you (the beneficiaries) commit to?**

CSOs requesting financial support from the FON Project must adhere to a set of rules, including:

1. Information on verification operations (screening)

* CSOs that submit a Funding Application to the FON Project on behalf of the CSO are informed that there will be an “ex-ante” verification of their organization and governance, to ensure that they do not appear on the Financial Sanctions Lists. These are lists of people, groups, or organizations subject to financial sanctions by the United Nations, the European Union, and France in the name of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. This obligation, called “screening,” is requested by the Project donor, the French Development Agency (AFD).
* If the CSO, movement, or platform applying for a grant is not legally registered in your country, its representatives and, in particular, the person accredited to receive the funds (if the organization, platform, or movement does not have a bank account in its name), will be subjected to verification operations.
* By submitting a funding request to the FON Project, the organizations or people who represent them accept the verification operations. CSOs, platforms or movements that appear on the Financial Sanctions list will not receive any funding from the FON Project.

*Section B is applied only if your application is shortlisted for financing by CREA*

1. Information on “Integrity Due Diligence”

* CSO submitting a Funding Application for the FON Project will also be informed that they will be subject to an "Integrity Due Diligence" by CREA, as requested by AFD.
* Next, the real existence of the organization, its reliability, the economic coherence between the activities of the CSOs and their resources and the absence of negative information in the public domain from reliable and objective sources will be verified.

*Section C, D, E are applied only if your application is selected for financing by CREA*

1. Relationships between beneficiary organizations and their suppliers and service providers

* For the purchases and provision of services necessary for the implementation of the activities financed by the grant, the beneficiary CSOs must have their suppliers and service providers sign a declaration called "declaration of absence of sanctions linked to terrorism." This is a mandatory request from AFD. If the beneficiaries do not comply with this obligation, the expenses incurred may not be eligible, and the organizations must reimburse the corresponding amounts.
* The declaration that suppliers and service providers must sign must say the following: "We certify that we are not included, and that none of the members of our group, suppliers, contractors, consultants and subcontractors, are on the financial sanctions lists."
* Organizations will not have to request from their suppliers and service providers a signed declaration regarding expenses related to the regular operation of their company, such as: meal supplies, travel and operating expenses (electricity, internet, heating, small computer equipment, telephone, etc.).

1. Commitments regarding the use of funds obtained and supporting documents

* The transfer of funds to the beneficiary of the subsidy will be made to the bank account of the CSO, by bank transfer. The funds can be transferred in one or several payments, according to what was agreed between CREA and the beneficiary.
* The beneficiaries of the FON project undertake to use the funds in accordance with what was agreed in the contract. Any modification regarding the use of funds must receive prior authorization from CREA and must be justified.
* Otherwise, the beneficiary could see their expense as ineligible and would have to repay the corresponding grant amount.
* In accordance with the administrative and financial management of the allocated funds, the CSO will follow its internal procedures, in particular with respect to the methods of authorization of expenses and control of purchases. If the beneficiary does not have written procedures, they can follow their internal methods, as long as they guarantee transparency and common good practices in the sector. Consortium members will follow a zero-tolerance policy with respect to fraudulent supply practices such as kickbacks, bribery, price rigging, conflict of interest, non-competitive practices, and any other unethical and equitable acts.
* The CSO will keep the supporting documents (invoices, receipts, payroll, etc.) of the expenses incurred within the framework of the FON Project as established in their contracts and will share them with CREA and/or the auditor when requested.

1. Reporting obligations.

* The beneficiaries undertake to report on the use of the funds.
* At a minimum, they will submit to CREA narrative reports and financial reports on the implementation of the project and the actions financed, as well as all supporting documents, originals, or copies, as established in the contract.
* To report on the implementation of the project, they must attach all documents, stories, images, photographic files, etc., to their reports. Organizations can request support from CREA if they encounter difficulties in preparing their reports.
* CREA may request clarifications, additional information, or documents from the beneficiaries regarding the submitted narrative or financial reports. Failure to submit these reports or failure to respond to requests for additional information may justify a request to reimburse allocated funds.

# ANNEX B: APPLICATION FORM – FIRST STAGE

# FEMINIST OPPORTUNITIES NOW (FON)

# FORM FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI): GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIP

# FUNDING WINDOW 2: DEVELOPMENT (USD 13,000 - USD 47,000)

Feminist networks and alliances will submit their application for ‘development grant program’ of FON through this format. This is the first stage of the application process. Only shortlisted applications will receive an email with instructions and necessary documents to complete the second stage of the application.

Prior to filling out this form, we kindly request that you read through the submission guidelines.

**A. Eligibility checklist**

I confirm that the requested funding activities will be carried out in Sri Lanka and/or Bangladesh.

I confirm that the application is submitted by a feminist civil society organization.

I confirm that the initiative presented does not emanate from a public/governmental institution.

I confirm that the initiative presented does not emanate from an individual.

I confirm that the proposed project's activities are focused on preventing and addressing gender-based violence (GBV).

**B. Background**

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| 1. Organizational details | |
| Organization Name: |  |
| Contact person’s name and email address: |  |
| Physical address of the organization: |  |
| Average annual budget (2021-23) |  |
| Are you registered or an unregistered organization: |  |
| Month and year of inception of the organization: |  |

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| **2. If available, please provide the website/ social media links that refer to previous work/ initiatives conducted by your organizations.**  *Note: If you are sharing Google Drive links, please ensure accessibility.* |

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| **3. How is your portfolio related to the overall framework of addressing gender-based violence?**  *Note: please explain in less than 200 words)* |

**C. Details of the proposed initiative**

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| **4. Requested amount (in local currency and USD):** | |
| In local currency (LKR/BDT): |  |
| In USD: |  |

   

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| **5. Geographical location/s of the activities proposed by this project:**  *Note: If you are applying only for a core grant, list out the locations covered by the activities carried out by your organization.* |

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| **6. Duration of the period covered by the proposed project**  *Note: all the projects must conclude by 30 April 2026* |

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| **7. Please list the main structural causes to GBV addressed in the proposed initiative (if any**).  *Notes:*   * *please explain in less than 500 words* * *If you are applying only for a core grant, list out the structural causes to GBV addressed by your organization.* |

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| **8. What are the objectives of the proposed project?**  *Notes: please explain in less than 300 words; If you are applying only for a core grant, list out the objectives of your organization.* |

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| **9. What are the main activities of the project?**  *Notes: please explain in less than 500 words; If you are applying only for a core grant, list out the activities you plan to carry out during the indicated period.* |

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| **10. What is unique about this initiative? What are the innovative components of the proposed project?**  *Notes: please explain in less than 500 words; If you are applying only for a core grant, list out the innovative approaches you plan to carry out by your organization.* |

Date:

Signature: