



**Uganda Rights and Justice Activity
Cooperative Agreement No. 72061720LA00004**

**Request for Proposals
Promoting Rights and Access to Justice in Uganda
Kampala, 2020**

Issuance Date: - December 29, 2020

Closing Date: - March 31, 2021

Closing time: – Midnight Uganda time

I. Scope of the Rights and Justice Activity

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Uganda Rights and Justice Activity (RAJA) is a three-year, \$5,000,000 activity implemented by Freedom House¹ (FH), which commenced on September 1, 2020. RAJA seeks to ensure that citizens know, use, and shape the law to exercise their civil and political rights in a safe and secure manner. The program aims to ensure that members of vulnerable populations including children who are victims of human rights abuses are supported to access justice, protection, and referral services.

With the overall goal of promoting rights and justice in Uganda, the RAJA Activity will combine technical assistance and financial support to achieve results under three main objectives implemented through partners operating nationally. The specific objectives of RAJA are as follows:

Objective 1: Individuals and organizations defend and maintain a legally enabling environment conducive for civic and political rights and which ensures access to justice, particularly for children.

Objective 2: Individuals and organizations exercising civil and political rights do so more safely and securely.

Objective 3: Members of vulnerable populations such as HRDs, women, children, youth, key populations, and people with disabilities whose rights are violated are able to access remedies.

Rapid Response Fund

Given the ever-evolving political situation in Uganda, especially considering potential human rights issues arising from the upcoming elections in January 2021 and COVID-19

¹ For more information about FH please visit www.freedomhouse.org

pandemic, FH has established a rapid response fund (RRF) under RAJA to respond to unforeseen and/or unexpected human rights opportunities and challenges in the pre- and post-election period in Uganda.

II. Area of Focus and Suggested Interventions

FH intends to award rapid response grants to organizations who propose short-term advocacy projects and protection requests that:

- Relate to the program’s main focus areas:
 - Opening space for political and civic rights
 - Child justice issues
 - Digital and physical security for human rights defenders under threat
 - Access to justice for vulnerable groups
- Establish that there is an urgent need to address the proposed project’s identified area of concentration
- Do not duplicate existing advocacy efforts
- Attempt to coordinate with other partners

Possible illustrative activities for this RRF include, but are not limited, to:

- Rapid assessments, studies, or reports related to limitations on civil and political rights during the election cycle
- Support urgent human rights concerns emerging from the COVID response
- Support for legal advice for or legal representation to journalists or CSOs under attack

III. Eligibility

- Applicants must be:
 - Ugandan not-for-profit or non-governmental organizations that are legally registered and recognized under the laws of Uganda, including human rights networks, not-for-profit organizations registered as a company limited by guarantee, consultancy firms, think tanks, and organizations registered with the NGO Bureau.
- Sub-grants will **not** be extended to the following:
 - Government entities or government owned institutions;
 - Political parties, groupings or institutions of their subsidiaries and affiliates;
 - Organizations that advocate, promote, or espouse anti-democratic, partisan policies or illegal activities;
 - Faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory religious purposes, and whose main objective of the deliverables are of a religious nature; or
 - Any entity whose name appears on the *List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs*.

IV. Funding Limits and Duration of Projects

Projects to be funded under this call for proposal should have very specific programmatic focus and should be time bound. The maximum funding an applicant may request under this call is **\$10,000**. Budgeted costs should correspond to proposed activities, with an implementation period of up to **six months**. A detailed budget indicating unit costs and total project cost should be attached to the application.

V. Application Procedures and Deadline

- Applicants must complete the proposal form attached to this call (**Annex No. 1**) and submit it electronically to kintu@freedomhouse.org Applications submitted using any other format will be ineligible. In the email subject line, state “Promoting rights and access to justice in Uganda,” followed by the name of the organization.
- A confirmation email will be sent within **two days** acknowledging that the proposal has been received. If any applicant does not receive a confirmation email within five days, it is the applicants’ responsibility to follow up on the matter.
- The proposal will be treated with confidentiality and will not be shared with any other entities.
- FH will notify the organization/individual selected for funding to provide additional documents after submission of the application.

VI. Review and Selection

FH will review all proposals using the criteria summarized below:

Criteria	Maximum Points of Score (%)
Quality of project conception/idea	35
Activities to achieve the objectives	35
Cost effectiveness	10
Organizational strength and past performance	20
Total	100

Questions and clarifications

Any questions or request for clarifications related to this call for proposals should be directed to kintu@freedomhouse.org not later than the closing date of the call.

VII. Annex

Applicants are advised to submit application using the template attached to these guidelines marked as **Annex 1**.