



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

**Request for Proposals  
Promoting Rights and Access to Justice in Uganda  
Kampala, 2021**

*Issuance Date: - November 24*  
*Closing Date: - March 31, 2022*  
*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 House<sup>1</sup> (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. The expected result under objective one is increased capacity of CSOs and individuals to advocate for access to justice for all.

**Objective 2:** Individuals and organizations exercising civil and political rights do so more safely and securely. The expected result under objective two is increased technical capacity of CSOs/HRDs to improve their safety and security.

**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. The expected result under objective three is increased access to legal aid for vulnerable groups such as children, HRDs, women, and PWDs.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about FH please visit [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)

## **Rapid Response Fund**

Given the ever-evolving political situation in Uganda, FH has established a rapid response fund (RRF) under RAJA to respond to unforeseen and/or unexpected human rights opportunities and challenges 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:
  - Child justice issues
  - Digital and physical security for human rights defenders under threat
  - Access to justice for vulnerable groups (key populations, children, women, youth and PWDs)
  - Support to journalists/media and key populations under attack
- Establish that there is an urgent need to address the proposed project's identified area of concentration
- Do not duplicate existing advocacy efforts under RAJA
- Coordinate with other partners

Some of the possible illustrative activities for this RRF include, but are not limited, to:

- Support to and protection of key populations organizations and individuals (e.g. legal advice, counselling, and legal representation);
- Support for legal advice, counselling, and legal representation for other CSOs under attack;
- Support to and protection of journalists under attack requiring legal support (e.g. legal advice or legal representation and medical support);
- Support to civil groups and media associations to respond to emerging advocacy issues in the environment;
- Support to and protection of civil society organizations under attack (e.g. legal advice, counselling and legal representation);
- Support to urgent human rights concerns emerging from current operating civic space and COVID-19 response;
- Strategic meetings with government officials on key matters;
- Radio/social media campaigns and other platforms to raise awareness of or laws/policies and other emerging issues affecting human rights, child justice, and access to justice for all;
- Support urgent human rights concerns emerging from the COVID-19 response;
- Support to and protection of women, children, and PWDs whose rights have been violated and are in need of legal support, counselling, and legal representation; and
- Analysis and commentary on upcoming legislation.



### 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 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 **\$15,000**. 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 1**) and submit it electronically to [kintu@freedomhouse.org](mailto: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.
- The budget should be submitted in Excel using the template marked as **Annex 2**.
- 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Questions and clarifications

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

## VII. Annexes

Applicants are advised to submit proposals using the template attached to these guidelines marked as Annex 1. Budgets should be submitted in excel using the template marked as Annex 2. The budget should be accompanied with budget notes.