

**ToR for a consultancy on:  
Protecting social action for peace 20/00021-23**

The purpose of this consultancy is to secure quality program development and implementation when implementing NCA supported peacebuilding in communities affected by violent conflict.

## **1. Background**

Within the new NCA program framework 2020 – 2030, the peacebuilding program has five sub-goals:

1. Promoting social cohesion and countering violent extremism.
2. Safe reintegration of women and girls associated with violent extremism into society.
3. Peace structures prevent and transform conflict.
4. Peace processes are inclusive
5. Protection of social action for peace

Sub-goal number 5 is formulated on the premise that human rights violations are a key driver of violence and conflict; and that a vibrant civil society is critical in preventing them. Also, NCA's peacebuilding programme understands civil society actions as crucial for inclusive peace processes that lead to sustainable peace. However, in countries where NCA operates, the space for social action to prevent conflict and sustain peace is continuously reduced, peace activists face great risk. Hence, NCA partners with and aims to increasingly support human rights defenders and peace activists, to develop strategies and approaches for navigating closed civic spaces in the legal, financial, public, and physical domains.

NCA teams on the field have a good understanding of challenges faced by civil society in their contexts and they have identified legal and physical threats to be the more pressing ones. However, NCA country offices have highlighted their need for more access to training and technical resources for their staff on this field.

This is an area of complementarity and collaboration with other NCA programmes that strengthen civil society. In particular, collaboration is essential with NCA's "Fighting Inequality" Strategic Initiative that supports advocacy work of local civil society in countries where the Peacebuilding programme is not present. Finally, NCA should seek to coordinate with the ACT alliance in this field and specifically with the new task group on "shrinking space for civil society", created with the objective of overseeing the development of a sub-strategy for the ACT Alliance to address the shrinking space for civil society.

## **2. Scope of the work**

This is an external consultancy focusing on mapping existing experiences, tools, guides, training opportunities and available experts (in particular within the ACT alliance) in the field of protecting social action for peace.

The consultant will produce a reference guide for NCA country offices engaged in PB including:

- A summary of lessons learnt from NCA's and ACT agencies' experience in protecting social action and key recommendations originating from them.
- A recapitulation of external expertise, documentation, trainings and tools that NCA offices and partners could use to:
  - o Understand and manage protection risks.
  - o Deal with threats for the physical security of activists
  - o Deal with legal threats for activists

This is a desk review and no travelling is required. The work will be supervised by the NCA peacebuilding advisors at NCA Head Office. The consultancy will take place during October - November 2020.

### 3. Methodology

Desk research, collecting/mapping and analysing information from secondary sources. The consultant should also conduct interviews with a limited number of key informants (including resource persons from the ACT Alliance network), who could provide references to current trends and best practices. The mapping should include resources and best practices relevant/specific for the faith-based character of many NCA partners. The consultant will review and get acquainted with relevant NCA's peacebuilding documents. The consultant shall commit to protect the rights and confidentiality of informants and abide by "do no harm" principles. Data and information collected during the assignment will be used for the purpose of the assignment only and handed over to NCA once the assignment is completed.

### 4. Deliverables

- An **inception report** (max. 5 pages) detailing the proposed methodology, work plan and approach. The inception report will include a list of key informants to be interviewed and their institutional connections. The inception report is due seven days after the signing of the consultancy.
- A **final report/Reference guide** of max 20 pages, excluding annexes, written in English, and providing the information detailed above in addition to:
  - The list of sources reviewed should be listed as an annex.
  - The list of key informants and their institutional linkages should also be included as an annex.
  - At least 5 recent examples of best practices should be included. At least two of them should be examples of how faith-based institutions and religious actors are dealing with protection issues to their social action.
  - A draft report should be submitted to NCA for review and inputs at the latest 6 days before the completion date of the consultancy.

### 5. Duration and working days

The deliverables outlined above shall be completed within a period of up to 8 weeks after the signature of the contract.

### 6. Qualifications and skills

- University degree in any relevant field (i.e. Peace studies, Human Rights, security/protection, Development Studies, Social Sciences).
- Experience from working in the field of social action
- Excellent Analytical and Report writing skills
- Self-starter with an ability to work with minimal supervision
- Excellent oral and written skills English.

### 7. Submission of Proposals

Proposal submission form and a cover letter with attached CV should be submitted to [fepi@nca.no](mailto:fepi@nca.no) by 16:00 CET October 8th, 2020