**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**Baseline Survey**

**Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTIE) Project**

 **Date: 22 September 2018**

1. Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), a national non-governmental legal services organisation hereby solicits your bid for the above subject, in accordance with this document and the annex attached.
2. This Request for proposal consists of this document and the Annexure - Terms of Reference – **Baseline Survey under Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTIE) Project.**
3. Consultants shall submit a Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal, which shall be valid for 15 days from the deadline of submission of proposals.  The Technical Proposal shall demonstrate that the consultant will be able to meet the objectives of the TOR within the time frame stated.
4. Rates or Prices of the Proposal shall be inclusive of VAT and Tax.
5. Rates shall be quoted and, subsequent payments under this Agreement shall be made in BDT (Taka) currency. The price offered by the bidders, if accepted, shall remain fixed for the duration of the Agreement.
6. Consultants must have legal capacity to enter into the Agreement. The consultants, in support of its qualification, is required to submit certified photocopies of the latest documents related to a) Trade License, b) Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate, and d) VAT Registration Certificate; without these the Quotation may be considered non-responsive**.**
7. BLAST reserves the right to reject all the Proposals or the procurement proceedings. It can also reserves the right to terminate the contract if it is not satisfied with the performance, such as quality and progress of the work. In case of termination payment will not be made. Copyright of will remain with the BLAST.
8. The Technical and Financial Proposals of the Consultants shall be submitted through email to purchase@blast.org.bd under the subject line of **‘Proposal: Baseline Survey under Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTIE) Project’**.
9. The deadline for submission of the Proposals is **29 September 2018, Saturday, not later than 05:00**

**Annex 1**

**Terms of Reference**

**For**

**Baseline Survey under Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment (PRiTIE) Project**

**1. Background:**

Bangladesh has undertaken policies to address gender discrimination, signed up to SDGs and human rights treaties (including CEDAW, albeit with reservations), and has a plethora of laws, policies and programmes that target gender discrimination. Broad political commitments are also in place. However, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) continue to be denied through the prevalence of patriarchal institutions, social norms, and discriminatory laws and practices. Child, early and forced marriage still remain widespread, with one of the highest rate of marriage under 16 in the world. In such cases, as with forced/coerced marriage, individual’s choice to marriage remains largely unaddressed. The recent enactment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 failed to set a minimum age of marriage for girls, and includes a special provision exempting certain underage marriages from its ambit which also results in marriage without consent. Besides this, gender diversity is not widely recognised, resulting in significant violations related to the denial of information and decision making connected to personal lives, in particular rights within the family and regarding sexuality. For example, Section 377 of the Penal Code 1860 is treated as criminalising same sex relationships. Under such social circumstances, young adults often do not receive necessary information growing up about their SRH rights and are not aware of possible violations which can cause severe and lasting harm. The absence of dialogue also affects young men in a society where discrimination against women and girls is already prevalent, who are ignorant of, or unwilling to respect women’s rights to choice and consent. The experiences of LGBT individuals in this matter are almost wholly unaddressed (except now in the context of Hijra communities). There is also generally a lack of SRHR training for service providers. Innovative frontline services such as one-stop crisis and victim support centres exist, but these are limited to certain urban centres. Despite legislative developments, social norms continue to sanction violence in the family, and a culture of victim blaming and stigma means that women and adolescent girls are discouraged from speaking about sexual harassment and violence they experience.

It is particularly essential to build the spirit of combatting issues of discrimination, upholding and respecting SRHR, and working towards bringing about reforms to address the gaps in laws and policies. Based on this context BLAST has initiated a project *Promoting Rights through Inclusion and Empowerment-PRiTIE* with funding from RFSU. The project duration is from May 2018 to December 2020. Through this initiative, we will seek to address issues relating to the recognition and realization of SRHR. This intervention aims to target laws, practices, service provision and enhanced participation and capacity of rights holders and duty bearers with regards to SRHR through its activities. It is expected that by engaging rights holders and service providers (seeing as they are young professionals and/or students) through innovative initiatives, selected individuals’ knowledge and capacity to stand for their own rights as well as for others will increase. Our mandate through this intervention is not only to advocate for the rights of individuals, but also to create safe spaces, opportunities and methods for them to be directly involved in advocating for their own rights and protecting them.

**2. Project Objectives:**

* To address **discriminatory laws, policies and practices** related to marriage and sexual violence in the context of Bangladesh and international human rights standards
* To create **platforms for University students and young professionals in the project area** to express their views and experiences on their freedom to express, choose and consent to matters related to their own lives, and **strengthen their knowledge and understanding** and increase their participation in ensuring their rights
* To enhance the **capacity of service providers on sexual and reproductive health and rights**

**3. Scope of Work:**

A baseline survey will be conducted in order to understand the situation regarding SRHR knowledge, attitude and practices of young people, mainly university students from public and private universities and young professionals; assess opportunities to access SRHR services; and assess the degree of freedom of choice and opportunity to give consent in the matters related to SRHR. The baseline survey will analyse existing legal and policy framework of SRHR related laws and policies to identify the policy gaps. The findings will help us achieve the following objectives:

1. Addressing issues relating to the recognition and realization of SRHR, first on research and advocacy to reform discriminatory laws and policies
2. Addressing the lack of sufficient dialogues on SRHR among young people and duty bearers to build their capacity to enable better service provision
3. Addressing discrimination and existing gaps in laws and policies in order to undertake regional and national advocacy with various stakeholders
4. Building on findings and experiences gathered from the above activities and generating content for wider social media publishing and advocacy to highlight the issues being addressed or those that need to be addressed.

**4. Geographical Areas:**

The baseline study will be conducted nationally and locally - Barishal, Dhaka, Khulna, Kushtia, Rangpur, Sylhet.

**5. Methodology:**

The baseline survey shall adopt both qualitative and quantitative methods to collect data from both primary and secondary sources. This study will focus on participatory method that actively engages all stakeholders. It is envisaged that the following method will be applied:

* Conduct a primary survey in the project locations using appropriate methodology using both quantitative and qualitative method
* The sample size for this baseline survey will be appropriately selected. The consultant/s must be ensured that the procedure of sample design causes the least sampling error.
* Secondary document review and analysis must be included in the proposal should indicating the methodology of legal and policy framework analysis.
* Whatever methodology is used, the study design, the data collection and analysis should be done in a way that is able to generate findings consistent with the study objectives.
* Data analysis plan, data quality management and ethical considerations must be reflected in the methodology part.

**6. Deliverables:**

The study will be led by a Consulting firm/consultant/s with experience in field research, focusing on SRHR. The consultant/s/firm will be responsible for following deliverables:

1. Carrying out secondary data review
2. Developing baseline study methodology
3. Developing data collection tools
4. Training of study enumerators.
5. Developing study sampling methodology
6. Inception report
7. Field baseline study, including data collection through questionnaire survey, interviews and focus group discussions etc.
8. Producing draft report and presentation
9. Study dataset in hard and electronic copy
10. Final baseline report

**7. Period of Performance:**

The baseline survey is planned to be conducted in the project areas in 01October-15November 2018 (45 days).

**8. Eligibility for Submission of Proposal:**

Consultant/s/firms are required to have expertise and a minimum of 5 years of experience in the following:

* Consultant team must have relevant educational background and experiences of similar works
* Experience in conducting research and evaluations on SRHR issues
* Experience on legal and policy framework analysis
* Experience conducting socio-legal researches
* Experience in working with the rights based organisations
* Should have strong background of gender analysis
* Should have experience of young people/university students and gender diverse community
* Experience in disseminating study findings at national level policy advocacy forums.
1. **Proposal Assessment Standards:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **SL** |  **Description** | **Weight** |
| 1 | Conceptual Framework/Understanding the tasks | 30 |
| 2  | Methodology and sampling  | 15 |
| 4 | Work Plan | 10 |
| 5 | Team composition and staffing  | 15 |
| 6 | Work Experience of organization/team members | 10 |
| 7 | Financial Proposal | 20 |
|  | Total | 100 |

**10. Payment Schedule**

* 20% on submission of methodology and tools;
* 30 % on submission and acceptance of first draft report;
* 50% after satisfactory delivery of the final Report.
* VAT and Income tax will be deducted at source from the total contracted amount as per applicable Government rules.