RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Call for Collaborative Human Rights Research Project Proposals

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (hereinafter "RWI"), Lund, Sweden, is launching a call (hereinafter "Call") for research project proposals from academics and civil society organization representatives in Armenia interested in developing capacities in producing human rights research in English, as part of RWI's Armenia Programme 2020-2022. Academic scholars from Armenian universities together with representatives of civil society organizations in Armenia are eligible to apply to the call with a collaborative research project. Research projects focusing on current human rights issues in Armenia must be carried out during the period 25 May 2021 – 31 October 2022 and result in a research report. Research applications and the working language of the capacity development activities will be English. Financial support for the capacity development activities is provided by Swedish development cooperation.

The closing date for submitting a research project proposal is 17 May 2021.

Call Objectives and Priority Areas of Research

The overall objective of RWI's Armenia programme is that Armenian academia and other key actors and selected policy-makers, by 2022, will increase their capacities to apply international human rights standards in support of the ongoing reforms. The specific objective of this call is to:

- Increase capacities of academic scholars and civil society organization (CSO) representatives to produce and disseminate human rights knowledge through collaborative research projects

The call specifically targets academic scholars and civil society organization representatives in Armenia that have the capacity to work and present their research in English (both orally and in writing). Interested applicants should apply as a research team consisting of a minimum of three persons and maximum of five persons. The team should represent both academic scholars and CSO representatives interested in working on human rights issues currently relevant in Armenia (e.g. rule of law, disability, gender, right of the child, civil, political, economic social and cultural rights, business and human rights, sustainable development and the environment, etc.).

The organizers encourage applications where collaboration between academics and CSO representatives will occur throughout the research process, from identification of the research problem to the completion of a final report. Such high level of collaboration would preferable entail that both the academic scholars and the CSO partner/s are engaged significantly in the research, making a substantial contribution during the development of the research and in connection with its findings and deliverables.

The selected participants will be offered tailored capacity development activities with the aim to further increase their skills and knowledge on how to produce human rights research of a high academic quality, and to facilitate effective collaboration between academics and CSOs. The purpose of working in English is to expand participants' access to networks, resources, and academic communities, and to contribute to the dissemination of Armenian human rights research to audiences outside of Armenia.

The Call encourages research proposals that explore topics related to the Armenian national reform agenda and to RWI's four thematic focus areas:

- *Fair and efficient justice:* Projects exploring the relation of international human rights standards and the constitutional framework in Armenia are welcomed, including the legal relevance and impact in the national legal system of the European Convention on Human Rights and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. Studies analysing the mandates and competences of different public bodies responsible for the domestication of human rights standards are also encouraged.
- *People on the move*: Projects could propose to explore migration dynamics relevant for Armenia, including asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons;
- *Inclusive societies:* Projects could focus on the rights of persons with disabilities; women's rights and gender equality; children's rights; the rights of ethno-cultural, religious, and linguistic minorities or other groups in situation of vulnerability. Projects focusing on the development of specific institutional set-ups that could contribute to the realization of human rights at local levels are also encouraged (e.g. human rights cities, ombudsman, public-private partnerships, etc.);
- *Economic Globalization and Human Rights:* Projects analysing the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the protection of the environment at national levels are welcomed. Studies focusing on the relevance of business and human rights and the role of national authorities regarding the protection of the environment and climate change are also encouraged.

For more information regarding each thematic area, please visit www.rwi.lu.se

Eligibility

- Academic faculty members and researchers from Armenian universities are eligible to apply together with representatives of civil society organizations.
- Only joint applications made by a research team of academic scholars and civil society organization representatives will be accepted.
- Each project proposal should be developed and submitted by a research team consisting of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of five (5) members representing both the academia and civil society organizations, and in which at least two members should be affiliated to academic institutions/universities.
- RWI strongly encourages applications from research teams that include members from different universities and disciplines, in order to strengthen interuniversity and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Only applicants capable to work in English (written and orally) will be accepted to the programme. An evaluation of the selected participants' level of English will be based not only on their documented linguistic skills and capacities (e.g. TOEFL, Cambridge or equivalent certificates), but also on both the text of the research project proposal and an individual interview (via Skype, Zoom or a similar internet-based tool).
- Proposals must demonstrate necessary support by the applicant's dean or head of organization (or equivalent).

Scope of Research Activities

Five research proposals[1] will be accepted to participate. The selected participants will get the opportunity to:

1) Participate in an online workshop and an online training module on research methodology (June 2021).
   The workshop and online module will further develop the capacities of the participants in order to refine and develop their research projects.
2) Receive support from a mentor/academic contact person (June-October 2021).
   Each research team will be assigned a mentor who will be able to support the team in developing the research project from distance (email, Skype, Zoom, etc) or through physical meetings when/if possible.
3) Participate in workshop/progress meeting (October 2021).
   Depending on the development of the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions, the workshop will be organized online or through a physical meeting in Armenia. The progress meeting will be an opportunity to assess the advancement of the research projects and receive feedback from national and international experts.
4) Participation in workshop/final meeting (January 2022)[2].
   The final meeting will be an opportunity to present the result of their research project and to discuss and receive feedback on the first draft of their research papers/reports from academic peers and invited experts.
5) Participation in a national conference on human rights in Armenia (March 2022)
   A national conference on human rights will be organized in Armenia by RWI and local counterparts. The conference will be an opportunity for the research teams to disseminate the results of the research to a wider audience in Armenia and invited international scholars and actors, by presenting and discussing the final advance draft of their research papers/reports.
6) Publication of the results (September/October 2022)
   The final version of the research papers/reports submitted by each them will go through a peer-review mechanism in order to guarantee high academic quality and standard. After the peer review process, RWI reserves the right to publish the best-selected papers/reports in its own publication outlets or in partnership with a publication house.

It is obligatory for the selected participants to participate in all activities. All selected participants will be required to sign a letter of commitment if their research proposal is accepted.

Expected Outputs

As a final output of the conducted research, each research team is required to produce and submit a final research paper/report (12,500 to 15,000 words), before 1 September 2022.

Costs Covered by RWI

RWI will fully cover the costs of local travel and accommodation to events organized in Armenia. RWI will provide each research team with a grant, in accordance with the recommendations given by the Selection Committee and in light of the supplied simplified budget. As a point of reference, budgets for research projects should not exceed 2000 EUR.

---

[1] RWI reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of research grants awarded on the basis of the scope and content of and costs associated with the selected proposals and in light of available budgetary resources.

[2] These are preliminary dates which might be changed if restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus will incluence the implementation and organization of planned activities.

Application Procedure
Please attach and e-mail the following documents by **17 May 2021** to Maria Vardanyan: maria.vardanyan@rwi.lu.se

1. **Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) of all members of the research team**
2. **Research proposal (2000-3000 words)** – A short description of the research to be conducted. The research proposal should contain:
   (1) a brief description of the research problem addressed
   (2) a short account of the main research question(s) and methodology that are planned to be used;
   (3) an explanation of how the research is relevant to the national context of Armenia and one (or more) of RWI's thematic focus areas;
   (4) a description of the novelty and necessity of the research;
   (5) the practical relevance of the research;
   (6) a research plan: briefly outline when and where the different components of the research project shall be carried out in relation to desk study, data collection, field research, etc;
   (7) a clear division of roles and responsibilities of the research team members in relation to the research proposal
   (8) an account of the feasibility of conducting and finalising the research by January 2022.
   (9) a simplified budget outlining each cost associated with carrying out the research project and a rationale for each expenditure (e.g. travels and field research within Armenia or abroad if relevant to the research project, study visits, materials, etc.).
3. **Motivation letter from each research team member (200-600 words)** – A personal statement explaining your interest in human rights (personally and/or professionally), why you should be chosen as a participant and what you hope to achieve through this initiative.

Important: All documents should be presented in English.

An email confirmation that your application has been received will be sent to all applicants. If you have not received said confirmation within one or two business days please resend your application until a confirmation is received.

Evaluation of Proposals
All research proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee comprised of RWI staff having relevant research, human rights and contextual expertise. The following factors, among others, will be taken into consideration when evaluating proposals: quality of the written proposal, i.e. clarity, organisation and design; relevance and benefit in relation to thematic focus areas of the Call; feasibility of the research project (scope, time, qualifications of applicant(s) and budget, etc.); and potential for broader dissemination and impact to different relevant audiences in and outside Armenia.

Timeline
1. Closing date for submitting a research grant proposal: **17 May 2021**[3]
2. Notification to applicants of the Selection Committee's decision: on or before: **25 May 2021**
3. Participation at the 1st research methodology workshop (online): **11 June 2021**

[3] RWI reserves the right to extend the deadline if a sufficient number of applications has not been received. This will also entail an extension of the decision notification date. Should the just said be warranted all concerned parties will be duly notified via email and the Call updated.

4. Participation in online research methodology module: **June 2021**
5. Participation in 2nd research workshop/progress meeting: **October 2021**
6. Participation in 3rd research workshop/final meeting: **January 2022**
7. Participation in national human rights conference: **March 2022**
8. Submission of the final version of research report: **September 2022**