



Concept Paper Submission for Generation Equality Forum Mobilization Grants April 2021

Background and Context:

Building off the tremendous efforts stemming from the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) is a civil society-centered gathering of global advocates aimed at continuing the march toward gender equality by 2025.¹ Convened by UN Women and co-hosted by Mexico and France, this forum has identified six themes, and created action coalitions for each, that are integral for progress on gender equality

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a global research institute with headquarters in Washington, D.C., and regional offices in Nairobi, Kenya, and New Delhi, India. ICRW is partnering with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to provide “surge support” to GEF to advocate for policy commitments over a 5-year time horizon across the six action coalition themes. ICRW is providing direct support to governments and GEF partners including policy analysis and technical support that will help drive bold, ambitious and evidence-based commitments to advance gender equality that can be announced as part of the Generation Equality Forum events in 2021.

As part of this work, we are seeking advocacy partners who can complement and extend ICRW’s scope by conducting an intensive, five-month period of direct and/or coalition advocacy with their governments encouraging robust, ambitious and evidence-based [commitments](#) under any of the six Action Coalitions and/or the Women Peace and Security Compact. Through these grants, we are looking to support meaningful civil society engagement in the GEF process, and collective action and organizing to encourage governments to make bold commitments on gender responsive policies and laws, national budgets and COVID-19 recovery plans, among other commitments. ICRW’s goal is to deepen our advocacy and consultation with different stakeholders through new opportunities to mobilize political will and policy recommendations to advance gender equality in the months leading up to the Forum.

Towards those efforts, we are inviting you to apply for the ***GEF Mobilization and Coordination grant*** that will support the following strategies:

- ***Policy Advocacy:*** Lead and support implementation of regional, national, state or local policies that respond to the actions, tactics and commitments developed across the

¹ Retrieved from: [Generation Equality Forum](#).



six Action Coalition blueprints through coordinated messaging and advocacy. Mobilize advocates to raise awareness and amplify collective advocacy towards the Paris Forum engaging diverse groups including grassroots organizations and build momentum to strategize and strengthen accountability and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that governments are implementing their commitments.

- **Organizing + Leadership Development:** Build power and support movement building through feminist organizing and leadership in the form of digital and technical advocacy trainings to strengthen relationships, analysis, and capacity to make collective asks and accelerate action on critical GEF priorities in their own countries.

Grant Amount Range: USD \$25K-\$50K

Concept Note Submission Information:

ICRW is inviting concept papers for a 5-month grant with an end date of September 30, 2021. Please submit a concept note to advocacyicrw@gmail.com and cc Gisselle Flores at gflores@icrw.org by **Friday, April 30, 2021**. Your concept note should include a description of the work along with the following:

- Clearly define how your proposed work fits with ICRW strategic goals (at least one or more of the strategic priorities) outlined above.
- Provide a sense of the scope of your activities and nature of your work including:
 - which Action Coalition/s or Compact you are focusing on in your advocacy
 - which themes or sub-themes, proposed actions, commitments and/or tactics you will champion
 - which government/s or regional mechanism/s you are aiming to influence, and how

Please limit submission to 2-3 pages and include the grant amount that you are requesting. Along with the concept note, i) complete and submit the [budget template \(click here to download\)](#) detailing the approximate project budget for the five-month grant term, ii) submit proof of legal status, and iii) your organizational budget (2020-2021).

You are welcome to submit a joint application in collaboration with other partners for a special initiative or project (with one partner as the lead organization).

We are accepting applications in the following languages: *English, Spanish, Swahili ad Urdu*. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity on ICRW's team and timeframe, we will not be able to accept applications in other languages at this time. Applications will be reviewed by ICRW's Policy and Advocacy team in consultation with the donor. We will inform all candidates of the decision in early May 2021.



Eligibility Criteria:

ICRW will prioritize organizations that fulfil the following:

- Women of color centered and led, girl-led and young feminist networks, collectives and organizations.
- Bring an intersectional and feminist analysis that pushes for structural change
- Status as a 501 (c) (3), registered as a non-profit or have a fiscal sponsor.
- Global south based, and self-identified feminist networks, organizations and collectives are encouraged to apply

ICRW is a 501C3 and does not support any activities to carry out lobbying. Grant funds must not be earmarked for subsequent lobbying use to influence legislation, either by direct or grassroots lobbying.