

The Baring Foundation

Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme

A collaboration with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Legal Education
Foundation

Call for tenders for a learning partner

The Baring Foundation is pleased to announce a call for tenders for a learning partner to support our Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme. Our new learning partner will act as a critical friend to the Foundation, our funding partners and grantees – pulling together the threads of promising activity from projects, scanning the wider field and proposing options for further commissioned research and convening.

The successful partner will be willing and able to provide thoughtful and dynamic guidance on the opportunities and challenges the programme faces, frame the debate and determine an exciting action research agenda.

£30,000 per year is available from the Baring Foundation to fund the work of the learning partner. The partnership is intended to run for three years, reviewed annually.

Tenders must be received by **5pm on 30 October 2017**. Organisations or individuals shortlisted for the grant will be interviewed on **21 November 2017**.

If you are interested in tendering you should discuss your proposal with David Sampson at the Baring Foundation well in advance of the deadline. Contact details are provided at the end of this call for tenders.

A. The Baring Foundation

The Baring Foundation is an independent foundation working to improve the quality of life of people experiencing disadvantage and discrimination. We aim to achieve this through making grants to voluntary and other civil society organisations and by adding value including through promoting knowledge and influencing others.

B. The Strengthening the Voluntary Sector programme

The Strengthening the Voluntary Sector (STVS) programme supports effective use of the law and human rights based approaches by the voluntary sector in the United Kingdom. It is a collaboration with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Legal Education Foundation.

We see the law and human rights based approaches as important tools for the voluntary sector. They can provide a means to tackle directly the discrimination and disadvantage faced by vulnerable people and to create and protect the space in which voluntary organisations operate, helping to safeguard the freedom of purpose, action and voice of the sector as a whole. There are great examples of voluntary sector organisations who have used these tools effectively in these ways.

However, use of the law and human rights based approaches is far from consistent across the voluntary sector and many organisations see no link between these tools and their purpose, strategy and activities, or are wary of using them. This programme aims to boost engagement and to support organisations within the broader voluntary sector to make effective use of the law and human rights based approaches.

The programme aims to support voluntary sector organisations to:

- understand when, how and where the law or human rights based approaches can be effective tools to tackle directly discrimination and disadvantage and safeguard the freedom of purpose, action and voice of the voluntary sector;
- build sustainable collaborations and partnerships between organisations that leverage existing expertise within the sector to use the law and human rights based approaches;
- develop additional capacity to use the law and human rights within broader movements for social change;
- translate frontline activity into effective advocacy and policy change; and
- create the evidence base to support new streams of funding for this activity.

In 2016 and 2017 grants have been awarded in two forms:

- training, education and capacity building – seed funding grants of up to £30,000 over six months to two years that support organisations to understand how their objectives can be achieved through use of the law or human rights based approaches; and
- applied projects – grants of up to £150,000 over three years to create new capacity for work that addresses specific discrimination or disadvantage and safeguards the freedom of purpose, action and voice of the sector, linking the skills of ‘non-legal’ and ‘legal’ organisations to enhance and complement campaigns for social change.

A number of research pieces have also been commissioned.

These pilot funds were deliberately designed to test appetite for the programme and to get a sense of the different approaches the voluntary sector was using and/or wanted to use to meet the programme's aims. The theory of change is enclosed as Appendix 1.

Over two years, we have awarded 36 grants to a value of £2,427,576. Competition for these awards has been intense, with a total of 433 applications – a success rate of 7.1% in 2016 and 10% in 2017. It has seen a good spread of grants, with projects in all four countries of the UK. The work also engages with a wide range of thematic issues and takes a variety of approaches to meet project outcomes. A list of the grants awarded to date is enclosed as Appendix 2.

Given this level of interest, we plan to continue our focus on the structures and environment required to enable effective use of the law and human rights based approaches by the voluntary sector. Over the next three years we intend, among other things, to offer support to:

- build the capacity of non-legal organisations to use the law and human rights;
- build the capacity of legal organisations to engage with and support the broader sector in using the law and human rights based approaches to effect change; and
- create an environment where relationships between legal and non-legal organisations are fostered, sustained and beneficial.

In 2018, we are likely to focus the programme on how expert legal organisations act as effective 'hubs' for use of the law. We may also explore how the programme can support place-based approaches to achieve our aims.

Of course, our future grant funding will be informed by the work of all of our partners, including the learning partner.

Further background on the programme is available [here](#).

C. Our aims for a learning partner

We do not want a learning partner to act purely as an evaluator or researcher for the programme – our aim is to develop a dynamic relationship, where the learning partner:

- challenges the assumptions underpinning the programme;
- actively seeks out and draws together emerging practice from our grants;
- is capable of being supportive, open and honest when things are going less well;
- scans the horizon for best practice at a domestic and international level;
- develops appropriate and sensitive methods of data collection;
- proposes options for further research; and

- supports our strategy for disseminating our learning, including through convening relevant stakeholders.

At the end of three years, we expect this work to have increased understanding of and engagement with the law and human rights based approaches among our four key audiences:

- non-legal civil society organisations;
- legal civil society organisations;
- funders; and
- policymakers.

To achieve this, our learning partner will need to co-create their agenda with the Baring Foundation, our funding partners and our grantees. We recognise that this process will not be linear and that capturing emerging thinking may lead to different questions and approaches as the work progresses. Of course, the shape of the programme will also shift over time, as we make further grants.

We want to embrace this approach, which is why we do not list key outputs or timelines here. We are very happy to discuss our current thinking on our aims and plans in advance of the tender submission deadline.

D. About you

We welcome tenders from any qualified organisation, including not-for-profit organisations, companies and universities. Individuals may also submit a tender, but will need to demonstrate that they have the skills, capacity and infrastructure to meet all our aims for a learning partner.

We expect any learning partner to reflect our values, to identify strongly with the aims of the programme and to develop relationships of trust and confidence with all partners.

We will appoint a learning partner with:

- a demonstrable history of engagement with the voluntary sector; and
- an understanding of the role of research and evaluation, including commissioning.

A legal and/or human rights background and experience of organising conferences and convenings are desirable.

However, this role is also about building, managing and sustaining relationships – we want a learning partner who will be part of a team, contribute to shared goals and be sensitive to

different views and perspectives. Your ability to work with a range of stakeholders will be key to the appointment.

We want a learning partner who is proactive, able to manage a varied workload and capable of accounting for their activities.

E. Time frame

We expect the learning partner to begin work in January 2018 for a three year period. Performance and outputs will be assessed and the contract renewed on an annual basis.

A meeting of all grantees will take place in early 2018 – this will be a key opportunity to frame the work of the learning partner. You will be involved in planning this meeting.

F. Budget

£30,000 per year for three years is available to fund the learning partner.

Some further budget will be earmarked to commission research and cover convening expenses.

G. Timetable

Call for tenders	26 September 2017
Deadline for tender submissions	30 October 2017 (5pm)
Notification of shortlisting	9 November 2017
Interviews for shortlisted tenders	21 November 2017
Contract awarded	12 December 2017
Work commences	1 January 2018

Full details of the terms and conditions will be provided following award of the contract.

H. Tender

In order to consider your tender, we must receive the following by **5pm on 30 October 2017**:

- i. A completed grant application form (to be completed online [here](#))
- ii. Proposal

Proposals must be no more than 2,000 words. They should be presented under the following headings:

- **Role of the learning partner** – your response to this call for tenders. What is your vision for the role of a learning partner? What do you see as the initial lines of enquiry? What are the key opportunities and challenges that the programme faces?;
- **Your experience** – details of you and/or your organisation. Please include a general background, experience specifically relevant to this tender and how you meet the specifications at (D) above; and
- **Finance** – how you plan to budget and account for the learning partner role, including the level of capacity likely to be available given the proposed budget. Please note, a full budget will be developed in discussion with the Baring Foundation following appointment.

- iii. CV

The CV of all individuals key to the role of the learning partner.

- iv. References

The contact details of three referees, who are willing to speak about your experience relevant to this tender.

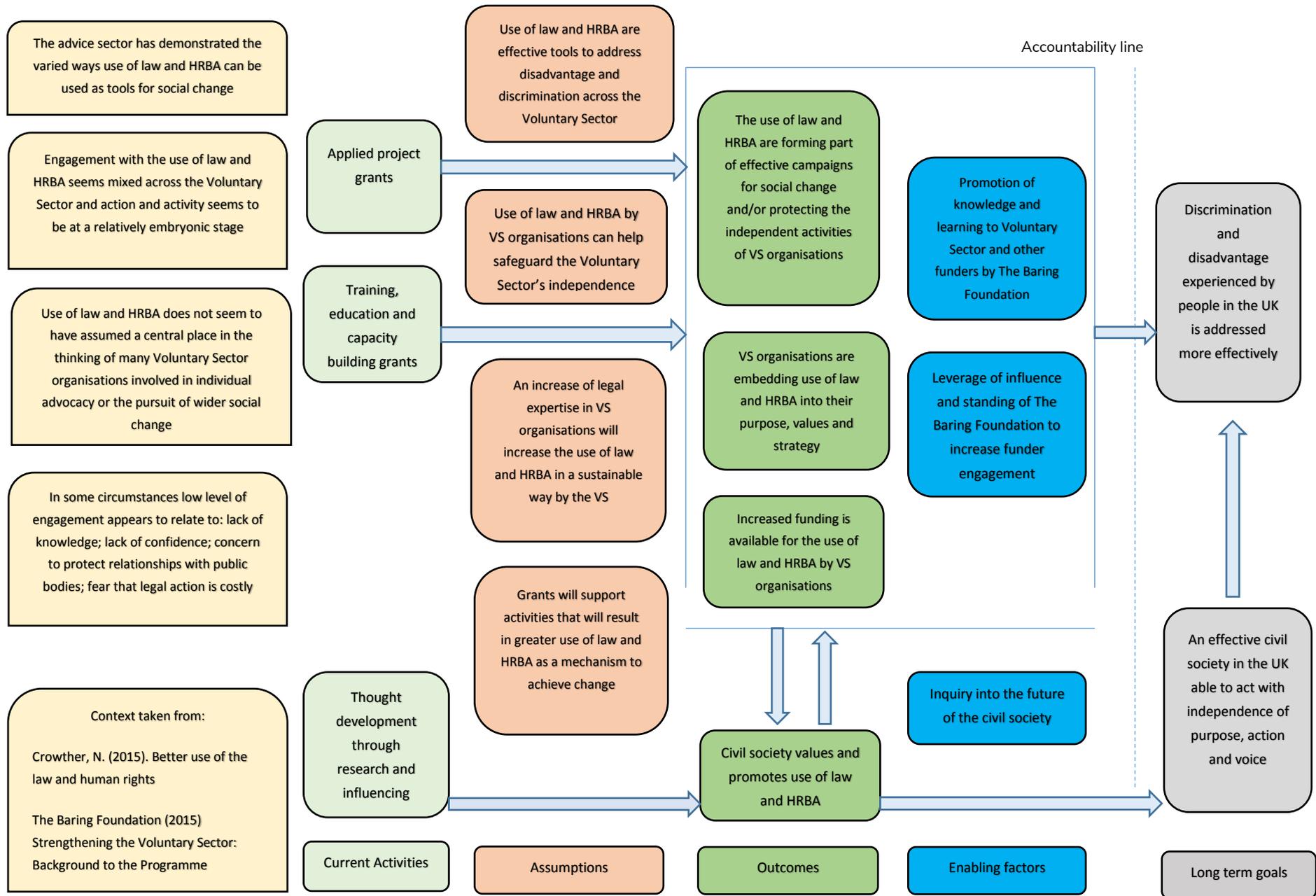
All the documents required for this application should be submitted through our online [applications portal](#). You will be able to upload your attachments at page 3 of the form.

I. Contact

If you are interested in tendering you should discuss your proposal with David Sampson at the Baring Foundation well in advance of the deadline.

David is available by email at david.sampson@ing.com or by telephone on 020 7767 1136.

Appendix 1: Strengthening the Voluntary Sector Programme: Theory of Change



Appendix 2: Grants awarded

First funding round – awards made in February 2016

Type	Organisation	Grant	Description
Applied £1,020,105	Central England Law Centre	£150,000	To build a public law and human rights based approach within grassroots and advocacy organisations to ensure girls and young women in care receive appropriate support.
	Equality and Diversity Forum	£132,245	To further develop and roll out the Equality and Human Rights Framework for the voluntary and community sector.
	Inclusion London	£150,000	To support Deaf and Disabled people's organisations to secure Disabled people's rights under the Human Rights Act, Care Act and Equality Act and to scrutinise public sector decision making.
	Children's Rights Alliance England, part of Just for Kids Law	£149,760	To ensure the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child are fully utilised as an advocacy tool by voluntary sector organisations.
	Maternity Action	£138,100	To support grassroots community organisations in effectively using the law and adopting human rights approaches to ensure vulnerable migrant women obtain essential care and services during pregnancy and new motherhood.
	Minority Ethnic Carers of Older People Project	£150,000	To develop voluntary sector skills and capacity to challenge local authority decision making on individual service/ budget allocations using human rights, community care and equalities legislation.
	Public Law Project	£150,000	To develop and instigate a strategic legal response to the national issue of benefit sanctioning.
	TE&CB £311,537	Civil Liberties Trust	£30,000 over 9 months
Birthrights		£29,710 over one year	To create and evaluate an accessible human rights in childbirth education and resources programme while growing organisational capacity.
Brighton and Hove Impetus		£13,453 over one year	To share learning with voluntary sector and other partner organisations on using the Care Act, Human Rights Act and Equality Act to tackle the lack of support and appropriate assessment for parents with learning disabilities
Community Law Advice Network (Clan Childlaw)		£29,993 over 14 months	To build the capacity of the Strategic Litigation Group to promote the use of law and human rights within the voluntary sector working with children.
Migrants' Law Project		£30,000 over 15 months	To develop and expand its work in building capacity among organisations working with asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants to utilise the law and legal strategies
Centre for Women's Justice		£30,000	To help establish the organisation.

		over 18 months	
	Freshwinds	£29,926 over 18 months	To create and deliver training packages and practical information to guide and support third sector organisations in using the Care Act 2014.
	Pembrokeshire People First	£30,000 over 18 months	To incorporate use of the law into its advocacy work.
	Blue Stone Consortium	£28,600 over two years	To build the capacity of its members to develop legal and human rights based approaches.
	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the UK (t/a 'Just Fair')	£30,000 over two years	To build the capacity and profile of the Just Fair Consortium
	Latin American Women's Rights Service	£29,855 over two years	To transform its organisational culture and embrace a human rights based approach.
Total funding awarded		£ 1, 331,642	

Second funding round – awards made in May 2017

Type	Organisation	Grant	Description
Applied £807,087	Asylum Support Appeals Project	£150,000	To empower voluntary sector agencies in the UK to enable them to make greater use of the law in response to the Immigration Act 2016.
	Birthrights	£49,758*#	To develop a “Peer Partners” project focusing on those most at risk of discrimination in maternity care, developing an innovative model of working in close partnership.
	Centre for Women’s Justice	£50,000*#	To bring together specialist lawyers, academics and other experts with those working on the frontline as activists, survivors and service providers (across England and Wales) to bring strategic law challenges and ensure access to justice for victims of male violence.
	Community Law Advice Network (Clan Childlaw)	£150,000#	To lead the way in Scotland using law and human rights to tackle discrimination and disadvantage directly in relation to vulnerable children and young people.
	Human Rights Trust	£142,788	To develop an Equality Duty Enforcement Project to ensure compliance with statutory equality duty in NI
	Simon Community Northern Ireland	£150,000	To adopt a HRBA that will challenge root causes of homelessness by transforming services and proposing solution based measures to government
	Sisters for Change	£42,980	To design and conduct a legal education and accountability programme to strengthen the BAME women’s sector in England.
	Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming	£73,561*	To coordinate a collaborative alliance and movement of third-sector organisations, working with academics and legal and advocacy advisors, towards achievement of new Food Rights.
TE&CB	Friends, Families and Travellers	£30,000	To build the capacity of Friends, Families and

286,847		over one year	Travellers and other GRT organisations to use Human Rights and Law supporting Gypsies & Travellers
	Hospice UK	£23,190 over one year	To develop an Equalities Skills Builder project to train all UK hospice staff in the adoption of a human rights based approach to end of life care
	Kinship Carers	£24,300 over 9 months	To undertake a human rights based review of kinship care with Liverpool City Council & European Children's Rights Unit, to inform national legislative change through National Kinship Alliance
	Lasa	£30,000 over two years	To develop a free fact-checking web tool designed to address commonly held misconceptions in relation to welfare to work conditionality
	Law Centres Network	£29,940 over 18 months	To develop capacity and expertise for LCN and member Law Centres to integrate a human rights based approach into their discrimination work with migrant workers
	National Children's Bureau	£29,935 over 9 months	To develop knowledge and understanding of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in the context of the real experiences of young people through forum theatre training
	Participation and the Practice of Rights	£29,987 over 1 year	To support the 'Housing Rights in Practice' project to use a HRBA to support tenants in Leith to realise their housing rights
	Citizens Advice Plymouth	£29,747 over 18 months	To train voluntary sector agencies in how to use social security law to identify individuals eligible for 'exceptional circumstances' criteria of Employment and Support Allowance
	Women's Equality Network Wales	£30,000 over two years	To build the capacity of voluntary sector organisations to use the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to challenge discrimination and disadvantage experienced by women and girls.
	Redress Trust	£29,748 over two years	To create and deliver training packages and practical information to guide and support front-line community organisations on human rights law applicable to migrants and refugees.
Total funding awarded		£1,095,934	

* Projects which received one year applied funding.

Projects which received TE&CB grants in the first round which were successful in applications for applied grants in the second.