

Strengthening the Voluntary Sector

Supporting effective use of the law and human rights based approaches

Expert legal organisations – call for expressions of interest

Guidelines, September 2018

1. Purpose of the programme

This programme supports effective use of the law and human rights based approaches by civil society in the United Kingdom. It is a collaboration with The Legal Education Foundation and The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

We see the law and human rights based approaches as important tools for civil society. 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 to tackle discrimination and disadvantage.

Our primary focus is on social change activities that tackle discrimination and disadvantage. By social change we mean:

- changes in policy, regulation and law;
- changes in behaviour, attitudes and norms; and
- new ways of designing and delivering services or support for individuals.

Definitions of the law and human rights based approaches vary, but in this programme we use these terms in a broad and practical way. A framework for different uses of the law by the voluntary sector is available [here](#).

The programme focuses on domestic activity in all countries in the United Kingdom only. Please note that applications for international work will not be considered.

2. Purpose of this call

This call for expressions of interest is intended to support civil society organisations with specific and demonstrable legal expertise in tackling discrimination and disadvantage. Successful organisations will receive very flexible project funding to tackle an identified issue, with the expectation that the project will use a

collaborative approach that roots appropriate legal action in a broad campaign for social change.

We recognise that many expert legal civil society organisations play – or aspire to play – a role as ‘hubs’ for legal action:

- offering expert legal advice that informs and drives social change; and
- collaborating on an agenda that builds and leverages networks of civil society organisations, supporting others to recognise when, where and how legal action can be an effective tool of social change to tackle discrimination and disadvantage.

We want to encourage this hub model of working and to continue to learn where, when and how it can be most effective.

We know that this form of collaborative legal action can mean that expert legal organisations need to invest time in building relationships and that they will face periods of significant activity that are difficult to budget for. This call is intended to support organisations in weathering these peaks and troughs of activity.

3. Preparation

In advance of making any application you may want to read the following in addition to this document, available [here](#):

- a paper on the background to the STVS programme; and
- a framework for better use of the law by voluntary sector organisations.

You may also find it helpful to look at the grants we have awarded previously in this programme, a list is accessible [here](#).

If you have questions in relation to the submission of an expression of interest, please contact the Foundation by email at baring.foundation@ing.com or by [telephone on 020 7767 1348](tel:02077671348).

4. Who can apply for a grant?

Applications will be considered from charities registered in the United Kingdom (or charities exempt or excepted from registration) or other not for profit entities.

This funding round is aimed at organisations with specific and demonstrable legal expertise. This is likely to mean you will have at least one qualified lawyer working in your organisation with expertise relevant to the project. If you have any questions about whether your organisation fits this definition, please discuss them with us in advance of submitting an expression of interest.

Organisations that currently hold an applied project grant from the Foundation are not eligible to apply.

Activity under the grant applied for must deliver benefit in the UK. Applications for international work will not be considered.

5. Size and type of grant

Grants of up to £100,000 are available and will be awarded for projects that last for approximately three years. We expect to award approximately seven grants.

We expect projects to:

- identify a clear purpose, explaining and evidencing the specific area of discrimination or disadvantage you hope to address and key outcomes you would like to achieve;
- detail how legal action could help achieve the identified purpose;
- explain how your organisation operates as a hub for legal action, connecting its legal expertise to a broader range of activists and organisations focused on the same issue; and
- demonstrate how the funded activity can highlight and prove the value of legal action to broader civil society – we are particularly interested in documenting models for this work.

We do not expect projects to be fully planned and budgeted at this early stage. If awarded, this funding is intended to offer very flexible support for legal action developed through a hub working model. We will, of course, expect organisations to account for activities and reflect on what they have learnt over the period of the project.

We will consider funding the continuation, replication or scaling of ongoing projects. However, we will expect a clear explanation of how our funding will broaden a project and develop new capacity.

Applications do not need to be made in partnership with other organisations, but you should be able to articulate how your organisation intends to collaborate.

You can and should include appropriate budgets for administrative costs and staff time.

6. Applications

This is a two stage application process.

The first stage is a short expression of interest. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to take part in the second stage, which will involve a substantive written application and – in some cases – further discussion with staff members of The Baring Foundation.

All expressions of interest must be factual and written in plain English, avoiding jargon and rhetoric.

In order to consider your expression of interest, we must receive the following by 9.00am on 5 November 2018:

- i. A grant application form to be completed online [here](#)
- ii. An expression of interest (to be uploaded as part of your online application where prompted)

Expressions of interest must be no more than 1500 words. They should be presented under the following headings:

- **Summary** – a concise summary of the proposed project. Within this summary you should provide a brief overview of the project and how you will meet our expectations (see (5) above);
- **Purpose** – identify a clear purpose, explaining and evidencing the specific area of discrimination or disadvantage you hope to address and key outcomes you would like to achieve;
- **Role of legal action** – detail how legal action could be used to help achieve the identified purpose;

- **Organisation** – explain your organisation's legal expertise relevant to the identified purpose of this project;
- **Hub model of working** - explain how your organisation will operate as a hub for legal action on this project, connecting your legal expertise to a broader range of activists and organisations. You may want to give examples of current collaborations or note organisations you may work with;
- **Learning** – identify three things you would like to learn from this project, supported by this type of flexible funding.

Your application should be submitted through our online applications portal. This will direct you to upload your expression of interest.

Please note the deadline for receipt by us of your online application is 9.00am on 5 November 2018.

7. Timetable

5 November 2018:	Deadline for expressions of interest at 9.00am
14 December 2018:	Applicants who have been unsuccessful will be notified and those successful in proceeding to second stage will receive application guidelines
1 February 2019:	Deadline for second stage applications
11 March 2019:	Applications considered by grants committee
14 March 2019:	Applicants notified

Full details of the conditions attached to any grant will be provided following its award.

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