

INSTITUTE FOR  
WAR & PEACE REPORTING



## Request for Grant Applications

**Project:** Building Resilience in the Eastern Neighbourhood (BREN)

**Open to:** Civil society organisations in Armenia. *Note: this includes new organisations and previous BREN partners.*

**Closing Date:** 14 July 2023

**Grant Amount:** Up to 50,000

**Estimated number of awards:** 3

**Project timeframe:** Up to 7 months (all projects must end by 29 February 2024)

The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) is currently accepting applications from civil society organisations in Armenia as part of the programme [Building Resilience in the Eastern Neighbourhood \(BREN\)](#).

The overall aim of the BREN programme is to enhance the human security of women and marginalised groups in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova through building the resilience of civil society.

In Armenia, BREN has the following thematic priorities:

- **Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS) in Armenia.**
  - Initiatives on the implementation of the Localisation of the WPS strategy in municipalities and local self-governments of Armenia to ensure the implementation of the legal frameworks on gender equality and WPS at the local level.
  - Activities and initiatives on the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armenian NAP on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and development and implementation of local action plans (on UNSCR 1325 NAP).
  - Awareness-raising, networking, partnership, and experience-sharing activities aimed to foster collaboration among civil society, local self-governments, and ministries to advance the WPS agenda in Armenia and localization of UNSCR 1325 with a particular focus on bordering regions.
  - Initiatives aimed at women's increased participation in decision-making, peace-making, and security planning.
  - Activities advocating for the rights of women in the Police, army, and other law enforcement and security-related structures.
  - Production of written materials and audiovisuals on the WPS agenda that bring knowledge, attitudinal and behavioral changes.
- **Increasing inclusion of diverse groups (minority groups, people with disabilities, and others) in peace and security discussions and decision-making in Armenia.**

- Projects and initiatives on psychosocial support and trauma healing especially for conflict-affected women and communities located in border regions.
- Initiatives and activities focusing on human security and positive peace and emphasize women's important role in ensuring long-lasting peace and security.
- Awareness raising and capacity-building initiatives for journalists on factual, WPS-related reporting.
- Media-led activities such as debates on peace and conflict that provide more space for discussion of the WPS agenda from different perspectives that result in knowledge, attitudinal and behavioral changes.
- Awareness-raising initiatives challenging negative stereotypes that surround the work of women, women human rights defenders, and other activists.

Please note: this grant call is open to new organisations not previously supported under the BREN programme, as well as previous grantees. Partners previously supported under the BREN programme, or those who have applied for other BREN funding opportunities may apply for this call. However, please note a maximum of one grant will be issued per organisation during 2023.

### **Requirements**

Applications are open to all civil society organisations registered in Armenia.

Interested applicants should aim to align to the thematic priorities outlined above.

IWPR can support activities that focus on:

- Production of materials: For example, research, production of educational, promotional or media content around project issues.
- Advocacy: For example, advocacy activities targeted at government, local government, or community entities, such as educational and religious institutions.
- Community work: activities focusing on increasing knowledge and skills of vulnerable communities, especially women, ethnic and religious minorities, IDPs and refugees and others.
- Capacity Building: activities providing capacity building support to beneficiaries, partner organisations, or other stakeholders in the thematic areas identified.
- Networking: activities that support networking between groups or individuals working within the thematic areas identified, including sharing resources and efforts to build on or catalyse change amongst diverse groups/individuals.

The proposed project should be no longer than seven months. All projects must end by 29 February 2024. The budget range for supported projects is between 20,000-50,000 GBP.

We strongly encourage applications from:

- Organisations led by women and/or youth;
- Organisations led by IDPs, ethnic and religious and other minority groups;
- Organisations working outside the capital, especially those working in border regions;
- Newly-formed organisations.

This call aims to facilitate partnerships among organisations, therefore joint applications are encouraged, especially with the following combinations:

- Organisations based in and outside the capital;
- Organisations that have different areas of expertise;
- CSOs partnered with media organisations;
- Organisations led by majority and minority groups;
- Organisations from different BREN countries. If an organisation wishes to submit a proposal jointly with an organisation from another country, IWPR will support the identification of relevant partners. Please contact IWPR Armenia coordinator Knarik Mkrtchyan via [knarik@iwpr.net](mailto:knarik@iwpr.net) before 23 June 2023 for assistance.

Potential applicants should demonstrate:

- Respect for gender equality and diversity;
- Conflict and gender sensitivity;
- Ability to identify, analyse, and mitigate risks;
- Transparency and accountability in project management, including management of finances;
- Willingness to learn and share experience with other grant recipients.
- A sustainability plan to continue the work started under the grant.

This call is a part of the wider BREN project. The applicants will be advised to participate in its national and regional experience-sharing and capacity-building activities, including in the areas of cyber security, safeguarding and strategic communications.

All funding recipients will undergo an organisational and resilience needs assessment within the first two weeks of the project award. This needs assessment will inform individualised organisational capacity building activities. All funding recipients are advised to participate in the individualised capacity building and resilience needs assessment and activities.

## Evaluation

There will be a two-stage evaluation process of applications. In the first stage, applications will be shortlisted by IWPR based on a 10-point scale.

Assessment	Points
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The proposal is clear and detailed; all required documentation is in place; and the proposed project is clearly in line with the BREN programme's thematic priorities	8-10 points
The proposal is mostly clear and contains sufficient information; most key documentation is in place; and the proposed project is broadly in line with the BREN programme's thematic priorities.	5-7 points
The proposal is unclear, or documentation is missing, or the thematic focus does not align with the BREN programme's thematic priorities.	1-4 points

IWPR may request clarifications from the organisations in the shortlisting stage. Proposals with a score of at least 5 points will be submitted to the selection panel for full review.

## Final Selection

The selection panel, which consists of representatives from IWPR and the UK Embassy in Armenia, will assess proposals based on the set criteria as described in the below table. Applicants with the highest scores will be selected for funding. Funding will be contingent on vetting processes.

Nr.	Criteria	Maximum points
1.	<p><b>Adequate response to the call objectives</b></p> <p>The project design responds to the objectives outlined in this call and proposes adequate solutions to the relevant challenges in Armenia. It builds on already existing activities and adds value.</p>	30
2.	<p><b>Technical approach</b></p> <p>Proposed project design presents a clear situation analysis, and identifies objectives, outputs, and activities of the project, which are coherent to one another. The project can be implemented with moderate risks</p>	30
3.	<p><b>Organisational resilience</b></p> <p>The project demonstrates that implementing the project is in the organisation's interests and will help the organisation become more resilient.</p>	20
4.	<p><b>Cost evaluation</b></p> <p>The project budget is clear and corresponds to the technical approach. The included costs are reasonable and necessary to achieve the project objectives.</p>	20
<b>Maximum total technical scoring:</b>		100

## **Application Process**

Interested organisations should complete and submit application and budget forms to [iwpr-en@iwpr.net](mailto:iwpr-en@iwpr.net)

Applications may be submitted in English and Armenian languages. The English language is preferred; however, the language of the submission will not affect the decision on the award.

Please direct all questions to Knarik Mkrtchyan via [knarik@iwpr.net](mailto:knarik@iwpr.net) email address.

Replies to questions will be provided by IWPR staff until 10 July 2023.

An information session about this grant call will take place on June 27 at 11 AM Armenia time via Zoom. Interested organisations can register for the information session [here](#).

## **About IWPR**

The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (iwpr.net) is an international not-for-profit organisation with head offices in London and Washington DC. IWPR builds peace and democracy through free and fair media. It strengthens local media at the frontlines of conflict and change, working in three dozen countries and territories around the world. Activities include establishing independent local media; training local reporters, editors and producers; supporting extensive in-depth reporting on human rights, good governance and related issues; disseminating professional reporting in developing countries and internationally; and strengthening communications capacity of local human rights, international justice and women's organisations.

## **About BREN**

The project [Building Resilience in the Eastern Neighbourhood \(BREN\)](#) is supported by the [Conflict, Stability and Security Fund of the United Kingdom](#) and implemented by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) in partnership with the [Global Network of Women Peacebuilders \(GNWP\)](#).

The BREN project contributes to enabling CSOs to deliver transformative change in the peace and security area to increase human security for women and marginalised, vulnerable and socially excluded groups in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova.