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# Call for applications to deliver new network of community champions to tackle forced marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse, a crime, and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they’re bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

Government recognises that tackling forced marriage requires a community-led approach, as well as changing the law. To do this local people need the resources to deliver the tailored solutions that they know will work to change beliefs and practices in their area.

To achieve this, the Department for Communities and Local Government, in collaboration with the Government Equalities Office, is looking to fund a voluntary organisation/s to deliver a new network of community champions with the local knowledge, contacts and credibility to keep people safe.

The total sum available is £40k and we are looking to appoint one or two organisations. We strongly encourage collective bids to ensure that the proposed network covers as many affected areas as possible. If more than one organisation is funded the two organisations will be expected to work together to ensure that community champions are giving consistent message and are committing consistent resources to tackle forced marriage.

# Funding options

There are two options for the funding to deliver this network.

* Option 1. If successful, grant for the full amount will be made upfront. All money must be spent by the end of March 2015.
* Option 2. If successful, grant will be paid in two tranches at the start of the project and in March 2015. Please indicate on your application form which option you prefer, noting you must spend all the money by the end of the financial year in which you receive it.

# The organisation we are looking for

We are looking for one or two organisations with the skills, capacity, and credibility to recruit and train a network of champions and support them to ensure they have a tangible impact. It is highly desirable that organisations bidding have experience in delivering community champion schemes and/or experience in working with communities to tackle the cause and consequences of forced marriage.

# The purpose of the new community champion network

The overall aim of this network is to prevent people being subjected to forced marriage and to improve support services for survivors. To contribute to this aim, the proposal/s funded must demonstrate that they can deliver all the essential activity.

Essential organisation activity:

1. Establish a network of 15-20 engaged, passionate community champions across England who have the knowledge and contacts necessary to make a difference in their local area. These will be individuals who are trusted by their community e.g. faith leaders, well-known community figures, head teachers etc.
2. Train or procure training for these community champions in the social, cultural, and religious justifications given for forced marriage, and the social, cultural, financial, physical and psychological consequences to victims.
3. Support each champion to identify the short and long term priorities for action in their local community needed to improve local attitudes and service to support people at risk and survivors of forced marriage.
4. Support champions to make tangible progress towards achieving these improvements by the end of June 2015.
5. Ensure that this new network works with existing change agent/community champion schemes as well as statutory work to tackle forced marriage to enhance, rather than replicate their efforts.
6. Use existing publically-available resources to equip community champions to carry out their proposed activity, producing new material only when absolutely necessary.
7. Ensure each Champion understands the local referral mechanisms for people at risk of forced marriage and where to direct survivors to for support. Ensure that Community Champions are fully aware of how to protect their own safety.
8. Collate the activity of community champions at the end of the project so that the overall impact of the project can be assessed.

Desirable organisation activity

Organisations must meet the essential objectives. They do not need to meet the following desirable objectives, but it will increase their chance of being granted funding.

1. Ensure, where possible, areas with the greatest need have a community champion
2. Provide a network of local vocal advocates to respond to requests for interviews from national and local media about how to tackle forced marriage
3. Ensure network is sustainable after funding period elapses. For example, by setting up an online network for community champions to share ideas and successes

Champion activity

We recognise that the organisation/s we fund and the community champions they recruit will be best placed to identify what is needed in their local area. We are therefore not restricting the activities that community champions can undertake. It is more important that champions identify a limited number of tangible areas for improvement they can contribute to in the funding period. Activities could cover working with local faith leaders to promote anti forced marriages messages during faith meetings; working with local, national, social, broadcast and/or print media to tackle attitudes that perpetuate forced marriages; working with local statutory bodies to ensure that their services are sensitive to potential forced marriage victims; or something else entirely.

Your organisation however, will be required to demonstrate how each champion has helped to prevent or support cases of forced marraige in their local area.

The Community Champions will be volunteers so it will be up to you to deliver a programme that is sufficiently light touch to encourage participation but active enough to achieve impact.

Groups that champions will work with

We require Champions to work with at least one of the following groups:

1. People at risk of forced marriage
2. Prospective perpetrators of forced marriage, including family members
3. Professionals working with those at risk of or survivors of forced marriage
4. Members of the community/ community/faith leaders in communities where forced marriage takes place.

Safety

In the course of their work, community champions may discover people that may be at immediate risk of forced marriage. The organisation funded must ensure that the all champions are trained to deal with this eventuality. Your proposal must makes clear how you will ensure people at risk, and community champions, will be protected from any danger arising from funded activity.

Adding unique value

We do not want community champions to duplicate existing work in their community. It will be their responsibility, with your support, to identify work already on-going in their communities and identify where their efforts can be focused to best add value.

# Restrictions

Please note the money cannot be spent on

* Activities promoting a religious faith or belief; acquisition of religious objects; the cost of supporting religious personnel
* Any party political activity
* Purchasing capital items, including expenditure on assets such as buildings or equipment
* Public money will not be provided to organisations that do not support British values of democracy, human rights, equality before the law, and participation in society. This includes extremist groups

This is not an exhaustive list.

# To apply

Fill out the below application form. Completed application forms should be sent to [integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:integration@communities.gsi.gov.uk). We will not accept faxed copies or postal applications. Applications will be acknowledged by email within two working days of receipt. The closing date for applications is 5pm on 10th November. Successful bids will be announced on 25th November. A final project report must be returned by the end of June 2015. We will favour proposals that ensure that the network will be self-sustained after this date.

# Funding decisions

Recommendations about who will successfully be commissioned to deliver community engagement work will be made by a governmental panel. Applicants will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria. The panel will make recommendations to Ministers whose decision will be final. We will be able to offer feedback to unsuccessful bidders who pass eligibility criteria but whose proposal is not granted funded.

# Data protection act

The Department for Communities and Local Government will use the information you give us during the assessment of your application and the life of your award (if successful) to administer and analyse the bids, and for our own learning purposes. We may give some or all of this information to financial representatives in the Home Office when assessing applications, administering the process, monitoring awards and evaluating funding processes and impacts.

We may share information with organisations and individuals with a legitimate interest in the forced marriage Community Champion network. We have a duty to protect public funds and for that reason we may also share information (in line with the Freedom of Information Act) with government departments,

# Expectations of successful projects

We will write to you offering you a contract for the activity you have outlined, setting out the detailed terms and conditions in an accompanying grant agreement. We may ask you to alter some of the elements of your bid to avoid duplication between projects and we will discuss this with you. We will also request copies of any further documentation required.

Successful applicants will be asked to provide a year-end monitoring form and an end of year project report by the end of June 2015. By applying, projects are also agreeing to use DCLG evaluation forms and other measures. This includes a set of questions to be asked of all participants at the beginning and end of projects. You are also agreeing to cooperate with reasonable request for publicity e.g. meeting with Ministers, quotes for media publications etc., which will acknowledge the sensitivity of the subject.

**APPLICATION FORM**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ELIGIBLILTY**  **To be eligible for funding you must be able to answer yes to question 1a) or b)** | | | |
| **1a)** | **Is your organisation a registered charity? Please delete as appropriate: Yes/No**    **If so, what is your Charity Commission number?** | |  |
| **b)** | **If not, can you answer yes to all of the following questions?**   * Was your organisation established for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes? * Does your organisation have a governing body with at least three members? * Does your organisation have a governing document? Please include a copy * Can you provide accounts for the organisation for the last two financial years? Please include a copy.   **Applications without these documents from non-registered charities will not be considered.**  **Please delete as appropriate: Yes/No** | |  |
| **ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION** | | | |
| **2a)** | **Organisation name:**  **Contact Name and role:** | |  |
| **b)** | **Address in the UK (including postcode):** | |  |
| **c)** | **Telephone No:** | |  |
| **d)** | **Organisation’s Website** | |  |
| **e)** | **Organisation’s Facebook and/or Twitter username** | |  |
| **3)** | **Is your organisation a branch of a larger organisation? If yes, please give details** | |  |
| **4)** | **When was your organisation set up?** | |  |
| **5)** | **How many people does your organisation employ?**  **Full time: part time: volunteers:** | |  |
| **YOUR ORGANISATION’S CAPABILITY** | | | |
| **6)** | **In no more than 300 words, please outline the purpose of your organisation and some of its biggest achievements. Please also outline the experience you organisation has had in tackling forced marriage including training staff have received on the causes and consequences of the practice and how to protect people at immediate risk of forced marriage. Please also outline the experience your organisation has had in delivering community champion schemes and/or in working on sensitive issues in a local community context.** | |  |
| **ABOUT YOUR BID** | | | |
| **7a)** | **Is this a joint bid? Please delete as appropriate: Yes/No** | |  |
| **b)** | **If yes, please give the names of the other organisations in the bid:**  **1.**  **2.**  **3.** | |  |
| **8a)**  **b)** | **How much money are you bidding for?**  **Is this the complete cost of the project? If not, where is the rest of the money coming from? Is this confirmed?** | |  |
| **9)** | **There are two options for the funding to deliver this network. Please indicate which you prefer:**  **Option 1. If successful, grant for the full amount will be made upfront. All money must be spent by the end of March 2015.**  **Option 2. If successful, grant will be paid in two tranches at the start of the project and in March 2015.** | |  |
| **10)** | **Based on the option you have chosen please outline you proposed timeline for the delivery of the network of community champions :** | |  |
| **PROPOSED ACTIVITY** | | | |
| **11**  **a)**  **b)**  **c)** | **In no more than 500 words, please provide a short summary of how you intend to set up and run the network of community champions. If you intend to conduct communications activity please makes this clear and state its objectives.**  **What you will do and why you think this specific activity is needed?**  **Who will you work with?**  **What will you will achieve?** | |  |
| **12)** | **How will you ensure that your network reaches as many affected communities as possible?** | |  |
| **13)** | **Are you content, if more than one organisation is funded, to work together to ensure that community champions are giving out consistent messages and resources to tackle forced marriage? How will you do this?** | |  |
| **ESSENTIAL ORGANISATION ACTIVITY** | | | |
| **14)** | **In no more than 500 words please outline how you deliver ALL of the essential organisational activity listed in the call for applications. If you have already covered all the criteria in Question 18 you do not need to write more here.** | |  |
| **DESIRABLE ORGANISATION ACTIVITY** | | | |
| **15)** | **In no more than 300 words please outline if, and how, you will deliver any/all of the desirable organisational activity listed in the call for applications.** | |  |
| **CHAMPION ACTIVITY** | | | |
| **16)** | **We are not restricting champion activity however, it would useful for us to know the kinds of activities you envisage champions undertaking. Please outline some ideas in up to 250 words. You will not be bound by these.** | |  |
| **SAFETY AND EVALUATION** | | | |
| **17)** | **How will ensure that community champions’ safety is prioritised and protected during the projects?** | |  |
| **18)** | **How will you monitor the impact of each champion?** | |  |
| **19)** | **How will you assess the impact of the project overall?** | |  |
| **20)** | **How did you hear about this grants programme?** | |  |
| **BUDGET** | | | |
| **21)** | **Please outline in detail how you would spend the grant if successful. Where possible, please give the cost for each item and what it is for. Please also outline any costs for the network that will be met by other funders** | |  |
| **ITEM** | **TOTAL COST** |
| Example: Room hire - 2 hours per week, 12 weeks, £25 per hour (£25 x 2 x 12) | £600.00 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Add rows as necessary | Add rows as necessary |
| **DECLARATION** | | | |
| **22)** | **Please tick this box to confirm that, if successful, you agree to**   * Attend regular progress meetings with DCLG if requested. * Participate in meet ups with other projects if requested. * Cooperate with reasonable requests for publicity. * Complete DCLG evaluation forms. This includes a set of questions to be asked of all participants at the beginning and end of projects. * Return a final project report by the end of June 2015. * Work with other funded organisation/s to ensure the champions are delivering consistent messages to tackle forced marriage. | |  |