Short-Term Research Consultants from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka

**Background**

Equality Now, founded in 1992, is an international women’s rights organization that works to achieve legal and systemic change that addresses violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world.

Dignity Alliance International (DAI) is a UK based charity and is the international arm of the Dignity Collective (based in India). One of the objectives of DAI is to facilitate international research, advocacy and regional partnerships in South Asia.

Equality Now and DAI are partnering on a project titled, *Sexual Violence Against Women and Children Amongst Socially Excluded Communities in South Asia*. This project is a qualitative study aimed at generating evidence-based knowledge on the experience of survivors of sexual violence and their access to the criminal justice system through the lens of social exclusion in South Asia. The objective of the study is to understand the role and response of the criminal justice system - Police, Medical and Legal - in addressing the problem of sexual violence against women and children across South Asia. Additionally, the study seeks to focus on understanding the experiences of survivors in their journey of pursuing justice, in order to identify the shortcomings of the justice system and to create dialogues to bridge these gaps of the system.

We are looking for short-term research consultants from each of the following three countries - **Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka** - who will assist in carrying out secondary and primary research for this project. The Consultant must be a resident of the country relating to which the application is made.

**Scope of Work**

In line with the broader scope of this assignment, the successful candidate is expected to focus on the following:

1. **Desk Research:** Analysis of the laws relating to sexual violence in the country (Nepal/Sri Lanka/Bangladesh) including identification of the loopholes in the law and legal process which impede access to justice for survivors of sexual violence, with a particular focus on socially excluded communities.

2. **Desk Research:** Development of a country narrative that provides an overview of existing literature and reports by academicians, government institutions and civil society groups within the country, which assesses the role and response of the criminal justice system in...
addressing the issue of sexual violence against women and girls in the country (Nepal/Sri Lanka/Bangladesh), including police response, legal procedure and assistance, and medical and therapeutic care. This section would complement the laws research in identifying the practical and institutional barriers to accessing justice faced by survivors of sexual violence, with a particular focus on socially excluded communities within the country.

3. Primary Data Collection: Conduct interviews with at least 6 survivors of sexual violence within the country to document their experience of the obstacles to accessing justice.

4. Primary Data Collection: Conduct interviews with at least 3 NGOs/lawyers/activists/government actors within the country who can provide an overall picture of the response of the justice system in cases of sexual violence.

5. Provide detailed feedback on the final text of the research report.

The research outputs must be provided in English.

**Timeline**

The research will be carried out from April to May 2020. The number of days to be determined and agreed with the Consultant but expected not to exceed 15 days. The timelines are subject to revision, especially considering the developing situation around the pandemic COVID-19.

**Requirements for Qualification and Competencies**

1. An in-depth knowledge and experience working in the field of human rights focusing on protection of the rights of women and girls, and in researching on issues of sexual violence and/or working directly with survivors of sexual violence;

2. An in-depth knowledge of the national legal frameworks and workings of the criminal justice system within the specific country (Nepal/Bangladesh/Sri Lanka)

3. Excellent writing, editing, and oral communication skills in English and Nepali/Bengali/Sinhala, depending on the country involved.

4. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in undertaking research on issues affecting the rights of women and girls

5. Strong general research and analytical skills, and ability to work under pressure and meet tight delivery deadlines

6. The Consultant must be locally based within the country (Nepal/Bangladesh/Sri Lanka) for which the research is to be conducted.
Application Process

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to the following addresses mailto:dsrinivasan@equalitynow.org & evlynsamuel@jansahasindia.org and must contain:

(a) Letter of interest (max 1 page) explaining why they are interested in this project and are the most suitable for the work;
(b) At least two (2) writing samples which demonstrates their research experience in the field of women’s rights, or preferably, sexual violence;
(c) The CV of the Consultant.

The deadline for submission of applications is **5 April 2020**. Please mention “Research Consultant - Bangladesh/Nepal/Sri Lanka research” in the subject line.