# Expression of Interest for Desk-based Research on Survivor-Led Accountability in Humanitarian, Development and Peace Support work

# 01/05/24

## About ICGBV

The Irish Consortium on Gender-based violence (ICGBV [gbv.ie](https://www.gbv.ie/)), currently hosted by GOAL, is an alliance of fourteen international human rights, humanitarian and development organisations, including NGOs, Irish Aid and the Irish Defence Forces. Established in 2005 as a response to reports of ongoing and systematic sexual violence against women and girls in the Darfur Region of Sudan, it works collaboratively to increase knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence and to promote high quality programming and policy responses, in both humanitarian and development settings.

## Background

The ICGBV has chosen to focus on accountability from the survivor perspective, over the lifetime of the [2021-26 Strategic Plan, Amplifying Women's Voices](https://www.gbv.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Strategic-Plan-ICGBV.pdf).

Therefore, we are commissioning desk-based research to find evidence of established and emerging good practice in GBV survivor-led accountability initiatives across the prevention, mitigation and response trajectory. Survivor-led accountability requires first and foremost, that the dignity of the survivor is upheld, and that resourcing and skills transfer are available for the survivor to lead the process, if they choose to do so.

## Purpose and Scope of the Desk-based Research

To inform policy and practice with evidence of established and emerging good practice in GBV survivor-led accountability initiatives across the prevention, mitigation and response trajectory[[1]](#footnote-2).

## Scope

We wish to determine the evidence or emerging evidence of initiatives that deeply embedded GBV survivors as they sought accountability under each of the three dimensions, Prevention, Mitigation and Response across humanitarian, development and peace support work. This is not limited to the countries in which ICGBV members operate but should be determined by finding the best/emerging practice and should include a mix of initiatives from micro, meso and maco levels – from grassroots to district, to state and regional initiatives.

Survivor-led initiatives on accountability should demonstrate as many of the following as possible:

* Have been proven successful (as determined by survivors)
* Ensure a holistic understanding of the impact of the violence and effects, on the survivor – medical, legal, psychosocial, economic, social, caring responsibilities, accommodation, family and community relationships
* Take into account the agency and resources of the survivor
* How the intersectionality of survivors (how their ethnicity, ability, socio-economic status, marital status, age, race, refugee/IDP/migrant status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression etc.) has been recognised and responded to
* Are cost efficient in low-resource settings
* Could be replicated or scaled up
* Take a gender-transformative approach

Information on initiatives that were tried but were not found successful, will also be useful to discuss in the desk review for learning purposes.

The researcher can define what is in scope under of the three dimensions, Prevention, Mitigation and Response. Please see pages 5-6 of the TOR for definitions. Suggestions are provided on pages 3-4 of the TOR.

## Key Stakeholders

Policy makers and practitioners engaged in humanitarian, development and peace support work combatting GBV.

## Research Question

What recommendations can be drawn from the evidence, or emerging evidence of survivor-led initiatives or practices that have or seek to, prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian and development contexts and peace support?

**Sub-questions:**

* To what extent, in what circumstances, and for whom, were these initiatives, practices and approaches successful and what enabled their success?
* To what extent have these attempts to achieve accountability, been limited or blocked by formal and informal power holders?
* Whose voices influenced the programming and policy strategies - both as originally designed and as the journey progressed?

## Methodology

Desk-based literature review of published and grey[[2]](#footnote-3) literature. This will include reports and papers published by women-led, women-centred and feminist networks and civil society organisations. Identification of grey literature from partner and partner networks will be sought from the ICGBV Learning and Practice Group, the Malawi ICGBV and the Sierra Leone ICGBV Working Group, though is not limited to these sources.

To account for the fact that ‘survivor-led’ approach to accountability is an emerging terminology which may not be fully in use, it is possible that examples of survivor-centred approaches will be included in the research (for example, there may be survivor led initiative using a survivor centred approach labelling themselves as survivor centred). Additionally, examples in which practitioners transitioned from a survivor-centred approach to one in which survivors took the lead will be sought.

The author is asked to highlight two examples which arise from the desk research, which demonstrate best/emerging practice, and which can be considered for application in other jurisdictions, under each of Prevention, Mitigation and Response.

Key informant interviews, such as with authors or organisations at the centre of initiatives explored, can be used to elaborate on 3-6 of the overall best examples.

As a signatory to the [Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming](https://gbvaor.net/sites/default/files/2019-11/19-200%20Minimun%20Standards%20Report%20ENGLISH-Nov%201.FINAL_.pdf), the ICGBV requires that this research be carried out In line with GBV guiding principles, including confidentiality. Any information about survivors will only be shared with their informed consent.

## Deliverables

* Carry out relevant desk-based research, with an emphasis on grey literature, on Gender-based violence survivor-led accountability
* Key informant interviews, such as with authors or organisations at the centre of initiatives explored
* Produce a clear and compelling report with strong recommendations based on evidence of established and emerging good practice in GBV survivor-led initiatives across the prevention, mitigation and response trajectory, to inform policy and practice (15-20 pages) on GBV
  + Two examples are sought under each of the pillars: Prevention, Mitigation and Response
  + Elaboration on 3-6 best examples overall
  + Produce recommendations under each of the three pillars and overall recommendations
* Maintain strong communications and collaboration with the ICGBV Secretariat throughout the process of developing, finalising and launching the paper.

## Timeline and Budget

May – September

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| Line | Item | Date |
| 1 | Invitation to tender published | 01/05/2024 |
| 2 | Tender deadline | 22/05/2024 (12pm UTC+1) |
| 3 | Interviews for shortlisted candidates | 29/05/2024 |
| 4 | Successful candidate notified | 30/05/2024 |
| 5 | Research commences | 04/06/2024 |
| 5 | First draft submission | 08/08/2024 |
| 6 | Feedback on first draft shared with researcher | 22/08/2024 |
| 7 | Final paper submission by researcher, incorporating comments | 06/09/2024 |

The total budget for this work is €10,000 including VAT.

## Management

The consultant will report to the ICGBV Coordinator and ICGBV Co-Chair. Feedback and comments from ICGBV members will be collated by the Coordinator and shared with the Consultant.

## Person Specific

* A minimum of a Masters degree in a relevant subject (e.g. social studies, international development, gender equality or equivalent) or 5 years GBV related experience
* Proven expertise on Gender-based violence programming and policy work in development or humanitarian or peace support settings
* Previous experience in carrying out similar desk research
* Strong analytical and report writing skills
* Knowledge of humanitarian and development contexts, inclusive of the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming, 2019 and international policy

## Desirable

* Experience of engaging with GBV survivors
* Peer-reviewed publications

## Submission details

* If you meet the outlined criteria and are interested in this opportunity, kindly submit:
  + a proposal of work, setting out your approach and including a proposed table of contents (max 2 x A4 page)
  + a cover letter detailing previous relevant experience (max 1 A4 page)
  + a curriculum vitae
  + Sample of previous desk research or link to publications
  + 2 x referees
* Please submit the required criteria by Wednesday, May 22nd at 12pm British Summer Time (UTC+1) to [info@gbv.ie](mailto:info@gbv.ie) with the subject line: Application – Consultant GBV Accountability

***To be read in conjunction with Terms of Reference***

1. Prevention and mitigation of, and response to, GBV are classified as life-saving interventions in humanitarian settings by CERF (United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund), 2010. CERF Life-saving Criteria), as referenced in the [UNFPA Minimum Standards](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200_Minimun_Standards_Report_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL_.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. materials and research produced by organisations outside of tradition commercial or academic publishing channels [↑](#footnote-ref-3)