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# CALL FOR SUBMITTING PROJECT PROPOSALS

Call reference number:	15.02.0-N2.3-3786
Call title:	<b>Supporting Activities of the LGBT Community in BiH</b>
Issuance date:	June 10, 2016
Deadline for submitting project proposals:	July 10, 2016 by 4 pm



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## Call for submitting project proposals

Marginalized Populations Support Activity (PPMG)<sup>1</sup> invites non-governmental organizations registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina (associations and foundations founded in accordance with the laws on associations and foundation in BiH) to submit their project proposals within the component for **Supporting Activities of the LGBT Community in BiH**.

Public institutions, government institutions, businesses, religious organizations, political agents and international NGOs without a registered branch in Bosnia and Herzegovina are not eligible to apply. All project activities must be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Project proposals may be submitted for the entire or partial amount of funds necessary for implementation. USAID/PPMG reserves the right to award any number of grants at its discretion.

The minimum amount of funds requested from USAID/PPMG cannot be lower than 34,000 BAM, and the maximum amount cannot exceed 150,000 BAM.

All questions regarding the public call are submitted exclusively via email to [prijava@ppmg.ba](mailto:prijava@ppmg.ba) (Subject: 15.02.0-N2.3-3786, Upit).

The full text of the Call and all the requisite forms are available on the [www.ppmg.ba](http://www.ppmg.ba) website.

Applicants are required to submit a concept note by **4:00 pm on July 10, 2016**, in electronic form, with all the required addenda via email to: [prijava@ppmg.ba](mailto:prijava@ppmg.ba) (Subject: 15.02.0-N2.3-3786, Prijava na javni poziv) after which the applicants will receive an automated response confirming that their email has been received. Concept notes that are not submitted in the aforementioned manner will not be taken into consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> USAID's Marginalized Populations Support Activity (PPMG) supports the activities of local organizations advocating for the rights, empowerment and dignity of under-represented social groups in BiH, and builds the capacities of local nongovernmental organizations, BiH institutions and USAID's implementation partners for achieving the aforementioned goal.



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## Background

The process of adopting anti-discrimination laws outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation in BiH began in 2003, when the Law on Gender Equality in BiH came into force.<sup>2</sup> The “Definitions” section of the Law on Gender Equality does not even provide a definition of sexual orientation.

The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination<sup>3</sup> in BiH came into effect in 2009. Article 2 of the Law treats gender-based discrimination by stipulating that the following shall be considered discriminatory behavior: any exclusion, limitation or preferential treatment based on actual or assumed grounds of any person or a group of persons, on the basis of gender, gender expression or orientation, whereby they are denied the recognition, practicing or accessing, on equal grounds, the rights and freedoms in all areas of public life.

However, many laws and bylaws at different levels, which provide the groundwork for prohibiting discrimination, do not take into consideration sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics.

In 2015, the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, the Gender Center of Republika Srpska and the Gender Center of the Federation of BiH, provided substantial support to LGBT equality and included concrete measures regarding LGBT rights in their annual operation plans, in accordance with the Gender Action Plan for 2016.

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH is developing a human rights strategy and an anti-discrimination strategy, which should include the rights of LGBTI persons, and which is a positive change compared to previous years.<sup>4</sup>

However, in our society the LGBT population is faced with a series of problems that arise from stereotypes and prejudice against the LGBT population group. Furthermore, the predominantly patriarchal and conservative society makes it difficult to change the attitudes and opinions of the public on the problems and rights of the LGBT population.

An overwhelming majority of the LGBT community is forced to remain hidden from the public, out of fear for their safety. The prevailing stance of the society and the government is that homosexuality is “non-existent” in BiH, and the rights of members of the LGBT community are considered less important than the rights of heterosexual persons.

LGBT citizens experience violence and discrimination, the majority of which remains completely invisible in the BiH society, since the current official mechanisms for reporting, prosecuting and documenting discrimination and violence are simply not accessible to most LGBT persons. 1 in 3 LGBT persons in BiH has been a victim of some form of discrimination<sup>5</sup>, which in 93.8% of cases is not reported to the authorities.

Due to their gender expression or sexual identity 23.5% of persons experienced violence. Among those who experienced violence, over 94% of LGBT persons in BiH were direct victims of

<sup>2</sup> Law on Gender Equality (“Official Gazette of BiH”, No. 16/03, 102/09)

<sup>3</sup> Law on Prohibition of Discrimination (“Official Gazette of BiH”, No. 59/09)

<sup>4</sup> Pink Report 2016, Annual Report on the state of human rights of LGBTI persons in BiH. Sarajevo: Sarajevo Open Centre.

<sup>5</sup> Jasmina Čaušević (2013). Brojevi koji ravnopravnost znače. Analiza rezultata istraživanja potreba LGBT osoba u Bosni i Hercegovini. Sarajevo: Sarajevo Open Center; Edition: Human Rights.



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psychological or verbal violence. 1 in 5 LGBT persons in BiH have been victims of sexual violence once or multiple times.<sup>6</sup>

Victims of violence do not report it to the institutions because they fear the stigma associated with their sexual orientation.

The media rarely cover cases of abuse or violence against LGBT persons, and when they do, the coverage is tinged with stereotypes and prejudice against this population group. Instead of helping and drawing attention to the problems faced by the LGBT community, the media frequently report in ways that incite further victimization of LGBT persons.

Problems of the LGBT community include the inability to enter into legal marriage, since marriage is defined as a union of a man and a woman<sup>7</sup>, which in turn precludes them from adopting children.

In practice, freedom of assembly is significantly compromised by physical threats and attacks that have taken place in the past.

The costs of gender reassignment surgery, hormone therapy, and similar treatments, are not covered by health insurance. Changing identity documents after gender reassignment surgery and changing personal data (JMBG) is hindered by the partial legal vacuum in regulations concerning this area.

With the aim of improving the position and rights of the LGBT population group in BiH, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Marginalized Populations Support Activity (USAID/PPMG) will support projects and activities the results of which would contribute to improving the social environment for this group.

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<sup>6</sup> Jasmina Čaušević (2013). Brojevi koji ravnopravnost znače. Analiza rezultata istraživanja potreba LGBT osoba u Bosni i Hercegovini. Sarajevo: Sarajevo Open Center; Edition: Human Rights.

<sup>7</sup> Family Law of FBiH (Article 6) and Family Law of RS (Article 3)



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## Areas of the Public Call

The project proposals may refer to the following areas related to providing support to the activities of the LGBT community in BiH:

- Advocating for improvement of rights and the position of LGBT persons in BiH,
- Activities and services directly resulting in improvement of the position of LGBT persons in BiH.

## Conditions and procedures for applying

The USAID/PPMG is opening a fund for grants directed towards providing support to activities of the LGBT population in BiH. Project proposals may be submitted for the entire or partial amount of funds necessary for implementation. USAID/PPMG reserves the right to award any number of grants at its discretion.

The minimum amount of funds requested from USAID/PPMG cannot be lower than 34,000 BAM, and the maximum amount cannot exceed 150,000 BAM.

The duration of the projects cannot be under 6 or over 12 months.

During the project implementation, the applicant will be responsible for managing the content and financial part of the project, as well as for the narrative and financial reporting to USAID/PPMG.

The applications and the required documentation must be written in one of the official languages and letters of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The applications must be filled out electronically.

Incomplete applications, untimely applications, applications not delivered accordingly, as well as applications in inappropriate forms will not be considered.

All questions regarding the public call are submitted exclusively via email to:  
[prijava@ppmg.ba](mailto:prijava@ppmg.ba) (subject: *15.02.0-N2.3-3786, Upit*).

### Stage I

The project proposals are delivered first in the form of project proposal concept notes. The Project Proposal Concept Note Form (OBR-PPMG-NPP) can be downloaded from the following link: <http://ppmg.ba/ba/grantovi/obrasci>. In addition to the project proposal concept note, a detailed budget has to be delivered with all items (including the narrative budget describing an item in detail and elaborating its price and amount) in the OBR-PPMG-PRB form. The budget form can be downloaded from the following link: <http://ppmg.ba/ba/grantovi/obrasci>. The applications delivered in the complete project form instead of the project proposal concept note form will not be considered.

Each organization can apply with no more than one project proposal concept note. If an organization delivers more than one project, only the first application delivered will be taken into consideration.

The applicants may, but do not have to have a project partner. Project partners can also be institutions at governmental levels in BiH.



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The USAID/PPMG Commission for Evaluation performs the preliminary evaluation of project proposals based on the information and documentation delivered by the applicants.

The preliminary review includes the following criteria:

1. The completeness of the application
  - o The Commission for Evaluation will evaluate whether all documentation listed as obligatory in the Call was delivered;
2. Coordination with the selection criteria:
  - o Based on the delivered documentation, the Committee for Evaluation will evaluate whether the applicant fulfils the selection criteria;
3. Previously achieved results in the sector under which the organization is applying to the Call:
  - o The LGBT population is one of the main target groups for the activities conducted by the organization;
  - o The organization is currently focused on problems of the LGBT population.

The Commission for Evaluation will contact persons listed under contacts and references in order to verify the data on previously achieved results.

- This communication will be conducted primarily in an electronic form, and other alternative forms of communication are also possible, such as via telephone, in certain instances, during meetings.

During the evaluation of project proposals, advantage will be given to the project proposals:

- With a specific, responsible approach and methodology for working with the LGBT population,
- Of organizations currently engaged in promoting the rights of the LGBT population,
  - o Quality project proposals of organizations that never focused on this area will be considered and evaluated,
- That include direct support to or advocating for the LGBT population,
- Containing activities that stipulate direct cooperation with the LGBT communities or individuals,
- That are not based exclusively on developing and distributing promotional and advocating material,
- Demonstrating that there are realistic possibilities to achieve their result during or shortly after the project duration,
- That consider the assistance and expertise of the USAID as useful and complementary,
- Expressing the ability to establish successful partnership with the authorities, other organizations and interest parties working with this marginalized population in BiH,
- Promoting sustainability of realized project goals and results,
- That create a synergy by including other organizations as partners or subgrantees,
- That do not represent a continuation of, addition to or repetition of another project.

After the Commission evaluates and ranks all the delivered project proposals, all the applicants will be informed on the outcome of their application. The project proposals that are evaluated positively, will enter the Stage 2 of the application process.

## **Stage 2**

In Stage 2, the USAID/PPMG will use its own evaluation in the selection process to require the applicants to deliver more information if necessary.



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There is a possibility of requesting the applicants to deliver the full project proposal in OBR-PPMG-PRP form available at <http://ppmg.ba/ba/grantovi/obrasci>.

After the evaluation of full project proposals, all applicants will be informed on the outcome of the evaluation.

The project proposals that are evaluated positively, will enter the grant awarding negotiation stage and contract signing.

## Conditions of grant award

Organizations with the best project proposals that are shortlisted are obliged to enable the USAID/PPMG to conduct a pre-grant evaluation of the business management of the organization for the previous period. The pre-grant evaluation is based on the analysis of organizational, financial, administrative and human resources of the applicant.

Only the organization with the highest score that successfully complete the pre-grant evaluation process can become grantees.

Signing the grant award agreement includes, in addition to the implementation of the project activities, the readiness of organizations to actively participate in developing their organizational capacities with the full support of the USAID/PPMG.

The development of the organizational capacities underlines the following:

- Implementing the results and recommendations of the pre-grant evaluation;
- Participating in educations and trainings organized by the USAID;
- Using the OCA tool for self-evaluation of organizational capacities and implementing the OCA process in the organization;
- Active engagement in improving the existing policies and procedures that manage the activities of the organization, where necessary.

## Deadline for delivering the project proposal concept note

Applicants are required to submit a concept note by **4:00 pm on July 10, 2016**, in electronic form, with all the required addenda via email to: [prijava@ppmg.ba](mailto:prijava@ppmg.ba) (Subject: 15.02.0-N2.3-3786, Prijava na javni poziv) after which the applicants will receive an automated response confirming that their email has been received. Concept notes that are not submitted in the aforementioned manner will not be taken into consideration.