



Research on the gendered aspects of the digital public sphere, with emphasis on gender/SGBV, in the context of Rights to Freedom Expression of Peaceful Assembly and Association.

Terms of Reference

1. Profile of CEJ

The Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) is a women's organization based in Colombo, working primarily with Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim women affected by war and political unrest. CEJ's mission is the achievement of gender justice so that men, women and gender minorities live in a society that is free, just and equal. Its objectives are the promotion of gender equality, advancing the rule of law, good governance and democratic principles, promoting women's advancement and economic empowerment, advocating for the commitment to international human rights standards and fostering partnerships with grassroots level women's networks.

2. Project Background

This project aims to capacitate the general public, Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) victim-survivors, and advocates who work with them in their knowledge and understanding of Fundamental Rights.

Through this project we hope to achieve:

- a greater capacity of key justice actors who are advocating for the rights of SGBV victim-survivors, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights and the rights of minorities.
- a greater understanding among the public, particularly among vulnerable groups, of their fundamental rights, which will empower them;
- an enhanced capacity of CSOs and NGOs working with SGBV victim-survivors, women's rights and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, to protect their fundamental rights;
- an enhanced capacity of grassroots CSOs working for women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights and SGBV victim-survivors, to protect their fundamental rights;
- greater preparedness on the part of lawyers representing victims of SGBV to initiate strategic litigation to protect and uphold their fundamental rights.

3. Scope of Work

The Consultant/team will work in collaboration with CEJ and they will report directly to the CEJ executive director. The primary role of the Consultant/team will be to design and conduct a research study, and compile a report on analysing the gendered aspects of the digital public sphere, with emphasis on gender/SGBV, in the context of rights to Freedom of Expression, Peaceful Assembly and Association.

The consultant will have to,

- Attend virtual meetings with CEJ staff and contact person/s when required.
- Conduct an initial desk research and compile a literature review.
- Design research methodology for the study and share with CEJ for input.
- Coming up with a relevant methodology to collect the data in consultation with CEJ.
- Develop data collection tools and conduct the data collection process:
 - Design an online rapid poll, in all 3 languages to obtain baseline data.
 - Decide on the sample population with a scientific basis.
 - Hiring a team/research assistant to coordinate the online rapid poll.
 - Conduct test runs to troubleshoot, and thereafter carry out the online rapid poll.
 - Carry out data collection using other tools developed under the methodology in the target districts of the project.
- Analyse the data collected through the desk research, rapid poll and the other data collection tools.
- Compiling a detailed research report incorporating the data that is obtained by the desk research, rapid poll and the other data collection tools.
- Ensure the timely submission of the stipulated deliverables.
- Communicate concerns and inquiries to CEJ & other stakeholders to ensure the smooth functioning of the project.
- Make payments to external/third-party concerning online platforms which will be utilized for the poll and other data collection processes. (This cost will be covered by CEJ).

The Report

- The report should be written in English.
- Should have a chapter on recommendations.
- The full report should be between 25-30 pages.
- Font size 12, single spacing, A4 size, Times New Roman font is preferred.
- Referencing style should be the American Psychological Association (APA) System or other reputed referencing used in such research.

4. Expected Deliverables & Timeline

Deliverable	Tentative Dates
1. Quotation, signing of contract, and attending a virtual briefing with CEJ	5th April 2023
2. Submit a work plan with a timeline for CEJ review and approval.	6th April 2023
3. Conducting the desk research and submit a brief report.	15th April 2023
4. Finalising the rapid poll questions and	30th April 2023

translating them into all 3 languages, finalising the plan/strategy of the poll, and designing & conducting the rapid poll.	
5. Finalising the research methodology and identifying/designing the data collection tools.	30th April 2023
6. Collecting data using the identified/developed tools.	Between 01st May and 31st May 2023
7. Analysing the data that is obtained by the rapid polls, secondary data and the primary data collected by data collection tools.	Between 1st June and 15th June 2023
8. Submitting an outline for the research report and findings.	20th June 2023
9. Submitting the first draft for CEJ review and submitting the final report.	30th June 2023
10. Presenting the research report and findings to the target audience.	Between 15th August 2023 and 15th September 2023

The proposed time period of the work will be between 5th April 2023 to 15th September 2023. Any changes made due to reasons beyond the control of CEJ (e.g., Possible delays due to lockdown of the country), will be finalized in discussion with the interviewer/enumerator on mutual agreement with CEJ.

5. Qualifications

- Master's degree in gender studies, development studies, law, or any other related discipline.
- Sound knowledge of Fundamental Rights Jurisdiction of Sri Lanka, and local knowledge of the social, cultural, and political context of SGBV victim survivors in Sri Lanka.
- Excellent research, analytical and report writing skills.
- Excellent English language skills and Sinhala/or Tamil language skills.
- Excellent presentation skills.
- A sound understanding of Sri Lanka's international obligations with regard to women's rights.
- Experience supervising individuals or overseeing projects with multiple points of input.

6. Payment

- The Consultant will be paid an all-inclusive fee commensurate with the work undertaken.
- The payments will be issued in installments for the submission of deliverables.
- A quote in Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) for the work must be provided by the consultant.
- A mutually agreeable rate will be agreed upon.

- The final agreed upon payment will be made within ten working days from the date of approval of the review report.

7. Confidentiality

Both during and after the end of the contract the Consultant must not disclose any matters that have come to his/her knowledge during the course of his/her duties. This shall not apply to communications made in the normal discharge of duties or to facts that are manifest to the public or which by their nature or importance do not require to be treated as confidential. All deliverables under this project are the property of CEJ. The data gathered from this research cannot be shared with any third party unless express permission has been obtained from CEJ.

8. Copyright

Any material produced will be the sole property of CEJ. It may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any other production without the written approval of CEJ.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Interested candidates may send a resume/CV and a detailed quotation to parami.cej@gmail.com with names and contact details of two referees by 31st March 2023.

