

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job Title: National Consultant: Documentation of Human Rights Issues Facing Persons with Spina Bifida

Project Reference: UN Human Rights Adviser (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

Contract type: Individual Contract

Duration of assignment: 25 January 2014-30 May 2014 (up to 50 working days indicative)

Starting date: 25 January 2014

Duty Station: Chisinau, Moldova

Deadline for applications: 18 January 2014

Background

The Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2010. A Law on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities entered into force on 1 January 2013. In 2012, Moldovan Parliament adopted Law 121/2012 on Ensuring Equality, aiming to transpose a number of international requirements in this area into the domestic legal order. In 2013, the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality ("Equality Council"), established under Law 121/2012, began work. In its 2011 review of the Republic of Moldova, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern at several aspects of treatment of children with disabilities. In her preliminary conclusions at the end of her September 2013 mission to the Republic of Moldova, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty Magdalena Sepulveda urged further attention to securing the fundamental rights of children with spina bifida.

The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) has had a Human Rights Adviser in Moldova since July 2008, based in the UN Resident Coordinator Office, mainstreaming human rights in the work of UN Country Team, Government, civil society and the National Human Rights Institution. During 2013, OHCHR has been involved, jointly with UNDP, WHO and UNICEF in a targeted effort to support implementation of the CRPD Convention.

Scope of work, responsibilities and description of the proposed work

A national consultant is sought to undertake first hand, fact-based research, using standard human rights documentation methodologies, to document the situation of children and other with spina bifida or hydrocephaly, with a view to supporting reform of treatment of children with these conditions. Envisioned are:

- Desk review of all relevant materials;
- Consultations with relevant parties from the human rights, medical and rights of persons with disabilities communities;
- First hand documentary field research, based on standard human rights research methodologies, to establish any and all facts related to the treatment of persons with spina bifida and/or hydrocephaly;

On the basis of this research, the consultant shall produce a report in English language of not less than 16,000 words and not more than 30,000 words, with standard academic referencing, including the following:

- (a) Existing relevant international and national law provisions relevant for the given area, with particular focus on relevant human rights law;
- (b) Clear, fact-base description of human rights issues facing persons with spina bifida/hydrocephaly, by theme and including descriptions of facts in individual cases;
- (c) Statistical data, where existing and relevant;
- (d) Recommendations for action and/or reform.

The report shall include a clear Executive Summary. The structure of the report can be modified in consultation with the UN Human Rights Adviser. Further guidance will be provided by the Human Rights Adviser.

The consultant may be asked to produce other documents, including documents in State Language, in the framework of the current consultancy.

The consultant shall be entitled to reimbursement of reasonable transport costs related to field research activities, in consultation with the Human Rights Adviser.

In this regard, consultant is engaged on a short term-basis:

- (1) to undertake preliminary research in several key school districts – including first hand field research - and environments as to current issues of minority rights in school optimization;
- (2) to produce monitoring report(s) on the findings;
- (3) to support planning and implementation of a training session for civil society organizations, in the framework of the Bureau for Interethnic Relations.

Deliverables

1. Initial meetings with Human Rights Adviser team	Before 7 February
2. Summary of desk research and field research plan of action	By 21 February
3. Initial meetings with the relevant stakeholders	February 7-February 28
4. Field research	February 21-March 31
5. Report	

- First draft report	April 7
- Second draft report	April 28
- Final Report	May 15

Qualification Criteria

- University degree in law, social sciences, human rights or other relevant field;
- At least 3 years of practical experience in human rights domain, monitoring activities, conducting research;
- Commitment to human rights; knowledge of international norms and standards in the area of human rights, in particular as concerns health and human rights and/or the rights of persons with persons with disabilities;
- Understanding of anti-discrimination law and/or rights of persons with disabilities law as set out under international, European and domestic law of the Republic of Moldova;
- Familiarity with the health field in Moldova, and its challenges;
- Excellent drafting skills in English and State Language;
- Excellent communication and teamwork skills;
- Ability to focus on goals and adapt processes to achieving goals;
- Demonstrated competence in conducting individual interviews with affected groups according to standard human rights documentation methodologies preferred;
- Fluency in Romanian and English. Working knowledge of one or more additional languages relevant for Moldova, including Russian, Bulgarian, Gagauzian, Romani, Ukrainian or sign language is an asset;
- Adhere to the core values of the United Nations; in particular, is respectful of differences of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, language, age, HIV status, disability, and sexual orientation, or other status.

Documents to be included in the proposal

Interested persons should submit the following documents:

1. A detailed curriculum vitae of relevant experience or P11;
2. A written statement of not more than 1000 words:
 - (i) Explaining why you are the most suitable for the work;
 - (ii) Providing a brief methodology on how you would approach and conduct the work;
3. A financial proposal.