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**«Strengthening National Capacities to Protect the Most Vulnerable
from Torture in Moldova» Project**
announces an Expression of Interest for
GRANTS PROGRAMME (GP-2014: Freedom from Torture) for Civil Society, February 2014

The Project «**Strengthening National Capacities to Protect the Most Vulnerable from Torture in Moldova**» is funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Moldova in consultations with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the East Europe Foundation and the Soros Foundation – Moldova. The goal of this Project is to contribute to the prevention of torture and fighting against impunity on the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova, including Transnistrian region, especially in respect of the most vulnerable women and men with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities in mental health facilities. The Project also aims at raising capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of national anti-torture related strategies, plans and application of legislation.

In order to meet this goal the «Strengthening National Capacities to Protect the Most Vulnerable from Torture in Moldova» Project announces an **Expression of Interest for Grants** opened to NGOs and mass-media registered in the Republic of Moldova, including Transnistrian region. The projects approved for funding should be implemented **from March 2014 to November 2015** (implementation period should be from 16 to 21 months).

The role of NGOs and mass-media in preventing and combating torture is crucial. By performing their watchdog and information role, the NGOs and mass-media can raise public awareness on various torture cases, provide informational and moral support to victims of torture and advocate for a systemic change in order to ensure zero tolerance to torture, building torture-free environment for everyone and campaigning to bring perpetrators to justice.

Project proposals should focus on raising of public awareness and/or public campaigning on torture issues, which may include public or journalistic investigation of allegations of torture; scrutinising and public reporting on the actions on State institutions following allegations of torture and thus contributing to combating impunity; public reporting on the court hearings in cases of torture; disseminating information concerning torture cases and issues; publicly consulting society on the legal and civic ways to combat torture; mobilisation of society to act against torture; creative/innovative forms of public campaigning etc.

Further, project proposals covering the 5th anniversary of the April 2009 events, which will be marked in April 2014, and 26 June, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, in 2014 and 2015 are strongly encouraged.

Successful proposals should also thematically prioritise covering the issue of torture against women and men with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities in mental health facilities. The applicants are advised to study the Report A/HRC/22/53¹ as of 1 February 2013 released by Mr. Juan Mendez, the UN Special Rapporteur of torture, which serves as a basis for the understanding of torture in mental and other health facilities, and are encouraged to draft their project proposals based on the issues covered in the Report. Torture in psychiatric hospitals and neurological internats (care homes), is an emerging issue in Moldova and more information about the situation in this sphere can be found in the reports of the Parliamentary Advocates² and the Pilot Ombudsperson in Psychiatric Institutions.³

The grantee(s) (in case of mass-media and mass-media NGOs) should commit to bring visibility to and report about the developments of the «Strengthening National Capacities to Protect the Most Vulnerable from Torture in Moldova» Project.

Applicants should demonstrate how gender and minorities (national, ethnic, linguistic, religious etc.) mainstreaming is ensured throughout the project proposal. This could be done through, but not limited to, the involvement of both women and men, as well as persons belonging to minorities, into the management/implementation of the proposed project, ensuring that women, men and persons belonging to minorities will be planned beneficiaries of the project, raising gender and minority related aspects within the issues covered by the project proposal (for example,

¹ The Report in all UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) can be accessed following this link:

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=103

² <http://ombudsman.md/ro/mnpt-vizite-monitorizare/conferinta-presa-violari-ale-drepturilor-omului-cadrul-institutiilor>

³ http://dis.md/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/RAPORTUL-FINAL_6luni-apr-sept-20121.pdf

http://dis.md/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/RAPORTUL-FINAL_9luni-oct-2012-iul-2013.pdf



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prosecutors inaction in cases of sexual abuse of women in psychiatric facilities amounting to torture, involuntary abortions/sterilization of persons of specific ethnicity in psychiatric facilities, lack of informed consent for medical treatment and medication in preferred language etc.), cooperation with NGOs of persons belonging to minorities for the purposes of project implementation etc.

Within this Expression of Interest, two (2) projects will be selected of up to **13.500 USD** for each project. Original and innovative project proposals will have priority.

The rules and procedures that will guide the submission, selection and implementation of projects can be found in the **Applicant's Guidelines***.

The application package should contain the following documents:

- Application Form* (which will include the budget and activities timeline), filled in Romanian, Russian or English. Handwritten Application Forms will not be accepted;
- Copy of the registration certificate to prove that the organization is a registered legal entity;
- Copy of the Statute of the organization;
- Declaration of partnership, where applicable, signed by parties;
- CVs of Project Manager, accountant and key staff, involved in project's implementation;
- CVs of experts and their written consent to be involved in the activities of the project;
- To the extent possible, a brief overview of the activities of the organization (including, if applicable, recommendation letters from other donors, developed materials: researches, strategies, training aids, newsletters, brochures; any other relevant materials/information: newspaper articles, audio/video clips, photo reports from events, etc.);
- Other relevant materials to increase credibility of the Applicant for the donor and to complement the project justification.

***Application Form** and **Applicant's Guidelines** are posted on the UNDP Moldova website (<http://www.undp.md/tenders/index.shtml>). These documents can also be received by sending a request to the following e-mail: lidia.marchitan@undp.org.

Deadline for submission of proposals: Monday, 17 March 2014, 10:00 (Moldova local time). Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

The documents can be sent either by mail at: tenders-Moldova@undp.org titled as "GP-2014: Freedom from Torture", or by post, or delivered physically in a sealed envelope (marked «GP-2014: Freedom from Torture») to the following address: **UNDP Moldova, 131, 31 August 1989 Str., MD-2012, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. Attention: Registry Office/Procurement.**

Applications sent by fax will be rejected. Incomplete applications shall not be examined. Applications sent by e-mail should not exceed 5 MB in size. Applications larger than 5 MB should be split into several messages and each message subject should indicate "part x of y" besides the marking mentioned in the announcement and the solicitation documents. All electronic submissions are confirmed by an automatic reply from tenders-Moldova@undp.org. If you do not receive a confirmation by email, please, contact UNDP Moldova Registry Office by phone +373 (0) 22 220-045. Offers received after the deadline shall be rejected. For additional information on the application process, please, contact Mr. Evghenii Golosceapov either by phone at: +373 (0) 22 269-119 or by e-mail at: evghenii.golosceapov@undp.org