

## Leadership For Gender Equality Digital Collaboration Grants

### 1. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME:

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

Empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality are crucial to creating inclusive, open and prosperous societies. Gender inequalities, however, persist in many countries so it is important that we find new ways of addressing this issue. We contribute to this agenda by creating opportunities for dialogue to influence policies that benefit women and girls; work with partners to promote access and opportunity for women and girls and build the skills and confidence of women and girls to achieve their potential and have more influence over decisions that affect their lives. We also aim to enhance the UK's role in promoting gender equality internationally, and its overall contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (no. 5): *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. Further information can be viewed at <https://www.britishcouncil.org/society/womens-and-girls-empowerment>

Women continue to be under-represented in positions of leadership; the result is that their involvement in influencing and making decisions is limited, that traditional power structures are unchallenged and that gender inequalities globally persist. This is compounded once we look at intersectional identities, such as women with disabilities.

The **Leadership for Gender Equality Programme** is working in selected countries in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA), South Asia, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions to address the gender gaps in leadership as well as build the capacity of young people for progressing gender equality. The **Digital collaboration partnership grants** is one component of the programme and will provide up to £7,000 to organisations in the UK and participating countries to undertake small projects that address gender equality in leadership / women's leadership in the participating countries.

### 2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DIGITAL COLLABORATION GRANTS:

The Digital Partnership strand aims to provide grants to organisations in the UK and selected countries in Sub Sahara Africa, Middle East and North Africa to collaborate digitally in delivering projects or events aimed at promoting gender equality and equity through leadership, including women's leadership in the Creative and Social Enterprise sectors in SSA and Higher Education and Development sector in MENA. The digital collaboration grants are expected to, among other things, improve institutional capacity, process that foster gender equality and equity for actors and institutions through digital capacity development activities, raise awareness and address barriers that inhibit gender diversity in leadership across selected sectors, collaborate to develop digital toolkits that address a demonstrated gender

equality need/issue in selected sectors, digital events and campaigns focused on gender equality and inclusion etc.

The **objectives** of the Digital Collaborative Grants are:

- To enable organisations who are leading work on gender equality issues to connect and share their learning and experience
- To enable organisations who are committed to improving their work on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to learn from others
- To stimulate new ideas and new ways of working on gender equality issues, particularly working with new technologies.
- To share experience and learn more about how to overcome the digital gender gap

The value of each grant is a minimum of £2,500 and a maximum of £7,000 and covers activities for a maximum of 4 months (February – May 2021)

### **What is the grant for?**

**Time.** Time for those **from the UK and target countries to initiate connections together** for digital/online networking and new gender equality focused projects. This could include, but not limited to:

- Online or digital conferences or webinars
- Online or digital training
- Online or digital toolkits
- Online Art project
- Online raising awareness campaign
- Collaborate on a research project
- Online social initiatives working on supporting women leadership

All activities are to be conducted virtually, complimentary **face to face activities in your home country** (subject to any local health/COVID-19 restrictions that may be in place).

## **3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **3.1 Who is eligible for the grants?**

We encourage applications to form partnerships that build upon and take advantage of organisational strengths and meet the following requirements:

- Registered organisations or companies working on gender equality in the UK and the eligible countries listed below. Registered organisations and companies will have to submit the requested documents according to the system in each country
- Registered organisations or entities working in Higher Education, Women Rights Organisations, and/or Social Development sectors in the UK and the eligible countries outlined in below

- Applications must be a partnership between at least one UK organisation/entities and organisations/entities based in one of the countries listed below.
- There must be one lead applicant, but this does not need to be the UK organisation
- Registered organisations or entities must have a registered business bank account.
- Individuals as either lead or collaborator are not eligible to apply.

### 3.2 Eligible countries:

UK in partnership with:

**SSA Countries:** Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zimbabwe

**MENA Countries:** Egypt and Morocco

### 3.3 Eligible expenditures:

- **70% of the grant** should be allocated to **staff time/fees** and must be split equally between the applicants. **Please ensure you state in your application if there is more than one counterpart.** This portion of the grant can be split equally if there are more than two (2) counterparts. (e.g. if there is one lead and three counterparts, the 70% will be split four ways).
- **The remaining 30%** can be used as a **per diem** for those who will be supporting you with the project, **software** (e.g. zoom account), or **local travel and accommodation** costs that may be required. With regards to local air travel, we are encouraging digital/online collaboration, so if you do plan local air travel, please explain why this is essential in your application. In your application form it is important you make it clear how this 30% will be spent.

What is the grant *not* for?

- International travel and accommodation
- Not for funding bodies
- Not for organisations based outside of the countries targeted in this call.

## 4. APPLICATION AND GRANT AWARD PROCESS

This is a **restricted and targeted funding opportunity** open to organisations/entities/institutions working on Gender Equality, Higher Education, Social Development and Women Rights Organisations in the UK and the eligible countries indicated in 3.2.

The British Council will identify a short list of organisations/entities in the UK and eligible countries working on gender equality, HE, creative and social enterprises and invite them to submit proposals that will be assessed by regional teams as per the assessment criteria outlined below:

#### **4.1 Assessment Criteria:**

##### **Applications will be scored on:**

- Alignment with the collaboration grant aims and objectives
- Awareness of the local context(s), including the problem/issue your project will address
- Outline of how the project will be delivered and intended results for main stakeholders
- Organisations capacity and capability to deliver the project, including the selected sector as well as the experience and role of staff,
- Description of how the project will be delivered digitally and in the context of COVID-19
- Clear budget of estimated cost breakdown and timescales
- Evidence of innovation through digital exchange

#### **4.2 Application and selection process:**

- Applicants should use the programme application process shared in. Guidelines for completing and submitting the application forms are outlined in the application form.
- The applications will be evaluated by British Council staff as per the selection criteria above.
- Assessment results will be communicated to all applicants via email before end of February

#### **4.3 Agreement:**

On accepting the grant, you need to sign the grant agreement and share payment details for the transfer of the first part of the funds.

An initial advance of 90% of the approved budget will be made to the recipient after signing of the project grant agreement. The final payment of the grant will be contingent upon satisfactory performance and proper management of funds that will be monitored regularly based on programmatic and financial reports submitted by the grantee.

## **5. REPORTING AND GOVERNANCE**

The Lead applicant will have to submit a bi-weekly progress report and a final narrative and financial report by the end of the project.