**Request for Applications for the Kosovo Women’s Fund**

*Issued: 26 June 2018 Application Deadline: 10 July 2018*

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Kosovo Women’s Network (KWN) is pleased to announce the Kosovo Women’s Fund’s twelfth grant round. This year, there will be only one round during which member organizations can apply. We invite our member organizations to submit applications that will **contribute to furthering women’s rights and gender equality in Kosovo**.

This year, **KWN has simplified the way of applying for support from the Kosovo Women's Fund**, in order for KWN members to have easier access to these funds. Now, instead of filling out the application form, to write your project proposal, you just need to make a brief description by writing a **Concept Note.**

More specifically, **Concept Notes** should demonstrate how organizations propose to contribute to realizing the Strategic Goals identified by KWN members in the KWN Strategy for 2015-2018[[1]](#footnote-2), towards **supporting, protecting, and promoting the rights and interests of women and girls**; towards a rights-based approach; and towards supporting more sustainable changes.

**KWN strongly encourages initiatives that involve advocacy on local and national levels**. Advocacy can include policy oriented research, meetings with officials, raising awareness about human rights, and involving citizens in claiming their rights. Initiatives must aim to contribute to produce tangible and visible results (e.g., new legislation, new services, reports about cases of Gender Based Violence, monitored court cases, inheritance claims, etc.). Please be aware that the sole activities cannot be considered as results of the initiatives.

**The types of activities eligible** for financial support include: organize meetings with women and decision-makers, organize campaigns for advocacy and awareness raising, building the capacities of women-led CSOs to participate more politically and advocate for their priorities, support women in meetings with policy-makers to influence changes in existing laws and regulations that concern them, policy-oriented research, public outreach on advocacy issues, networking/experience exchange related to furthering women’s participation and human rights, trainings, roundtables/discussions, and other advocacy strategies.

**The types of action that are ineligible** include: actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses; actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses; purchasing of buildings or offices; purchasing of vehicles; purchasing of equipment (unless necessary for the successful execution of the project); actions supporting political parties, groups and movements.

In accordance with the KWN Strategy for 2015-2018, the types of initiatives that will be prioritized for funding will include:

**Building the Capacity of KWN**

* Involving youth (young women and men) in advocating for women's rights on specific issues.
* Mobilizing persons with disabilities, pensioners, persons from minority ethnic groups (within their municipality), and/or women from rural areas in advocating for their right on a particular issue.
* Collaborating with other KWN members through Networking for Change grants to share knowledge and further other network members' capacities in specific areas.

**Women in Politics and Decision-making**

* Involving women in identifying priorities towards gender equality in their municipalities and directly advocating to officials to address their priorities.
* Involving diverse women in reviewing draft policy documents at municipal or national levels and providing their input (e.g., budget documents, new municipal regulations, etc.). This initiative includes making a preliminary agreement with the institutions who provide input.

**Women's Right to Healthcare**

* Involving women in advocating for improved access to quality healthcare, including taking actions to demand quality, affordable healthcare be provided and/or to report violations of women's right to healthcare.
* Collaborate with women to officially report abuses of their right to healthcare to the appropriate authorities (especially reproductive and maternal health), after raising their awareness about their rights.
* Utilize KWN’s research and other data available on women’s access to quality healthcare to inform advocacy and awareness raising.

**Addressing Gender Based Violence**

* Advocate to institutions for improved services for persons who have suffered gender based violence (e.g., domestic violence, sexual harassment, or sexual violence during the war).
* Advocate for better rehabilitation and reintegration services for persons who suffered violence.
* Monitor court cases related to domestic violence and report incorrect application of the legal framework by courts, advocating to the appropriate institutions for these issues to be addressed.
* Support women and girls who have experienced sexual harassment at work, at school, or in the street by providing legal help to them and teaching them how to approach the correct institutions and seeking an address for these cases, after informing citizens of their rights to address sexual harassment.
* Organize campaigns to raise awareness among women, men and institutions about the legal framework regarding mechanisms against (domestic) violence and sexual harassment.
* Consult the research reports of KWN, such as the report on “Sexual Harassment in Kosovo” published in 2016 which seeks to monitor the implementation of relevant legal framework by the public institutions responsible. Also the report “No more Excuses” published in 2015, which informed the process of drafting the new Kosovo Programme and Action Plan against Domestic Violence launched in 2016, in order to provide individual institutions with concrete recommendations towards improving their approach in addressing domestic violence and implementing this Action Plan. (Both reports are available at [www.womensnetwork.org](http://www.womensnetwork.org)).
* Collaborate with local institutions and/or businesses to install mechanisms for addressing sexual harassment.
* Provide legal and psychological support to women who have suffered sexual violence during the war in claiming their rights under the new legal framework

**Women's Economic Empowerment**

* Advocating to municipal or national authorities for policies that encourage and support women's economic empowerment (e.g., more allocation of agricultural subsidies to women and men; more equal distribution of government grants for business development for women and men, the opening of more public day cares that will provide jobs for women and enable women to work as an employment policy).
* Working with Regional Employment Centres to encourage them to support more women in securing employment.
* Directly supporting women in claiming their rights to property and/or inheritance (this can follow awareness-raising, but must involve women actually registering property or claiming inheritance).
* Advocating for the amendment of the current Labor Law in Kosovo, more specifically the provisions on maternity leave within this law, as well as advocating to the relevant institutions for the implementation of this Law, in order to increase the participation of women in the labor market.

**Grant Awards**

Applicants can apply for either of the two types of grants available:

1. Advocacy Grants for a single organization with the maximum amount of €4,000 supported by Austrian Development Agency (ADA); or
2. Networking for Change Grants where two organizations can apply for a joint initiative that costs up to €8,000, supported by Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Organizations that apply together must a) use the “Networking for Change” Concept Note form; and b) include a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the official representative of each organization where they agree to implement the project together and clearly state each organization’s roles and responsibilities within the project.

Projects must be completed on the **period of three up to twelve months**, starting from the moment of signing the contract, depending on how the organization decides. KWN reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Funding decisions will be made by the Kosovo Women’s Fund Grant Review Committee, elected by KWN members.

**Eligibility**

In order to apply, organizations must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Be an official KWN member;
2. Plan and implement activities in accordance with their own organizational strategy;
3. Undertake KWF-funded activities that contribute to the implementation of the KWN Strategy for 2015-2018, including programs on:
   * Building the Capacity of KWN;
   * Women in Politics and Decision-making;
   * Women’s Health;
   * Gender-based Violence; and
   * Women’s Economic Empowerment.

Note: The Grant Review Committee will prioritize funding for initiatives that involve **advocacy**, towards bringing about sustainable changes in supporting, protecting, or promoting women’s rights and gender equality at municipal and/or national levels. It must aim to contribute to produce tangible and visible results (e.g., new legislation, new services, reports about cases of Gender Based Violence, monitored court cases, inheritance claims, etc.)

1. Reach grassroots and/or vulnerable persons and groups;
2. Lack other opportunities to secure funds from donors.

**Application Submission Procedures**

KWN will accept Concept Notes in Albanian, Serbian and English languages. They can either be e-mailed to [grants@womensnetwork.org](mailto:grants@womensnetwork.org) or hand-delivered to the KWN office in Prishtina. Hand-delivered applications must include a CD or USB with the same version of the electronic files. Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. One copy of their Concept Note using the KWN Concept Note for Advocacy Grants for a Single Organization or KWN Concept Note for Networking for Change (attached and at: [www.womensnetwork.org](http://www.womensnetwork.org));
2. Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties (if applying for a Networking for Change Grant).

Only organizations that pass the first phase of the application, then will have to work together with KWN staff to pass the second phase which also includes providing more details of the concept note.

Proposals submitted to KWN for this grant competition must be the original and sole work of the applicant organization. Plagiarism will result in disqualification from the grant competition.

KWN will retain all materials and documents submitted by applicants. KWN will not use information presented by applicants for purposes other than review and will not provide this information to other persons or institutions, except when required either by Kosovo law or requested by donors.

Upon delivery of their application, applicants will receive a Confirmation of Receipt with an application number, signed by KWN staff.

**Anticipated Timeline**

Request for Applications issued: 26 June 2018

**Deadline for submission of applications: 10 July 2018, 5:00 PM**

Expected grant award announcement: Third week of September 2018

**Contact Information**

Request Clarifications: Applicants should submit clarification requests via email to [grants@womensnetwork.org](mailto:grants@womensnetwork.org)

The grants distributed in this grant round have received support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) via KWN’s “Advancing Women’s Rights Initiative” in the amount of €49,000.

1. KWN, Strategy for 2015-2018, Prishtina, 2016, at: http://www.womensnetwork.org/documents/kwn\_strategy\_2015\_2018\_eng.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)