



Terms of Reference

**Protective environment from hate speech and supportive
for the freedom of expression in GS&WB.**

REQUEST For CONSULTANCY SERVICE For COMPANIES or INDIVIDUALS

Contracting authority: European Commission

Coordinator: Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict
Resolution "PCDCR"

Place: Gaza Strip & West Bank

Context/Background

PCDCR is a civil non-profitable organization established in August 1998 as an investment of distinguished efforts exerted by a group of Palestinian youth highly motivated and ambitious to develop a Palestinian model promotes democratic principles and modern conflict resolution alternatives.

PCDCR is operating overall the governorates of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) to mitigate the deteriorated political, psychosocial, cultural and economic situations of the Palestinian people in the oPt. This deteriorated situation resulted from the implications of the Israel's ongoing occupation since many decades and its violations, and the 13-year-old internal Palestinian division.

Within such circumstances, the political hate speech reached the peak in 2007, which resulted in armed fight/confrontation between Fateh, and Hamas leaving 600 killed persons and thousands of injured from both parties. Since 2008, PCDCR worked towards preserving the civic peace striving to create a convergence of views between the disputed parties. A multiplicity of interventions was undertaken at the national level adopting the Bottom-Up approach including drafting the Strategic National Reconciliation Program and a transitional protocol where more than 320,000 persons had agreed upon and signed. Later on, it was submitted to the leaders of the 2 disputed parties. The document included part about eliminating hate speech and incitement of hatred. In order to mobilize the community with all its categories to influence the 2 parties towards reconciliation; mass demonstrations organized. A variety of activities have been conducted towards reconciliation on both social and political level involving social figures, head of families& clans, youth, women community activists and student faction activists. All the efforts exerted by the Palestinian civil society, political parties, independent figures to achieve the national reconciliation went unheeded, and the Palestinian internal division is still ongoing and Palestinians still far away from achieving the national reconciliation. However, PCDCR learned that political hate speech is a cause and result of the current Palestinian situation. It was the reason behind escalating the events toward armed confrontation between Fateh and Hamas, and it is a result of the division between the two parties where each of them uses hate speech to fuel community incitement, devoting the divide and restricting freedom of expression.

On the other hand, PCDCR is working with people with disabilities and women through women rights and empowerment program since 2007, it received thousands of cases related to violence against women and gender-based violence, PCDCR concluded that hate speech based on gender and disability is a main cause of domestic violence and family disputes.

In response to this deteriorated situation of Palestinians, and based on the rich experience of PCDCR in addressing democracy in general, participation, accountability, media, freedom of expression and enhancing civic peace in particular for almost 15 years on both local and national levels; PCDCR is currently implementing a project titled ***“Protective environment from hate speech and supportive for the freedom of expression in GS&WB”*** funded by the EU by investing PCDCR's experiences to combat hate speech based on political affiliation, gender and disability and enhance freedom of expression to strengthen the opportunities of achieving the civic peace in Palestine.

Project Overall objective: To contribute effectively in developing a protective environment from hate speech and supportive for freedom of expression and social peace in GS&WB through community-based mechanisms and sustainable functioning structures.

Specific objective: By end of 2022, institutionalizing community participation regarding counteracting hate speech and enhancing freedom of expression in GS&WB.

Objectives of the Assignment:

PCDCR is seeking for high quality consultancy services to design theoretical reference manual on hate speech “hate speech: content, causes and risks”. The purpose of this manual is to identify hate speech, incitement of racial hatred and discrimination based on political affiliation, gender and disability.

The manual will answer a range of questions about what is hate speech, vocabulary of hate speech, who are victims of hate speech, what to do if you encountered hate speech, what are the rights of hate speech victims, which legal protection against hate speech does exist, who is liable for hate speech, who investigates hate speech, which law applies to hate speech, what are the penalties for the guilty

of hate speech, what is freedom of expression, what are restrictions in freedom of expression. This manual will act as a reference for the project team.

It is worth mentioning that this manual will be unprecedented and the first of its kind in Palestine.

Scope of Work

The consultant will design the manual (in Arabic) to make it as a reference to the hate speech watchers' team.

Following specific tasks and time frame:

- The first draft will be shared with PCDCR 25 days after accepting the technical and financial offer.
- The consultant will discuss the first draft with PCDCR within a week of submitting the first draft, then modifying it as approved.
- The final version of the manual will be shared with PCDCR 15 days after discussing it with PCDCR.

Qualifications and Experience

The national consultant with the following experience is welcome to apply:

- a) Advanced University Degree in law, political science sociology or other related disciplines.
- g) Good experience in designing manuals.

Expenses

PCDCR shall pay the consultancy fee to the consultant as agreed between both the parties by contract agreement. The expenses being paid upon completion of all previously outlined tasks.

Institutional Arrangements

- The consultant shall work in close with PCDCR, coordinators and other relevant key persons.
- The consultant shall deliver the final version of the hate speech manual to PCDCR.

Submission of Application

Submission of package:

- a) Personal CV, indicating all past experience from similar experience, as well as the contact details (email and mobile number) and at least three (3) professional references;
- b) **Technical proposal:** covered all the theoretical and practical issue related to the hate speech and freedom of expression considering the Palestine context.
- c) **Financial proposal.** The financial offer should be in Euro, and including a total lump sum amount.

The technical and financial offers should be enclosed in a sealed envelope signed and stamped, and delivered by hand no later than **Thursday, May 07, 2020 before 3:00 PM** at PCDCR headquarter office in Gaza; address: Charles de Gaulle St., Al Rimal, Gaza - Phone: +972-8-2835699; Or at Nablus branch in the West Bank; address: Al 'Aloul & Abu Salha building, Nablus - phone: +972-9-233-8287, Hebron: Al-Israa Building, Alharas Area, third floor, Tel: 2296669.

Applications without financial offer will be treated as incomplete and will not be considered for further processing.

Evaluation

The criteria which shall serve as basis for evaluating offers will be [70%] for the technical offer; [30%] for financial offer; so that the evaluation committee is not obligated to the lowest prices