Call for Proposals

Legal Challenges Affecting Civil Society in Brazil 2020

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite applications from Brazilian individuals, civil society organizations (CSOs) and academic institutions for a grant of up to US$25,000 for activities to address ongoing and emerging legal challenges affecting civil society. We anticipate issuing up to two awards. Applicants may apply either singly or in consortia.

ICNL will support efforts to:

• Gather evidence of restrictions on CSO rights;
• Raise awareness of those restrictions, including by identifying and highlighting emblematic cases at the national and international levels; and
• Advocate for enabling reforms.

As explained below, to meet eligibility criteria proposals must demonstrate that the applicant will engage with other groups, networks, entities, and key individuals to carry out project activities.

Background

ICNL is an international not-for-profit organization that promotes an enabling legal environment for civil society, freedom of association, and public participation around the world. ICNL has provided technical and research assistance to support the reform of laws affecting CSOs in over 100 countries. We draw upon a worldwide network of partners and experts to produce innovative research and analysis on legal topics affecting civil society. Visit our website for more information about ICNL’s global programs and work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ICNL has supported research and multi-sector dialogue in Brazil related to the legal environment for CSOs in general, and particularly related to the Framework Law for Civil Society Organizations (Law 13.019/14). See, for example, Mendonça, Parcerias entre Estado e OSCs – desafios na construção de colaborações para implementação da
Lei 13.019/2014, Szazi and Storto, Investigación sobre el marco legal de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en Latinoamérica: Informe del equipo de Brasil; and Scardone, Towards a new relation of partnership between civil society organisations and the State: The legal framework for civil society organisations and Law 13.019 in Brazil. ICNL has also supported plain language materials to help civil society identify and address restrictions on fundamental freedoms. See, for example, Trindade, Guia de Direitos sobre Reunião Pacífica de Paradas do Orgulho LGBT no Brasil.

Themes Eligible for Grant Support

All proposals must address the legal environment in which CSOs form or operate. Illustrative examples of project themes that may be considered are challenges related to laws and practices that govern the rights of civil society to:

- Organize and participate in peaceful assemblies and protests;
- Engage in anti-corruption activities;
- Solicit, receive, and use funding from legitimate sources including the public sector;
- Operate without undue restrictions grounded in anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing laws;
- Organize, formally or informally, to promote and defend indigenous or environmental rights; or
- Express opinions, including through digital media.

Please note that proposals related to broader themes, for example, indigenous land rights or workers’ rights, are ineligible for support.

Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following items:

- Resume, Curriculum Vitae (CV), or other statement of relevant work history and education (no more than 2 pages each for up to 3 key personnel);
- Proposal (not more than 4 pages);
- Line item budget (not more than 1 page); and
- Timeline for completing proposed activities (not more than 1 page).

ICNL will accept proposals in Portuguese, English, or Spanish. The Awardee may submit narrative reports on project activities in Portuguese, English, or Spanish, but written products supported by the grant must be produced and submitted in Portuguese.
Content of Proposal

The following required elements must be addressed in the proposal:

- The legal issue(s) to be addressed, methodology, planned activities, and outcomes (note: the methodology must reflect practical approaches to remote collaborative work in light of the COVID-19 pandemic);

- The names of groups, networks, entities, and key individuals with whom the applicant will collaborate on project activities and the roles each will play;

- The jurisdictions (national, state and/or local) whose laws, policies, and practices will be explored;

- The applicant’s specific experience and expertise related to the civil society legal issues covered in your proposal; and

- The applicant’s commitment to continuing to engage with civil society and other sectors on the themes covered in the proposal beyond the conclusion of the proposed activities.

Eligibility Requirements

This call for proposals is open to individuals or organizations, including CSOs and academic institutions. Proposals may be submitted by individuals or organizations in a consortium, but one individual or organization must serve as the lead partner representing the consortium. All applicants must explain in their proposals how they will collaborate with other groups, networks, entities, and key individuals to carry out project activities, and they must identify the proposed partners. Applicants are not required to apply as a consortium or enter into a formal alliance with those partners.

ICNL grant support may not be used to lobby for or against specific legislation or for direct legal services to clients.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures (incomplete applications will not be considered);

- Demonstrated experience and expertise related to the issue proposed;

- Quality of proposal, including innovation, methodology, feasibility, and likelihood that it will contribute to improving the legal environment for civil society;
• Appropriateness to project goals and complementarity to the applicant of the groups, networks, entities, and key individuals identified in the proposal as project partners;

• Timeline;

• Proposed budget and apparent value for cost; and

• Commitment to continued engagement following conclusion of proposed activities.

How to Apply
Interested applicants may apply by submitting all required documents to Jocelyn Nieva, at jnieva@icnl.org. E-mails must state “Brazil Grant Application” in the subject line.

Terms of Reference
All grant recipients must submit a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements.

All sub-grant recipients must finalize their projects and submit final narrative and financial reports by March 31, 2021.

Deadline
The deadline for applications is May 15, 2020.