



United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)
Circular n° 1/2021: Call for 2022 Applications

The Secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT) is pleased to announce that the Fund will accept requests for funding from **15 January to 1 March 2021**, for grants that will be used between 1 January and 31 December 2022.

Applications will be received and reviewed on a rolling basis until 1 March 2021. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Grants may only be awarded to organizations for projects that provide **direct assistance** to victims of torture and their family members. Such assistance may be in the form medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian, educational or other forms of direct assistance. Applications from all regions will be accepted. All applications should be submitted in English, French or Spanish. The Fund will also receive a small number of applications for capacity building projects aimed at strengthening the development and/or capacity of individuals, organizations or specialized networks (for example hospitals, professional associations, rehabilitation centres, etc.) in order to ensure specialized provision of direct assistance to torture survivors and their family members.

Only applications that strictly comply with the [Guidelines of the Fund](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Torture/UNVFVT/Call/Guidelines_UN_Torture_Fund_2020_EN.pdf) will be considered. Please refer to the Guidelines when drafting and before submitting the application (available here: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Torture/UNVFVT/Call/Guidelines_UN_Torture_Fund_2020_EN.pdf).

Direct assistance grants range between **US\$ 30,000 and US\$ 100,000**. Only “on-going”¹ applicant organizations submitting a continuation of a funded project proposal in the same country of implementation may request a grant of more than US\$50,000. Applications for direct assistance grants from “first-time”² or “returning”³ applicant organizations cannot exceed US\$50,000. Capacity building project proposals cannot exceed US\$50,000 for all categories of applicant organizations (on-going, first-time and returning).

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis, taking into account the merit of the application, geographic distribution of resources, the needs addressed, priorities set by the Board and satisfactory compliance with the Fund’s Guidelines. The awarding of grants is subject to the availability of funds.

As a general rule, direct assistance grants in the same country of implementation can be awarded on a yearly basis for a maximum of ten consecutive years, subject to a satisfactory evaluation of the project and availability of funds. On-going applicants whose direct assistance grant has been discontinued are ineligible to apply for another direct assistance grant in the same country of implementation for the following three years. Capacity building grants in the same country of implementation can be awarded on a yearly basis for a maximum of three consecutive years.

¹ Organizations that are currently receiving a grant in the form of direct assistance, capacity building or emergency.

² Organizations that have never applied to the Fund.

³ Organizations that have never received a grant or organizations that have received a grant from the Fund in the past but not in the previous year(s).

How to apply?

Applications should be submitted through the [on-line grants management system \(GMS\)](https://grants.ohchr.org/Default.aspx). Please follow this link: <https://grants.ohchr.org/Default.aspx>. After logging into GMS, enter into the 54th Session.

We encourage applicants to refer to the User's manual available on the GMS main page to assist organizations when submitting their application through the system.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to secure sufficient time to complete the application prior to the expiration of the deadline. In particular, organizations wishing to apply to the Fund **for the first time** must submit a request to register through the OHCHR e-grants online system (during business days only) before they can submit an online application. First-time applicants will receive an automatic notification by e-mail of the approval of their registration, as well as the link (valid for a limited time) that allows them to create a password to access the online account. To report technical problems or request additional assistance while completing the application, organizations should address the Secretariat by email: ptissier@ohchr.org

Priorities for the 2022 annual call for applications:

The Fund welcomes any project proposal aimed at providing **direct assistance** to victims of torture and their family members that is compliant with the Fund's mandate and designed in line with the Fund's Guidelines.

In addition, the Board of Trustees of the Fund established the following **thematic priorities for the 2022 call for applications:**

- **victims of torture and intersecting discrimination** (focus on indigenous peoples, minorities, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities, women and girls and victims of gender-based violence);
- **human rights defenders** working under **restrictive or retaliatory measures**, including reprisals due to collaboration with the United Nations, subjected to acts of torture;
- victims of **excessive use of force** by law enforcement and security forces amounting to acts of torture, in particular in the context of protests (focus on young people, political opponents, people combating racial discrimination and migrants in pushback operations);
- **persons deprived of liberty** impacted by the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Organizations addressing the specific needs of victims of torture falling under the thematic priorities outlined above are particularly encouraged to apply.

For organizations that have projects funded by the UNVFVT in 2020:

- Financial and narrative reports on the use of 2020 grants should be submitted through the online grants management system of the Fund between 15 January and 1 March 2021.
- **Project applications from an organization that has overdue reports will not be considered.** An organization that has failed to submit, by the set deadline, satisfactory

financial and narrative reports (and audit report where applicable) on the use of all previous grants, will not be eligible to apply for a 2022 grant.

The Secretariat of the Fund
15 January 2021