

## **Expression of Interest (EOI) sought: Experts invited to apply to join an experts' database for the UK's Women, Peace and Security Helpdesk**

### **Overview**

The Women Peace and Security (WPS) Helpdesk was started in December 2021 to increase capability across the UK Government on WPS policy and programming to make its work on conflict and instability more effective. It is a partnership between five organizations led by Saferworld together with Conciliation Resources (CR), Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS UK), Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC), and the University of Durham.

The WPS Helpdesk provides support to the UK Government in two ways, through a drawdown process and a proactive modality. This EOI relates to the drawdown process whereby UK Government staff submit a term of reference for a task to the Helpdesk for a specific piece of WPS work focusing on a thematic issue and/or geographic region. When a term of reference is received the Helpdesk co-ordinators clarify any questions and then ask Helpdesk members to propose relevant experts. The task is then allocated to an expert who is the team lead for that task and a quality assurance expert is assigned to assess the task before a first draft is submitted to the person who requested it. The process includes feedback from the task commissioner and then agreed revisions. Based on the confidentiality of the task, final reports are then kept on the Helpdesk repository. Tasks are usually between 2 days to 12 days in length but occasionally can be longer based on the nature of the task.

The WPS Helpdesk already has a strong pool of experts but now seeks to expand and diversify its geographic and technical coverage and expert skill set to better respond to emerging thematic issues and a wider geographic coverage. The UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) increasingly requires expertise in four priority thematic areas as themes and threats are changing: cyber security, state threats, serious and organised crime (SOC), and climate change and conflict. In addition, other UK government teams, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office country and thematic desk portfolios including Embassies, have expressed the need to conduct gender analysis in specific contexts, provide input into internal guidance notes, and strengthen Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems and tools from a gender lens (including developing Theories of Change, results frameworks, etc). The Helpdesk seeks to strengthen its capacity, by widening its pool of experts and so increasing the number of people who can provide wide ranging expertise and context-specific knowledge and respond to ad hoc call down requests across the different UK government teams as relevant.

### **Purpose of this EOI**

The purpose of this EOI is to reach out to and identify new experts for the helpdesk database, including those who are not usually/often engaged in areas that are cross cutting or innovative. This will enable the Helpdesk to respond to all CSSF portfolios, FCDO and other HMG teams, to cover priority thematic areas as well as a wide range of contexts and, to enable swift and appropriate team selection as and when tasks are requested.

The Helpdesk will seek to ensure that the network expansion includes a wide geographic coverage as well as ensuring that we have national experts from diverse geographic contexts who can provide valuable

contextual nuance and understanding and help diversify the voices and analysis that informs HGM policy and practice on WPS.

### **Why Join the WPS Helpdesk database**

The Women Peace and Security Helpdesk is a platform for different voices with different experiences and expertise to influence UK government WPS programming and policy across regions including Africa, Americas, Middle East and North Africa, Asia Pacific, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, South Asia and Afghanistan and the Balkans. The Helpdesk partners are committed to ensuring different voices and points of view are represented and by being included on the database and being involved in tasks, as and when appropriate, experts have the opportunity to engage with UK policy making and makers. Priorities for Helpdesk work include WPS and Security policy and practices, gender dynamics of violence and conflict, women's meaningful participation and governance, conflict prevention and responses, relief and humanitarian efforts in FCAS, protection and gendered security and justice, cyber security and gender, and gender, conflict and climate change.

Organizations, individual academics, practitioners, and local organizations focused on WPS agenda worldwide will be an asset to the pool of experts that will both serve the Helpdesk as well as the broader HMG WPS agenda.

### **Qualifications required:**

To qualify for inclusion in the database experts from different contexts and with expertise of the themes mentioned above will be considered if they have the following experience and skills.

### **Experience and Skills required:**

- Proven track record in research/ methodology/advocacy and/or policy work related to WPS/gender at local/regional or international level
- WPS/gender related knowledge and experience (ideally including research/analysis) of at least one of the regions outlined above: Africa, Americas, Middle East and North Africa, Asia Pacific, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, South Asia and Afghanistan and the Balkans
- WPS/gender related knowledge and experience of at least one of the thematic areas of cyber security, state threats, serious and organised crime (SOC), and climate change and conflict
- Ability to produce short synthesis and briefs
- Experience of turning recommendations in to actions and planning
- Excellent time management and ability to meet deadlines
- Fluent in English. Working knowledge of an additional UN working language desirable.

### **Application process**

- **Work Sample:** Please submit a relevant written sample such as a specific report, project implementation report, or a piece of research. This should, where possible, demonstrate your knowledge of gender issues linked to a specific thematic issue and/or geographical context. (The sample will be kept on file for internal purposes but will not be used for any other purpose without permission)
- **C.V.** maximum two pages.

All EOI's will be assessed and sifted by a panel made up of members of the Quality Assurance Pool from the Helpdesk. Those candidates who pass the first assessment may be asked for an interview before final inclusion on the database. Please be aware that inclusion on the database is not a guarantee of work, due to the task-based nature of the Helpdesk. Any consultant being contracted for a task may need to have a short interview before confirmation and all consultants will be expected to sign, and adhere to, Saferworld's Code of Conduct and Safeguarding policy

**Deadline** All EOI's should be sent to [jobs@saferworld.org.uk](mailto:jobs@saferworld.org.uk) and include "**Expanding experts' database for WPS helpdesk**" in the subject line, and this [form](#) should be filled out at the same time.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd58CK1ILUkiXJ3hQIRz18JVhI8L5ytUJ7vh6-45T4AyLLyQ/viewform>

All applications must be received by 4 November 2022.

Note: Please be aware that inclusion on the database is not a guarantee of work and that any consultant being contracted for a task will be expected to sign, and adhere to, Saferworld's Code of Conduct and Safeguarding policy. Additionally, be aware that your work details/expertise included in this database will be shared with the CSSF.