Omega Research Foundation

Financial Support to address the unlawful use of force by police or other state officials

GUIDELINES FOR CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Application due date: 6 April 2025

1. About the Call

1.1 Background

This document serves as a comprehensive guide detailing the funding opportunity tailored for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that work to address the unlawful use of force by police or other state officials. This grant opportunity is a part of the United Against Torture (UAT) project, undertaken by the United Against Torture Consortium[1] with support from the European Union since 1st June, 2023. This three-year project aims to establish a functioning holistic and global system of support to strengthen and expand the global anti-torture movement and sustain its impacts towards eradication of torture and other ill-treatment, benefitting everyone around the world, especially those most vulnerable. This project provides a new and unique system of support to the anti-torture movement, delivered through the UAT Consortium member organisations.

These guidelines provide information on the call for proposals to address the unlawful use of force, and include details on the application, evaluation, and selection procedures.

1.2 Objective of the Call

This call supports projects that seek to reduce the unlawful use of force by police or other state officials and advance related human rights-based police reforms. This funding will be used to support civil society organisations to develop and implement research, campaign, advocacy, and media activities that contribute to this aim.

1.3 Funding Allocation Under this Call

Proposals submitted under this call should adhere to the following funding limits:

Minimum grant: EUR 5,000
Maximum grant: EUR 10,000

[1] The UAT Consortium comprises six leading organisations specialising in torture prevention: Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT), International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT), Omega Research Foundation, The Redress Trust.

2. Rules of the Call

This section outlines the rules for the submission, selection, and implementation of projects funded through this call. Implementation rules will also be detailed in the contract to be established between Omega Research Foundation and selected CSOs.

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 Who is Eligible to Apply?

Eligible entities for this call include civil society groups, organisations, and coalitions, whether registered or not, located outside of the UN Western European and Other Group (WEOG)[2] states and EU Member States.

To be eligible, the applicant organisation must have sole responsibility for the project's preparation and management. While the applicant organisation can collaborate with other CSOs for project implementation, all expenses must be managed by the applicant organisation.

Each applicant organisation is limited to one application and can only receive one grant through this call. In addition, organisations cannot exceed a maximum of €75,000 of funding from the United Against Torture Consortium as a whole in the period 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2026.

We particularly invite applications from organisations that do not generally have access to institutional funding, and will give priority to organisations with an annual operating budget less than €500,000.

The applicant organisations, as not-for-profit organisations or programs, are required to operate independently and without undue governmental interference. This will be verifiable through:

a. Any official declarations or statements, such as signed statutes or legal registration documents within the country, confirming the organisation's not-for-profit status.
b. Audited annual reports or, if not available, signed annual financial statements for 2023.
c. Annual activity reports for 2023.

Omega may contact peer organisations for additional verification.

Organisations are required to respond to the questions in the References section of the application form (Section E).

2.1.2 What projects qualify for this grant?

a) Type of Work Areas and Activities

The primary focus of this call is to support projects that seek to reduce the unlawful use of force by police or other state officials and advance related human rights-based police reforms. Applicants are encouraged to include survivor voices in both the design and delivery of their project. Please ensure that your proposed activities align directly and clearly with these focus areas.

The proposal could centre around work areas such as:

[2] Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.
For more information on regional groups: https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/regional-groups

- Promoting, and facilitating the implementation of, emerging international human rights standards on the policing of protests and the use of force (such as the Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests and the UN Human Rights Guidance on Less Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement)
- Engaging with processes for the reform of existing laws, policy and guidelines, or accountability mechanisms (including independent or citizen oversight groups), particularly concerning the use of force by law enforcement officials
- Supporting accountability for police use of force through advocacy for timely and publicly available use of force data and statistics.
- Working, including through advocacy, to stop or suspend the use of those weapons and techniques which are most frequently abused or which have no legitimate role in law enforcement such as ammunition containing multiple projectiles, direct contact electric shock weapons, multi-barrel less lethal launchers or dangerous restraint techniques.

The proposal could include activities such as:

- Research on your country or region's use of force standards, their implementation by law enforcement officials / compliance with torture prevention standards, and accountability for abuses (including details of weapons and equipment most frequently misused by law enforcement for torture and other ill-treatment, case studies, etc.). To include dissemination of findings.
- Building the skills and capacities of assembly monitors to document the policing of assemblies and disseminate their findings.
- Advocacy and outreach to promote human rights-based reforms or address the unlawful use of force (e.g. production and dissemination of briefings for law enforcement bodies and government officials; round-table events with key stakeholders including torture prevention bodies, academia, and law enforcement officials)
- Communication or advocacy campaign (various media) to inform public discourse concerning the human rights impact of the excessive/unlawful use of force.
- Promote and provide technical assistance to legal actions seeking decisions favouring justice and reparation, including rehabilitation, for victims of torture and ill-treatment in the context of protests or policing operations.
- Facilitate survivor engagement in advocacy for normative and institutional changes.
- Strengthening networks of civil society organisations working on police use of force issues
- Other activities that advance the effective implementation of international anti-torture and use of force standards by law enforcement officials and oversight bodies.

These lists are indicative and we encourage you to consider other work areas and activities when preparing your application.

Priority will be given to organisations that have demonstrated a commitment to addressing the unlawful use of force by police or other state officials for torture, other ill-treatment or repression (for example examining the use of police weapons in protest).

In line with the EU rules, activities concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships, activities delivering social services to target groups, and activities supporting political parties are *ineligible activities* under this call.

b) Duration

The project must be completed within a 6-month period following the allocation of funds from Omega Research Foundation.

c) Location

Activities under the project must take place in countries that are outside the WEOG Group and are not members of the EU. Proposals from organisations in all other regions are encouraged. In deciding upon successful applications, we will strive to ensure geographical diversity among selected projects.

d) Visibility

While implementing the projects and activities for which the funding is requested, it is imperative that organisations adhere to the EU Visibility Rules.[3] This entails incorporating the logos of the EU, the UAT Consortium, and Omega Research Foundation in all project communication materials. Failure to comply with EU visibility rules may result in the costs associated with the relevant activities being deemed ineligible.

Detailed guidelines regarding visibility rules will be outlined in the contract.

2.1.3 Which costs are eligible?

The eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Staff salaries (in compliance with the current wage policy of the CSO)
- Costs associated with equipment (purchase and rental) and supplies
- Expenses related to meetings, trainings, workshops, conferences (including travel and per-diems)
- Fees for experts and consultants
- Translation and interpretation expenses
- Administrative costs and office expenses (encompassing rent, electricity, water, heating, telephone, and internet charges), not exceeding 7% of the total budget, if they are properly documented

The following costs are ***ineligible:***

- Debts and debt service charges (e.g. interest)
- Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities
- Costs financed by another project receiving an EU grant
- Purchases of land or buildings
- Currency exchange losses
- Credit to third parties

2.2 Application

2.2.1 Application Process

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the application form and budget annexed to these guidelines. Please note that incomplete applications may be rejected.

[3] Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions - European Commission (europa.eu)

Due to the review process and the composition of our selection committee, the application form must be submitted in English. We understand this may be a limitation and apologize for any difficulties this may present. If you are unable to provide supporting documents in English, please send the originals with a summary to explain the contents.

Only the application form, budget, and requested supporting documents will be evaluated. No additional annexes should be sent. Clarifications might be requested if the information provided is not sufficient to conduct an objective assessment.

Kindly submit your applications via email to info@omegaresearchfoundation.org, clearly indicating 'Use of Force Grant' in the subject line.

The deadline for the submission is **6 April 2025**.

2.2.2 Application Documents

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Application Form
- Full budget
- Documents mentioned in the '2.1.1 Who is Eligible to Apply' section

2.2.3 Selection Process

The applications will undergo an initial technical review to ensure that all necessary documents and information have been submitted. Only applications that pass this technical review will be evaluated. After the technical review, applications will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee comprising a minimum of three Omega Research Foundation staff members.

The evaluation will primarily consider the following points:

a) Relevance of the Proposal
   - Relevance to Call Objective: The proposal directly aligns with the objectives outlined in the call.
   - Relevance to Country and Target Groups: The proposal aligns with the specific needs of the target groups and the countries where activities will take place.

b) Design of Proposal
   - Clarity and Feasibility: Activities are defined clearly, logically connected results, and feasible.
   - Budget Compatibility: Budget aligns with activities, is realistic, and justifiable.
   - Monitoring Methodology: Proposal includes a robust monitoring plan for activities and results.
   - Strategic Alignment: Project aligns with past, current, and future organisation activities.
   - Consideration of External Factors: Design considers external factors, ensuring flexibility.
   - Survivor-centred: Survivor voices are included in design and delivery.

c) Organisational Management
   - Alignment with Values: Organisation aligns with the call objectives.
   - Competence: Demonstrated engagement with the unlawful use of force by state actors for torture, other ill-treatment or repression.

- Financial Transparency: Strong financial recording, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and accountability.
- Credibility: Demonstrated credibility in proposal implementation and grant management.

Selected grant candidates will undergo a virtual financial assessment to document financial robustness, requiring participation from both the applicant organisation and Omega Research Foundation financial teams.

2.3 Contracting Process

Upon approval, a contract will be signed between Omega Research Foundation and the selected organisation to receive financial support. Specifics concerning implementation, financial and narrative reporting, and payments will be finalised during this stage. Omega Research Foundation reserves the right to propose adjustments or modifications to the project budget as it deems necessary throughout the contract process.

2.4 Implementation and Follow-up

Recipients of support must submit regular narrative and financial reports to Omega Research Foundation. Progress meetings will be conducted every two months to monitor project implementation and facilitate knowledge sharing. Organisations must provide updates on activity progress, adhering to the specified timeline and budget. Attendance at these meetings is obligatory.

2.5 Communication

Please direct your questions to the following email address: info@omegaresearchfoundation.org. Kindly note that if you ask a question where the answer would give you an unfair advantage, we will not be able to answer.

2.6 Tentative Timetable

Please note that the provided timeline is tentative and subject to adjustments based on the specific requirements and circumstances of the project call for proposal.

Application Submission Period: 6 March – 6 April 2025
Evaluation Period: 7 April 2025 – 4 May 2025
Contracting Process: 5 May 2025 – 30 May 2025
Execution of project: 1 June 2025 – 30 November 2025

2.7 Annexes to the Guidelines

Application Form