

Invitation to Tender

Evaluation of the Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants (SLF)

1. Introduction

Trust for London, an independent grant-making charity, would like to commission an external evaluation of the Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants (SLF). The SLF is an initiative of Trust for London, delivered in partnership with Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and MigrationWork CIC.

The Trust is interested in assessing the effectiveness of the SLF model and its potential applicability to other client groups or legal issues.

2. Background

The SLF was established as a pilot project by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (DPOWMF), in Autumn 2011. With the closure of DPOWMF, it was taken on by Trust for London for a new phase from November 2012 to March 2014, with additional funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The day-to-day administration of the SLF has been undertaken throughout by MigrationWork CIC.

3. The Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants

The Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants (SLF) is a fund to support legal work that goes beyond securing justice for an individual and makes a significant contribution to law, practice and procedures to uphold and promote the rights of vulnerable migrant children and young people more generally.

The SLF aims to tackle injustices and inconsistencies in law and practice that disadvantage or discriminate against vulnerable young migrants as a result of their migration status. We define the beneficiary group as:

- Migrants or the children of migrants,
- Who are under 25,
- Who are living in poverty, and
- Who face significant disadvantage or discrimination in connection with their (or their parents') migration status.

The SLF uses the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a framework for its work with both children and young people. It aims to advance the general principles of the UNCRC as follows:

- The right to life, survival and development
- The right to non-discrimination
- Respect for the views of children

- The requirement to give primary consideration to the child's best interests in all matters affecting them.

The SLF makes one-off grants of up to £30,000 to not-for-profit organisations and solicitors firms to undertake strategic legal work across a range of human rights and social welfare law where vulnerable young migrants experience disadvantage or discrimination as a result of migration status.

The funders are advised on individual grant applications and the overall strategic direction of the SLF by an Expert Panel of legal practitioners and policy specialists.

Over time, the SLF's remit has changed. The pilot project worked to benefit young refugees and asylum seekers up to the age of 21, we now cover migrant children and the children of migrants, up to the age of 25. In response to the recent legal aid changes we have also revised what the grants may cover. Previously we funded only pre-litigation research and third party interventions. Since April 2013, we will, in addition, consider applications that include a small proportion of funding for advice, and/or representation in the First Tier and Upper Tribunals where no other funding is available and where this is necessary to develop a strategic legal challenge.

There is more information about the SLF, including an earlier evaluation of the pilot, at <http://www.strategiclegalfund.org.uk>

4. The evaluation brief

The purpose of the evaluation is to:

- Assess the functioning of the SLF, including the experience of applicants.
- Identify outcomes achieved by the organisations funded through the SLF, including unanticipated outcomes.
- Analyse this approach to funding strategic legal work relative to the funding of projects/posts in specific organisations
- Assess the effectiveness of the model.
- Identify the essential elements of the SLF model.
- Identify lessons learnt from the project.
- Assess the potential for replication in other areas of law.

The key evaluation questions are:

- How far has the SLF enabled new work to be undertaken?
- Has the funding enabled organisations to bring about changes to law, policy or practice?
- Is there any evidence of direct impact on vulnerable young migrants?
- What are the key components of the model? What are its strengths and weaknesses?
- How well has the SLF adapted to significant changes in the field of legal work and rights?
- Does the SLF represent value for money compared with other options for delivering strategic legal change?
- If this initiative should continue, how should it change (if it should) and what would be the implications of such change/s?

The evaluator(s) will need to:

- Review written data on SLF processes including minutes of management group and Expert Panel meetings, decisions and grant administration.
- Review written evidence of progress/outcomes submitted by grantees, and comment on the quality of the evidence provided.
- Observe Expert Panel and Management Group meetings.
- Review information about changes to the wider field affecting the SLF.
- Undertake qualitative interviews with key internal and external stakeholders, including applicants, grantees, migrant organisations and Expert Panel members.
- Write-up a final report, which is suitable for publication (by the Trust).

5. Evaluator specification

We are looking for an experienced and imaginative evaluator who:

- Has successfully evaluated projects working in areas of some complexity and significant ongoing change.
- Has worked on evaluations which engage with funding issues.
- Can demonstrate a good background knowledge of how legal work is undertaken and how it may effect change.

The evaluator(s) should demonstrate that they have relevant knowledge of this field, have the capacity and experience to carry out the work in a fully accessible and inclusive way together with a proven track record in qualitative and quantitative research. They also need to have experience of carrying out effective project management and be capable of working to deadlines.

6. Tender Requirements

The tender should contain the following information:

- Background information on the consultant and/or proposing organisation;
- The names of the evaluation team and their experience (please attach CVs);
- An evaluation timetable;
- Full contact details;
- Name and contact details for two referees;
- Price of research including a breakdown of major elements (daily rate);
- Examples of (similar) projects evaluated by the evaluation team/organisation.

7. Timescale for the work

Proposed timescale for the evaluation is as follows:

Deadline for tenders:	31 May 2013
Interview short-listed tenders:	10 June 2013
Tender offered:	14 June 2013
Evaluation starts:	July 2013

Draft report: 1 October 2013
Report completed: 31 October 2013

The evaluation, including the production of the report and the executive summary should be completed by 31 October 2013.

8. Cost

Up to £18,000 (including expenses and VAT) is available for the evaluation of this project. This excludes the costs of any design or printing of the final report.

9. Closing date

The closing date for tenders is 3pm on 31 May 2013. Please submit your tender by email to Rachael@trustforlondon.org.uk.

Interviews of short-listed candidates will be on 10 June 2013 in the morning.

10. Contact details

If you would like to discuss this tender in more detail, please contact:

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