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**Call for thematic papers/briefs/case studies from Spotlight Initiative CSOs to enable knowledge sharing on emerging promising practices and lessons learned on Ending violence against women and girls/Harmful practices and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights, including on engaging key African Union processes**

**Deadline 14 May 2022**

1. **Background and Context**

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a tenacious global pandemic which manifests in female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, harmful practices (HP) among other forms of gender-based violence (GBV) across Africa. The prevailing gender norms and stereotypes which normalise harmful gender-discriminatory behaviours are part of the main drivers for all forms of violence against women and girls. Global statistics indicate that one out of every three women has experienced physical or sexual violence in her life.[[1]](#footnote-1) In Africa, at least 36%, (more than one in three women) have experienced some form of physical, and/or sexual violence. FGM, an extreme form of VAW) is highly prevalent in some countries in western, eastern and some parts of northern Africa.

To eradicate GBV and HPs and address their links to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights, (SRH&RR) the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP) was initiated in 2020. Part of a global Initiative to accelerate progress around SDG 5 target on ending violence against women, the Africa programme is implemented in 8 countries namely, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Complementing the country-level programmes, the focus of the Regional Programme focuses is on three of the six global pillars: legislation and policies; quality and reliable data; and strengthening women’s movements and relevant civil society organizations. The SIARP is primarily aimed at bringing better laws to protect women and girls. It further seeks to promote more responsive institutions; supporting the collection of disaggregated gender data to ensure better-informed decision-making; raising awareness and preventing violence by working with communities, civil society organisations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders among key players.

Women’s rights groups and CSOS in Africa have played a central role in advocating for and working towards ending SGBV, HPs, (specifically FGM] and child marriage on the continent. They are at the heart of the Spotlight Initiative’s programme. In this regard and recognizing the significant efforts to end VAWG delivered by women’s rights and civil society organizations through the eight Spotlight Initiative Country Programmes, UN Women seeks to support documentation and sharing of promising practices and lessons learned through these partnerships.

**Invitation to develop thematic papers/briefs/case studies**

In 2022, UN Women will facilitate a regional forum for regional Spotlight CSOs supported through SIARP to enable knowledge sharing on promising practices and lessons learned on EVAWG/HP and SRHRR, including on engaging key African Union (AU) processes. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate CSOs to more effectively influence and advance progress on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and specifically toward EVAWG/HP across the continent. UN Women recognises that Spotlight CSOs have generated a wealth of knowledge and best practices that could significantly contribute to accelerating continental strategies and initiatives on EVAWG/HP and SRHRR for other actors to benefit from.

The purpose of the call for thematic papers/case studies is to support the regional Spotlight Initiative CSOs to document their experience and add to the body of practice-based knowledge on EVAWG/HP and advancing SRH&RR. The CSOs who are selected to develop document their practice will receive in-kind technical support from UN Women to develop their idea and draft the paper/brief/ case study on a promising practice. Templates will be provided to support the process, with review and inputs as required by a regional reference group to support quality assurances of the practice to be shared. UN Women will also provide editorial and design support to package the documentation for presentation and virtual sharing, including during the regional forum. UN Women will cover the travel related expenses related expenses of the CSO’s representative nominated to present their thematic paper/ brief/ case study documentation in the regional forum. UN Women will also support the CSOs to further disseminate and share their practices via identification of existing online platforms and networks, including but not limited to those developed for Spotlight Initiative CSOs to share and exchange good promising practice knowledge products.

To that end, UN Women invites regional Spotlight CSOs supported Spotlight from the 8 African Spotlight Initiative countries (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe) to respond to this call for good quality and original thematic papers/briefs/case studies.

**Submission of brief summaries/abstracts**

To facilitate selection by UN Women of the CSOs that will develop a thematic paper/brief/case study, **UN Women is seeking informative and descriptive short summaries or abstracts** of the CSO’s proposed paper/brief/case study, of **not more than 2** **pages**. A brief outline of what the summary or abstract should contain is attached together with this call.

Regional CSOs should submit their abstracts to [spotlight.stream1@unwomen.org](mailto:spotlight.stream1@unwomen.org) on or before **14 May 2022**. A Review Group including UN agencies, Representatives of the Regional Civil Society Reference Group, and the AUC will be involved in the selection process.

For more information on the call, kindly contact Beletshachew Aynalem at the following email address: [Beletshachew.aynalem@unwomen.org](mailto:Beletshachew.aynalem@unwomen.org)

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**Guidance for writing an abstract for a paper or case study on emerging practices and lessons learned on Ending violence against women and girls/Harmful practices (EVAWG/HP) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRH & RR), including on engaging key African Union (AU) processes**

Through the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme, UN Women and sister UN agencies have supported numerous civil society organizations (CSOs) to advance efforts across the six pillars of the Programme in support of Ending violence against women and girls/Harmful practices (EVAWG/HP) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights (SRHRR). In this regard, recognizing the importance of contributing to the generation of practice-based knowledge on EVAW, UN Women will support regional Spotlight Initiative CSOs who have received funding via Spotlight to develop and share briefs, papers or case studies on comparative issues, emerging promising practices and lessons learnt on EVAWG/HP and promotion of SRHRR, including on engaging in key AU processes under the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme.

This initiative offers CSOs an opportunity to highlight their work, describe what interventions they are undertaking and the results as well as the value they are seeing in the process. UN Women will provide technical guidance to the CSO partner for the process and support the editing, design and dissemination of the content documented, including through regional knowledge-sharing meetings and platforms. This will increase the visibility of CSO efforts and facilitate exchange of knowledge generated through Spotlight across the continent and beyond.

To that end, in order to support the selection of CSOs to be supported in the documentation process, UN Women is seeking inviting interested CSOs to submit short informative and descriptive short summaries of the CSO’s proposed research paper/intervention to be documented/case study, of not more than 3 pages. It should contain brief information that includes the following elements:

**Introduction Background and scope**

* the context or background information for your brief/paper/case study
* the general theme under study
* the specific topic
* what challenges are being addressed and why?

**Approaches and methods**

* What method(s), strategies and approaches are used?
* Why is the method/approach important?

**Results and lessons learned**

* the main findings or results
* what strategies have worked well and why? (including any engagement with key AU processes)
* what promising practices are identifiable and what is the evidence of this?
* the significance or implications of your interventions.

The UN Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality developed Guidelines and Criteria for Good Practices in the area of gender equality. You can refer to these at <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/resources/goodpractices/guideline.html>

1. UN Women. Facts and figures: Ending violence against women. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)