

Call for bids: supporting inclusive politics in Iraq

The British Embassy in Baghdad is accepting bids for a 2-3 year project under the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Iraq Programme. The overall vision of the project is to support Iraq to develop a more inclusive political system and to support broadened participation in political processes, and decision-making.

The project will look to:

- to encourage the development of issue-based political discourse, engaging across a broad spectrum of political actors, CSOs, and communities

And/or

- to support the ability of politically-engaged actors (especially youth) to play an active role in Iraqi political life through the provision of technical, advisory and mentoring support.

Summary of requirements

- a) The call for bids is open to international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and private sector entities. The contract will be a grant agreement awarded on a strictly not-for-profit basis. This call for bids is open to all suppliers in the market, including suppliers on the CSSF Framework
- b) Bidders should have registration, presence and previous experience working in Iraq, with particular knowledge or experience of the political landscape
- c) Bidders should consider sub-contracting with local CSOs or private sector organisations, using appropriate selection criteria
- d) Deep, relevant thematic experience on the theme of inclusive politics, particularly in the MENA context
- e) The Embassy strongly encourages bidders to develop innovative ideas, and to de-conflict to the extent possible with other existing and planned programmatic activity by third parties in Iraq
- f) Bidders should have sufficient financial resilience and a proven track record of transparently and effectively managing donor funded projects of similar scale. Specifically Bidders should have previously received a direct fund of at least \$200,000 for a one year spend
- g) Grant agreements are strictly not allowed to generate a profit for the delivery partner. For-profit delivery organizations will be asked to provide

proof of compliance with this requirement

h) Suppliers should pay particular attention to relevant UK legislation on aid divergence; and proscribed organizations

i) The Embassy retains the right to create a reserve list of bids that meet its technical criteria, which may subsequently be used to select additional bids

Required submissions

Bidders should submit a proposal/concept using this template. This should set out the concept for delivering a project based on the above broadly defined theme(s), to be delivered to a maximum budget of GBP £3m and over a maximum of 3 years.

Bidders should respond to either one of or both of the themes identified above.

All costs should be listed in GBP (not USD).

Official registration documents of the organisation in Iraq and document(s) showing annual turnover and proof of meeting the requirement for \$200,000 recent funding (see above).

Bidding process

Concept notes should be sent to BaghdadCSSF.CallForBids@fco.gov.uk by 1 January 2021. In the subject line please indicate the name of the bidder and title of the concept/proposal 'Political Inclusion in Iraq'. If you have not received a confirmation email within 48 hours, please get in touch with us.

The Embassy will consider which bidders' concepts/proposals to shortlist. These organisations will then be asked to submit full bids. This decision will be based on:

- relevance to the themes identified
- evidence of deep knowledge of political inclusion issues in Iraq
- quality of the project, including deliverability and realistic results of the proposed intervention with the resources and within the expected timeframe of this project
- strategic fit with Embassy priorities

Following selection of a shortlist of prospective grantees, the Embassy will ask for full bids including costed bids from these organisations only. This will include a detailed Activity Based Budget and completed Project Proposal Form. Further [guidance and templates can be found here](#)

Full evaluation criteria for these detailed bids will be shared with shortlisted organisations. They are likely to include aspects risk management, sustainability, value for money, quality, expertise, etc.

The Embassy reserves the right to carry out due diligence of potential grantees as part of the selection process. Due to the volume of concepts/proposals expected, we will not be able to provide feedback on unsuccessful concepts/proposals.

Worcester rapist has sentence increased

Press release

James Boyles has had his sentence increased following intervention by the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.



A man who raped a sleeping woman has had his sentence increased following intervention by the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.

James Boyles, 69, raped the same victim on a number of occasions while she was sleeping and filmed the assaults.

When police searched his computer, they found that Boyles had filmed another woman while she slept using a hidden camera. Police also found that Boyles had downloaded and made several indecent images of children.

Boyles was convicted of 15 sexual offences and was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment and given a sexual harm prevention order on 8 September 2020 at Worcester Crown Court.

Following a referral to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General, on 1 December the sentence was found to be unduly lenient and has been increased to 6 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

The sickening behaviour of the offender should be met with the full

force of the law. The Court of Appeal has rightly increased his sentence.

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Calling on all parts of society to increase climate ambition

Thank you for that introduction, John.

Very shortly after being appointed to my COP26 role, I visited the United Nations in New York to speak to Permanent Representatives alongside the Secretary General. And on this trip, one meeting struck a particular chord.

It was an informal discussion with Permanent Representatives from developing nations, and we were going round the table, with everyone explaining what climate change meant for their country.

And when we got to the representative from one of the small island developing states. She said quite simply 'Unless we tackle climate change urgently, I won't have a place to call home.'

Now for many people across the world, the situation is literally as stark as that.

And that is why we need to work with the greatest urgency to tackle climate change. And ultimately this will require a joint effort on the part of governments, businesses, investors, cities, and regions working in partnership.

To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must decarbonise the global economy up to five times faster over the next 10 years than we have over the past 20 years.

And that is why I am calling on all parts of society to increase their ambition, and to focus efforts on five critical areas: restoring nature, adaptation and resilience, clean energy, clean transport, and finance.

Businesses realise that going green is not just the right thing to do, but it is also what their customers want, and increasingly what drives shareholder value.

Analysis suggests, and many of you will know this, that investments in renewables create more jobs than the equivalent in coal, oil, and gas. Over the past decade we know that the cost of solar power has fallen by 85% and

that of wind power by almost 50%. Both are now cheaper than new coal and gas plants in two-thirds of countries.

And that is why the likes of ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, and NAB – all major investors – have said they will stop investing in coal power.

Globally, finance is also turning to clean sectors.

Last month, for example, iron ore giant, Fortescue announced plans to build more than 235 gigawatts of renewable capacity.

Our green global future creates enormous opportunities for countries and companies.

And here in the United Kingdom we are seizing those opportunities.

We have developed the world's largest offshore wind sector, and we will accelerate that success with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new plan for a green industrial revolution, which was announced last month, and this includes a commitment to quadruple our offshore wind capacity within a decade, supporting many thousands of jobs.

And in the UK, we've demonstrated that green growth is absolutely possible. Over the last 30 years, we've managed to grow our economy by 75%, and cut our emissions by 43%.

In our experience, setting targets provides investors with confidence and clarity. We were the first major economy to legislate for net-zero emissions by 2050.

And the momentum is now building behind similar targets around the world. Globally more than 120 countries have made carbon neutrality or net zero announcements. And this includes recent examples of targets from Japan, from South Korea, from China, and I urge all other countries to join them.

On 12th December the UK, the UN and France will co-host a summit, in partnership with Italy and Chile, to mark the five-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement.

And we are calling on leaders from across the world to use this moment to announce ambitious climate commitments.

On emissions reductions, on climate finance, and on adaptation.

And we need everyone to play their part. The Race to Zero campaign is a coalition of cities, regions, businesses, and investors which have committed, through science-based targets, to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. They already collectively account for 50% of the world's economy, and 25% of its emissions.

And I would like to thank Australia's States and Territories which have all made commitments to reach net-zero by 2050. And I urge all of you who have not already done so to join the Race to Zero Campaign.

I also ask investors to sign up to disclose climate risk in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

This will become mandatory in the UK by 2025 and we need investors around the world to join us.

The world we live in is changing. Growth is increasingly green. And by working together, we can bring about the change that we need, and ultimately help preserve our planet for future generations.

Thank you.

£29 million to be invested in Stoke-on-Trent's transport network

- city to receive £29 million from the government's [Transforming Cities Fund](#)
- money will go towards major improvements to local transport links, paving the way for more jobs, better connections and a boost to greener travel options
- works to focus around Stoke-on-Trent and Longton train stations, alongside new cycling and walking schemes and upgrades to city centre bus station

Stoke-on-Trent is set to benefit from £29 million from the government's Transforming Cities Fund, helping to revolutionise the city's transport network and how residents get around, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has today (2 December 2020) announced.

Plans for the funding include a dramatic revamp of the area around Stoke-on-Trent train station, where a brand-new transport hub is to be created that will offer local commuters and visitors to the city better access to taxis, buses and cycling, while also improving walking routes to and from the station.

Further works are planned at Longton train station, with the installation of lifts, facilities to support cyclists and new passenger-waiting shelters. The improvements will improve accessibility to the station, encouraging more people to make use of the station and its links into the city.

Bus passengers will also benefit from today's funding, enjoying priority routes across the city for the first time as part of plans to cut congestion and bus journey times on the city's roads. Funding from the £29 million pot is being used to upgrade the city centre bus station, to accommodate these new travel routes.

Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, said:

The Transforming Cities Fund allows cities across the UK to better connect their communities and open up access to jobs, housing and services, and this multi-million-pound investment will make it quicker and easier to get around Stoke-on-Trent, providing a real improvement to the everyday lives of residents.

This government is committed to levelling up transport infrastructure around the country. Today's funding announcement demonstrates this commitment, boosting the local economy whilst helping Stoke-on-Trent build back better from COVID-19.

Councillor Daniel Jellyman, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Infrastructure and Heritage, said:

This announcement is great news and a real game-changer for transport and connectivity in the city. The investment is coming at a critical time as we emerge from the coronavirus pandemic and power up Stoke-on-Trent for years to come, and it will give the city a real shot in the arm. It's very encouraging that the government are supporting what we are trying to achieve in the city and it's a real endorsement for the future of Stoke-on-Trent at a national level that we have been given this money.

A lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to make this bid a success and I'd like to thank everyone involved. However, the hard work really starts now as we aim to deliver the scheme in the timescales set by government.

In a bid to cut emissions and improve air quality in the region, a portion of the fund is going towards 'active travel' schemes. High-quality walking and cycling routes will be implemented towards Etruria Valley and Trentham Lakes, and a new cycling and pedestrian link will be installed at Vernon Road – offering residents access to higher-quality green travel options.

The Transforming Cities Fund was set up to build on transport links within city regions, promoting local growth and placing cities at the heart of the [government's industrial strategy](#). Today's announcement follows the Department for Transport committing £18.5 million earlier this year to the Etruria Valley Link Road. Construction work has now started on this important route, which is designed to reduce congestion into the city centre, boosting the local economy and providing greater access to jobs.

Response to the National Data Strategy

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