



**Spotlight
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

SAMPLE

Spotlight Initiative’s Civil Society Global Reference Group (SC-GRG) –Terms of Reference

Background and Objective

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an egregious human rights violation that cuts across all countries, cultures and social strata. It hinders the achievement of women and girls’ human rights and their abilities to live and love and reach their full potential in dignity and safety. Eliminating VAWG and achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment is, therefore, a pre-requisite to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

In September 2017, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) launched the Spotlight Initiative - a global partnership to eliminate all forms of VAWG. Backed by a financial investment of EUR 500 million, the Initiative will operate in five regions (Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific) and respond to all forms of VAWG, with a particular focus in specific regions on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation. In line with the 2030 Agenda, the Initiative will fully integrate the principle of *‘leaving no one behind’* and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach.

For decades women’s movements have been at the forefront of the fight to eliminate discrimination, violence and harmful practices against all women and girls across the globe, having their role been acknowledged namely at the agreed conclusions on “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women (E/2013/27). Their expertise spans all the Outcomes of the Spotlight Initiative’s Theory of Change - advocating for and supporting the implementation of laws, policies and interventions in order to prohibit, prevent and sanction all forms of VAWG; tackling impunity; ensuring timely, adequate and high-quality multi-sectoral services for survivors; educating women and girls on their rights, as well as men and boys on the harmful consequences of patriarchal masculinities, and their roles and responsibilities in eliminating all forms of VAWG; addressing social and cultural norms that perpetuate and enable discrimination; ensuring accurate, reliable, meaningful and comparable data on all forms of VAWG; and building alliances, movements and solidarity across the world to advance progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

The Spotlight Initiative intends to work closely with women’s movements and relevant human rights-based civil society organizations (CSOs) on the design and implementation of the Initiative and its Country and Regional Programmes in a mutually supportive and reinforcing way, and wishes to be accountable to survivors of violence, women’s and feminist movements, and human rights civil society organisations, deploying and building upon their vast knowledge and experience, developed at community, national, regional and global levels.





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To this end the Initiative will establish a Civil Society Global Reference Group (CS-GRG) as an institutional mechanism to harness civil society expertise to strengthen the Initiative's effectiveness and accountability to the women's movement. The CS-GRG will have a dual responsibility — to advocate to and to advise the Spotlight Initiative, informed by the women's and feminist movements, as partners for the realization of the Spotlight's objectives.

Mandate

The CS-GRG is a group of 20 pre-eminent global experts on eliminating VAWG and harmful practices (HP), on women's rights, as well as on gender justice more broadly. The CS-GRG will also nominate a member and an alternate of its members to serve on the Governing Body¹ of the Spotlight Initiative as a full member, as well as a member and an alternate to serve in the Operational Steering Committee² as a voting representative.

In alignment with Pillar 6 of the Spotlight Initiative on “Women's movements”, which aims at promoting strong and empowered civil society and autonomous women's groups by advocating laws and policies that protect the participation of autonomous women's groups; ensuring civil

¹ The Governing Body of the Spotlight Initiative is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership on the Initiative. Representation on the Governing Body is as follows: High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell Fontelles, UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Jutta Urpilainen, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, eminent women's rights and civil society leader with experience on eliminating VAWG

² The Governing Body delegates specific functions to an Operational Steering Committee (OSC). The OSC's role is to ensure effective management and coordinate all operational and technical aspects of the Initiative, including the launch of programmatic cycles, consider and makes recommendations on Investment Plans of the Initiative, advise on resource allocation, agrees upon joint programmes and budgets, and proposes the transfer funds from the Administrative Agent transfer funds to recipient United Nations Organizations, subject to United Nations regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The OSC will consider feedback from the Secretariat on the overall management of the Initiative, or advice on any substantive issues related to programme implementation. The OSC consists of the following members: Full members 1. Director-General of EU DG DEVCO (co-chair), 2. European Union representative (the Director for Peace and People), 3. European Union representative (Director from Africa, Asia or Latin America Directorates), 4. European Union representative (Director from Africa, Asia or Latin America Directorates), 5. Representative at the Director-level of the Executive Office of the Secretary General (co-chair), 6. UNDP, 7. UNFPA, 8. UN Women, 9. CS-Global Reference Group representative. Observers: 10. Observer – EEAS, 11. Observer - European Union Geographic or Thematic Director, 12. Permanent Observer – UNICEF, 13. Rotating Observer – UN Agency Focal Point. Each member is entitled to one vote. The European Union has equal representation as the United Nations. In case of non-consensus, agreements on the programmes of work can be made by a qualified majority of two-thirds. The Operational Steering Committee will have a quorum when both chairs and two-thirds of its members are present. Internal rules of procedure of Operational Steering Committee will be included in the operations manual and take into consideration the formal decision-making process.





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society participation in development planning; building capacity of civil society organisations; deploying innovative financial mechanisms and strengthening partnership and networking opportunities for the civil society, the CS-GRG will:

- Provide advice on the overall strategic direction of the Spotlight Initiative and on cutting-edge global policy issues on eliminating VAWG and HP with reference to the needs of local, regional and global women's movements
- Provide advice and perspectives on current preventing, eliminating and sanctioning VAWG and HP-related issues where the Spotlight Initiative's advocacy, leadership and support to civil society, namely to regional and local women's movements, and cross-cutting all the Spotlight's pillars, is important
- Assist and provide advice as full and equal partner in high-level advocacy and communications as well as political dialogue, including by fostering meaningful participation with reference to the needs of local, regional and global women's movements, and supporting visibility and promotion of the Initiative's goals at the global level as appropriate,
- Support the embeddedness of the women's movements perspectives in efforts at dissemination of the messages of the Spotlight Initiative on VAWG and HP to the public, from the global to the community level, especially to marginalized and vulnerable groups, and relevant media
- Serve as a communications hub, interactive space and open forum for dialogue between the Spotlight Initiative and organisations working on eliminating VAWG and HP, including global developments, trends and risks related to work on eliminating VAWG and HP, through a structured process via Spotlights' website
- Engage with civil society reference groups at national (CS-NRGs) and regional levels (CS-RRGs) in collective monitoring of and advocacy to the Spotlight Initiative in support of the Initiative's objectives (such as ensuring funding reaches grassroots women's rights organisations, and leaving no-one behind, among others)
- Provide recommendations to the Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee on the Spotlight Initiative's implementation, following an annual report to be developed by the CS-GRG through a common methodology and script in which each of its members acts as a focal point for one or two countries' national and regional reference groups for the purposes of gathering of information and monitoring.
- CS-GRG will have a close working relationship with the Secretariat of the Spotlight Initiative to ensure its systematic engagement in providing advice and informing programming on addressing VAWG, including for the marginalized and vulnerable groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which is key to responding to Agenda 2030's *'leaving no one behind'* imperative.

The CS-GRG will meet at least twice a year (at least once physically), in moments to be defined yearly considering the calendar of the Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee meetings and, preferably, in the margins of global events, such as the Commission on the Status





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of Women, the UN General Assembly or other relevant key moments for the purposes of the Spotlight Initiative.

The CS-GRG will hold *ad-hoc* virtual meetings on a monthly basis.

The CS-GRG will hold virtual meetings with the SC-RRGs every two months.

Individual members of the CS-GRG will hold virtual meetings with SC-NRG as appropriate in the context of performing the task of focal point in regards specific countries.

The Spotlight Secretariat will support the CS-GRG in performing its role as an institutional mechanism to harness the civil society expertise, and to strengthen the Spotlights' effectiveness and accountability to the women's movement, through performing its administrative logistics and technical secretariat for the meetings.

