



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Sri Lanka Open Call 2026

#### Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

The primary focus of this open call is to support Sri Lankan civil society organisations based outside Colombo with a track record of defending and advocating for human rights within at least one of the thematic areas of the call:

- **Non-Discrimination and Gender Equality**  
Including, but not limited to: Women's rights and gender equality; Rights of LGBTIQ+ persons; Addressing intersecting and structural discrimination
- **Democratic Rights and the Rule of Law**  
Including, but not limited to: Democratic participation and civic space; Rule of law and access to justice; Accountability, peacebuilding and post-conflict justice; Participation of marginalised groups in decision-making
- **Responsible Business, Environment, and Human Rights**  
Including, but not limited to: Corporate accountability; Environmental and climate justice; The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Business-related human rights impacts

**Organisations led by women, youth and marginalised groups are particularly encouraged to apply.** More detailed information on eligible applicants in section 3.1. in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#).

#### Can an organisation apply if it is not registered?

Yes, civil society groups not yet registered or in the process of registering and working at grassroots level may be considered if they have organisational structures in place and they are able to demonstrate capabilities to manage a grant of this scale.

#### What is the geographical focus of the call?

The call is countrywide (within Sri Lanka). Civil society organisations meeting the eligibility criteria from all 9 provinces of Sri Lanka are eligible for funding.

## Who are ineligible applicants?

This call will **not** accept applications from or provide funding to any of the following:

- Individuals
- For-profit entities
- Political parties
- Religious institutions
- Governmental bodies (whether national or local)
- International non-governmental organisations (INGOs)

## Can CSOs based in Colombo apply?

The primary focus of the call is to support organisations outside Colombo. Colombo-based organisations may be considered, if the proposed action is in other parts of the country.

## What are the forms of grants and activities supported?

- The types of activities supported are for example: monitoring, documenting and reporting human rights situations; evidence-based advocacy; legal assistance and aid; strategic litigation; awareness raising and human rights training; capacity building and safety of HRDs.
- Institutional strengthening of the applicant organisation may be supported.

For more detailed information, see section 4 in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) and [guidance for budgeting](#).

## What are non-eligible costs in the call?

The following costs shall not be considered eligible to be covered by the KIOS grant:

- Purchase of land
- Entertainment expenses
- Fundraising costs
- Costs from uncompetitive or non-compliant procurement
- Loan repayments and interest costs
- Additional pensions, bonuses, performance pay
- Legal penalties, fines, late fees, parking tickets
- Costs of other projects

For more detailed information on non-eligible costs and further guidance, see the KIOS [guidance for budgeting](#).

## Can organisations that have previously received funding from KIOS Foundation apply in this call?

Organisations that have previously received funding from KIOS may apply only after all prior KIOS-funded grants have been fully completed and reported, and provided they fill the eligibility criteria of this call.

## Are there restrictions on the size of the grants?

The available grant amount is between 20,000 and 40,000 euros. Applicant organisations should consider their own operational and absorptive capacity when submitting a funding request.

## **What is the maximum duration of the implementation period?**

Maximum duration for grant implementation is 12 months.

## **Is there a self-finance share and what are the auditing requirements?**

Yes, a self-financing share of 10% of the total budgeted initiative is required. The self-financing must be included in the proposed budget and clearly indicated as self-financing share. This share can be a contribution in cash or in kind (for example, the monetary value for voluntary work).

Each grant, including the self-financing share, must be externally audited at the end of the grant implementation period. The estimated cost of the external audit, including a management letter, must be included in the budget.

## **Can multiple civil society actors collaborate on a single application?**

Yes, multiple civil society actors may apply as a consortium. However, there should be one lead organisation designated as fiscal host, i.e. one organisation should handle finances on behalf of the entire consortium, and the role of others should be either strategic partners or co-implementors.

## **Are there reporting requirements for grant recipients during and after the project?**

Yes, the grant management and reporting guidelines will be shared during the contracting phase to the selected applicants. For 12-month long grants, KIOS requires one progress report and final report.

## **Does KIOS fund human rights work in other countries?**

Yes, but there are currently no other open calls for other countries. All open calls are announced through the KIOS website and social media channels.

## **How to submit the application and use the online portal for applications?**

The application must be filled in and submitted through the [online application portal](#).

Kindly follow the next steps in the portal:

- Register for the online portal by selecting "Register as grant applicant here". Your email address is your username.
- Confirm your registration through the link received in your email. Please check your spam and junk mail folders, if you cannot find the email in your inbox.
- After logging in, select "Make an application" and then "I want to make a new application". Tick the correct grant call box "Sri Lanka Open Call 2026" and click the "Start" button.

Please follow the guiding questions under each section in the online application. The online portal notifies you by email when the application has been successfully submitted.

## **Can multiple users from the same organisation collaborate on a single application using the online portal?**

Multiple persons can contribute to the writing process. Whoever initially creates a new application becomes the "owner" of the application and becomes the contact person by default. The owner can then add additional editor users. Editing users will also receive all updates related to the

application process (also when the application is approved or rejected), if they tick the box for Notifications.

Please note that the final version of the application must be submitted by a competent authority of the applicant organisation (technically, that person can be an editor or owner of the application). You should not submit more than one proposal. Sending more than one may lead to the rejection of both.

## **Can we start an application and save it to be finished later?**

Yes, the information you are filling into the application is saved automatically as a draft. Note that the autosave requires an Internet connection to work. However, the system warns the applicant if the autosave would not work. The page is permanently saved only after you have filled in all compulsory information and clicked the "Save and continue" button. Thus, it is not necessary to fill out the entire application in one go, but you can save a draft tab by tab.

## **What should be submitted, and what if the applicant organisation is not able to submit all the required annexes?**

Besides filling out the online application form, the following documents should be submitted as annexes:

- Two (2) Written References for the grant application. Use the template provided by KIOS ([KIOS Reference Form](#)) (pdf, jpg, png)
- A Budget for the planned action (as excel i.e., xls or xlsx). Use the template provided by KIOS ([Budget template](#)).

If you have technical problems submitting an annex (for example, if the file is too large and you cannot split it in two or reduce it), it is possible to leave the annex out and explain this in the online application form.

## **What is the next step in the grant application process?**

This application process is two-fold. After the submission of the Expression of Interest, shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit a full proposal through the same application portal. The full proposal consists of additional information of the planned initiative, as well as relevant annexes that demonstrate the capability of the applicant to implement the proposed action.

The annexes to be submitted at the full proposal stage include:

- Applicant Organisation's Annual Budget for the current financial year
- Applicant Organisation's Statutes
- Applicant Organisation's Registration Certificate
- Applicant Organisation's Latest Annual Report (from the two previous years)
- Applicant Organisation's Latest Audit Reports (from the two previous years)
- If available, policies regarding Code of Conduct, finance and administration, gender equality, and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH)

Shortlisted applicants will have fifteen (15) days to submit full proposals.

For the tentative timeline of the process, see [Guidelines for applicants](#).

## **We have problems uploading a file or other technical issues; what should we do?**

The annex files cannot exceed 4 MB in size. If your file is larger than 4 MB, please split it into two parts and upload them separately. Please ensure that the file is in a format of .pdf, .jpg, .png, .xls, or .xlsx. If you have technical problems submitting an annex (for example if the file is too large and for some reason, you are not able to split it in two parts or reduce it), it is possible to leave the annex out and explain this in the relevant field of the online application form.

You may also send a technical support message in the online portal (using the link "Send technical support request" located at the lower middle part).

In matters concerning registration confirmation and new password emails, wait for about half an hour. It may take some time for the email to go through all spam filters.

## **Are there separate guidelines for the call and on how to fill out the online application?**

Yes, there is a detailed [call for grant proposals with guidelines for applicants](#) on our website. There are no separate guidelines on how to fill out the application, but there are guiding questions under each sub-question in the [online application portal](#). You can find more instructions behind the "?" sign in the online application form.

## **What is the indicative time frame of the application process?**

The applications for the Expression of Interest will be reviewed within 4-6 weeks from the deadline of the call, depending on the number of applications received. If the review process would take longer, KIOS will inform about this on its [Apply for Funding webpage](#).

Note that ONLY shortlisted applicants will be contacted and requested to submit a full proposal. The shortlisted applicants will have fifteen (15) days to submit full proposals.

## **Can we send inquiries/ask for comments before submitting an application?**

Due to the large number of applications, KIOS is not able to comment on the applications. However, besides these FAQs, there are also separate [Guidelines for Applicants](#) on our website and guiding bullet points under each question in the [online application portal](#). In case you cannot find an answer to your question in these guiding documents, you may approach us through [calls@kios.fi](mailto:calls@kios.fi) with the subject "Sri Lanka Open Call" However, we cannot promise that we will be able to reply to all inquiries.

## **Is there a deadline for submitting the application?**

Yes, **the deadline is June 23, 2026, at 23:59 Sri Lankan time**. Applications cannot be submitted after the online portal is closed.

## **Is there more information about the criteria for evaluating applications and selecting successful applicants?**

The evaluation criteria can be found in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#). These human rights-based criteria have been developed to assess the applicants and applications and serve as a tool for equal treatment of each application and applicant.

## **Can an organisation apply for funds for their ongoing work, or does it have to be a new initiative?**

You may apply for funding for the implementation of your ongoing strategies, programmes and/or projects, but only for parts that are not funded by another donor. If it is a totally new initiative, you should describe your capacity and networks to implement such an initiative.

## **Can the applicant make changes to the application after it has been submitted? Or alternatively send another proposal?**

It is not possible to modify the proposal after submitting the application. However, the shortlisted applicants will be requested to submit a full proposal at the second stage and will be assessed in-depth. The assessment phase of the full proposals may include requests for clarifications to the application (including the budget) or for additional documents from the applicants.

You should not submit more than one proposal, as sending more than one may lead to the rejection of both.

## **How is the privacy and data security of the applicants considered?**

When submitting information through our online portal, please ensure that you only provide necessary information. Your data will be subject to access controls and handled with care by authorised personnel only. For more details, please refer to our [Data Privacy Policy](#).