



This Project is funded by the European Union.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers



FCA Finn Church Aid



FCA Term of Reference

LEAD RESEARCHER

FOR

THE NETWORK FOR RELIGIOUS AND TRADITIONAL PEACEMAKERS' PROJECT

ALLY: Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia

1. Background

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (Network) is implementing the European Union-funded consortium project: “Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia (ALLY) “. The 30-month project began in March 2020 and is being implemented in consortium with Finn Church Aid (FCA), United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Rural Development Society, Center for Communication and Development, Youth Development Foundation, and Sri Lanka Unites.

The project is a youth-sensitive initiative, focused at amplifying the youth voices and actions in addressing diverse factors of violence and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan. The project aims at increasing knowledge of the push and pull factors, enhancing the multidimensional capacity of youth leaders and their strategies, and strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships to prevent violent extremism in South Asia. The project primarily targets youth as agency-holder and strategic allies to media and decision-makers, to increase outreach for youth-led initiatives and constructive narratives that value the religious, ethnic and cultural diversity of the region. The project contributes to filling the gap of context-specific resources and collaborative regional actions on PVE in South Asia, strengthening not only regional but also national level networks and youth movements.

The ALLY project consortium are currently seeking an experienced researcher to conduct research trainings and lead a study into youth leadership to address factors of violence and prevent violent extremism in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. In light of improving the narrative for young people among donors, policymakers and peacebuilding practitioners, the goal of the study is to contribute to an increasingly evidence-based approach to policies and programming related to PVE by deepening the existing knowledge base on the positive roles of youth-led civic engagement related to peacebuilding.

2. Primary objectives

The consultant will work in the position of Lead Researcher with the primary objectives of:

1. Design and facilitate 3 workshops on the topics of peer-to-peer research¹ and data analysis
2. Oversee in-country data collection by young researchers

¹ Peer-to-peer research is a participatory research method in which people with lived experience of the issue being studied take part in developing and conducting the research. It minimises power imbalances between researchers and participants.

3. Write 1 analytical report and 5 policy briefs highlighting key findings
4. Develop 2 youth capacity building action guide drafts with two trainers

3. Principal duties and deliverables

The Lead Researcher will have the overall responsibility for training and mentoring the young researchers and the research process, findings, and research outputs. Specifically, s/he will be:

- 1. Preparing and leading 3 workshops for 8 young researchers on research and analysis skills**
 - A. Develop a training outline and manual
 - B. Prepare and lead a 9-day online workshop on research methodology and skills and preparing for in-country research and data-collection (1 day per week)
 - C. Prepare and lead a 4-day in-person data analysis workshop
- 2. Coordinating the research project, supporting young researchers, conducting research**
 - A. Develop a detailed research plan and questions and formats for data collection
 - B. Undertake a desk review of relevant literature
 - C. Oversee in-country data collection by a team of two local young researchers from each country.
 - D. Analyse gathered data and lead the co-writing of 5 policy briefs (1 per country, 1 regional) highlighting specific key findings (approx. 5-8 pages each)
 - E. Write 1 analytical research report highlighting overall findings (approx. 45-50 pages)
 - F. Develop first draft of 2 Action Guides (Analysing PVE and Advocacy on PVE including guidance on Training of Trainers) in collaboration with two trainers

4. Assignment details

The study will document and examine the diverse factors of South Asian youth towards violent extremist discourses and youth-led innovative approaches to prevent violent extremism. The study will be youth-led action research² in four South Asian countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, primarily targeting youth as well as decision-makers, community leaders and media. A comparative study led by the Lead Researcher and supported by the Young Researchers in these four countries will highlight commonalities and differences between countries, socio-economic situations, gender, age groups, among others. It will also allow an examination of youth-led initiatives and constructive narratives in different cultural, historical and geographical contexts that value the religious, ethnic and cultural diversity of the region, and its impact on individuals, communities and institutions across South Asia. The study seeks to contribute to an increasingly evidence-based approach to policies and programming related to PVE by deepening the existing knowledge base on the positive roles of youth-led initiatives to peacebuilding and PVE.

The study will be centred on indicative guiding questions such as:

1. What are the national and regional VE contexts, policies, factors of violent extremism and conflict dynamics, including gender perspective? How do the youth actors assess the level of risk of radicalisation of members of their communities?
2. What are the boosters, motivators, and barriers that influence young women's/men's roles in promoting constructive approaches within their communities and across cultural/religious/ethnic/geographical divides to prevent violent extremism?
3. What are the contextual factors that make innovative youth initiatives successful, how transferable and scalable are they? Approximately how many and what kind of youth-led initiatives are

² Youth-led Action Research is an approach to scientific inquiry and social change grounded in principles of equity that engages young people in identifying problems relevant to their own lives, conducting research to understand the problems, and advocating for changes based on research evidence.

- contributing to more active civil society action addressing violent extremist narrative locally, nationally, or regionally?
4. How do media and decision-makers engage in youth-led constructive narratives? Are the relevant authorities aware of the push and pull factors for youth towards violent extremist propaganda? What are the current policies or multi-stakeholder models of engagements with youth-led initiatives that seek to address violent extremist narratives?
 5. To what extent do youth activists/advocates understand religious doctrines and cultural practices as being subject to different interpretations?

The study is led by the Lead Researcher and is conducted in collaboration with 8 young researchers (2 persons in each 4 countries) and results in the following research outputs: 1 analytical report highlighting the overall research findings, 5 policy briefs (1 per each country, 1 regional), and 2 capacity development action guide drafts. The policy briefs are concise summaries of the research from national and regional perspectives and include context relevant policy options and recommendations aiming at government policymakers and others interested in formulating or influencing policy. The action guides (on violent extremism and advocacy/activism) are a collection of tools and practical guidance to build youth capacity at the regional level to address VE factors and narratives on the basis of the need identified through the research. The action guides will feed into and will be tested and developed further during the succeeding youth fellowship project component.

In addition to the written research outputs, 8 young peacebuilders empowered to conduct youth-led research in their country contexts (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan) is a key output for the study. The Lead Researcher conducts online and in-person trainings to prepare young researchers with necessary skills to conduct data collection from their peers and other stakeholders for the study using the [listening and learning methodology](#) for youth-led research and to contribute to analysing the data. The Lead Researcher trains the young researchers and acts as a mentor during the data collection and analysis. The written research outputs are prepared in collaboration with the young researchers, while the Lead Researcher is responsible for finalising the documents. The Lead Researcher develops the action guide drafts in consultation of the Young Researchers, FCA and UNOY and wider stakeholders and in collaboration with two trainers who contribute to a succeeding project activity.

Following the training, Young Researchers will conduct in-person/on-call conversations, interviews, and focus group discussions with approximately 80 diverse young people involved in peacebuilding/PVE activities (20 from each country), in their respective countries and interviews with other key stakeholders whom they will have identified during the training. During this period, they will work independently, guided by the Lead Researcher, but with support from UNOY, FCA, and the in-country partners of the project.

Once the focus group discussions and interviews have been completed, the researchers will participate in an online data evaluation and consolidation workshop to jointly assess their findings. The Lead Researcher will prepare, lead and facilitate the data analysis workshop.

5. Scope of work and management

The consultancy takes place within the period of June 2020 – April 2021 and consists of 50 workdays. The consultancy is home-based but may involve travelling in the region to conduct one in-person training.

The Lead Researcher will work closely with the Project Coordinator of FCA (based in Bangkok) and Program Coordinator of UNOY Peacebuilders (based in Agra/Delhi). In addition, the Lead Researcher will work with 8 young researchers (two local researchers from each of the four South Asian countries). Project country partners will support the work of the young researchers.

6. Deliverables and indicative timeframe

Deliverable	Timeframe / due date
Training outline and manual (4 days)	By 30 June 2020
Online workshops and pre- and post-evaluation (11 days)	July - August 2020
Follow-up, monitoring, mentoring (11 days)	July – November 2020
In-person workshop and pre- and post-evaluation (7 days)	November 2020
Finalising the report and policy briefs (15 days)	December 2020 – February 2021, research report and policy briefs by 31 January 2021
Develop two action guide drafts (2 days)	March – April 2021, consolidated drafts in April 2021 before 1 st fellowship training
TOTAL DURATION	50 days June 2020 – April 2021

7. Deliverables & Payments

Deliverables	Payment %
Upon approval of satisfactory delivery of online training components	20%
Upon approval of satisfactory delivery of data analysis training	30%
Upon approval of research outputs at the end of consultancy	50%

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

8. Skills and qualifications required

- Master's degree in law, human rights, political science, religion/theology or similarly relevant discipline. PhD in a relevant discipline an asset.
- Excellent qualitative research and analytical skills and professional writing skills
- Understanding, and preferably experience, in youth participation in peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism
- Good knowledge of current academic research in preventing violent extremism. Prior research projects on peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism is an asset.
- Experience of developing and delivering workshops based on the methodology of non-formal learning, preferably focusing on youth-led research and data analysis. Experience in conducting on-line trainings is an asset.
- Good regional understanding of South Asia
- Demonstrated capacity to design and carry out research projects independently. Experience in leading research projects is an asset.
- Excellent written and spoken English, knowledge of local languages is an asset.
- Ability to travel to conduct an in-person training in the region
- Young candidates are particularly encouraged to apply as the project component approach is youth-led research

These are minimum requirements and evidence must be included in the proposal documentation, for example in CV. If no evidence of fulfilling the minimum requirements is found in the documentation, the bidder may be disqualified.

9. Budget

Budget proposals must include all costs, including any insurance, taxes, VAT. Conference costs, catering, accommodation and flight costs for the in-person data analysis training are covered by the project budget and should not be included in the budget proposal. The cap for the total consultancy costs is 10,000 EUR inclusive of all costs.

10. Bids assessment

All applications (comprised of technical and budget proposal, CV and cover letter) will be scored on a 0 to 100, with a minimum score of 45 needed for consideration:

Qualitative award criteria	
Proposed approach for contract implementation as outlined in the Technical Proposal	25 points
Rationale of the Lead Researcher's value added to ALLY project as outlined in the Technical Proposal	10 points
Financial proposal as outlined in the Technical Proposal	45 points
Candidates who demonstrate the following relevant experience BEYOND the minimum award criteria (detailed further in section 8 above) will be scored as follows (Maximum 5 points per criteria unless stated otherwise):	
Number of research projects led engaging 2 or more researchers.	1 point per project.
Number of workshops and online trainings on youth-led research conducted.	1 point per workshop/training.
Number of research projects on peacebuilding and PVE	1 point per project
Number of spoken local languages on B2 level.	1 point per language. Maximum 2 points.
Educational experience beyond Master's degree	3 points for relevant PhD.

11. Terms of contract

- The Consultant is responsible for payment of all social costs, other employment related costs and for all other liabilities of a statutory nature.
- The consultant will have to abide by FCA CoC, Child Safeguarding policy and any other relevant policies.
- The consultant will provide a debriefing session (in Bangkok or via Skype) after each training and provide regular updates to FCA and UNOY regarding progress of research project and reports.
- The Consultant certifies none of the funds provided under this contract are used directly or indirectly to assist in, sponsor, or provide support for acts of terrorism or to support organizations or persons listed as terrorists on lists maintained by the United States government, the United Nations, the European Union, and other entities.
- Copyright for all products produced during this assignment will remain with FCA.

12. Submission process

Interested parties should submit the application package to ALLY Project Coordinator Jaakko Virkkunen jaakko.virkkunen@kua.fi. **The original application deadline is 18 June 2020, the extended application deadline is 21 June 2020.** The application package will include the following materials:

- 1-3 page CV
- 1 page cover letter
- Technical and financial proposal (maximum 5 pages)
- 1 work sample of previous research
- 3 professional references

Late, incomplete or partial bids will be rejected.

FCA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders.

At the time the contract is awarded, FCA reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of Goods, Works or Services originally specified in the tender notice, provided this does not exceed the percentage(s) specified in the tender notice, and without any change in the unit prices. If no percentage was determined in the tender notice, the percentage to be taken into consideration by default is 10%.

Tenderer's bid should remain valid for a delay of at least 90 and up to 120 days (according to the estimated amount of the contract). Should a tenderer retract his bid before the delay is up, he shall run the risk of not being considered in a future tender.

FCA has zero tolerance concerning aid diversion and illegal actions and may screen consultants against international lists to ensure due diligence and compliance with Anti-money laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism requirements.

Annexes

- Technical and financial proposal template
- Assessment grid (upon request)