

## **Announcement – 2025 AWG Small Grants for Inclusive Peacebuilding**

### **Grant Description, Criteria and Application Process**

#### **Network Summary and Priorities**

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers' (NRTP) Asia Working Group (AWG) is a platform dedicated to fostering effective collaboration among international, regional, national, and local actors working in South and Southeast Asia. NRTP aims to enhance the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts by supporting the active participation of local, religious, and traditional actors in conflict mediation, transformation, and reconciliation. The AWG focuses on facilitating communication, dialogue, training, analysis, and knowledge exchange among its members, acting as a catalyst for joint advocacy, research, networking, and the mobilization of funding for community-led peace initiatives. Its work aligns with international frameworks such as the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, UN Peacebuilding architecture, and faith-based peacebuilding principles.

In 2025, NRTP Asia priorities include: (1) **Empowering local peacebuilders** by leveraging traditional, indigenous, and faith-based conflict transformation approaches; (2) **Strengthening inclusive peacebuilding** by enhancing the leadership and participation of women, youth, and other marginalized groups in peace, mediation and dialogue processes; (3) **Promoting religious literacy and intra- and interfaith dialogue** to enhance mutual understanding, social cohesion, and violence prevention; (4) **Creating platforms for grassroots and local actors**, enabling them to influence and shape national, regional and international policy frameworks; and (5) **Strengthening the regional network and facilitate knowledge sharing**, by supporting member needs, fostering collaboration, and organizing regional engagement opportunities.

#### **Small Grant 2025 – Description and Objectives**

As part of the AWG 2025 Annual Plan, NRTP is announcing an opportunity for small grant support, funded by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. These small grants are designed to support grassroots initiatives that advance **inclusive peacebuilding**, by focusing on mediators and peacebuilders across three intersecting identity groups: **(1) women and young women of faith, (2) persons with disabilities, and (3) LGBTQI+ individuals/communities.**

This initiative aligns with the global recognition of the importance of inclusive peace processes and gender equality, as outlined in the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UN Security Council Resolution 2475 on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Armed Conflict. These small grants aim to advance intersectional and inclusive perspectives into peacebuilding efforts, emphasizing that peace mediators from marginalized



communities, especially the underserved and underrepresented, can bridge divides, foster trust, and address root causes of conflict more holistically.

By supporting local mediators from women and young women of faith, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQI+ communities, this initiative aims to:

- Address the critical underrepresentation of these groups within peace processes
- Enhance the legitimacy and depth of peacebuilding, mediation and conflict transformation by strengthening the capacity and participation of women and young women of faith, persons with disabilities or LGBTQI+ actors to actively engage.
- Promote community-led, culturally sensitive peacebuilding strategies that are more likely to succeed and endure.
- Promote peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion at national and local levels, whilst also strengthening inclusive peacebuilding.
- Contribute to global commitments on gender equality, disability rights, and LGBTQI+ inclusion as stipulated in the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and Yogyakarta Principles.

Small grants are intended to support inclusive peacebuilding across AWG member countries and broader South and Southeast Asia regions. Focus countries include **Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.**

### **Application Process and Evaluation Criteria**

Four projects will be selected through an open and competitive selection process, reviewed and selected through a collaborative and transparent process by representatives of NRTP. Proposed projects can be both new initiatives or developed/existing based on good practices or approaches from previous experience.

#### Key Information

- **The application period:** June 10th to June 23rd, 2025.
- **Timeframe:** The selected initiatives can be implemented for a maximum of 3 months (July 15 - October 15, 2025).
- **Grant Amount:** The maximum awarded amount per grant is 4,000 euros.

The small grant support (initiative support) consists of three components:

1. **Selection of peacemakers** that demonstrate potential to advance inclusive peace in respective communities. The financial support can be provided to AWG members (as individuals) and other peacemaker organisations associated with the Network.
2. **Implementation of the initiative support** in selected country contexts, beginning from July 15, 2024, to October 15, 2025.
3. **Documented case studies and communication about the selected initiatives** to contribute to deepening inclusion in mediation and peacebuilding. Based on the evidence gathered, the project reports will illustrate through storytelling and/or case study compilation, that can be utilised for broader NRTP communication and dissemination purposes.

The projects will be selected amongst the initiatives based on the below evaluation criteria:



- The highest potential for impact and outreach, particularly with marginalized and underrepresented groups.
- Demonstrated engagement, collaboration, and promotion of mediation and dialogue with marginalized communities, including women and young women of faith, persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ actors
- Innovative and added-value elements of proposed work, especially approaches that advance inclusion, intersectionality, and diversity in peace processes
- Quality of the current and proposed work, demonstrating careful consideration of the local context and implementation of conflict-sensitive, inclusive, and gender-responsive responses.
- Cost efficiency and financial management, with consideration of sustainability beyond grant award.

If you believe your proposed project aligns with the goals of this grant, we encourage you to submit the following documents in PDF format:

- **Application form.** All applications have to be submitted online via this [application form](#).
- **Budget proposal.** Kindly find enclosed the budget format template.
- **References and examples** of relevant previous project implementation

Regional Programme Manager via e-mail at [Divya.Moorjani@kua.fi](mailto:Divya.Moorjani@kua.fi). Write your/your organization name and AWG Small Grants 2025 on the subject line (i.e. name\_AWG small grants\_2025).

**The deadline for submission is Monday, June 23, 2025, at 23:59 CET.**