

Political Economy Analysis of the Gender Equality Legislative Landscape in Uganda

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. Introduction

The Makerere University School of Women and Gender Studies (SWGS) has received funding for a Gender Equality Project (GEP) from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF). This project is implemented in partnership with the University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG).

The GEP aims to contribute towards the upholding of pro-gender equality legislation in Uganda. The initial actions under the project will include conducting a Political Economy Analysis (PEA) on Uganda's gender equality landscape. The PEA will provide an in-depth analysis of the contextual and institutional circumstances impacting on the possibility of attaining holistic pro-gender equality laws and policies in Uganda. It will furthermore identify political economy drivers that support or constrain the attainment of positive change in gender relations. Through a political economy lens, this study will go beyond the façade of formal institutions in analysing the formal and informal rules and cultural influences on gender related legislation and policies in Uganda.

It is envisaged that the study will be conducted with the support of a senior expert or group of experts in PEA.

The SWGS and UNIFOG are now calling for expressions of interest from interested candidates for this assignment. Candidates may bid as individuals or as a consortium.

The SWGS is a unit of Makerere University established in 1990 to forerun teaching and research in the fields of gender and women studies, as well as to lead the University's outreach on gender and development. The University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG) is a Public Policy Think Tank that aims to harness the outstanding expertise of universities and academics in contributing to development in Uganda and Africa.

2. Background

Uganda is a signatory to several instruments and has locally enacted a feisty of pro-gender equality laws and policies. However, the socio-economic and political landscape remains

underlined by high degrees of inequality of rights, voices and opportunities among diverse social groups.

Gender equality is upheld in local frameworks such as the 1995 Constitution, Vision 2040, the National Development Plan, the Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2007), and the National Youth Policy. Uganda has also ratified international instruments such as the CEDAW, the Maputo Declaration on Gender Mainstreaming (2003), the African Youth Charter (2006), and the Sustainable Development Goals, to mention but a few.

Nonetheless, several challenges obstruct the possibility to realise broad-based equality of voices, rights and opportunities between and amongst diverse social groups. Uganda's gender discourse is narrowly focused on the differences between women and men. Consequently, existing gender equality laws and policies tend to be less inclusive.

The tracking of results in gender equality is often concentrated around identifying the number of women in political leadership and corporate governance, who are mostly the female elite. There is limited attention towards establishing how gender equality laws and policies are working in terms of improving opportunities for everyday Ugandan citizens especially the marginalised groups.

Uganda's legal landscape still lacks critical legislations for improving social relations such as the Domestic Relations Bill that has not been passed for decades. The failure of existing legal frameworks to promote equality can be manifested in social indicators, such as poverty levels, which, according to the 2016/2017 National Household Survey (UNHS), risen to 27%, up from 19.7% in 2012/2013. Statistics from the 2016/2017 UNHS show that the changes in opportunities for everyday women remains low relative to widespread celebrations of women's successes in political leadership. For example, only 22.4% of women have opportunities in modern wage employment compared to 36.6% of men. The median monthly wage for women is 110.000UGX, which is exactly half that of men at 220.000 UGX. Furthermore, 26.7% of women have land ownership compared to 33.5% of men. According to the most recent Demographic Health Survey (DHS) (2016), 22% of women (15 – 49 years) reported having experienced some form of sexual violence.

The glaring gap between Uganda's pro-gender equality legal and policy framework on the one hand, and the persistence of gender-based inequalities on the other calls for a deeper evaluation of the effectiveness of existing frameworks to establish what is working, why and how the gaps can be addressed. However, such reflection is still lacking as the interventions of state and non-state actors focus more on developing new policies and programmes and less on assessing how existing ones are faring. This is where the GEP comes in. Overall, the GEP will conduct research to inform improvement in gender equality laws and policies.

3. Purpose and Objectives of the Assignment

The purpose of the PEA is to provide a sector specific in-depth analysis of the context (with a focus on constraints and opportunities) for the attainment of holistic gender equality laws and policies in Uganda as well as the political economy drivers that constrain or support their implementation.

Through a political economy lens, the study will go beyond the façade of formal institutions to analyse the informal rules and cultural influences on gender relations and how these influence gender related legislative processes in Uganda. The PEA will identify the critical decision-makers and influencers of gender related legislation and provide an analysis of their incentives and decision logics.

The specific objectives include the following:

- (a) To provide an analysis of the contextual and institutional factors which affect the upholding of pro-gender equality legislation in Uganda.
- (b) To identify key decision-makers and influencers of gender related legislation and provide an analysis of their interests, incentives and decision logics.
- (c) To analyse the nature of nonstate actors seeking to influence gender related legislations with a focus on their capacities, incentives and outlook.
- (d) To identify entry points that can be leveraged to positively impact on pro-gender equality legislation in Uganda.

4. Approach and Methodology

The PEA will employ a problem-driven iterative approach (PDIA) as developed by the Department for International Development (DFID). The PDA allows for in-depth understanding of the problem before drilling down to the political economy drivers that affect change. These drivers may include (formal and informal) institutional arrangements, the actors involved and the room for manoeuvre for those seeking to foster progressive change.

The research process is envisaged to employ qualitative methods. The GEP has planned regional participative workshops (Central, East, North and West) during which district-based stakeholders will be consulted as part of the PEA. Participants will include political, religious, cultural and civil society leaders including the media. The successful consultant will facilitate the workshops. Additional methods of data collection will be agreed between the consultant and the GEP team but will include literature review and in-depth interviews with selected stakeholders.

The analysis will, among others, address the following variables:

- Structural variables that influence the distribution of power and have an impact on pro-gender legislations in Uganda. These may be historical, economic, political or cultural.
- Institutional variables: The consultant(s) will analyse formal and informal rules of the game and how these impact on pro-gender equality legislation.
- Actors at international, national and local levels. The analysis shall provide perspectives of the key actors in gender equality. Which are the key actors (at different levels) and what are the interests that drive them regarding the possibility

of influencing pro-gender equality legislations? Who are the formal and de facto power holders? Who are the “champions” of pro-gender equality legislation and who are “the opponents”?

5. Areas of Enquiry

The non-exhaustive list of areas to be explored through mapping and analysis are listed below. In line with the specific interpretation of the project purpose, the implementing consultant(s) are expected to generate a comprehensive list of questions that will be crucial in meeting the objective of the PEA. The indicative list of topics includes the following:

- What is the social, economic, political and cultural context of pro-gender equality legislations in Uganda?
- What are the power structures in Uganda’s gender equality legislative landscape?
- Who are the actors and key decision makers, their incentives, interests and decision logic?
- What are the powers of different actors and where are these powers generated?
- What are the existing opportunities and barriers for impacting on Uganda’s gender equality landscape?
- What are the realistic opportunities/entry points for positively impacting on the gender equality legislative landscape in Uganda?

6. Deliverables of the Assignment

The key deliverables of this assignment include:

- (a) Inception report
- (b) A report of the political economy analysis of Uganda’s gender equality legal and policy landscape
- (c) A mission report providing recommendations to the GEP team on critical political economy interventions for impacting on pro-gender equality legislation in Uganda

7. Qualifications of Consultant(s)

Consultant(s) will have demonstrated expertise in Political Economy Analysis. This assignment will require that the consultants hold a minimum of a Masters degree in a social science discipline.

8. Documents Required for the Expression of Interest

A duly submitted expression of interest will include the following:

- (a) A letter of expression of interest (maximum 2 pages)
- (b) A technical proposal detailing how the assignment will be conducted
- (c) A detailed workplan and budget
- (d) Curriculum vitae of the lead consultant
- (e) At least two referees from previous organisations where related assignments were conducted

9. Timeframe

This assignment will be conducted according to the following time frame:

16 th May 2018	Call for expressions of interest
23 rd May 2018	Deadline for receiving expressions of interest
28 th May 2018	Feedback and contracting of successful consultant
2 nd June 2018	Deadline for inception report and feedback
15 th June 2018	Completion of regional participative workshops
22 nd June 2018	Draft report shared with GEP team
26 th June 2018	Deadline for submitting the final report

10. Procedure for Submitting the Expression of Interest

The complete dossier of the expression of interest shall be submitted by email to:

The Gender Equality Project
Makerere University
EMAIL: gep.makerere@gmail.com