



PARTNER PROPOSAL

Strengthening Human Rights Defenders in Belize Project

Name of Lead Organization

Our Circle

Short description of the organisation's mission, goals, main programme areas and key activities:

Our Circle is a national organisation that provides quality services to family units formed by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) persons across the country. Informed by the issues and experiences raised through our frontline services, we also provide training and advocacy support, to enhance the visibility, inclusion, and rights of LGBT-formed families living in Belize. Our Circle's frontline work is delivered by our network of extensively trained volunteers. The services are supported by Our Circle's staff team and the organisation's Working Board of Directors.

Main objective of this project:

- strengthen organizational and technical capacity of Human Rights Defenders;
- gather evidence on stigma and discrimination faced in health facilities, educational institutions and in the workplace and discuss redress probabilities with stakeholders and policy makers through policy workshop and dialogues;
- conduct policy dialogues on legal and policy reforms affecting Human Rights with responsible Government agencies and the National Assembly's Committees.

Issues the project wants to tackle:

In recent years, there has been more openness in Belize to address the human rights violations. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and HRDs have had greater visibility as they reach out to the public, media have reported positive messages on the issues faced by the communities they represent, and institutions within the government and National Assembly have increasingly invited HRDs to discuss issues affecting the community.

There have been several isolated initiatives to build the capacity of HRDs in Belize; however, by developing an accredited curriculum and standardizing the initiative through a local University, the impact of the capacity building interventions will create uniformity in the work being done by HRDs and CSOs in Belize.



Despite the generational gap and focus areas being addressed CSOs efforts through this project will align and make it easier to identify intersection approaches to addressing stigma and discrimination while strengthening the legal and policy environment.

Solution it proposes:

In addition to providing broad organisational capacity strengthening to CSOs, and more individualised capacity development for HRDs based on a capacity assessment tool, the project will support greater networking and exchange of experiences between CSOs and with a wider group of HRDs through developing the capacity of Our Circle to act as a centre of excellence for building capacity of other CSOs and HRDs on strategic issues such as leadership, advocacy and strategy and to facilitate networking and mainstreaming of Human Rights (HR) issues within other development issues such as gender and youth etc.

Main target groups:

- Board member, staff and volunteers of grassroots CSOs;
- Emerging Human Rights Defenders

Foreseen Role/Contribution of Partner

Partners' project contribution is foreseen as two-fold:

- a mentoring and advising role throughout the process of project implementation; and
- active and willing participants in the capacity building; data gathering and policy maker engagements

Contact Person and Contact Details

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