



Project Name: Advancing Child-Friendly Justice for Children in Trinidad and Tobago

Type: Consultancy

Background: The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is the leading global advocate for the right to legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Established in 2001 in New York as a nonprofit organization, the ILF provides criminal defense services and builds sustainable, effective legal aid institutions around the world.

In 2022, the ILF launched a new project to advance child-friendly justice in Trinidad and Tobago by surveying children and youth in conflict with the law.

The ILF seeks to hire a consultant with extensive experience with juvenile justice and evaluating the conditions of detained and system-impacted children to assist in the survey of children and youth in conflict with the law in Trinidad and Tobago (40 children as of May 2023). The ILF is collaborating with local government agencies for this nation-wide undertaking, which is expected to provide data illustrating the lived experiences of children in conflict with the law, the extent to which their rights have been violated, and the impact detention is having on them. The ILF expects to partner with local advocates and organizations to use the data from the survey to call for reforms that will remedy systemic rights violations. Information from the survey will also be used to highlight psycho-social service needs of children in conflict with the law, support expansion of the use of diversionary, rehabilitative programming, and to identify children in need of holistic legal aid services.

Using a survey tool that has been developed by the ILF and local partners, the consultant will survey every child in conflict with the law who is detained in Trinidad and Tobago at the Youth Training and Rehabilitation Center (YTRC) and the Youth Transformation and Rehabilitation Center for Girls (YTRCF) (35 boys and 5 girls as of May 2023). As part of survey implementation, the consultant will be expected to obtain consent from the youth's parents, and complete a short interview with consenting parents, as well as provide a small incentive to the participating youth. Additionally, to the extent possible, the consultant will review and document pertinent information from the youths' YTRC case files. Observational data from the consultant during the conduct of the surveys will also be recorded for inclusion in the survey findings. Permission from the authorities to implement the survey is pending, and full execution of this consultancy contract is thereupon contingent. The consultant is expected to coordinate and cooperate with the ILF in obtaining all necessary approvals.

All survey documents and data are confidential and will be stored securely during the execution of the project. All documents and data are the sole property of the ILF and will be sent to the ILF before final payment.

Deliverables:

1. Surveys of children in conflict with the law who are detained in Trinidad and Tobago, including prerequisite consents, completed survey questionnaire, and review of case files.
2. Completed interviews with consenting parents, including documentation of consent.
3. Information collected from surveys, interviews and observations entered into ILF provided database.
4. Delivery of all survey, interview, and project documents and electronic files.

Submission of Proposals: Proposals should be sent via email to RFP@theilf.org no later than Monday, August 11, 2023.

Timeline: Anticipated project start date August 15, 2023. Survey implementation and interviews are expected to take place in August and September, with data cleaning and initial analysis to be conducted in October.

Budget: The budget for this consultancy is USD \$5,000. The consultant will be responsible for procuring and providing a small compensation to the youth surveyed (e.g. for lunch or other appropriate compensation).

Elements of Proposal: Proposals should include a description of qualifications and relevant expertise and project plan including timeline and budget. Please also include a description of your diversity, equality and inclusion and how you will incorporate that in this project.

Evaluation Criteria: Applicants will be evaluated based on the strength of their past work (experience interviewing children who have experienced trauma is preferred) and the cost and feasibility of their proposal.

All reputable consultants are eligible to apply. The ILF is committed to growing the representation of small and/ or diverse businesses among our suppliers. We strongly encourage candidates of all identities, orientations, experiences and communities to apply. Consultants shall ensure that neither they, nor any of their employees and personnel, exposes any intended beneficiary, including children, to any form of discrimination, abuse or exploitation and that they, and each of their employees and personnel, complies with the ILF's policies in relation to protection of children.