



CLAIM YOUR SPACE: New Rapid Response Fund Available through Global Focus

On 4 January 2021, Global Focus launched its new rapid response mechanism, Claim Your Space (CYS). The purpose of CYS is to provide rapid financial support to civil society and human rights defenders at risk due to civic space restrictions. From 4 January 2020, you can apply through an encrypted online application form here: www.globaltfokus.dk/pulje/claim-your-space.

The mechanism is a response to the global tendency towards shrinking civic space; the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association. CYS emergency assistance will be available to individuals, movements, groups and organisations active in Sub-Saharan African Countries and in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Palestine. CYS will provide both rapid emergency support and support for establishing joint responses to shrinking civic space. CYS is open for applications throughout the initial two-year pilot period from the beginning of 2021.

Application Criteria:

The funding criteria for partners to receive support from CYS are:

- can be any civil society actor (individual, organisation, movement, group of activists) who has either been:
 - Collaborating with a Danish civil society organisation with a proven track record, or
 - Funded by a Danish embassy.
- must have experienced civic space restrictions, such as threats, attacks, extra bureaucratic hurdles, legal barriers, defamation, harassment, stigmatization, discrimination, exclusion, marginalization, displacement etc. due to their work, and must be able to demonstrate and document these restrictive measures.
- must be active within the geographical scope of CYS (Sub-Saharan African Countries, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Palestine)
- must be able to state the amount needed from CYS as well as the timeframe for the planned activities.

The Two Tracks of Claim Your Space:

Track 1: Emergency assistance funds to individuals and groups under threat

Funding will be granted to individuals and groups under threat to enable them to survive and/or continue operating. The grant will cover expenses aimed mitigating immediate threats to civil society actors and activities may include rehabilitation, evacuation, legal support, psycho-social support, bail, etc. Grants will fall within the range of EUR 4,000 – 6,000 but amounts above may be granted if necessary. The timeframe for the activities should not exceed 12 months, except in special circumstances, and all activities must be completed no later than December 2022.

Track 2: Grants to local CSO alliances to collectively counter civic space restrictions

Funding will be granted to alliances of local civil society groups working together to collaboratively address a situation of closing civic space that is occurring or is about to occur in the country. Project activities must be planned and implemented collectively by an alliance of equal partner organizations with the aim of creating sustainable responses to civic space restrictions. The grant will cover expenses in connection with activities countering civic space restrictions, such as alliance building and strengthening among local civil society, advocacy work and campaigns, support and capacity building for local civil society actors, etc. Grants will fall within the range of EUR 13,000 and 30,000. Co-financing is allowed if needed provided that individual expenses are not covered by more than one source of funding. The timeframe for project implementation must not exceed 24 months, and all activities must be completed no later than December 2022.

Applying:

Applications for both tracks can be submitted using a secure online application on the following link: www.globaltfokus.dk/pulje/claim-your-space. The online CYS application form is encrypted to avoid any surveillance or threats of repercussions to applicants. Applications may also be submitted by email to cys@globaltfokus.dk and can be submitted in written form, by video or audio. Applications can be submitted in any language but if possible, official UN languages are preferred to ensure faster processing of applications. A budget detailing the required amount must be submitted and can be submitted in any currency but if possible, EUR or DKK is preferred to ensure faster processing.

Applications should be submitted by the applicant but can also be submitted in collaboration with a Danish CSO partner in cases where the applicant has security concerns or is otherwise unable to submit the application.

Please make sure you have read the criteria for application thoroughly prior to applying to ensure that you qualify for the funding (note that application criteria for the two tracks differ) and that you have provided sufficient information in order to receive the grant that you are applying for. This will ensure our ability to process your application as quickly as possible.

After applying you will be contacted by a Global Focus staff member. Please make sure that the method of contact that you provide through your application is secure, so that you feel comfortable with us reaching out to you through this channel.

Claim your Space is part of an international network of rapid response mechanisms. If you do not qualify for CYS, we will guide you to other rapid response mechanisms that operate on the basis of other criteria for applications.

For any questions regarding CYS, please contact us on the following email: cys@globalfokus.dk