Spotlight Initiative Invites Nominations and Representation in the Samoa Civil Society National Reference Group

Background/Context:
The Spotlight Initiative is a global partnership between the United Nations and the European Union to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through a comprehensive approach, the Initiative aims to support a world where all women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices. Samoa has been identified as one of the focus countries in the Pacific where the Spotlight Initiative will deploy targeted, large-scale investments to reduce violence against women and girls and thereby improving their lives. In particular, the Spotlight Initiative in Samoa will focus on intimate partner violence/domestic violence. The Spotlight Initiative in Samoa is coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office with UN Women as the Technical Lead Agency. Programming is implemented by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO.

The Spotlight Initiative intends to work closely with women’s movements and relevant human rights-based civil society organizations on the design and implementation of the Initiative and its Country Programmes in a mutually supportive and reinforcing way, deploying and building upon their vast knowledge and experience, developed at global, regional, national and community levels.

To this end the Initiative will establish a Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) in Samoa as an institutional mechanism to harness civil society expertise. The CS-NRG will have a dual responsibility — as advisors to the Spotlight Initiative and as advocates and partners for the realization of its objectives.

This open call is an invitation for suitable persons to express their interest to serve on the Samoa Civil Society National Reference Group. All persons who meet the qualifications and wish to volunteer their time are being invited to apply for the call or share the nomination form with suitably qualified peers in the civil society.

Criteria of Selection
A maximum of 10 members for the Civil Society National Reference Group will be selected. In order to preserve a balance among members, candidates meeting the following criteria will be given special consideration (each member must meet a minimum of 4 criteria):

1. Representing the following population groups: youth representatives especially young women and adolescent girls (35 years of age or under), migrants, people living with disabilities, rural women, people living or working with HIV, people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, with an active participation in the women’s and rights-based movement
2. Thematic expertise, theory and application in intimate partner violence/ domestic violence, including intersecting issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights;
3. Experience in policy, legislation and/or human rights treaties will be an asset;
4. Academic and research experience, especially in the area of gender;
5. Active and proven participation within the women’s and rights-based movement;
6. Strong connection with women’s or advocacy networks and organizations, focusing on Ending Violence against Women and Girls;
7. Must be resident in Samoa

The submissions will be evaluated by a panel from civil society and the United Nations.

The specific Terms of Reference for the CSO National Reference Group is attached.

The call for nominations will close 4pm, Monday 06 July 2020.

Membership in the group does not preclude individuals and their organizations from serving as implementing partners of the Spotlight Initiative.

To apply, complete and submit the NOMINATION FORM, STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM and SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (CV or Reference Letter or Letter of Recommendation) to the Samoa Spotlight Selection Committee: samoa.spotlight.initiative@one.un.org or to the One UN Complex, Tuanaimato.

Members of the communities are especially encouraged to apply.

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1 CV must be no more than 3 pages and should highlight background, experience, expertise, leadership in relation to the Spotlight Initiative Pillars of Pillar 1: Laws & Policies, Pillar 2: Strengthening Institutions, Pillar 3: Prevention, Pillar 4: Services, Pillar 5: Data & Information, Pillar 6: Women’s Movement