

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Partnership Grant

Survivor-Centred Services, Advocacy and Support for Survivors of Detention in Syria

Available awards	Up to four grants in four different regions
Maximum grant	Up to USD 25,000 per grant for one organization or USD 50,000 for organisations applying as a consortium (2 or more)
Implementation period	Up to 12 months
Application deadline	October 9, 2026

Purpose: GSF seeks to establish transparent, accountable partnerships with Syrian survivor-led organisations and associations that can deliver high-impact services, advocacy and sustained support to survivors of detention and families of disappeared persons in underserved regions.

1. About the Global Survivors Fund

The Global Survivors Fund (GSF) is an international organisation dedicated to enhancing access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In Syria, GSF works with survivors, survivor associations, civil society and national institutions to strengthen survivor participation, access to support and the development of credible, survivor-centred reparations processes.

2. Purpose of the call

Through this call, GSF, with the participation of the intends to select survivor-led organisations and associations that can respond to the priorities of survivors of detention and families of disappeared persons while building longer-term partnerships based on trust, accountability and shared survivor-centred principles. GSF expects to award up to four grants of up to USD 25,000 each, with no more than one grant awarded in the same region. The final portfolio will therefore cover up to four different regions.

The call has the following objectives:

- Improve survivors' access to safe, relevant and locally available services and support.
- Strengthen survivor-led advocacy and meaningful participation in transitional justice and reparations processes.
- Support focused, innovative projects that maximise impact within the available grant.

- Strengthen networks and cooperation among survivors, families, survivor associations and relevant service providers.
- Develop sustainable partnerships between GSF and Syrian survivor-led organisations and associations.

3. Grant parameters

- **Grant value:** Up to USD 25,000 per selected organisation, or the equivalent in the contracting currency.
- **Number of grants:** GSF expects to award up to four grants in four different regions. No more than one grant will be awarded for the same region. Awards remain subject to the quality of applications, due diligence and available funding.
- **Implementation period:** Up to 12 months. Applicants should propose a realistic period based on the scope of their activities.
- **Geographic scope:** Each application must focus on one region in Syria only. The applicant must name the selected region, explain why it was chosen and demonstrate previous experience, relationships and access in that region.
- **Priority regions:** Applications are encouraged from across Syria, particularly from Lattakia, Deir Ezzor, Raqqa, Hama, Homs, Daraa and other regions where survivors of detention and families of disappeared persons have had limited access to dedicated programming. This list is illustrative and does not exclude other underserved regions.
- **Women-led organisations:** Women-led survivor organisations and associations are strongly encouraged to apply. All applicants should explain how women survivors and female family members will influence project decisions and participate safely in the proposed activities.
- **Survivor-led associations:** Survivor-led associations are highly desirable. Within the eligible category of survivor-led applicants, GSF particularly welcomes associations established and governed directly by survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons.
- **Partnership approach:** Selected organisations will enter into a grant agreement with GSF and participate in proportionate technical accompaniment, monitoring and learning activities.
- **Consortium applications:** Applications submitted by consortia of two or more eligible organisations are strongly encouraged and will receive additional points during the technical assessment where the partnership demonstrates clear added value and will be eligible for USD 50,000. This may include complementary expertise, stronger regional access, meaningful leadership by survivor-led or women-led organisations, and the ability to provide coordinated support.

Each consortium must designate a lead applicant that will hold contractual and financial responsibility for the grant. The application must identify all consortium members and clearly explain their roles, responsibilities, decision-making arrangements and allocation

of the proposed budget. Forming a consortium will not automatically result in a higher score; additional points will be awarded based on the quality, relevance and complementarity of the partnership. Each consortium application must focus on one region only.

4. Priority areas and eligible activities

Proposals may combine the areas below. Applicants should select activities based on demonstrated survivor priorities and their own capacity rather than attempting to cover every area. GSF particularly welcomes focused, high-impact projects and innovative ideas that respond to a clearly identified need, strengthen connections among survivors and can be delivered safely and realistically within the available grant.

4.1 Survivor-centred services

- Psychosocial support, peer support or facilitated group activities delivered by appropriately qualified personnel.
- Referral, accompaniment and follow-up to help survivors access health, legal, protection, social or other relevant services.
- Information, orientation and practical support help access or make more effective available services, rights, reparations and transitional justice processes.
- Community-based activities that reduce isolation, strengthen dignity and respond to survivor-identified priorities.

4.2 Advocacy and survivor participation

- Survivor-led advocacy on addressing the consequences of detention, torture, disappearance, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence.
- Evidence-based awareness and advocacy activities that challenge stigma and strengthen recognition of survivors' rights.
- Coalition-building and coordinated advocacy among survivor associations and civil society organisations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Every supported project must uphold these standards

GLOBAL SURVIVORS FUND

1

Survivor-centred

Survivors' priorities, safety, dignity, agency and informed choices must shape the intervention.

2

Do no harm

Applicants must identify and mitigate protection, stigma, retaliation and retraumatisation risks.

3

Meaningful participation

Survivors should have clear roles in design, implementation, feedback and learning, without tokenism.

4

Inclusion

Activities should address barriers affecting women, men, persons with disabilities, older persons, young adults and marginalised communities.

5

Confidentiality and data protection

Only necessary information may be collected, access must be restricted and informed consent must be documented.

6

Accountability

Applicants must use funds transparently, manage conflicts of interest and provide safe feedback and complaints channels.

Survivor safety, dignity and agency are non-negotiable.

5. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet all mandatory eligibility requirements:

For this call, survivor-led means that survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons hold substantive leadership and decision-making roles in the organisation or association, including in setting priorities and overseeing the proposed project.

- Be a Syrian civil society organisation, with survivors in leadership, that is legally registered in Syria.
- Have previous and relevant experience working with survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons.
- Have previously managed grant or project funding and be able to provide evidence of basic financial management, expenditure control and reporting.
- Apply for activities in one region only and clearly identify that region in the proposal.
- Demonstrate previous experience, trusted relationships, community access and the ability to deliver activities safely in the selected region.
- Accept GSF requirements on safeguarding, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, anti-fraud, sanctions compliance, confidentiality and data protection.

- Disclose related parties, potential conflicts of interest, other funding for the proposed activities and any material organisational or legal concerns.
- Successfully complete GSF's due-diligence process before an award is confirmed.

Women-led organisations are strongly encouraged to apply. This is not a mandatory eligibility requirement; however, the application should clearly describe the organisation's leadership and how women survivors and female family members will participate in decisions affecting the project.

6. Application requirements

Applicants should submit the following in Arabic or English:

- A completed GSF proposal template, including the organisation's previous experience, its experience in the selected region, the project idea, how the need was identified, the innovative elements, expected impact, survivor-network approach and integrated workplan.
- A completed budget annex using the table included in the proposal template.
- A copy of the organisation's valid registration in Syria.

No additional organisational policies or supporting documents are required at the initial application stage. GSF may request clarifications and further documentation from shortlisted applicants during due diligence. False, misleading or incomplete information may result in disqualification.

7. Selection process

All applications, including those received following targeted outreach, will follow the same process and be assessed against the same published criteria. Targeted outreach does not guarantee selection or provide additional points.

- 1 Publication and outreach.** GSF will publish the call through appropriate channels and conduct targeted outreach to help eligible organisations learn about the opportunity. The call will remain open for at least 21 calendar days.
- 2 Information and questions.** For those who have questions, they may reach out to Sabreen Shalabi at sshalabi@globalsurvivorsfund.org
- 3 Selection Committee and regional portfolio review.** The Committee will review scores, reviewer comments, conflicts of interest and the regional distribution of the portfolio. Only applications meeting the minimum technical threshold may be considered. No more than one application will be recommended for the same region, and the final portfolio will cover up to four different regions.

- 4 Clarification and capacity review.** Shortlisted applicants may be invited to an interview, asked to clarify their design or budget, or subject to reference and capacity checks. Clarification may not fundamentally change the proposal or create an unfair advantage.
- 5 Due diligence and safeguarding assessment.** Recommended applicants will undergo organisational, financial, sanctions, safeguarding and compliance checks. Selection remains conditional until these checks are completed satisfactorily.
- 6 Final approval and contracting.** GSF will document the final decision, notify applicants and agree any required revisions to the workplan, budget and risk controls before signing the grant agreement.

8. Assessment criteria

Applications will be scored out of 100 points. A proposal must normally achieve at least 70 points overall and at least 10 of 15 points for safeguarding, inclusion and data protection. A serious safeguarding, integrity or conflict-of-interest concern may disqualify an application regardless of its score.

Criterion	Points	What reviewers will assess	Key evidence
Relevance, need and regional fit	15	Clear need; direct relevance to survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons; convincing reason for selecting one region, especially where dedicated programming is limited.	Explanation of the need; survivor or community input; regional context and programme gaps.
Survivor leadership, participation and network-building (consortiums)	20	Credible survivor leadership in governance and project decisions, with survivor-led associations considered highly desirable; meaningful roles for women survivors and female family members; practical contribution to a stronger and more connected survivor network.	Leadership and governance evidence; association structure where applicable; participation approach; decision-making roles; network and feedback plan.
Criterion	Points	What reviewers will assess	Key evidence
Impact, innovation, technical quality and feasibility	20	Clear pathway to meaningful benefit; a focused approach that maximises impact; relevant innovation grounded in local need; coherent activities; realistic and safe delivery within time and budget.	Impact logic; origin of the idea; explanation of innovation; methodology; integrated workplan; team roles.
Safeguarding, inclusion and data protection	15	Protection risks identified; safe disclosure; confidentiality; inclusion; referral and incident procedures.	Risk assessment; safeguarding measures; data plan; complaints mechanism.

Criterion	Points	What reviewers will assess	Key evidence
Organisational capacity and regional experience	15	Relevant experience with survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons; demonstrated work, trusted relationships and access in the selected region; previous funding management; ability to collaborate with GSF.	Track record; regional experience; community relationships; previous funding management; organisational systems.
Budget and value for money	10	Costs are necessary, reasonable, proportionate and clearly linked to activities; no duplication of funding.	Detailed budget; cost assumptions; co-funding disclosure.
Sustainability and learning	5	Likely continuation of relationships, practices or benefits; practical learning and adaptation.	Sustainability and learning plan.
Total	100		

Regional distribution is a published portfolio requirement. Among applications that meet the minimum threshold, GSF will select no more than one grant for the same region and will seek to form a portfolio covering up to four different regions. Where several qualifying applications propose work in the same region, the strongest application for that region will normally be prioritised. GSF may also consider whether an applicant is a survivor-led association, which is highly desirable, as well as the inclusion of underserved areas, women-led organisations, diversity of survivor constituencies, thematic balance and complementarity. These considerations will not be used to select an application that fails the technical or safeguarding thresholds. If there are not enough qualifying applications from different regions, GSF may award fewer than four grants.

9. Due diligence and award conditions

Technical selection does not create an entitlement to funding. Before an award is confirmed, GSF will conduct proportionate due diligence that may include verification of governance, registration in Syria, financial systems, bank or transfer arrangements, references, sanctions screening, safeguarding capacity, conflicts of interest and other funding.

GSF may require risk-mitigation measures, budget revisions, capacity-strengthening actions or special grant conditions. If a recommended applicant cannot complete due diligence satisfactorily, GSF may decline the award and consider the next eligible application. GSF reserves the right to award fewer grants, reduce the award amount, cancel or relaunch the call, or make no award.

10. Indicative selection timeline

Stage	Indicative timing	Responsibility
Public call and targeted outreach	At least 18 calendar days	GSF
Committee review and clarifications	Approximately 5-10 working days	Selection Committee
Due diligence and final approval	Approximately 10-15 working days	GSF
Contracting and inception	Following successful due diligence	GSF and selected partner

11. Submission, questions and procedural concerns

- **Submission method:** Send the complete application package to Sabreen Shalabi at sshalabi@globalsurvivorsfund.org, including grant application, budget, and registration in Syria
- **Deadline:** Submissions no later than October 9, 2026 at 11:59 PM Damascus time. Late applications will not be considered.
- **Questions:** Send questions to sshalabi@globalsurvivorsfund.org by September 28, 2026. Material answers will be shared fairly with potential applicants.

Annex A. Administrative and eligibility checklist

For GSF use. Mark each item Yes, No or Clarification required and record the evidence reviewed.

Check	Yes / No / Clarify	Evidence or comment	Decision
Application received by the deadline through the required channel.			
Completed proposal template submitted, including the integrated workplan.			
Completed budget annex submitted.			
Valid registration in Syria submitted.			
Applicant falls within the eligible organisation categories.			
Applicant demonstrates that it is survivor-led and that survivors and/or families hold substantive leadership and decision-making roles.			
Proposed activities directly benefit or support survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons.			
Applicant has relevant experience with survivors of detention and/or families of disappeared persons.			
Applicant describes previous grant or project funding management.			
Application focuses on one region only and explains why that region was selected.			
Applicant demonstrates previous experience, relationships and access in the selected region.			
Requested amount and duration fall within the call parameters.			
No clearly ineligible or unsafe activities identified.			

Annex B. Technical review record

Complete one record per reviewer before Committee discussion.

Application reference	
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Applicant	
Reviewer	
Conflict-of-interest check	No conflict / Recusal required

Criterion	Maximum	Score	Reviewer justification
Relevance, need and regional fit	15		
Survivor leadership, participation and network-building	20		
Impact, innovation, technical quality and feasibility	20		
Safeguarding, inclusion and data protection	15		
Organisational capacity and regional experience	15		
Budget and value for money	10		
Sustainability and learning	5		
Total	100		

Overall recommendation: Recommend / Recommend with conditions / Reserve list / Do not recommend

Key conditions or clarifications:

Safeguarding threshold met: Yes / No