



Hopes & Actions Foundation

About Hopes and Actions Foundation:

Hopes and Actions Foundation work centers around policy research and analysis, providing evidence-based recommendations to key stakeholders such as governments, international organizations, and tech companies. We actively advocate for adopting policies that safeguard and advance digital rights for everyone. In addition, we conduct capacity-building initiatives like training programs and workshops to boost digital literacy and awareness of digital rights, particularly among marginalized groups.

Project Context:

Sudan has been going through a war since the 15th of April 2023, between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), and the paramilitary group of Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which displaced thousands inside and outside Sudan to escape the conflict.¹ RSF were looting, killing, and raping women in Khartoum, and other States, and their clashes in Darfur were characterized by ethnic cleansing.² Taking this, the United Nations Human Rights Office, however, raised the alarm of escalated civil war and genocides ignited by racial hatred and incitement to violence.³

Amid the ongoing war, peace initiatives in certain states in Sudan were attacked offline and online by SAF supporters, including women's initiatives.⁴ Journalists are also being accused of their cooperation with RSF, these accusations are accompanied by online threats, picturing the possibility of an increase in OGBV with the absence of monitoring and accountability.⁵ Sudan's digital space in this ongoing war is filled with incitement, and the war story is narrated between citizens of the North and the Western Regions.⁶ Feminists, on the other hand, are also being targeted online, following calls for their isolation, undermining of their credibility, and dismissing their demands by associating their support to the RSF and characterizing them as traitors.⁷ Women from certain ethnic groups were sexually assaulted, and intimidated by rape or to be deserving of it.⁸ It is reported that sexual violence is used as a weapon to spread fear and exercise control.⁹

Civilians are also targeted by cybercrime law in military-controlled areas, silencing voices online.¹⁰ According to press sources in Port Sudan, among several death sentences issued against civilians, one of them was issued against a woman in Port Sudan, police forces arrested her from her neighborhood, inspected her phone, and accused her of cooperation and communication with contacts from RSF, for glorifying their leader and asking about his fate.¹¹ The case was referred to the Anti-Terrorism and Crimes Against the State Court under Articles 51/63/66 of the Criminal Code of 1991 (inciting war against the state, sedition, and spreading of false news), under Article 14 of the Cyber Crimes Law of 2018, and inciting hatred against sects, groups, and parties.¹² However, none of the Articles of the Criminal Act 1991, and of Cyber Crime Law 2018, include penalties for the death sentences issued against this woman, and other civil actors.¹³

According to previous research by Hopes and Actions Foundation, online bullying, sexual harassment, blackmailing, and threats were mentioned by research participants to limit their activities and drive others to ultimately discontinue their online presence, as a result of OGBV extending offline.¹⁴ During the revolution, women activists were targeted online to deter them from taking a political stance that could influence public opinion, while young women activists from marginalized ethnic groups, feminists who do not meet the culturally approved dress code, women who speak about gender-based violence, and women in the public sphere, particularly journalists are more vulnerable to OGBV.¹⁵ Yet, victims of OGBV are less encouraged to report it, due to the lack of clear investigation and legal reporting mechanisms within the law, and the Evidence Act 1994.¹⁶ While offline gender-based violence is still discussed and advocated against by the feminist movement, it still, OGBV lacks awareness and information.¹⁷ The manifestation of the war affected women differently, therefore, their experiences and online voices are critical in designing and implementing peacebuilding efforts.¹⁸

Project Background:

This project aims to develop the capacity of four young feminist writers in digital security, and academic research writing, as well as to increase their knowledge and understanding of the nature of the OGBV phenomenon in Sudan and its monitoring tool, informed by the Foundation's previous research and international guidance on OGBV monitoring. Besides the training, participants will be mentored to document OGBV cases, using the foundation's monitoring tool. Each pair of applicants will receive technical and financial support, to document OGBV cases online, and to draft research papers about OGBV documented cases. The research papers will be edited by the Foundation's consultants, and published on the foundation's website. Content from written pieces will be disseminated on the Foundation's social media accounts to raise awareness, increase knowledge, and advocate against the use of OGBV and cybercrime law to silence women's voices online.

Project Objectives:

To counter OGBV in Sudan amid this war and warring factions' violations against women, collective efforts at the community, national, and international levels will be required. At the community level, we aim to build a network of advocates against OGBV and have reliable data on OGBV geared towards prevention and accountability. This will be done by building the capacity of four participants to understand the concept of OGBV and how to monitor incidents on social media. Additionally, the participants will be trained in academic writing to produce pieces on OGBV in Sudan following the war. Lastly, a database will be established to track and document cases of OGBV in Sudan; with the four participants serving as monitors to feed into the database. The foundation will also use the database to inform evidence-based responses driven for future research projects, and advocacy campaigns to protect and amplify Sudanese women's voices online. This database will only be accessible to Hopes and Actions Foundation for the privacy and security of records documenting cases of OGBV in Sudan digital spaces.

Scope of Work: To guide the project participants on maintaining digital security hygiene and securing their social media accounts, specifically focusing on tools and strategies to protect against online gender-based violence (OGBV).

- **Digital Security Hygiene Training:**
 - Develop and deliver comprehensive training sessions on digital security best practices, including:
 - Strong password creation and management
 - Two-factor authentication (2FA) setup and use
 - Safe browsing habits
 - Phishing and social engineering awareness
 - Device and software updates
 - Data backup strategies
 - Secure communication tools (encrypted messaging apps, etc.)
- **Social Media Account Security:**
 - Guide on securing social media accounts through:
 - Privacy settings optimization
 - Account recovery options
 - Monitoring and managing third-party app access
 - Identifying and reporting suspicious activity
- **Online Gender-Based Violence Protection:**
 - Introduce tools and techniques for protection and mitigation:
 - Blocking and reporting abusive users
 - Documenting and preserving evidence of abuse
 - Utilizing available platform safety features
 - Seeking support from online safety organizations and helplines
- **Tool Recommendations and Demonstrations:**
 - Recommend appropriate digital security tools relevant to the project participants' needs and context.
 - Provide hands-on demonstrations and guidance on using these tools effectively.

Expected Outcomes:

- As a member of the Committee of Consultants, contribute your expertise to help the Foundation select the most suitable participants for this project by **October 10th, 2024**.
- Detailed training curriculum and materials
- Comprehensive list of recommended digital security tools
- Documentation of training sessions and resources
- Assessment of trainees' digital security knowledge and skills before and after training.
- Professionally edited articles ready for publication, promoting feminist actions against online GBV.

Consultant Qualifications:

- Extensive knowledge and experience in digital security and online safety

- Expertise in training and curriculum development.
- Excellent training and facilitation skills
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Preferred languages: Arabic and English.

To Apply:

Interested consultants should submit their CVs, and a cover letter, detailing their relevant experience and approach to this project to [jobs at hopesandactions dot org] by **October 2nd, 2024**. Additionally, outline your proposed fee structure for this project, taking into account the scope of work and deliverables.

Please note that the project timeline runs from **October to December 2024**, with the expectation that all training materials will be delivered and training sessions conducted by **October 15th, 2024**, with minor flexibility allowed for unforeseen circumstances.

We look forward to hearing from qualified candidates passionate about advancing feminist advocacy online!



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Sudan

