

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Programme: Youth Connect

Project: Feminist Leadership and Gender-Responsive Digital Peacebuilding

Grant budget: USD 50,000

Implementation period: 6 months

Geographic scope: Lebanon, national level

Number of grants: One (1)

Eligible applicants: Registered local NGOs and civil society organisations

About the opportunity

The British Council is inviting eligible registered NGOs and civil society organisations in Lebanon to apply for a grant of **USD 50,000** to deliver an adapted **Youth Connect learning journey focused on Feminist Leadership and Gender-Responsive Digital Peacebuilding**.

The initiative will engage **30 young women**, including emerging feminist activists and women working through alternative media and digital platforms.

The programme will combine the core Youth Connect programme approach to inclusive leadership, power, dialogue, research and collective action with specialised learning on:

- Peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity;
- Gender rights and feminist leadership;
- Digital activism;
- Online misogyny and gendered misinformation;
- Digital safety, protection and security;
- Civic participation and policy engagement.

The programme aims to strengthen young women's individual and collective capacity to influence their communities, public discourse and relevant decision-makers.

Scope of the Assignment

The selected organisation will be responsible for implementing the established **Youth Connect pathway over a six-month period**, working closely with the programme team to engage, support and mentor a cohort of young participants throughout the learning and action journey.

The Youth Connect pathway provides a structured process through which young people develop knowledge and skills, explore issues affecting their communities, engage with relevant stakeholders, and translate their learning into practical collective action.

The selected organisation will be expected to deliver and adapt the following key stages of the Youth Connect pathway:

1. Onboarding and Participant Recruitment

Support the outreach, mobilisation and selection of participants, ensuring an inclusive and diverse cohort and providing participants with a clear introduction to the programme, its objectives and the learning journey.

2. Adapted Youth Connect Learning and Training

Deliver the core Youth Connect learning journey. This may include training, workshops, practical exercises, mentoring and peer learning.

3. Community Research

Guide participants in identifying and exploring issues affecting their communities through participatory research. Participants will be supported to gather information, engage with relevant stakeholders and develop a stronger understanding of the issues they seek to address.

4. Community Dialogue and Engagement (CDME)

Facilitate opportunities for participants to engage with community members, stakeholders and relevant institutions around the issues identified through their research. The organisation will support participants in preparing for and facilitating meaningful dialogue and ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered. Participants reflect on their learning and research findings and work collectively to identify priorities, develop solutions and shape potential community-led actions.

5. Collective Action Workshop (CAW)

Facilitate a Collective Action Workshop where participants will design the implementation phase (budget, roles, etc)

6. Collective Action Project (CAP) Design and Implementation

Support participants in developing and implementing practical Collective Action Projects that respond to identified community needs or challenges. The organisation will provide ongoing mentoring and technical support throughout the design and implementation process and monitor progress and learning.

7. Learning, Reflection and Knowledge Sharing (LBMF)

Support participants to reflect on their learning and experiences throughout the journey and contribute to knowledge-sharing activities. This will include documenting key lessons, outcomes and good practices emerging from the programme and supporting participants to share their experiences and learning with wider audiences. This will also include the sustainability plan each team will design it with the stakeholders to ensure continuity.

Role of the Selected Organisation

The **Youth Connect methodology and core programme structure are already established**. Applicants are therefore not expected to develop a new programme methodology. Instead, the selected organisation will be expected to demonstrate its ability to effectively **adapt, deliver and contextualise the existing Youth Connect pathway** to the target group and thematic focus.

The organisation will be responsible for ensuring a high-quality participant experience throughout the six-month journey, including:

- Participant outreach, recruitment and mobilisation;
- Facilitation of learning and training activities;
- Mentoring and ongoing participant support;
- Facilitation of research, dialogue and collective action activities;
- Support to participants in designing and implementing their CAPs;
- Stakeholder and community engagement;
- Monitoring participant engagement and progress;
- Documentation of learning, outcomes and good practices; and
- Coordination with the Youth Connect programme team throughout implementation.

Applicants should therefore demonstrate **strong experience in youth engagement, facilitation, community-based programming and mentoring**, as well as the ability to create an inclusive, participatory and supportive learning environment in which young people can move from learning and research to meaningful community action.

Expected participant profile

The programme will primarily engage **30 young women**, with a particular focus on:

- Young women interested in civic participation and social change;
- Emerging feminist activists;
- Women engaged in alternative media and digital platforms;
- Young women interested in peacebuilding and dialogue;
- Women facing or working on issues related to online misogyny, gendered misinformation and digital safety.

The selected organisation must demonstrate a credible approach to recruiting and retaining the required **30 participants**.

Potential areas for Collective Action Projects

CAPs may include, but are not limited to:

- Building coalitions to contribute to discussions around misinformation legislation and policy frameworks;
- Advocating for approaches that recognise gendered harms while protecting legitimate expression;
- Promoting practical digital safety and protection tools for young women;
- Producing evidence-informed content and campaigns challenging misogynistic narratives;
- Strengthening women's participation in the information ecosystem;
- Building alliances between young women, civil society, media actors and relevant duty bearers;
- Cascading learning to women and girls within participants' communities.

The final CAPs will be developed by participants through the Youth Connect methodology and should respond to evidence generated through research and dialogue.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from:

- Registered NGOs operating in Lebanon; and
- Registered civil society organisations operating in Lebanon.

The assignment requires an organisation with demonstrated expertise at the intersection of gender equality, youth engagement, digital activism, strategic communications and content creation, with a proven track record of supporting young women to use digital platforms as tools for advocacy and social change.

What are we looking for?

The successful organisation should demonstrate:

1. Proven relevant experience

Experience in areas such as:

- Women's rights and gender equality;
- Feminist leadership;
- Youth engagement;
- Digital peacebuilding;
- Countering misinformation/disinformation;
- Online misogyny and gender-based digital harms;

- Digital safety and protection;
- Civic participation and advocacy.

Experience delivering comparable youth, gender or digital peacebuilding programmes will be strongly considered.

Demonstrated expertise at the intersection of gender equality, youth engagement, digital activism, strategic communications and content creation, with a proven track record of supporting young women to use digital platforms as tools for advocacy and social change is an advantage.

Previous relevant partnership with the British Council and/or experience implementing Youth Connect is considered an advantage but is not a requirement.

2. Strong reach among young women

The organisation should demonstrate existing relationships, networks and outreach mechanisms that can support recruitment of **30 young women**, primarily from across Lebanon.

Applicants should clearly explain:

- Where participants will be recruited from;
- Which networks will be used;
- How they will reach women and girls who may not normally participate;
- How they will ensure diversity and inclusion;
- How they will maintain participant engagement throughout six months.

3. National implementation capacity

The organisation should demonstrate the ability to operate nationally by leveraging:

- Regional/local networks;
- Partner organisations;
- Community-based organisations;
- Youth networks;
- Women's rights organisations;
- Media/digital networks;
- Existing community presence.

4. Immediate readiness

The programme has a short implementation window. Applicants must therefore demonstrate that they can **mobilise and start implementation immediately following contract signature**.

Applicants should provide a realistic mobilisation plan showing how they will:

- Establish the project team;
- Recruit experienced facilitators & mentors (1 mentor / group of 10 youth);

- Undergo the induction and YC related ToT (delivered by British Council)
- Begin participant outreach;
- Deliver the onboarding event;
- Ensure the registration of 30 young women in the program;
- Deliver the programme within the six-month period.

5. Financial and organisational capacity

The organisation must demonstrate appropriate systems for:

- Financial management;
- Procurement;
- Grant management;
- Monitoring and reporting;
- Safeguarding;
- Data protection;
- Risk management.

Grant amount and duration

The total grant available is: **USD 50,000**

One organisation will be selected.

The implementation period will be: **6 months, with implementation completed by March 2027.**

The grant budget and implementation period are fixed.

Applicants are therefore expected to demonstrate how they will deliver the required Youth Connect pathway effectively within the available resources and timeframe.

Selection and project implementation are pending funding approval.

Application submission

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications as early as possible.

Opening date: 2 September 2026

Closing date: 16 September 2026

Late applications will not be accepted unless otherwise communicated by the British Council.

Please find the application on the page dedicated to the initiative on www.britishcouncil.org.lb

Kindly send the completed application to the email address nfe.callslb@britishcouncil.org with subject line:

“[Youth Connect] – Application for Feminist Leadership and Gender-Responsive Digital Peacebuilding Project – *Name of your organization*”