



Terms of reference for a research consultancy: The impact of the DNA backlog on SGBV case management in Thembisa and Orange Farm

GENERATION

1. Overview

The Generation G partnership is a collaboration of partners in seven countries with a global consortium consisting of Rutgers (lead), ABAAD, Equimundo and Sonke Gender Justice. The Generation G partnership strives towards the creation of gender-just and violence-free societies with and for young people in their full diversity.

Generation G South Africa led by Sonke Gender Justice, a women's rights organisation that is committed to feminist principles, using a rights-based and gender-transformative approach to achieve human rights and gender justice. Sonke seeks to contract a researcher to conduct research on the impact of the DNA backlog of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) case management in South Africa (Orange Farm & Thembisa).

2. Programme Background

The Generation G programme raises public support, advocates for improved policies and laws, and strengthens civil society as a means to contribute to gender justice. The partnership addresses three key, interrelated challenges: gender-based violence, the unequal division of care and women's lack of access to civic space. More specifically, this partnership engages an innovative gender-transformative strategy that equips youth leaders and civil society organizations (CSOs) to address the root causes of gender inequality and power imbalances. Engaging (young) men in promoting gender justice is a key component of this strategy.

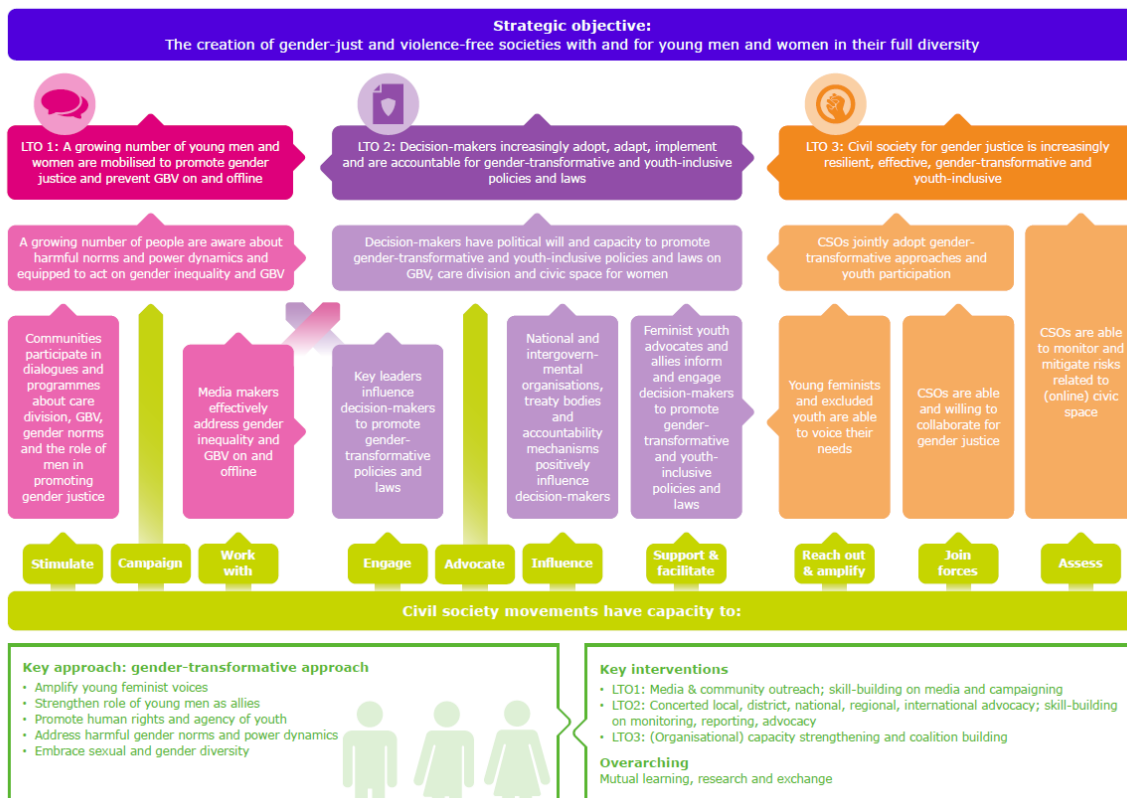
The key approach of the programme is a gender-transformative approach (GTA) and focuses on the following key elements: a) investing in the amplifying of young feminist voices; b) strengthening the role of young men as allies; c) focusing on human rights and youth agency; d) analysing and addressing harmful norms and unequal power relations; e) embracing sexual and gender diversity.

Gender-transformative lobbying and advocacy happens at the individual, community, institutional and policy levels. The different levels of gender-transformative lobbying and advocacy are embedded in three mutually reinforcing long-term outcomes (LTOs): (1) on public support, (2) on policy and legal change, (3) on strengthened civil society. Together, these three outcomes also contribute to the safeguarding – and, where possible, the expansion – of civic space, particularly related to gender justice.

- LTO 1 aims at increasing and mobilising public support for gender justice and rejecting gender-based violence. This LTO also feeds into the other two LTOs as mobilised individuals can become part of organised civil society or might use their voice or voting power to pressure decision makers towards more gender-transformative policies and legislation.
- LTO 2 focuses on strengthening gender-transformative and youth-inclusive policymaking and legislation. This LTO feeds into the other two LTOs as decision makers directly influence the availability of civic space and have a strong influence on the general public through discourse, legislation and policies.
- LTO3 envisions a strong, inclusive, and resilient civil society that is able to fight for gender justice. This LTO also feeds into the other two LTOs as a strong civil society is able to

advocate for gender-transformative laws and policies and is able to foster and stimulate public support.

Our strategic objective is to create societies that are gender just and violence free, with and for young people in their full diversity. By saying gender just, we imply systemic change at the level of root causes of discrimination, sexism and harmful norms that impede full access to rights for young people on the mere basis of their gender. By violence free, we imply our ambition to actively contribute to a decrease in gender-based violence in the countries where this programme will be active.



3. Research Brief

3.1 Introduction

The persistent backlog of DNA analysis in forensic laboratories has had serious implications for access to justice and the well-being of survivors in South Africa. It has been documented that sexual offences cases have been withdrawn due to DNA processing backlog, a situation which leaves women girls, and marginalized communities with disproportionate experience of SGBV. The purpose of this research study is to investigate and analyze the gendered impact of the DNA backlog on the resolution of SGBV cases in South Africa. The research will focus on the areas of Orange Farm and Thembisa.

3.2 Research Objectives

The specific objectives of this research consultancy are to:

- Examine the extent of DNA backlog in South Africa in relation to SGBV cases.
- Examine the causes of the DNA backlog including,

- Failure to extract DNA samples during the investigation process
 - Contamination of DNA during the collection and or transportation and storage thereby affecting its use in the investigation process
 - Institutional and Systemic factors contributing to DNA backlog such as, but not limited to:
 - What are state actors attitudes towards the DNA process?
 - Is there a staffing challenge with respect to DNA which includes a consideration on skills shortage contributing to overwork and limited capacity to render services effectively.
- Assess the impact of DNA backlog on the effective investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases.
 - Analyze the consequences/impact of the DNA backlog on survivors of SGBV, considering social economic status, age and other variables.
 - Explore the impact that DNA backlog has on access to justice.
 - Explore if loadshedding has any impact on DNA processes.
 - Identify best practices from other initiatives to address DNA backlog to improve the resolution of SGBV cases in Gauteng (Orange Farm and Thembisa).
 - Develop recommendations to address the DNA backlog, including, but not limited to how to hold government accountable, policy recommendations and the role that youth and CSOs can play in advocating for better policies related to DNA specifically, related to SGBV cases.

3.3 Ethical considerations

One of the principles we apply in our programme and feel strongly about is the “Do no harm” principle. In preparing the proposal the evaluator/s must put in place specific safeguards and protocols to protect the safety (both physical and psychological) of respondents and those collecting the data as well as to prevent harm. Members of the evaluation team should understand and be sensitive to the political, socio economic, historical, and cultural context across sites where data collection occurs and ensure the rights of the individual are protected and participation in the evaluation does not result in further violation of their rights. **The evaluator/s must have a plan in place to:**

- Protect the rights of respondents, including privacy and confidentiality in line with the POPI Act provisions.
- Elaborate on how informed consent will be obtained and to ensure that the names of individuals consulted during data collection will not be made public.
- If the project involves children (under 18 years old) the evaluator/s must consider additional risks and the need for parental consent.
- The evaluator/s must be trained in collecting sensitive information and specifically data relating to violence against women and select any members of the evaluation team on these issues.
- Data collection tools must be designed in a way that is culturally appropriate and does not create distress for respondents.
- Data collection visits should be organized at the appropriate time and place to minimize risk to respondents.

- The interviewer or data collector must be able to provide information on how individuals in situations of risk can seek support (referrals to organizations that can provide counseling support, for example).
- Evaluators must adhere to the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act) and ensure that confidentiality of individuals and data collection is preserved.

3.4 Scope of work

The research consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Conducting a comprehensive literature review related to the DNA backlog and its gendered impact on SGBV cases in South Africa. (Includes analyzing existing literature, reports, policies and laws, studies, case files, statistical records etc.)
- Conducting context analysis for Orange Farm and Thembisa
- Developing a research methodology, including data collection tools and sampling strategies to gather relevant primary data. (Examples include, surveys, key informant interviews, observations, focus group discussions).
- Collecting and analyzing primary and secondary data with relevant research methods, ensuring an intersectional and gendered lens is applied. Respondents could include survivors, law enforcement officials, forensic experts, legal practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Coordination of check in meetings
- Submission of a draft report to be reviewed by Sonke Gender Justice
- Developing a comprehensive report summarizing the research findings, including data analysis, key insights, and policy recommendations.
- Present the research findings to relevant audiences.
- Drafting of a journal article.

Key deliverables of the evaluator

No	Deliverable
1	Evaluation Inception Report
2	Draft Evaluation Report + key findings presentation
3	Final Evaluation Report
4	Journal article

Please note all products will remain the intellectual property of Sonke Gender Justice.

3.5 Evaluation design and methodology

A. Proposed data collection methods and analysis

Both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods should be used through a combination of field visits, desk studies, and additional primary data collection required. A participatory approach will be preferred for data collection tools development, with questions clearly linked to the objectives of the research as well as specified outcome indicators within the Generation G framework. All qualitative data must be recorded and transcribed accordingly to ensure data quality. Data analysis should be conducted on Stata, SPSS or any

other relevant software. Additional follow-up field visits should take place to fill in any knowledge gaps and further validate findings.

B. Proposed sampling methods

For the quantitative methodology, a reliable sample size should be calculated for each of the provinces. The research study will entail qualitative methodology in both areas to produce reliable information on key trends and themes to accompany quantitative information. Both primary and secondary beneficiaries should be selected via stratified random sampling/proportional random sampling considering beneficiary type, geographic area and any other key defining factor decided by the researcher.

3.6 Timeline and Schedule

The research consultant is expected to complete the research by 2 October 2023, including data collection, analysis, and reporting. Below is a suggested schedule for the research process. The final timeline will be mutually agreed upon between the consultant and Sonke Gender Justice.

Stage of Evaluation	Key Task	Responsible	Number of working days required	Timeframe
Inception stage	Briefings of researchers to orient the researchers	Research task manager	5 working days	First week
	Desk review of key documents	Researcher/s		First week
	Finalizing the research design and methods	Researcher/s		First week
	Submit draft Inception report	Researcher/s		7 July 2023
	Review Inception Report and provide feedback	Research task manager and team	5 working days	14 July 2023
	Incorporating comments and revising the inception report	Researcher/s	3 working days	19 July 2023
	Submitting final version of inception report	Researcher/s		
	Review final Inception Report and approve	Research task manager and team	3 working days	24 July 2023
Data collection and analysis stage	Desk research	Researcher/s	5 working days	31 July 2023
	In-country technical mission for data collection (visits to the field, interviews, questionnaires, etc.)	Researcher/s	3 weeks	18 August 2023

Synthesis and reporting stage	Analysis and interpretation of findings	Researcher/s	2 weeks	1 September 2023
	Preparing a first draft report	Researcher/s		
	Review of the draft report with key stakeholders for quality assurance	Research manager and team	5 working days	8 September 2023
	Consolidate comments from all the groups (virtual validation meeting)	Researcher		
	Incorporating comments and preparing second draft evaluation report	Researcher/s	1 weeks	15 September 2023
	Final review and approval of report	Research manager and team	5 working days	22 September 2023
	Final edits and submission of the final report and journal article.	Researcher/s	6 working days	2 October 2023

4. Qualifications and Experience

We are looking for an enthusiastic, skilled, and flexible consultant who has excellent research, coordination, and communication skills. The consultant should be familiar with the gender justice sector and be familiar with and have experience in working with diverse groups. Preferably we are looking for someone who is/has engaged in work around advocacy for legal and policy change and rights-based services with regards to sexual gender-based violence.

The ideal candidate should possess the following qualifications and experience:

- Postgraduate degree in a relevant field, such as gender studies, social sciences, Law, or other related fields.
- Demonstrated expertise in conducting and producing high quality gender-focused research. (5 years' experience in social policy and human rights)
- Strong analytical skills and experience with mixed methodologies.
- Strong coordination, consensus building and facilitation skills.
- Knowledge of intersectionality and gender-sensitive research methodologies.
- Familiarity with the criminal justice system and other broader socio-economic implications of DNA backlog is desirable.
- Fluency in English. (Other local languages are advantageous)
- Must be based in Gauteng.

5. How to apply

We are looking for someone who is available to start 1 July 2023. A detailed timeline with milestones will be developed in close consultation with the successful consultant and will be part of the contract. The proposed budget for this consultancy is R130 000. Payment will be made in 3 phases.

You can apply by sending the following information by 20 June 2023 to namuma@genderjustice.org.za

- Resume demonstrating relevant experience and expertise.
- A research proposal including problem identification and background, research objectives and questions, proposed research design and methodologies, significance, and feasibility (Max 10 pages)
- Annex proposed budget breakdown (including # days and rates)
- One example of similar research reports produced.