



WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK

## Request for Statements of Interest

### Women's Democracy Network Grant Opportunities for Civil Society Organizations & Non-Profit Groups

**Solicitation Period: September 15 – October 10, 2008**

The International Republican Institute (IRI) was founded in 1983, as a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing democracy, freedom, self-government and the rule of law worldwide. IRI programs are structured to address the needs of the countries in which IRI operates. In response to a worldwide growing demand for greater involvement of women in the democratic development of their countries, IRI established the Women's Democracy Network (WDN) in March 2006.

The goals of the WDN are two-fold: (1) To encourage and prepare women for greater participation in the political life and democratic development of their countries; and (2) Provide training and networking opportunities that address the specific needs of women within each region or community.

The WDN seeks to establish partnerships with **civil society organizations and non-profit groups** that work to promote the goals of the WDN within their community, country, or region. The grant period will be for up to one year, beginning February 1, 2009. Depending on the submissions received, the WDN will award **four** selected organizations a grant up to **\$20,000 USD** each.

The selection process for the grants will take place in two stages. Applicants with competitive Statements of Interest will be invited to submit a full proposal. An independent review panel will then choose the top four proposals submitted for grant awards. The WDN will prioritize proposals that maximize outreach (i.e. the number of women able to participate); build knowledge or skills of women at the grassroots or local level through consecutive activities or trainings; target women with little or no political experience; and/or demonstrate an ability to become self-sustainable. The WDN encourages applicants to be creative and to explore ways to pursue the goals and mission of the WDN.

The organization will be required to report on activities and account for all grant spending according to U.S. grant reporting standards. The WDN will review these procedures *prior* to issuing the grant as well as during the grant period. Award recipients must be able to communicate promptly, via email, on a regular basis throughout the duration of the grant period, be detail-oriented and possess basic knowledge of computer skills.

Statements of Interest should include the following:

1. **Summary:** The project summary should include a mission statement, goals and direct and indirect costs of the project.

2. **Background:** Identify the needs or problems that exist relating to women's political or civic participation in your community, country, or region and briefly explain how your project will help to meet those needs or solve those problems.
3. **Objectives:** State the specific objectives you hope to achieve with a grant. Each objective should be measurable.
4. **Activities:** The activity plan should include a description of the project implementation, proposed activities, territory covered in the project, target audience of the project, timeline or calendar for the project, associated organizations or other partners involved in the project, and the administrative, human resource and supply needs.

Statements of Interest are due no later than **Friday, October 10, 2008**. In addition, Statements of Interest are expected to be submitted in English and are not to exceed two (2) pages in length. Information on the organization's background should also be included (see Attachment A) and should not exceed one (1) page in length. All applicants will submit a total maximum of three (3) pages. Statements of Interest should be submitted via email to [info@wdn.org](mailto:info@wdn.org).

Please note that organizations interested in applying for funding must be registered in their home country. Additionally, those who will oversee the project must be able to communicate in English. It is highly recommended that whoever manages or oversees the grant spending is also able to communicate in English.

Please follow the format recommended in Attachment A and noted above in the development of a Statement of Interest. Awards are limited and highly competitive. Qualified applications will be reviewed by an independent review panel. For more information about the Women's Democracy Network or about this grant opportunity, please visit [www.wdn.org](http://www.wdn.org) or contact Kerri Anderson.

Kerri Anderson  
Program Officer, Women's Democracy Network  
International Republican Institute  
1225 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
+1-202-572-1583  
[kanderson@iri.org](mailto:kanderson@iri.org)