



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Legal Research Consultant

Innovation for Change – Pacific is engaging a Legal Research Consultant to conduct a desktop analysis of legislation introduced in Fiji, Palau and Samoa during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Hub is the newest I4C Hub and came together after a youth co-design workshop concluded in Fiji during ICSW 2017 that determined a loose organisational structure and potential products and services.

However, the Pacific region, described as the Ocean States, is home to diverse cultures and traditions beyond the Asian continent. This diversity gives the Pacific region its own unique identity, and because of its geographic location, it has its own set of challenges and needs.

One of the main challenges this region faces is the lack of inclusion and visibility, mainly due to the Pacific being identified as part of the Asia-Pacific region in international development conversations. Due to smaller populations, data gets clumped with larger Asian nations rendering it inconclusive of showing the real challenges faced by the region.

In response to the need to be seen and related to as a separate stand-alone region with its challenges and opportunities, today we have youth leading a Pacific innovation hub that would work specifically with Pacific Island Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

NEEDS ADDRESSED

The global Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the economic realities of Pacific Island countries (PICs). Civil society's civic space is under severe attack worldwide, including Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs). Simply convening in the Pacific is a challenge due to distance, poor connectivity and limited access to technological advancements. Even harder to overcome than these physical obstacles are entrenched societal power dynamics that undermine inclusive and impactful collective action.

With the impact of COVID 19, combined with natural disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Harold, civic and human rights space in the Pacific has become tenuous over the past few months. Although some countries had no cases of infections, others have varying numbers ranging from below thousand to below 100 or below 50. The situation is concerning for small island states due to the lack of large healthcare facilities to accommodate potential surges.

With this advent, countries started taking unprecedented steps to implement "State of Emergencies" or developed special promulgation legislation to address COVID and how they can manage the spread of the virus within the national jurisdiction.

- Which COVID 19 related legislation has been enacted, introduced or implemented in Fiji, Palau and Samoa? How are these laws impacting civic freedoms?

OBJECTIVES

- With shrinking civic space and the advent of the Covid 19 Pandemic there has been huge impact on civic space and civic rights of citizens around the world, from job losses to loss of freedom to association, freedom of movement and so forth. Thus, this study aims to provide a snapshot of the legislations that have been introduced during the COVID 19 Pandemic in Fiji, Palau and



Samoa

- To contribute to the knowledge and literature on legal analysis of legislation in PICs.

EXPECTED UTPUTS

I4C-Pacific is engaging a Legal Researcher Consultant to study legislations that were introduced due to Covid 19 Pandemic in Fiji, Palau and Samoa.

- A desktop research paper with a detailed analysis of different laws introduced curbing citizens' civic space and rights.
- A two-page factsheet providing a quick snapshot of covid 19 related legislation, their impacts on civic freedoms, and its implementation mechanisms.
- Developing a research questionnaire in collaboration with lead research based on the legal analysis conducted.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

1. A full researched report with all the legislations analyzed part of the annexes.
2. A Short two-pager summarized information sheet.
3. To work with lead research consultant to develop research methodology and questionnaire for phase two of the project.

TIMELINE

15 Days – 10 March to 25 March 2022

TERMS OF PAYMENT

The Research Consultant will receive:

30%	Signing of Contract and Submission of Work Schedule/Research Outline
30%	Submission of Draft an Finalized set of Questions developed with Lead Research Consultant
40%	Final Submission of Report

COMMUNICATION & COORDINATION & REPORTING

The Legal Research Consultant will communicate and report directly to the Hub Coordinator, Sushil Patel.

EDUCATION

Post Graduate Qualification in Law and Development Studies or similar fields, or over 7 years' experience in conducting research using qualitative and quantitative methods.



Functional Competencies:

- Experience in developing policy advocacy training materials.
- Ability to write the learning resources in a simplified manner that could be understood by community based organizations.
- Strong research and excellent writing skills in English;
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Experience in producing corporate products;
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Behavioral Competencies:

- Ability to be flexible and respond to changes to text/layout as part of the review and feedback process;
- Strong interpersonal skills, able to communicate and work with diverse people;
- Participate effectively in team-based, information-sharing environment, collaborating and cooperating with others;
- Focus on impact and results for the client.

The Short-term Consultancy will be a closed recruiting process on recommendation from Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding and I4C-Pacific. However, the following information will be required to be submitted to PCP and I4C to meet due diligent process and selection; should nominated Candidates be more than one. Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to the **appropriate emails** provided below, to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Proposal explaining why they are the most suitable for the work, drawing on their knowledge and previous experience with previous examples of work.
2. Personal CV and at least 3 references.

Financial proposal specifying the fees per deliverable. All costs envisaged to complete the consultancy must be included in the financial proposal as a separate line. **Please send all documents to pacific@innovationforchange.net**