



Terms of Reference (ToR) for a study on perceptions of human rights in Palestine

The Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) seeks to conduct a study on the perceptions of human rights in Palestine to evaluate the current attitudes towards human rights among Palestinians, with a particular focus on the period following October 7, 2023. It seeks to explore how perceptions have been shaped by the international community's failure to protect civilians in Gaza.

Therefore, the ICHR is looking for an experienced and qualified local researcher to carry out the study. Deadline for the submission is 20 June 2024.

1. Background

For more than eight months, the Gaza Strip has faced relentless genocide at the hands of Israeli forces, resulting in a major humanitarian crisis. More than 36,500 Palestinian civilians have been killed, with children and women making up more than 70% of the victims. The situation is further exacerbated by an Israeli-imposed blockade that severely restricts the entry of food, water and humanitarian supplies, and puts a huge strain on the health system.

This dire situation underscores the urgent need for immediate and sustained international intervention to address both the immediate and long-term needs of the affected population. However, the relentless Israeli genocide in Gaza has exposed the failure of the international system to stop the ongoing atrocities, undermining international law and human rights principles.

This has prompted a widespread sense of distrust in international law and human rights, as well as in the institutions, mechanisms and procedures put in place to implement them. While there has been no systematic investigation of this, anecdotal evidence suggests that an increasing number of people in Palestine question the relevance and ability of the human rights system to ensure protection and equal rights for all.

With this study, the ICHR aims to explore popular perceptions of human rights in Palestine today. More specifically, the ICHR is interested in investigating how the mistrust in the international system and international human rights mechanism has affected the general perception of human rights in Palestine.

Additionally, the study will contribute to building knowledge on human rights in conflict situations. It will address issues related to the impact of conflicts on the public opinion on human rights and human rights systems.

Such knowledge will also provide important guidance for the ICHR on how to best promote human rights in a contextually relevant and resonant manner. By gaining a better understanding of popular perceptions of human rights, and – not least – of the root causes of distrust in human rights, ICHR can tailor its activities to better address the needs and concerns of the Palestinian population. This could involve developing targeted educational programs, advocacy strategies, and community engagement activities that resonate with the local context and perceptions. Additionally, the findings will enable ICHR to refine its messaging and communication strategies, ensuring they are effective and culturally sensitive. This will strengthen

ICHR's role as a mediator between the Palestinian public and the international human rights framework, helping to rebuild trust and encourage a more positive perception of human rights mechanisms. Ultimately,

the study will inform ICHR's strategic planning and intervention methods, making them more impactful and relevant to the Palestinian context.

2. Study objectives and outcomes

The aim of the study is to evaluate the current attitudes towards human rights among Palestinians, with a particular focus on the period following October 7, 2023. It seeks to explore how perceptions have been shaped by the international community's failure to protect civilians in Gaza. Additionally, the study will offer a detailed and nuanced analysis of the differences in these perceptions across various actors and societal groups within Palestinian society, examining attitudes towards different types of rights. Specifically, it will identify which sectors of society hold more negative views and whether there are notable differences in perceptions across various categories of rights. Additionally, the study should highlight key concerns, challenges and underlying causes of distrust in human rights system.

Expected outcomes are:

- A detailed report in (Arabic with English/Arabic executive summary, outlining the study's findings, incorporating analyses of human rights perceptions, determinants of distrust, and specific recommendations for the ICHR to effectively refine its human rights promotion, education, and advocacy efforts.
- A strategic framework for ICHR grounded in the study's insights to enhance its role and impact significantly.

3. Methodology

The study should rely on a qualitative approach, including e.g. interviews, focus group sessions and observations.

The research process should be designed in a way that ensures a high degree of participation and representation, including consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders (CSOs, community leaders, and affected populations) throughout all phases of the process.

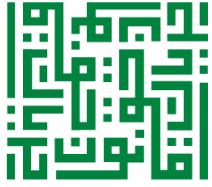
4. Organization and timeline

The study will be carried out by a local Palestinian consultant with documented expertise in human rights and qualitative methods, including interviews and focus groups.

The work shall commence June 20th, 2024. Deadline for submission of the first draft is August 20th, 2024. ICHR staff will present their comments to the draft no later than August 30th, 2024. The final document shall be submitted by September 20th, 2024.

5. Application

Applicants must submit a complete application that includes both a technical and financial proposal. Ensure that your application aligns with the study's requirements as detailed in the Terms of Reference (ToR).



Technical Proposal should include:

1. **Methodology:** Outline the qualitative methods you plan to use, such as interviews and focus groups, and explain how these will help gather diverse perspectives. Describe participants in your study, including number, selection and how you will ensure diversity and representation in your participant sample.
2. **Stakeholder engagement:** Explain how you will engage with different groups like civil society organizations and community leaders throughout all phases of the research project to ensure inclusive and participatory research.
3. **Timeline:** Provide a detailed schedule for completing the study by the deadlines specified in the ToR.
4. **Applicant details:** Share qualifications and experience of the expert involved, especially in human rights and qualitative research.

Financial Proposal should include:

1. **Budget:** Provide a detailed list of all expenses related to the study.
2. **Payment Schedule:** Suggest a timeline for payments that matches the outcome delivery milestones.

Applicant Qualifications:

- Must have an advanced degree in a relevant field such as Human Rights or International Relations, sociology, or any related field of study.
- Should have proven experience in conducting and publishing qualitative research.
- Good knowledge and understating of human rights principles and protection mechanisms. the
- Proficiency in English, with Arabic being highly beneficial.
- Good knowledge and experience in National Human Rights Institutes would be an asset.
- Deep understanding of the Palestinian context.

6. Criteria for evaluating proposals

The following criteria will be used when evaluating the proposals:

1. The combined experience and competence of the proposed applicant in relation to the terms of reference. (3 points)
2. The proposed methodology for the assignment in relation to the terms of reference. (3 points)
3. The ability to perform the assignment at the appropriate time, based on the proposed methodology. (2 points)
4. The cost of the assignment. (2 points)