

**Note for applicants.**

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# **Call for Proposals: Youth Connect**

May 2025

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## **Call for Proposals:**

The British Council is inviting proposals from Libya Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a strong focus on youth to support the implementation of its Youth Connect programme.

This initiative aims to equip young people, especially young women, with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to thrive and take an active role in shaping their communities.

Through enhanced well-being, resilience, and collective engagement with key stakeholders, the programme fosters youth-led change and community development.

Youth Connect builds on the success of previous British Council programmes such as Active citizen, and YMV drawing on their foundations to deliver deeper impact.

We welcome applications from CSOs with a proven track record in youth engagement and empowerment, particularly those experienced in working with young women.

## **About Youth Connect project:**

Youth Connect is a 9-month initiative funded by the British Council, aimed at fostering meaningful youth engagement and advancing gender equality in Libya. The project contributes to two overarching objectives:

- Strengthening Civil Society and Local Engagement
- Expanding Youth Networks and Women's Leadership

To achieve these goals, the project focuses on the following specific objectives:

- **Enhancing CSO Approaches to Youth's Empowerment and Inclusivity**  
The programme will work closely with civil society partners to promote inclusive practices, particularly encouraging the participation of underrepresented groups such as people with disabilities, who are often difficult to reach in the Libyan context.
- **Building the Capacity of Young Women and Men (Ages 18–35)**  
Youth Connect targets marginalized areas, equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to engage constructively with local stakeholders. This approach aims to install hope, increase awareness of community roles, reduce vulnerability to negative pathways, and strengthen youth partnerships with local actors and duty bearers. Through this, the project will enhance stakeholder confidence in youth participation, enabling young people to lead collective actions, influence local processes, and drive long-term community impact.
- **Strengthening Youth Networks**  
The programme will continue to support and grow the recently established and dedicated Young Women's Network and the broader Youth Connect Network. These platforms aim to:
  - Foster alumni engagement and maintain long-term connections.
  - Promote safe and effective online participation.

- Enhance technical capacity and confidence of youth through mentoring, training, and development opportunities—delivered in collaboration with CSO partners.
- Facilitate dialogue and community building by creating spaces for idea sharing, awareness-raising, initiative exchange, and social interaction, fostering a sense of belonging.
- Strengthen connections between youth, experts, influencers, and stakeholders to amplify success stories, promote leadership, and unlock opportunities for collaboration.

## **Introduction and Objectives of Youth Connect**

Youth Connect is a youth skills-development programme, focused on addressing issues of priority to young people in their local context. Through enabling young people to gain skills in identifying their own priorities, researching these issues, consulting with one another and wider stakeholders, and collectively and collaboratively deciding on aligned priorities and delivery mechanisms. Through workshops, dialogues, and collaborative initiatives, the programme aims to increase youth hope that change is possible and increase opinion within stakeholders that engagement of young women and men in decision-making is desirable.

### **The objectives of the programme are:**

- Providing youth with training to learn new skills, especially young women and young people from marginalized groups, through a comprehensive skills development programme along with opportunities for capacity building, personal growth, and positive attitudes towards building relationships with people who are different from them, while increasing their ability to value difference and diversity. Furthermore, to develop the young people's sense of social responsibility and promote good governance, engagement, and youth advocacy.
- Enabling youth to develop a sense of purpose and build their skills in conflict sensitive dialogue with a breadth of stakeholders.
- Fostering collaborative engagement between young people and key stakeholders in a way that enables collective action and addresses the priority concerns of youth and meet local community needs in conflict sensitive ways (identified through consultation and community research).

To achieve this, the programme focuses on the implementation of Youth Connect activities in collaboration with national entities and community-based organisations to advance development

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and ensure long term sustainability of the project. This ensures the programme has nationally recognized measurable impact that clearly identifies and tackles key community issues.


### **Eligibility criteria**

- Activity timeline: All proposed activities must begin no later than July and be completed by beginning of March.
- Organisational capacity: The organisation must demonstrate the ability to implement the proposed activities, with a proven track record in managing similar projects and initiatives. The organisation must have a physical presence in Libya and be officially registered with the relevant Ministry or Office.
- Legal and financial requirements: The selected partner must be able to enter into a grant agreement with the British Council and have a local bank account in the name of the organisation.
- Experience in youth empowerment: The organisation must have extensive experience in delivering youth-focused training, particularly to young women, and must maintain access to a network of facilitators, trainers, and mentors.
- Delivery standards and quality: The organisation must have the capacity to deliver the programme to the specified standards, ensuring high-quality implementation throughout the project.
- Project team requirements: The selected partner must appoint a dedicated project team of at least three full-time members, including a project manager who will be fully available and committed throughout the programme's delivery. The team should demonstrate effective time management, dedication, and active participation in all activities.
- Mandatory attendance: All project team members are required to attend all project activities, discussions, and meetings to ensure effective implementation and reporting.
- Targeting marginalised communities: The organisation must have a proven ability to reach and engage young men and women in marginalised communities (e.g., individuals with disabilities, those from remote areas) through previous projects or initiatives.

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- Commitment to equality and inclusion: The organisation must show a clear commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, with experience working with diverse groups from various social, economic, and geographic backgrounds.
  - Project management experience: The organisation must have prior experience and in-house capacity to manage similar projects, including organising large-scale events, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation.
  - Financial and budget management: The organisation must have experience in financial management, including preparing and reporting on budgets.
  - Narrative reporting: The organisation must have experience writing narrative reports in both English and Arabic, detailing the activities and outcomes of the project.
  - Women's empowerment focus: The applying organisation must demonstrate a strong focus on women's empowerment as a core objective within their programmes.
  - Public outreach and gender balance: The organisation must have an effective strategy for public outreach and engagement in activities and events, ensuring 50% female participation and a preference for 5% participants with disabilities.
  - Induction and training: The selected partner will be required to participate in all programme induction and Trainings to local partners, organised by the British Council and facilitated by Lead Master Facilitators. Travel may be required for participation.
  - Collaboration with British Council facilitators: The selected partner must be flexible and willing to collaborate with British Council-selected and trained facilitators, mentors and trainers throughout the programme.
  - Geographical reach: The organisation must demonstrate the ability to implement activities in one or more locations across Libya.

### **Responsibilities and activities to be implemented under the grant by the CSO partner**

1. Attend programme orientation, induction, national / regional training sessions, workshops, and weekly meetings.
2. Develop a detailed programme implementation action plan aligned with the programme's phases, detailing timelines, activities, and budget allocations.

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3. Undertake EDI and safeguarding training provided by the British Council before starting with any of the project activities and to designate a focal point from the CSO project team.
  4. Organize the Youth Connect programme's launch meeting to present and agree a delivery plan, project team, and calendar of workshop trainings and other activities with the Facilitator(s) including any facilitators allocated to the Partner by British Council and programme partners.
  5. Carry out a gender and context analysis for the identified delivery locations, identifying issues and implementing strategies to overcome any challenges that have been identified and report on progress. The delivery location must be coordinated and agreed upon with the British Council.
  6. Develop selection criteria for young Libyans that will undertake the training, in coordination and agreement with the British Council, ensuring that 50% of participants are females and the involvement of at least 5% disabled participants.
  7. Ensure that equality is integrated into all programme activities. Set up 'onboarding events' that engage at least 80 young people in different activities to help them decide if they want to participate in the programme. Additionally, organize information sessions (Online or Offline) in coordination with the British Council country offices; at universities, public spaces, youth centres, youth local councils and organisations or others, to brief them about the programme and encourage them to be part of it.
  8. Run 1 face to face trainings per cohort to at least 30 young Libyan men and women participants per training (between the ages of 18-35 years old) (with a possibility of shifting to virtual and blended delivery). The training will be delivered to all batches using Youth Connect programme materials (including the mentoring toolkit; Inclusive Youth Leadership (YIL) guidelines and checklists; Gender guidelines and checklists; Psychology of Space paper/PSF) provided by the British Council. Workshop Training is a minimum 4 days.
  9. The workshop training will be delivered by facilitators who have undergone training of trainers by the British Council, under the supervision of Lead Master Facilitators validated by the British Council.
  10. Establish at least 1 training batches per cohort as per point 8 above, adhering to a transparent and equitable selection process previously agreed upon with the British Council. Prior to commencing the training workshops, *the final list of participants must be*

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*shared with and approved by the British Council.* This list should include participants' names, email addresses, contact numbers, regions, ages, genders, and the names of the organizations or institutions they represent. Additionally, ensure that Data Protection privacy statements are signed and provided to the British Council. It's important to note that the British Council reserves the right to reject proposed participants if there are concerns about the selection process. A training batch is considered complete when it consists of a minimum of 30 young individuals aged 18 to 35, with at least 50% female representation and 5% participation from individuals with disabilities.

11. Engage participants in marginalized urban or rural communities, demonstrating a commitment to social equality and community development. This involves collaborating with community stakeholders and other relevant parties to facilitate change. The goal is to empower participants with skills, confidence, and broader community support, enabling them to effectively address local issues and engage with their communities.
12. Organising at least three research field visits/mentoring sessions, community mapping and community dialogue sessions (practicing sessions) with each training batch to mentor the participants and provide them with core community, strategic & critical thinking skills where they engage in different activities. Meetings/visits are to take place in a venue (with a possibility of shifting to virtual delivery) agreed between the partner and the British Council as well as the Facilitators/mentors.
13. Be responsible for all logistics arrangements for the onboarding events, workshop training, collaborative decision-making events, field visits, mentoring participants, community engagement activities, collective action project (CAP) design workshop, CAPs applications, CAPs seed fund, mentorship of CAP implementation, and Look back Move Forward events, including venue hire, coordination with facilitators, catering, training support, printing, and communication of training materials. Partner is responsible for paying facilitators and partner project team day rates to attend regional trainings and workshops, additionally, the partner is responsible to cover facilitators fees and allowances (includes transportation, accommodation (if required), meal allowance and other incidents) to the Facilitators and mentors during the CAP sharing and learning spaces and look back-move forward event. Facilitator/mentors fees are to follow British Council rates.
14. Partner will be required to adhere to guidance issued by the British Council regarding safety, security and branding for events delivered under the Youth Connect programme.

Partner must adhere to British Council and Youth Connect project Communication and Visibility requirements as requested.

15. To actively promote information from the British Council and the wider Youth Connect programme to participants to enable them to participate in the Collective Action Project application process, events, networks, and other programme activities.
16. Develop and deliver a grant mechanism to seed fund the collective action projects to support the young people who have been trained to implement, in association with other young people and local community members, collective action projects that have been co-designed with local stakeholders. The grant scheme should be underpinned by clear and concise guidelines and fair and transparent processes for applying and decision-making that allow for a variety of youth-led project proposals to be submitted. Successful projects will receive ongoing support, including mentorship, small funds, and technical assistance, to ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of their initiatives.
17. Monitoring, evaluating, quarterly and final reporting in accordance with the M&E framework for the project events, including (onboarding, trainings, field visits, community consultation, stakeholders' engagement, research, and community mapping activities, including mentoring for participants during the design and implementation of their collective action projects).
18. Partner to work on enhancing the programme networks and to increase the profile, visibility, and sustainability of the programme. This can be achieved through reaching out to youth, members/staff of NGOs, and other decision-makers and influencers with an interest in improving the engagement of youth to positively contribute to their communities, who will have better skills, capacity, and awareness of how to influence positive change and to work collaboratively to do so.
19. Establish and support a local network of young participants within their communities and collaborate with the British Council to integrate participants from various cohorts into the national alumni network.

**Activities Milestones and Timeline:** The project timeline for this year, will be from **July 2025 until March 2026** with the following activity schedule:

Project Milestone	Timeline
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<b>Onboarding activities</b>	July 2025
<b>Workshop Training</b>	August 2025
<b>Discovery &amp; Research</b>	August – September 2025
<b>Collective Decision-Making Event</b>	September 2025
<b>Action design</b>	September 2025
<b>Grant scheme developed and Collective Action Project proposals submitted and selected</b>	October 2025
<b>Collective Action Projects delivery</b>	November 2025 – January 2026
<b>Look back, move forward events</b>	January – February 2026
<b>Final reporting and Narrative</b>	February - March 2026
<b>Network of young participants</b>	Late September 2025

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework requirements:**

- Quarterly reports from the Recipient to provide updates on activity progress, targets, risks, challenges, and lessons learned. Quarterly reporting in the last week of September, December, and March.
- Financial reporting as per Schedule 1 of this Agreement and before the subsequent instalment.
- Final narrative reports, including comprehensive data on all indicators within the M&E framework, including participants at all activities and events. By March 2026
- Final financial report, supported by proofs of expenditure such as quotations, invoices, receipts, payment vouchers, and proof of payments. By March 2026
- Additional monitoring tools as requested by the British Council.

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**Monitoring and Reporting Approach** will include quantitative and qualitative data on all indicators within the M&E framework, including:

- Participant and training activity data will capture details such as trainee names, training venue, facilitator/mentor names, and participant attendance.
- Data on training batches, stakeholders, and Collective Action Projects (CAPs) will include the name and brief of the CAP, target audiences, geographic areas, and CAP aims.
- Learning outcomes of participants will be assessed.
- All data about training participants and CAP teams will be sex disaggregated.
- Success stories.

### **Value of available grant**

The maximum grant available for the delivery of one cohort is up to £12,000, to cover the implementation of project activities across selected cities in Libya. This amount will be disbursed in local currency via cheque based on the British Council's exchange rate of the month. In addition to this, a seed fund of up to £1,400 per Collective Action Project (CAP), with a total of up to £4,200 available per cohort, will be allocated for the implementation of CAPs. This seed funding will be provided for a limited number of CAPs and must meet British Council criteria and standards. Funding will be released upon agreement between the British Council and the selected partner organisation. We envisage paying the grant in instalments, as detailed below:

- 1) First instalment: 30% will be disbursed of the total contract value on contract signature.
- 2) Second instalment: 40% will be disbursed upon approval from the project manager subject to satisfactory progress of project delivery and completion of onboarding events and training workshops and upon submission of first quarterly report.
- 3) Third Instalment: 30% will be disbursed to implement the Look Back-Move Forward events upon the satisfactory completion of the CAP design stage, and the submission of final narrative and financial reports drafts.
- 4) Grant Seed Funds for the selected Collective Action Projects: this instalment includes the seed fund for implementation of Collective Action Projects of a maximum 1,400£ per CAP, paid in local currency for each CAP. This will be provided to a limited number of

CAPs and, upon agreement with the British Council and the partner organisation, providing that it meets the British Council criteria and standards for a CAP.

### **Proposal submission timeline**

Activity	Date / time
Applications open from	29/05/2025
Deadline for applications	17/06/2025
Application outcome	24/06/2025
Project delivery	July 2025 – March 2026

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Weighting
Feasibility of activities, delivery plan and budget	20%
Knowledge, Experience, Organisation capacity and Approach	40 %
Collaboration, Community Engagement, and Mentorship	20%
Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting	20%

### **Selection Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed by panels from the British Council based on the following criteria:

1. **Proposed capacity-building activities and youth engagement approach:** The evaluation will consider the clarity and effectiveness of your strategy for working with young people, particularly within programmes of a similar nature. Emphasis will be placed on how your proposed activities contribute to the personal and professional development of youth and foster their engagement with community stakeholders. Innovative, participatory, and interactive methods are strongly encouraged.

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2. **Feasibility of proposal and delivery plan:** We will assess the practicality of your proposed activities in relation to the available budget and project timeframe. Proposals must include a clear, structured, and realistic plan for successful implementation.
  3. **Impact and learning value:** Priority will be given to proposals demonstrating high-impact, cost-effective activities with strong learning outcomes, particularly for young women and members of the wider youth groups.
  4. **Relevant experience:** The organisation's experience in delivering similar capacity-building initiatives, especially those targeting young women or focused on community development, will be a key consideration. A proven track record in project management, training, or mentoring is essential.
  5. **Collaboration and community engagement:** Strong proposals will outline an approach that fosters ongoing collaboration with local stakeholders. We value strategies that promote active engagement, maintain consistent communication, and support local ownership through participatory consultations.
  6. **Mentorship and long-term support:** The proposal should demonstrate a clear plan for providing consistent mentorship and follow-up throughout the learning journey of programme participants.
  7. **Monitoring, documentation, and reporting:** We will evaluate your strategy for monitoring progress, documenting results, and reporting on activities. This includes methods for gathering feedback and measuring the success and outcomes of your intervention.

### **Proposal Submission Guidelines**

Applicants are required to ensure that their proposals include the following information and documents:

- **Organisational Details:** Provide full details of your organisation, including your official registration number, registered address, contact information, and the name and title of the primary contact person for this proposal.
- **Programme Proposal and Action Plan:** Submit your proposal in alignment with the Youth Connect programme phases. This should include:
  - A detailed action plan with timelines

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- Team structure and roles
  - Description of planned activities
  - Budget breakdown and allocations
  - Geographical Reach: Note that this call aims to select one or more local CSO partners to deliver the programme across different regions of Libya. Please clearly state in your proposal:
    - Specify the number of cohorts your organisation has the capacity to deliver simultaneously within the project timeframe.
    - Indicate the specific locations where you are able to implement each cohort. The final locations for implementation will be agreed in consultation with the British Council.

**If you are interested and meet the required capacity and experience, please submit a proposal filling Annex 2, along with a completed Annex 3: Budget framework by **17 June 2025**.**