

African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI)

African Images and their impact on public perception: what are the human rights implications?

TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY

Contact: Alfred Abolarin

Organisation: African and Caribbean Support Organisation NI (ACSONI)

Address: First Floor, 9 Lower Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NR

Tel: (0044) 28 9043 4090

E-mail: programme_manager@acsoni.org

1. Background

In January 2010, ACSONI's three year strategic plan was launched by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. The plan serves as the foundation to ACSONI's Development Education work which is set against three themes: (a) Capacity Building (b) Raising Public Awareness and (c) Influencing Policy.

The African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland has received funding from the European Commission and Community Relations Council (CRC) to commission and manage a research that will explore and investigate human rights implications of using Images from the global south and their impact on public perception.

The research aims to investigate the negative use of images and messages by the media and other organisations and NGO's in Northern Ireland. It is expected that the research will present an analysis of the impact of the use of negative images on people's perceptions. Also, the research will highlight an indicative profile of the number of Africans and people of African descent in Northern Ireland. The outcomes of the research can support education initiatives that work toward intercultural learning in our formal education sector and wider society.

ACSONI will disseminate the research findings through our networks in the development, voluntary, minority ethnic and migrant sectors, academic journals, electronic media and appropriate web sites.

This research project is part of ACSONI's European Union funded project on "*Images and Messages of Africa.*" .



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2. Aims of Consultancy

- ✓ To explore correlations between the uses of images and people's perceptions and how this could affect community cohesion and equality.
- ✓ To explore correlations between the Images used by the media and aid agencies and how this impacts on public perception.
- ✓ To undertake research that reflects and analyses the views of the increasing number of Africans and people of African descent in Northern Ireland.
- ✓ To enhance understanding of the human rights implications of using images and messages of Africa and people of African descent.
- ✓ To increase awareness of international development issues relating to human rights violations if any.

3. Objectives of Consultancy

3.1 Literature Review

- ✓ To undertake a literature review on recent research studies and publications on the uses of "Images and Messages" of Africans and people of African descent in Northern Ireland / UK. The review should include literature review on Media use of images, relevant statistics, demography; recent academic studies, recent research studies on inward migration and African refugees in Northern Ireland.

3.2 Qualitative Research

- ✓ The consultant will liaise with African individuals, associations and Black and
- ✓ Minority Ethnic (BME) support networks to which ACSONI is affiliated to identify interview subjects.
- ✓ The research will explore if public perception of Africans is influenced by images and messages of Africa and people of African descent.
- ✓ It will identify if there are any violations of human rights standards and legislative instruments in the use of images of Africans and Africa.
- ✓ The consultant will identify interview subjects with the assistance of the ACSONI and its networks.
- ✓ Ensure the interviews are accurately transcribed and represented in the report.
- ✓ Respect the confidentiality of all individuals assisting with the research.
- ✓ Ensure all ethical considerations are adhered to.

4.0 Research Report

- ✓ At the end of the interviews the consultant will compile a report consisting of the the literature review and the personal narratives of Interviewees.
- ✓ The report aims to offer an insight into the lives of African migrants and refugees in Northern Ireland



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- ✓ ACSONI Advisory Group and Leaders of African and Caribbean National Associations will provide support to the work of the researcher and give feedback and guidance on interview questions, potential interview subjects will inform the qualitative interviews.

5.0 Intended outcomes of Consultancy

- ✓ The research will provide a comprehensive overview of current literature review on the use of Images and Messages and the demography of Africans and people of African descent in Northern Ireland.
- ✓ The consultant will have undertaken interviews with individuals, African and Caribbean community groups and members of the public to collate their perspective on the use of images and messages and how these impact on public perception and intercultural relations.
- ✓ The researcher will provide a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of individual and collective issues, challenges, personal stories and perspectives relating to the life experiences of the interview subjects.
- ✓ The consultant will write-up a report containing the literature review, and biographical studies in an accessible and readable format with a draft submitted for comment and amendment to the project Advisory Group.
- ✓ The report will be promoted and disseminated by the African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland and its network partners.

6.0 Liaison

The consultant's main point of contact will be the Manager of the African and Caribbean Support Organisation. The consultant will also liaise through the Manager, with the Research Advisory Group comprising and leaders of the African Associations, refugee sectors and support agencies. The consultant will meet with the group at the beginning of the process to clarify aims and objectives, and at regular intervals thereafter to assess progress. The final research report at the end of the consultancy will be presented to the Advisory Group.

7.0 Timescale and Fee

January 2012 – March 2012. The research timescale and days worked within this date is negotiable. The total amount available for this research is **£2,500 - £3000** Including VAT and all expenses



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8.0 Skills Criteria

The following skills and experiences are considered essential toward undertaking this Practice-based research project:

- ✓ A working knowledge of and previous engagement with the migrant and refugee community in Northern Ireland;
- ✓ Experience in desk research and literature reviews;
- ✓ Experience in undertaking interview-led qualitative research studies;
- ✓ Knowledge of immigration control and the vulnerability of immigration status;
- ✓ A knowledge or background in human rights, development education / international development issues;
- ✓ Proven organizational and communication skills both oral and written
- ✓ Desirable: knowledge of the issues facing the African and Caribbean Community in Northern Ireland

9.0 Tenders

The African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland invite you to tender for this consultancy. Your tender should be received by **5pm on Monday, 9th January 2012** and should include:

- ✓ Your methodology for carrying out the research including a CV and CVs for any other individuals you plan to involve in the work
- ✓ A timetable for your work and an estimated number of hours required to complete the research;
- ✓ An itemized budget related to the sum available for this consultancy;
- ✓ An outline of your experience relevant to this consultancy;
- ✓ An indication that you can work within the proposed timescale.

Tenders should be sent by post or e-mail to:

Alfred Abolarin

Manager

African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI)

First Floor, 9 University Street

Belfast

BT7 1NR

Tel: (028) 904340 90

E-mail: programme_manager@acsoni.org

Web: www.acsoni.org

Further reading: For further information on the African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland please visit our web site: www.acsoni.org

