Short-term Consultancy: Request for Proposals

Researcher - Climate Action and Social Justice in the Built Environment – Melbourne, Australia

NOVEMBER 2022

The Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) seeks a part-time Researcher over a three-month period from February to May 2023 to conduct the following activities in Melbourne, Australia. This post will work closely with IHRB’s Programme Manager, Built Environment (Global) who will have oversight for the research process, and the Programme Manager, Built Environment (Europe) who will have oversight for the visioning session, as well as with other project partners. We envisage that 30-45 days will be required for this work.

This research in Melbourne is part of a project comprising similar research cycles in four pairs of cities globally over two years, and will be conducted in parallel with research in Lisbon, Portugal. This cycle follows the first one: conducted in Lagos, Nigeria and in Prague, Czechia.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project “Building for Today and for the Future” is developing a collaborative agenda for a just transition of the built environment. It will identify pathways to reduce the climate footprint and strengthen resilience of buildings and infrastructure, while also reducing social inequity and respecting human rights. The project will also work to address and overcome the specific obstacles that stand in the way of those pathways.

The three interconnected outcomes and activities are:

- **Strengthening the evidence base**: Deep-dive action research in eight cities globally, linking up to their relevant national and regional contexts;

- **Shifting mindsets**: Visioning sessions that invite diverse local stakeholders to imagine what a just and sustainable built environment looks like;

- **Changing policy and practice**: Strategic communications and policy advocacy to influence government and industry practices.

The project will consider the full range of human rights but will have a particular focus on: meaningful participation; spatial justice; the right to housing; and workers’ rights. An intersectional lens will be applied throughout, considering the range of factors that affect people’s experience of the world including gender, race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability and immigration status.
The project is in partnership with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) with global thematic input from Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) and the International Union of Tenants (ITU), as well as other partners. It is funded by Laudes Foundation and Ove Arup Foundation.

DELIVERABLES

1. **Scope definition:**
   a. Identify and define Melbourne’s priority built environment decarbonisation/resilience process(s) to be investigated (for example: *improvements in energy efficiency and construction practices; reductions of emissions from materials / circular building practices; shifting to renewable energy sources for buildings; strengthened resilience of the built environment to the impacts of climate change*).

   b. Identify key elements of context and framing that are *sensitive to local narratives and language*, to aid the research and communication steps that follow.

2. **Research:** Desk research; semi-structured interviews with 10-15 stakeholders (aiming for representation of civil society, workers and tenants; government; business; finance; and academia); and relevant site visits, to assess:

   - **Actors:** Who is currently shaping the decisions about the selected decarbonisation/resilience process(es) and how?
   - **National and urban policy landscape:** How do regional, national and international policies and financial initiatives for built environment decarbonisation and resilience manifest on the territory?
   - **Impacts:** How does the process already or potentially impact people (positively, negatively), with an emphasis on the most vulnerable – and how are these impacts distributed throughout the city? Priority themes to be considered: meaningful participation; spatial justice and non-discrimination; the right to housing; and workers’ rights.
   - **Barriers and opportunities:** What are the (political, economic, social) barriers and opportunities for advancing just decarbonisation/resilience in the built environment in the city?
Note: The researcher will be provided with key project documents, such as the Master Research Plan for the overall project, a research toolbox including suggested research timeline, an initial stakeholder mapping for the focus city, and suggested guiding questions for the interviews. The researcher is expected to adapt these general guiding materials to the specific city-context, local narratives, and specific types of stakeholders, with support throughout from the Built Environment’s Global Programme Manager.

3. Outreach: In parallel, introduce the Framework for Dignity in the Built Environment to the stakeholders (the 10-15 interviewees). This Framework is a dynamic, internationally-applicable yet locally adaptable tool for grounding built environment decision-making in international human rights standards and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for harnessing the specific roles/responsibilities and leverage points between actors. Identify practical opportunities for applying the Framework in the local context at policy and/or project level.

4. City Summary Report: Produce a four-page summary of the research findings, analysis and recommendations, with an annex of relevant background materials, in close collaboration with IHRB’s Programme Manager, Built Environment (Global). Note: the research outputs will be ideally further elaborated into academic journal articles; while this is beyond the scope of this consultancy, the research should be conducted with the appropriate scientific rigor and with this opportunity in mind.

5. Contribute to a global map of innovative/alternative economic models: During desktop and fieldwork research, identify up to four examples of economic models/initiatives (in the city, country, and/or within the wider region) that seek to address power imbalances and are conducive to a just transition in the built environment: examples could include: equitable land-use measures or community-ownership models; community-led planning processes; measures to curb over-speculation; green/social bonds. A model for identifying these models will be shared with the Consultant.

6. Support a visioning workshop: Support the preparation for – and co-facilitate – a “visioning” workshop that brings together diverse stakeholders, including those who have been interviewed for the research, to identify pathways for a just transition in the city and to address barriers and opportunities. Participate in the agenda development, support event planning, join and present research findings at the workshop. A methodology for the visioning workshop will be shared with the Consultant.

7. Process review: Participate in an online de-brief session at the end of the consultancy to review the process and its outcomes, and to provide methodology recommendations for the next cities to be investigated in the project.
REQUIREMENTS, EXPERIENCE, AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong knowledge of the local urban context (social, political, economic, and built environment), including the landscape of relevant civil society, business and government stakeholders in Melbourne
- Demonstrated commitment to human and workers’ rights
- Experience conducting similar research and analysis
- Ability to communicate with stakeholders from multiple backgrounds/sectors
- Excellent, clear writing and editing skills in English
- Based in Melbourne
- Facilitation experience with different stakeholders (Desirable)
- Experience presenting findings in map formats (Desirable)

HOW TO APPLY

Interested parties are invited to submit the following:

- A proposal (not to exceed four pages in total) including: CV; cover letter outlining your suitability and motivation for this role; and a summary of your approach to this project. This can include links to any relevant previous experience, or projects with a similar approach.
- Fixed fee/day rate (including VAT if applicable), bearing in mind a 30-45 day allocation across the three months. IHRB’s budget range for this consultancy is USD $10,000–$15,000

Please send proposals to: Denise Derbyshire at recruitment@ihrb.org with “Researcher application: Melbourne” in the subject on 6 January 2023, 9am GMT. Please also state where you saw the vacancy advertised.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a 45-minute interview by 13 January. Only successful applicants will be notified. Interviews will take place via Zoom the week commencing 17-18 January 2023 – please indicate any dates that you will not be available during that time.

A work offer will be subject to two satisfactory references for the successful candidate.

This Request for Proposals is being readvertised. Previous applicants need not reapply.

Joint applications that harness a range of relevant experience and skillsets will be considered, provided there is clear alignment with the above requirements and deliverables and the total fee is still competitive.

Submissions will be held on file for 6 months after the end of the recruitment process.
ABOUT IHRB

Founded in 2009, the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) is the leading international think tank on business and human rights. IHRB’s mission is to shape policy, advance practice, and strengthen accountability in order to make respect for human rights part of everyday business. IHRB seeks to embed international business and human rights standards within responsible business practice in a wide range of countries and industry sectors, working with government, business and civil society. IHRB’s Built Environment programme was initiated in 2019. Closely related programmes include those on Just Transitions and Migrant Workers. IHRB is registered in the UK and has founded a charitable foundation in Denmark called IHRB Nordic, and has established a number of now free-standing organisations, in Myanmar, Colombia, and the global Centre for Sport and Human Rights.

Further reading:

- Dignity by Design: Human Rights and the Built Environment Lifecycle
- Better Building(s): Financing Human Rights-based Decarbonisation in Europe
- Additional materials from the built environment programme