Short-Term Consultancy Request for Proposals

**Researcher: Climate Action and Social Justice in the Built Environment**

**Athens, Greece**

**April 2023**

The Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) seeks a part-time Researcher to conduct the following activities in Athens, Greece between October 2023 and February 2024. The Researcher will work closely with IHRB's Global Programme Manager, Built Environment as well as with other project partners. We envisage that 30-45 days will be required in total for this work.

This research in Athens is part of a project comprising similar research cycles in four pairs of cities over two years, and will be conducted in parallel with research in Valparaiso, Chile. IHRB and partners have already conducted similar research in Lagos, Nigeria; Prague, Czechia; Melbourne, Australia; Lisbon, Portugal, and are currently undertaking research in Jakarta, Indonesia and Copenhagen, Denmark.

**SUMMARY**

The global 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 ensure that decarbonisation and resilience efforts in cities concurrently reduce social inequity and respect human rights. Where there are specific obstacles on these pathways, the project will seek to address and overcome them.

The three interconnected outcomes and activities of the project 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 led by IHRB and implemented 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 the Laudes Foundation and Ove Arup Foundation.

**DELIVERABLES**

1. **Scope definition**:
   a. Identify and define Athen’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 like sea-level rise, etc.*)

   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?

The 10-15 stakeholders will need to cover a range of individuals or organisations working on decarbonisation and equity issues in the built environment, across civil society (NGOs, tenant’s associations, worker’s unions etc); government; business (design, architecture, planning, engineering, and construction); finance (developers, investors); and academia.

**Note:** The consultant 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 consultant 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 and 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 2,500 – 3,000 word summary of the research findings, analysis and recommendations, with an annex of relevant background materials and an annex listing the interviews. The consultant will work in close collaboration with IHRB’s Global Programme Manager, and will be provided with a template for this report.
Note: The research outputs will be further elaborated into academic journal articles; while this is beyond the scope of this consultancy, the research should be conducted with the appropriate scientific rigour 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. The criteria 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 and those (such as individual workers and tenants) whose voices are seldom heard, 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 debrief 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

Essential

- 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 Athens.
- Demonstrated commitment to human rights.
- Experience conducting similar urban research and analysis.
- Ability to communicate with stakeholders from multiple backgrounds/sectors.
- Excellent, clear writing and editing skills in English.
- Fluent in Greek.
- Based in Athens.
- **Desirable:** facilitation experience at workshops/events with different stakeholders.
- **Desirable:** experience presenting findings in map formats.

**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 work. This can include links to any relevant previous experience, or projects with a similar approach.

- Proposed day rate and/or total fee for this work, bearing in mind a 30-45 day workload across the three months. The IHRB budget for this role is £9,000-15,000 (GBP) in total, so please ensure the total fee (including any VAT or local taxes which - if applicable - should be clearly stated) is within this range.

- The payment schedule for this work will be: 20% on signing the agreement, 30% after completion of the interviews and 50% once all deliverables have been met (each subject to approval).

Please send proposals to: Kathy McLeish at recruitment@ihrb.org with subject line: “BE Researcher application: Athens” by **9.00am BST on 5 September 2023**. Please also state where you saw the vacancy advertised. A work offer will be subject to two satisfactory references for the successful candidate.

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

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a 45-minute interview by 8 September. **Interviews will take place online via Zoom between 18-20 September**: please indicate in your proposal, any dates/times that you will not be available during that time.
ABOUT IHRB

Founded in 2009, 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 serves as an independent voice on human rights and business issues around the world, including holding special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC). We produce in depth reports, practical briefings, and regular commentaries. We provide trusted and impartial advice to governments, businesses, and international organisations. We bring together leading experts with diverse stakeholders to discuss timely subjects on the business and human rights agenda.

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

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