

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Evidence-based practice researcher

The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL) invites qualified companies and individuals to submit proposals for adapting the evidence-based best practices for preventing and resolving family disputes and land justice issues, originally developed for Ogun State, to the context of Imo State.

Together with a local researcher, HiiL looks to develop practitioner guidelines for the justice sector to serve lawyers, mediators, police, judges, paralegals, and other professionals who provide direct assistance to people with legal needs. Tailor-made and context-specific, the Justice Guidelines are developed in collaboration with local experts and practitioners to offer recommendations and step-by-step interventions for preventing and resolving justice problems in practitioners' daily work. These practitioners could be lawyers, paralegals, judges, mediators, police and other professionals who directly engage with people. The Guidelines will integrate statutory laws, customary laws, and best practices in dispute resolution to ensure fairness, transparency, and accessibility.

Guidelines are inspired by the medical sector and consist of clear and actionable best practices, on how to deal with justice issues. They help practitioners with communication techniques, tools for de-escalation, mediation methods and other useful 'soft skills' that are essential in dispute resolution.

Guidelines combine **practice-based evidence** (experiences from practitioners across Nigeria) and **evidence-based practice** (recommended interventions from internationally conducted studies). For this project, we are looking to develop Guidelines contextualised to Imo State.

HiiL in Nigeria

HiiL (The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law) is a non-profit devoted to user-friendly justice. That means justice that is easy to access, easy to understand, and effective. In the past 15 years, HiiL has developed a unique data-, research- and innovation-driven approach to delivering our mission. We work in close collaboration with our national [partners](#) to ensure that what we do is closely connected with the national needs, knowledge, and political realities. Nigeria being a vast federation, HiiL has also undertaken a state-by-state approach, as recommended by the local stakeholders.

In Nigeria, HiiL has undertaken surveys to measure people's daily legal needs. These surveys are called Justice Needs and Satisfaction (NS) surveys, effectively conducted in 2018, 2022 and 2023. The latest JNS from 2023 reveals that 73% of people interviewed reported experiencing a legal problem. However, only four out of ten of them manage to solve their problem completely.¹ Most of the problems reported revolve around disputes with neighbours, crime, money, and family.² Better resolution and prevention of these justice

¹ <https://www.hiil.org/projects/justice-needs-and-satisfaction-in-nigeria/>

² <https://www.hiil.org/projects/justice-needs-and-satisfaction-in-nigeria/>

problems are possible if we make justice solutions more user-friendly. By developing guidelines, we can increase the quality and capacity of justice practitioners and providers of justice services to resolve people's problems.

Adaptation of Ogun State Guidelines to Imo State

Ogun State has developed two pivotal guidelines—the Land Guideline and the Family Guideline—both aimed at addressing justice issues in the state. These guidelines are committed to promoting transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in their respective domains. They emphasise community engagement, fairness, and the use of structured processes to resolve disputes and improve access to justice in the community.

The Ogun State Land Guideline was developed to address key challenges in land governance, including land registration, allocation, and dispute resolution. It provides a structured framework to promote transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in managing land resources. The guideline emphasises equitable access, community engagement, and mechanisms for resolving conflicts, ensuring compliance with legal and policy frameworks. Designed to support sustainable development, it integrates best practices and innovative approaches to enhance land administration in the state.

The Ogun State Family Guideline is a comprehensive framework for addressing family-related justice issues. It focuses on resolving family disputes, protecting vulnerable groups, and promoting access to justice for all family members. The guideline outlines practical steps for mediation, counselling, and legal recourse, ensuring that family disputes are handled with sensitivity and fairness. By incorporating community-based solutions and aligning with international standards, it seeks to provide accessible, effective, and culturally relevant justice solutions for families in Ogun State.

The Ogun State guidelines have proven to be a robust framework addressing Land Justice and Family Justice. This Request for Proposal seeks experts to adapt the guidelines to align with the unique needs of Imo State while incorporating additional best practices on gender-based violence to ensure effectiveness and sustainability.

Scope of the Work

The project phases are as follows:

1. **Review the existing Guidelines and research literature:** Conduct a comparative analysis of the Ogun State Land and Family guidelines and similar frameworks applicable to Imo State. Tailor the Ogun State Guidelines and adapt them to suit the socio-economic, cultural, and regulatory context of Imo State.
2. **Inclusion of a Section on Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Increase the scope of the adapted Land and Family Guidelines by developing best practices for supporting victims of gender-based violence in Imo State.
3. **Collecting local best practices:** Interview and observe practitioners in the field to understand their experiences in helping people with their family dispute problems.

Services requested

Service	Details	HiiL time estimation
<p>Review the existing Guidelines and research literature</p>	<p>The researcher will review the recommendations of the already-existing Ogun State guidelines, and introduce a section on GBV according to the HiiL Guideline Methodology. Recommendations will focus on the topics identified by the JNS study and HiiL.</p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work together with the HiiL experts in The Hague and Nigeria on identifying interventions to compare and develop a research strategy. ● Evaluate the Ogun State Family Guideline's relevance and applicability to Imo State. ● Identify gaps in addressing GBV and propose a new section tailored to Imo State's context. ● Incorporate local best practices and align with national and international standards for GBV prevention and response. 	<p>4 weeks</p>
<p>Inclusion of a Section on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a comprehensive section on GBV tailored to the social, cultural, and legal dynamics of Imo State. ● Propose actionable recommendations to integrate GBV prevention, response and justice mechanisms into the guideline. 	<p>6 weeks</p>

<p>Collecting local best practices</p>	<p>Interview and observe practitioners in the field in Imo State to understand their experiences in helping people with land, family, and GBV problems.</p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in gathering best practices according to the Hiil Guideline methodology. • Benchmark the guideline against global and national frameworks. • Integrate evidence-based best practices to strengthen the guideline's impact. • Support in assessing best practices according to the Hiil Guideline methodology. • Incorporate the best practices into the Imo State Guideline. • A detailed "Best Practices" section within the adapted guideline. • A summary of key differences and recommendations tailored to Imo State. • Validate the best practices with local service providers in Imo State. • A validation report summarising feedback from stakeholders. 	<p>8 weeks</p>
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Timeline

The proposed period for the engagement is from 1 February 2025 to 30 May 2025, covering all phases of the project. The timing may shift due to any unforeseen events. The weekly time commitment estimated by Hiil for carrying out the activities is 28 hours a week, including reporting to the Hiil team. In the proposals, we expect the proposal to confirm the estimated timeline or provide their own assessment based on the activities.

Profile of the contractor

We are looking for a contractor who is experienced in working with various research methods. The contractor knows the legal profession and is not afraid to expand research to other fields of work. The contractor speaks and writes English on a professional level (B1 or higher).

The professional background of the contractor is in the field of legal studies or social sciences. Preferably, the contractor has experience in helping people with family and land disputes. This could be in a lawyer, mediator or therapist role, for example. The contractor has a network that includes various legal professionals in Nigeria, preferably in Imo State.

Researcher requirements:

- A bachelor's degree in law, social science, international relations, or similar
- A Master's degree is preferable.

- Experience in the research field.
- Sound understanding of research methodologies.
- Interest and knowledge of the Nigerian socio-political scenes and context, especially in Imo State.
- Considerable proficiency in Google Workspace Office Software.
- Problem-solving skills and critical thinking skills.
- Practical experience in database management.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

The proposal

We kindly request you to submit your CV, portfolio with examples of previous research assignments and a quotation for providing the services outlined above.

Proposals may be submitted on or before **31 January 2024 at 17:00 hrs (CET)** only through email to the following email address: Maryam.abba@hiil.org. Proposals shall be submitted in English, signed by the company/individual, and with the subject line: "Evidence-based practice researcher: Researcher/name of company/Individual".

The criteria for awarding contracts resulting from this tender are based on "best value for money". For all tenders, HiiL defines "best value for money" as: a complete assessment of technical, organisational and pricing factors (quality, previous experience, reputation, delivery time, and other criteria related to the specifics of the research project).