

Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Hiring two Consultants having Expertise in Islamic Jurisprudence

Consultancy: Hiring of a Consultant having Expertise in Islamic Jurisprudence - Male (1) and Female (1)

Group Development Pakistan (GDP) is a Pakistani Civil Society Organization (CSO) established under the Societies Act 1860 on October 3, 2012, and later registered with the Islamabad Capital Territory Charity Commission on May 31, 2024. GDP believes in a democratic and humanistic society in which the most important stakeholders -children- are acknowledged, respected, empowered, and protected from abuse and discrimination. GDP follows a holistic, inclusive, eco-friendly, culture-sensitive, child-focused, systemic, and human rights-based approach. GDP works at a national level, in development and humanitarian contexts.

For more information, please visit our official website: <http://gdpakistan.org> or visit our social media handle: <http://facebook.com/groupdevelopmentpakistan>

1 Objective of the consultancy

Group Development Pakistan, in collaboration with UNFPA, has been advancing legislative and policy reforms to end child marriage in Pakistan by aligning statutory protections with both constitutional guarantees and Islamic jurisprudence. Building on previous initiatives that strengthened parliamentary engagement, profiled systemic gaps, and engaged Nikah Registrars and local government officials to improve marriage registration processes and child marriage prevention, GDP now seeks to strengthen the evidence-based discourse against child marriage in Pakistan by disseminating the religious and legal legitimacy of past and future reform efforts aiming to counter this harmful practice.

To this end, GDP seeks to engage two consultants having legal and Islamic jurisprudential expertise to provide solid and enlightened guidance on how Islamic principles support the protection of children and the establishment of a minimum age of marriage, while also identifying best practices from Pakistan and other Muslim-majority countries where Islamic scholarship has been leveraged to counter child marriage. Their contributions will reinforce policy dialogues, advocacy, and technical support under GDP's partnership with UNFPA, ensuring that child marriage reforms are both contextually grounded and widely accepted.

2 Scope of Work

GDP is seeking two individual consultants who will be responsible for:

1. **Legal review:** Review official statements, court decisions, press articles, policies, and laws that contribute to the prevalence of child marriage in the country and develop a child-centric, gender-responsive, and inclusive counter-argument based on Islamic jurisprudence.
2. **Advocacy support:** Take part in consultations, meetings, and other events, and support GDP in promoting a child-centric, gender-responsive, inclusive, and health-focused narrative aligned with Islamic jurisprudence to end child marriage; support GDP in devising relevant strategies for multi-stakeholder engagement that contribute to generating socio-cultural, institutional, and political disapproval of child marriage

3. **Knowledge Development:** Contribute to briefs and strategic documents developed by GDP to end child marriage in the country
4. **Submit a consolidated report** to the project team and a detailed report, in addition to notes, briefs, and memoranda at the end of the consultancy period.

3 Key Deliverables

The consultant is responsible for producing and submitting the following key deliverables:

S. No.	Deliverables	Deadline (Forecasted)
1.	Kickoff meeting with the GDP team	November 26, 2025
2.	Legal Review of recent two Lahore and ICT high court decisions on Child Marriage	December, 02, 2025
4.	Consultation Inputs	as scheduled
5.	Advocacy note on Countering child marriage and intersectional issues through Islamic jurisprudence. (report)	December 15, 2025

4 Duration of Assignment

The consultancy is for a duration of 12 working days (12 non-consecutive days), commencing from the date of contract award.

5 Important Instructions

- The consultant must complete the UN PSEA online course. A certificate of completion must be submitted to GDP before the contract is formally awarded.
- Travel expenses or logistics will be provided separately, only if required.

6 Required Competencies

Qualifications: Master's degree or higher in Islamic Jurisprudence/Shariah Law or a related field.

Experience

- Minimum 5 years of experience and a track record of expertise in Islamic Jurisprudence.
- Extensive experience in family law, marriage laws, and child rights issues within an Islamic framework.
- Prior contributions to fatwas, legal opinions, and scholarly writings on child marriage and other child protection issues will be an added advantage.
- Sound understanding of policies and frameworks aimed at addressing social issues such as child marriage and gender-based violence.
- Experience engaging with government institutions, religious authorities and other relevant stakeholders will be an asset.

Skills:

- Well-versed in child protection legal frameworks.
- Strong research, legal drafting, and analytical skills with the ability to produce concise, evidence-based outputs.
- Capacity to interpret and communicate jurisprudential arguments in a clear, accessible manner for policymakers and community stakeholders.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in Urdu and English; knowledge of Arabic will be considered an advantage.
- Aware of gender, culture-sensitive, child-centric, and conflict sensitivities.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Proven ability to work under tight deadlines and deliver high-quality, actionable outputs.

7 Application & Evaluation Process

The applications will be evaluated based on relevant professional experience, specialized education, the quality of the technical proposal, and the completeness of the application.

8 How to Apply

Interested consultants are invited to submit the following documents for the consultancy assignment by **October 7, 2025**:

1. Profile: A detailed CV and a Suitability Statement tailored to the assignment.
2. Technical and Financial Proposal: Including the expected daily or lump-sum fee.
3. A minimum of two references from relevant past assignments.
4. Supplier Declaration Form: Completed and signed Supplier Declaration Form (refer to Annex IV of the Terms of Reference for the form template).
5. **UN PSEA Online Course Completion Certificate**: Mandatory at the time of contract award.

Submission Instructions: Please submit your application in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the consultancy title, to: Office No. 11-18, Lower Ground, Magnum Arcade, Northern Strip, FECHS, E-11/2, Islamabad.

For queries or clarifications regarding the consultancy application, please email hr@gdpakistan.org. Responses will be provided within 3 business days, and all queries must be submitted by October 5, 2025, to allow sufficient time before the deadline.