



CALL FOR TENDER

Consultancy services to produce a briefing paper on the law and practice of universal jurisdiction in South Africa.

Project: “Global Initiative Against Impunity for International Crimes and Serious Human Rights Violations: Making Justice Work”, co-funded by the European Union
NDICI HRINTPA/2023/449-005

Tender reference number: UE4T_OT_008

Publication date: 16 October 2026

Deadline for submission of tenders: 15 November 2026, 00h00, CET

1. Background & Objective

TRIAL International is a non-governmental organization that fights impunity for international crimes and supports victims in their pursuit of justice.

To support its activities, the organization is seeking a consultant to collect information, analyze and draft, in English, a briefing paper on the law and practice of universal jurisdiction in South Africa. This briefing paper will be part of the [Universal Jurisdiction Law and Practice Briefing Papers series](#), comprising 12 reports comparing the legal systems of Germany, England and Wales, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the United States, Finland, France, Norway, the Netherlands, Senegal, Sweden and Switzerland.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

- Collect information through desk research and interviews on the legal framework and practice relevant to extraterritorial and universal jurisdiction in South Africa;
- Analyze and compile the information collected;
- Draft a report on “Universal Jurisdiction Law and Practice in South Africa”.

For further details, please refer to the attached Terms of Reference.

3. TIMELINE

- Deadline for submission of tenders: 15 November 2026, 00h00, CET
- Selection of consultant: 30 November 2026
- Expected start of services: December 2026
- Deadline for submission of draft briefing paper: Avril 2027
- Deadline for submission of final briefing paper: June 2027

4. ELIGIBILITY

Participation in this call for tenders is open to all qualified candidates, whether natural or legal persons, regardless of nationality or place of residence. However, all candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be able to provide the required services effectively (knowledge of the legal framework and practice relevant to extraterritorial and universal jurisdiction in South Africa);
- At least five years of relevant legal and/or research experience, including at least two years in international criminal law;

- Experience in researching substantive and procedural aspects of international and South African criminal law, and experience in report writing with prior publication experience;
- An established network of legal practitioners and relevant stakeholders in South Africa, with a demonstrated ability to engage and mobilize this network for research purposes;
- Proximity to the country under study, preferably through residence in South Africa and/or the ability and availability to travel to South Africa to conduct in-person meetings and interviews during the research and drafting phases of the assignment (if applicable, travel expenses must be included in the financial offer);
- Proficiency in English and ability to work in English;
- Provide proof of registration as a legal entity or independent consultant ;
- Submit a signed declaration confirming that they are not in any of the situations listed in Article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation (such as bankruptcy, grave professional misconduct, fraud or corruption). See the attached Tender Declaration Form.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A natural or legal person may submit only one tender. If a natural or legal person submits more than one tender, all tenders in which that person has participated will be excluded. Subcontracting is not permitted.

Please submit your proposal electronically to procurement@trialinternational.org, with the subject line **“Call for Tenders No. UE4T_OT_008: Briefing Paper on the Law and Practice of Universal Jurisdiction in South Africa”**.

Tenderers may submit questions to procurement@trialinternational.org until 8 November 2026, 00h00, CET. Please indicate **“Question – Call for Tenders No. UE4T_OT_008”** as the email subject. TRIAL International is under no obligation to provide clarifications for requests received after this deadline. Responses will generally be sent by email. However, if a question is considered relevant to all tenderers, the response will be published on the website.

The submission must comprise a technical offer, a financial offer and the required administrative documents, sent as three separate files:

1. Technical offer

a. Profile and experience

- ☐ List of names and CVs of the proposed consultant(s);
- ☐ Description of the five most relevant projects related to this contract carried out over the past ten years;
- ☐ Supporting documents of technical and professional capacity, including two writing samples in English;

b. Methodology

- ☐ A brief description, maximum 2 pages, of the proposed work schedule and methodology for achieving the results set out in the Terms of Reference.

c. References

- ☐ Names of at least two referees.

2. Financial offer

- A quotation detailing prices based on the expected results set out in the Terms of Reference;
- The financial offer must not exceed EUR 10,000. -

3. Administrative documents

- ☐ Company registration or proof of registration as an independent consultant under the applicable legislation in the country of residence;
- ☐ Signed Tender Declaration Form.

All correspondence and documents relating to the tender must be written in English. Supporting documents may be in another language. Prices must be expressed in euros (€) and include all applicable taxes.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA

TRIAL International is committed to ensuring a transparent and fair procurement procedure. All candidates will be treated equally, and the evaluation process will be conducted in accordance with European Union procurement principles.

The following selection criteria will apply to submitted tenders:

Technical offers will be assessed against the following criteria (80% of the final score):

- Understanding of project requirements and suitability of proposed services (25%);
- Relevant qualifications and experience (20%);
- Proposed methodology and work schedule (25%);
- Quality and relevance of supporting documents (10%).

Financial offers will be assessed against the following criteria (20% of the final score):

- Cost-effectiveness and value for money (15%);
- Clarity, detail and justification of costs (5%).

Please note that a score of zero in either of these two criteria of the financial offer will result in the tender being rejected.

TRIAL International shall not be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by candidates in preparing and submitting their tenders. Missing information or documentation may result in rejection of the tender. Tenders submitted by other means will not be considered. Late tenders will automatically be rejected.

TRIAL International is a non-governmental organization fighting impunity for international crimes and supporting victims in their quest for justice. The organization takes an innovative approach to the law, paving the way to justice for survivors of unspeakable sufferings. TRIAL International provides legal assistance, litigates cases, develops local capacity and pushes the human rights agenda forward.