

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Original date issued: 4 February 2022

Closing date: 28 February 2022

Anticipated Award Date: 14 March 2022

Reference: G08– Nowhere to Hide: Turning Illicit Financial Flows Against Human Trafficking in the Philippines

Subject: Request for Expression of Interest – Nowhere to Hide: Existing & Potential Legal Strategies Against Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) using Digital Payment Platforms in Europe

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS) has developed an intervention— *Nowhere to Hide*— to reduce online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) by using traffickers’ illicit financial flows as a tool against them. An experienced developer of cutting-edge technological solutions for fighting trafficking, GFEMS will lead the intervention and will bring together a strong network of diverse partners – from financial sector leaders in Europe to justice actors in the Philippines – to make the project a success.

Human traffickers and perpetrators of OSEC can easily send money around the world to facilitate their crimes. They use the traditional financial system as well as new channels, such as cryptocurrency and e-money wallets. Authorities and other stakeholders have not yet brought adequate focus to these new channels as enablers of trafficking, and to make matters worse, these channels are often designed to enhance anonymity for users. Payments *should* be a paper trail to identify perpetrators and traffickers; instead, they are a hiding place.

Nowhere to Hide will lift the veil on payment systems as facilitators of human trafficking and give authorities and other stakeholders the knowhow, tools, and motivation needed to turn illicit financial flows against traffickers.

The starting point of this project is online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) in the Philippines by perpetrators in Europe. This starting point enables a focused scope on an issue that has heightened in significance during Covid-19, and that appears especially relevant to cybersecurity approaches due to its online and cross-continental nature.

The Philippines is recognized as a global hotspot for OSEC and is the largest known source of OSEC cases in the world, with 8 times more case referrals than any other country (p60). Current analysis (p17-18) attributes this dubious distinction to the Philippines’ highspeed internet connectivity, growing availability of relatively cheap smartphones and tablets, widespread use of the English language, and a high wealth disparity compared to buyers in Europe and North America.

Tracing financial flows is not only key to the detection of perpetrators but, if correctly identified, financial flows can also serve as evidence to support prosecutions in court and to confiscate criminal assets for compensation of victims.

Authorities have systems for receiving reports from money bureaus and banks, but the same is not true for some nontraditional payment methods. This lack of regulation is problematic because investigators have found that some OSEC crimes have used electronic money wallets and cryptocurrency. At this point, few countries have implemented regulations for virtual currency exchanges. Moreover, the users of such channels may be more sophisticated and less likely to take risks which could reveal their identities, and the payment channel itself may be more hidden by design. Anti-TIP efforts need support to address non-traditional payment channels. Even if nontraditional channels prove to be lightly used currently, pre-emptive action now can prevent them from becoming the next channel for traffickers when authorities do tighten control of traditional channels.

GFEMS has already engaged a specialist service provider who will focus on understanding financial flows to OSEC which are facilitated by cryptocurrency. The first portion of this specialist's work will involve estimating the volume and nature of cryptocurrency transactions that pay for online child sexual abuse material in the most recent 12-month period; the second will comprise creation of a proof of concept to demonstrate the technological steps necessary to de-anonymize these cryptocurrency transactions.

We are seeking a second specialist service provider to lead workstreams relating to the European legislation, investigation, and prosecution environment around digital payments for OSEC abroad. The goal of this project is to create a practical handbook demonstrating the steps necessary to successfully prosecute cases of OSEC facilitated by digital payment platforms; and to identify methods of expanding on these guidelines to successfully prosecute transactions that pass through new payment technologies.

QUALIFICATIONS

We are particularly interested to hear from candidates from the Global South, and from individuals with personal lived experience of modern slavery.

Applicants should demonstrate a proven track record of experience and/or skills in several of the following areas:

- Deep experience in understanding and interpreting the investigative and prosecutorial landscape in at least some countries within Europe and at the European Union level;
- Ability to communicate this experience and learnings for practical use by a wide audience, in plain English, with French being an additional asset;
- Connections with relevant law enforcement, AML, and civil society organizations in Europe;
- Knowledge of and experience with human trafficking, OSEC, and financial flows;
- An understanding of the OSEC context in the Philippines, preferably, or in another country;
- Experience of successful collaborations with similar organizations to achieve a common goal.

SCOPE OF WORK

The specialist will be expected to first compile a catalog of OSEC buyer cases which have been prosecuted in Europe (or a subset of European countries to be specified) since 2000, and identify themes and commonalities among the key digital transaction evidence from those cases. These cases should include examples of prosecutions of illicit financial flows facilitated using traditional payment methods, as well as new payment technologies. The service provider will then be expected to expand on the existing investigative and prosecutorial track record and propose methods of aligning law enforcement strategies with evidence derived from digital payment technologies.

The specialist will be expected to work closely with GFEMS staff, who will lead project implementation, as well as the service provider we have engaged to complete the first stage of work.

The specialist will focus on two components. The structure can be discussed with GFEMS during the negotiation phase and can also be adapted during the implementation of the project.

1. Collection of a subset of OSEC buyer cases that have been prosecuted in Europe; and identification of themes and commonalities among the key digital transaction evidence from those cases.
 - a. These cases should include examples of prosecutions of illicit financial flows facilitated using traditional payment methods, new digital payment platforms, as well as those using cryptocurrency, if any.
 - b. This evidence base should be written up in a report summarizing the themes and evidence collected, including archetypal transactions, potentially for publication.
 - c. This should be written in very plain language which can be understood by individuals without legal expertise.
 - d. Cases relevant to crimes committed in the Philippines are especially pertinent, but global cases may also be used.
 - e. We suggest that the respondent specify their proposed geographic scope within Europe, based on what they consider to be feasible, in their expression of interest.
2. Building on the existing investigative and prosecutorial track record, identification of potential methods of aligning prosecution strategies with evidence that may derive from either digital payment platforms or cryptocurrency payments.
 - a. The specialist will be expected to work closely with the consultant GFEMS has engaged to identify methods of deanonymizing cryptocurrency transactions. It is expected that this workstream should identify the feasibility of leveraging the proposed cryptocurrency deanonymization techniques to support prosecution. Other methods of supporting prosecution should also be considered.
 - b. As above, these methods should be written up in a report summarizing the recommendations for the approach to prosecution. This should be written in very plain language which can be understood by individuals without legal expertise.

Deliverables:

1. A report summarizing the themes among the key digital transaction evidence collected, potentially for publication;
2. A report proposing methods of aligning prosecution strategies with evidence that may derive from either digital payments or cryptocurrency payment technologies, including new deanonymization techniques;
3. Write-ups of selected chapters within the Nowhere to Hide investigative handbook, summarizing the steps taken to produce the deliverables above. This deliverable should

be completed in close alignment with the service provider leading the work to deanonymize cryptocurrency transactions, already engaged by GFEMS.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Section 1. CV and Expression of Interest</p>	<p>Please limit to no more than four (4) pages.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide a CV.2. Provide an expression of interest, max two pages, outlining:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. your interest in the opportunityb. your experience and qualifications relevant to this opportunity3. Your daily rate in USD. Please be advised that GFEMS is cost-conscious in procuring services.4. Please provide at least three examples of past relevant work. This should include at least one writing sample of your own, individual work if possible.5. Please confirm that you meet the requirements outlined in General Conditions.
<p>Section 2: References:</p>	<p>Respondents should provide references as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please provide a short summary of work completed for each referee;2. Please provide contact information, which should include the contact name, phone number, e-mail address, and website address. <p>References will be contacted as part of the vetting process</p>

INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

Interested respondents should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) following the prescribed format in the Submission Requirements section of this opportunity. Adherence to the EOI format by all respondents will help ensure a fair evaluation.

Interested respondents should submit an application consisting of the elements stated in the submission requirements section above using [this linked webform](#). Qualified candidates will be invited for a phone or video conference interview.

This Call in no way obligates GFEMS to award a contract nor does it commit GFEMS to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of an EOI. GFEMS bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

TYPE OF CONTRACT TO BE AWARDED

Fixed price per deliverable

CONTRACT TERM AND DELIVERY DATES

GFEMS expects this scope of work to be completed in 6 months, from March 2022 to August 2022. Final delivery dates will be negotiated upon award.

Below is an indicative timeline that can be largely revised based on the preferences and methods of the selected service provider. It only serves here to provide further indications on the different components of the scope of work:

Activity	Deadline
Partner submits catalog of existing litigation cases	April 2022
Partner submits a report summarizing the themes among the key digital transaction evidence collected, potentially for publication;	May 2022
Partner submits a report proposing methods of aligning prosecution strategies with evidence that may derive from cryptocurrency payment technologies, including new deanonymization techniques;	June 2022
Partner completes write-ups of selected chapters within the Nowhere to Hide investigative handbook, summarizing the steps taken to produce the deliverables above.	July 2022

SELECTION PROCESS

An award may be made to one (1) or more responsible respondents whose EOI follows the instructions, meets the eligibility requirements, and meets or exceeds the minimum required technical specifications, and is judged to be the best value to GFEMS. Please note that if there are significant deficiencies regarding responsiveness to the requirements of this call, an EOI may be deemed “non-responsive” and thereby disqualified from consideration. GFEMS reserves the right to waive immaterial deficiencies at its discretion. GFEMS reserves the right to award under this call without further negotiations or cancel this call at any time.

It is anticipated that qualified candidates will be invited to take part in a vetting process following their submissions that will involve virtual interviews, at a minimum.

Applications will be evaluated based upon:

1. Ability to match the qualifications set forth in this call (70%)
2. Price (30%)

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Submissions lacking the appropriate completed forms will not be considered. Submissions will not be accepted at any other GFEMS location other than the email address above. If changes are made to this

call, notifications will be sent to the primary contact provided to GFEMS from each respondent. GFEMS takes no responsibility for effective delivery of the electronic document.

This call does not commit GFEMS to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a EOI, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. GFEMS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions received, to negotiate with all qualified sources, or to cancel in part or in its entirety the call when it is in the Fund's best interest.

The respondent shall disclose any indictment for any alleged felony, or any conviction for a felony within the past five years, under the laws of the United States or any state or territory of the United States, or any other Jurisdiction, and shall describe circumstances for each. If an indictment or conviction should come to the attention of GFEMS after the award of a contract, GFEMS may exercise its stop-work right pending further investigation, or terminate the agreement.

Respondent confirms that persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have not been convicted of a criminal offense concerning their professional conduct by a final judgment.

Respondent confirms that they have not been guilty of grave professional misconduct; proven by any means which can be justified.

As applicable, respondent confirms that they are not bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.

Respondent confirms that they have fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established, or those of the country where the contract is to be performed.

Respondent confirms that they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have not been convicted for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or money laundering by a final judgment.

Respondent confirm that they do not make use of child labor or forced labor and/or practice discrimination, and/or do not respect the right to freedom of association and the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining pursuant to the core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

It is the Fund's Policy that no gifts of any kind and of any value be exchanged between respondent and GFEMS personnel. Discovery of the same will be grounds for disqualification of the respondent from participation in any of the Fund's procurements and may result in disciplinary actions against GFEMS personnel involved in such discovered transactions.

Respondent must disclose any financial or organizational interest – as an employee, consultant, business partner, investor, shareholder, borrower, lender, beneficiary, board member or trustee – in an actual or

potential competitor, contractor, sub-contractor, customer, client, vendor, donor or recipient of GFEMS, that might produce a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest should this contract be awarded.

Respondent warrants that it shall not discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, non-disabling physical and mental disability, political status, matriculation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, status as a veteran, physical handicap, age, marital status or any other characteristic protected by law. United States law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. The respondent under any award resulting from this call must ensure compliance with these laws.

By submitting an EOI in response to this call, the respondent, if selected for award, agrees that it will comply with all federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations under the Contract.