

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of Consultancy: Sextortion in Sports

Application Closing Date: 13 May 2021

Consultancy Start and End Date: 24 May 2021 – 15 August 2021

Location of Consultancy: The study will be conducted remotely; no travel is required.

BACKGROUND

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business, and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

The Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S) in Berlin is seeking a consultant to conduct a study on sextortion in sports in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). The study will be based on three case studies.

There is evidence that corruption affects women and men differently and hits the poor and vulnerable groups the hardest, especially women, who represent a higher share of the world's poor. Corruption also hinders progress towards gender equality and presents a barrier for women to gain full access to their civic, social, and economic rights. There are also gender specific forms of corruption which are disproportionately experienced by women, such as sexual extortion, or sextortion. The phenomenon of "sextortion", where sexual acts are used as a currency for corrupt practices has gained prominence in recent years.

Sextortion is the abuse of power to obtain a sexual benefit or advantage. For a long time, this form of corruption has been ignored, as it was not recognised as a specific offence in anti-corruption or gender-based violence legal frameworks. As it was not "typified" in many legal systems, official statistical data is lacking despite abundant anecdotal evidence that sextortion happens in all sectors, countries, regions, and few research projects. Because this phenomenon was invisible in official statistics, laws or strategies were not developed to address it. Barriers to reporting due to lack of adequate reporting mechanisms or the social stigma associated with this form of behaviours, and challenges in obtaining effective redress make this form of corruption less likely to be reported, which further contributes to make it invisible.

Transparency international collected for the first-time data on sextortion in its [Global corruption Barometer 2019](#). In Latin America, 71 per cent of people think sextortion happens at least occasionally, while in MENA, 50 per cent think so. In both regions, one in five people experienced or knows someone who experienced sexual extortion when accessing government services. In a 2019 survey conducted in [Zimbabwe](#), 57 per cent of the women surveyed reported that they had needed to offer sexual benefits to corrupt officials in exchange for jobs, medical care and even when seeking placements at schools for their children. A [recent report](#) published by TI on the state of knowledge on sextortion shows that sextortion is a problem all over the world, in a wide range of contexts, including employment, education, and access to basic services such as medical treatment, justice and law enforcement. Women face sexual demands to obtain land, a business permit, a work permit, public housing. Students can be denied a good grade if they fail to comply with their teachers' sexual demand.

Sextortion also happens in sports. Sport motivates stronger commitment to civil courage and is a strong vehicle to promote high standards of conduct and behaviours. In many developed and developing countries, sport also represents the struggle for greater social and political freedom for athletes.

However, sport is unfortunately also frequently a sphere of abuse, dependency relationships and asymmetric power relations that are likely to make athletes especially vulnerable to sextortion. In 2020, abuse scandals were reported in many sport areas around the world like gymnastics, skating, sailing or football, even though the protection of athletes, their well-being and respect for their dignity is a main task of those responsible. Yet, little is known on the scale, forms, impact, specific factors that makes sports vulnerable to sextortion and possible solutions.

Building on “[Breaking the silence around sextortion: the links between power, sex and corruption](#)” and the [2016 Global Corruption Report](#) on corruption in sports, Transparency International will commission a study on sextortion in sports in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF).

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this study is to raise awareness about the issue and provide a solid research foundation to help identify key areas for preventing and addressing sextortion in sports. There is also a need for more studies, surveys, and evidence on the issue of sextortion as a type of corruption to support the advocacy asks to recognise sextortion as a primarily gendered form of corruption and a human right violation and ensure adequate prosecution of this crime. There is also a need to raise awareness on this particularly damageable type of corruption in sports, as a sector vulnerable to this form of corruption and a potential channel to promote the highest standards of behaviours.

More specifically, the objectives of this study are:

- To assess the state of knowledge and raise awareness on sextortion in sports;
- To raise awareness among anti-corruption practitioners and key stakeholders on sextortion as a form of corruption, using sports as a channel to provide visibility to the issue;
- To identify the specific factors that make sports particularly vulnerable to this form of abuse of power (i.e., the dependencies, asymmetric power relations, insufficient/unclear decision-making structures, insufficient transparency, corruption, lack of decision-making criteria, lack of civil courage (among children/youths, but also among parents and other confidants);
- To understand the current legal, institutional and governance frameworks under which sextortion cases in sports are addressed and to identify gaps and loopholes;
- To identify knowledge gaps that need to be addressed by further research;
- To inform the design of anti-corruption interventions and formulation of policy recommendations to address sextortion in sports.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

Deliverables

The study will be a qualitative research based on 3 to 4 case studies of sextortion in different sports in selected countries from different regions. Each case study could look at a particular sport in a particular country or at different sports in a given country, based on consultation with the local partners. Countries currently under consideration include Romania, Mexico, Zimbabwe and Germany. A detailed methodological approach, based on a mix of qualitative interviews and desk research, including expected data collection and analysis methods, availability of relevant data, the process for verifying/validating findings with key stakeholders, etc, will be proposed by the consultant in consultation with TI.

Tentatively, the research will cover:

1. State of knowledge of sextortion in sports as a form of corruption
 - Definition
 - Forms
 - Drivers/factors that makes sports/athletes vulnerable to sextortion
 - Scale/prevalence of sextortion in sports, based on recent scandals in the various regions and sports.
 - Impact of sextortion in sports on men and women
2. Lessons learned from 3 to 4 case studies across different regions.
3. Solutions to address sextortion in sports
 - Challenges and opportunities for addressing sextortion in sports, including the role that women/athletes can play.
 - Possible prevention strategies
 - Existing legal, institutional and governance frameworks under which crimes of sextortion can be addressed in sports and prosecuted, including reporting mechanisms.
 - A set of policy recommendations to address sextortion in sports.

Expected deliverables will include:

- Inception Report not exceeding 10 pages by 11 June 2021.
- Draft Final Report not exceeding 50 pages by 19 July 2021.
- Final Evaluation Report by 15 August 2021

All presentations and reports should be submitted in English, in electronic form, in accordance with the deadlines stipulated above. The Consultant is responsible for editing and quality control of language. The TI Secretariat retains the sole rights with respect to all distribution, dissemination, and publication of the deliverables.

Timeline

Indicative and realistic timeline with specific dates for expected intermediary and final deliverables and outputs will be provided by the consultant in collaboration with TI. This may include the production of initial notes, scoping paper/desk review, first drafts, final drafts, supplementary notes, data analysis, consultations, presentations, etc.

The timeline needs to provide for sufficient time for TI staff and partners to read and comment on drafts (two weeks is usually realistic). The timetable must be checked and revised once the TOR is approved, and research has begun.

The target is to have the report finalised and published by August 2021 to be launched close to the 2020 football cup (11 June-11 July 2021) or the 2020 Olympic Games (21 July-8 August).

Guidance and quality insurance

There are several key guidance and recommendations that the consultant will need to discuss in the proposal and consider in compiling the final report:

- **Referencing.** The consultant is expected to reference all sources backing statements and avoid un-sourced information to allow for tracing of the source of a statistic or quote. The consultant will also be expected to submit all the background sources needed in a format to be specified in the proposal - electronic access, field notes and recordings, survey data or photocopies of web pages, etc.
- **Libel.** Guidance to avoid libel will be provided if needed.
- **Style guide.** The consultant is expected to adhere to the TI style guide, to be provided by TI.
- **Gender mainstreaming.** TI is committed to mainstream gender issues in all its activities. The consultant should mainstream gender to the extent possible through data disaggregation and providing a gender lenses on the findings/analysis when relevant and possible.
- **Ethical research.** The consultant is expected to commit to conducting ethical research. He/she should consider TI's ethical values and principles and is expected to adhere to key guiding principles to the extent possible, including fundamental principles of transparency, cost-effectiveness, collaboration with beneficiaries, hiring of local consultants, involvement of local agencies, and practices such as confidentiality of data, anonymity of responses, making data publicly available in a usable.
- **Risk mitigation.** The consultant should state any risks that might arise during or because of the research and suggest a process for mitigating them (or indicate that this must be discussed further once the TOR is agreed).

SELECTION CRITERIA

The researcher should have the following qualifications:

- Relevant experience in anti-corruption, development, SDG related areas of expertise and/or gender expertise
- Must have experience in Gender Studies and violence against women.
- Fluent oral and written English communication skills.

- Track record of having conducted similar research.
- Quality of the methodology and approach to the assignment
- Value for money of the proposal

REMUNERATION AND COSTS

The Consultants should provide their estimated total fee as a lump sum or as standard daily or hourly rates as gross inclusive of taxes and other charges.

Consultants who are based in Germany and do not charge German VAT must confirm their small entrepreneur status.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The application should include the following documents in English:

- A detailed methodological approach, including expected data collection and analysis methods, availability of relevant data, the process for verifying/validating findings with key stakeholders, etc.
- A list of possible challenges, risks, and mitigation strategies.
- A detailed timeframe. The team members and respective CVs, functions, and role in relation to the assignment.
- An indicative budget
- A sample of previous similar work.
- Two contacts of two people willing to be contacted for their reference.

Please indicate “Sextortion in sports” in the subject line of your email application. Applications should be sent in English by email to Marie Chene at sextortionstudy@transparency.org by close of business of 13/05/2021.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The Transparency International Secretariat is committed to creating an inclusive work environment where diversity is valued and where there is equality of opportunity. We actively seek a diverse applicant pool and therefore welcome applications from qualified candidates of all regions, countries, cultures, and backgrounds.

Selection of candidates is made on a competitive basis and we do not discriminate on the basis of national origin, race, colour or ethnic background, religious belief, sex, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation, marital or family status, age, or ability. We kindly ask applicants to refrain from including in their application information relating to the above as well as from attaching photos.

Data protection

When you respond to this tender and submit your application, you provide consent that Transparency International e. V. keeps your application materials for the period of ten years according to German legal requirements. Afterwards Transparency International will delete your application and any personal data included in it. If you have any questions, please reach out to dataprotection@transparency.org