



Terms of Reference

Consultancy: Legacies of the Past Tour - Senior Researcher

ACT for the Disappeared (ACT) is a Lebanese non-partisan human rights organization established in 2011. ACT aims to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing and disappeared persons in Lebanon and to contribute to an inclusive national reconciliation process. ACT seeks to:

- Address the rights and needs of the families of the missing and disappeared and empower them to participate in the search process.
- Collect and preserve information on the fate and whereabouts of the missing and disappeared.
- Contribute to enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders and support the operationalization of the National Commission for the Missing and Disappeared in Lebanon.
- Contribute to a sustainable reconciliation process in Lebanon through promoting truth, justice and accountability for victims of human rights violations and through enabling a collective healing process.

Project description

During Lebanon's civil war (1975 – 1990), an estimated 100,000 people were killed, 1 million forcibly displaced, and thousands of people disappeared. While the 1989 Taif Agreement allowed for some political compromise to end the war, little was done to address the root causes and repercussions of the conflict. Instead a General Amnesty Law and a policy of state-sponsored amnesia on the war were established by the authorities. Since, many Lebanese are unaware of their past or grow up on selective, distorted and divisive narratives of the war. However, as evidenced by ongoing division and repeated cycles of conflict, reconciliation cannot take place if we don't establish the truth(s) about past atrocities and initiate an inclusive victim-centered healing process.

In this context, ACT and its partner The Socio-Economic Justice Initiative – MAAN, an independent, Lebanese, non-profit non-governmental think and act tank working across all Lebanese territories, established in 2018 with the aim to bridge inequalities within Lebanon through the promotion of a culture of citizen accountability, the production of qualitative and quantitative evidence-based research, and advocacy for stronger institutions and social protection are coming together to develop a tour of Beirut with a particular theme addressing Lebanon's violent past for building a more peaceful future.

The "Legacies of the Past Tour of Beirut" pilot project with an itinerary stopping at select

landmark sites which witnessed major war and post-war political events across Beirut will be accompanied by inclusive credible narratives developed by historians and an interactive map. The tour, narratives and map will be available to Lebanese and non-Lebanese individuals and groups with the aim of raising the general public's awareness on the legacies of political violence in Lebanon and the importance of dealing with the past, including but not limited to the issue of the missing and forcibly disappeared persons and the victims of the 2020 port explosion.

Project Objectives

The general objective of the “Legacies of the Past Tour of Beirut” pilot project is to challenge state-sponsored amnesia and the failure to deal with Lebanon's troubled past by establishing the truth(s) about past traumatic events in order to learn from the past and build a more inclusive and peaceful future for Lebanon.

Specific objectives:

1-Establish a reliable, evidence-based and accessible narrative of contemporary Lebanese political history with an emphasis on landmark sites across Beirut that witnessed major events between the Lebanese civil war and the August 2020 Beirut Port Blast in order to contribute to truth-telling efforts and a better understanding of Lebanon's past.

2-Raise awareness on and make visible the ongoing legacies of political violence in our present and the importance of dealing with the past for building a more sustainable peace for Lebanon through an accessible tour accompanied by an interactive map and narratives of key sites that witnessed major events.

Job Description

Over a period of 4-6 months, the consultant shall:

- Develop research scope and methodological framework with project partners
- Conduct research on 11 sites across Beirut in accordance with agreed upon methodological framework
- Develop reliable and inclusive narratives of one page per site around selected sites across Beirut in accordance with agreed upon methodological framework
- Undertake reviews to narratives based on feedback from project partners, storytelling expert and scientific committee
- Undertake reviews based on roundtable with representatives of civil society groups.

Knowledge, Competencies, and Skills

The consultant shall have:

- PhD in History or related field such as political studies, sociology, or anthropology with a focus on the Lebanese Civil War. Alternatively, a MA and 5 years of experience conducting research on the Lebanese civil war.
- Proven experience conducting research or working on 'Dealing with the Past' and/or Transitional Justice
- Experience working on the issue of the missing and disappeared and/or the port blast explosion are a plus.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is a must
- Ability to transmit complex information to non-specialist audience
- Adopts an evidence-based and non-partisan approach to research and writing

Deliverables and payments

Upon submission of the following deliverables, the consultant shall receive a total of 3500\$ for the services provided:

Phase 1: Methodological Framework

- Submission of workplan and methodology, including an introduction linking project objectives with dealing with the past

Phase 2: Research and narratives

- Submission of narratives of first 4 sites in accordance with agreed upon methodological framework

Phase 3: Research and narratives

- Submission of narratives of 4 sites in accordance with agreed upon methodological framework

Phase 4: Research and narratives

- Submission of narratives of remaining 3 sites and a brief conclusion in accordance with agreed upon methodological framework

Phase 5: Revisions and final drafts

- Conduct revisions and submit final drafts of 11 sites in accordance with feedback from validation process and project partners

APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Applicants should send a detailed CV, a writing sample and a cover letter, in English, with the

subject "Legacy of the Past bus Tour" to the following e-mail addresses:
dsmaira@actforthedisappeared.com and mghandour@actforthedisappeared.com

The deadline for submission is November 9, 2024.