

UKRI Gender Equality Statement Guidance

The Global Challenges Research Fund and the Newton Fund

Both the [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) (GCRF) and the [Newton Fund](#) are part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment, which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the [OECD Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#) list and is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

UK aid is governed by the International Development Act 2002¹, which requires that aid must be “likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender”. Therefore, activities funded through GCRF and the Newton Fund must adhere.

What is Gender and Gender Equality?

While sex is biologically determined, gender is socially and culturally defined, meaning gender is not necessarily fixed and can change². This can cause differences in understanding and experiences of gender across different countries, cultures and contexts. UN Women defines gender as the ‘social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female’ and the relationships between men, women, girls and boys³. Although men and women represent the most common genders, it is becoming increasingly common to think beyond gender binaries.

Gender equality means that people of different genders should have equal rights and entitlements to human, social, economic and cultural development and an equal voice in civil and political rights⁴. However, equality does not mean that everyone has to be the same. For example, women and others have the right to define for themselves the objectives of development and to seek outcomes which are not necessarily identical to those sought and enjoyed by men. The aim of better compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act is to ensure that inequality is not perpetuated; that the different rights and needs of all genders are recognised and addressed; and that people of different genders share the benefits of research and innovation projects.

Gender Equality Statements

¹ The Newton Fund is directly governed by the Act. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) opted not to use the International Development Act as its spending power. Instead, the Science and Technology Act and Higher Education Act form the legal bases for GCRF expenditure. BEIS nonetheless stresses that the objective of the GCRF is to maximise development impact, as per the International Development Act.

² Department for International Development, 2008, *The Gender Manual*, accessed 10.01.2019
<<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/dfid-gender-manual-2008.pdf>>, p.51

³ UN Women, *Concepts and definitions*, accessed 10.01.2019,
<<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>>

⁴ Department for International Development, 2008, *The Gender Manual*, accessed 10.01.2019
<<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/dfid-gender-manual-2008.pdf>>, pg 9

It will be mandatory for all applications to UK Research and Innovation GCRF and Newton Fund calls announced and published after the **1st April 2019** to provide a Gender Equality Statement. This statement must outline how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act. This should be no longer than one page, and should be attached as a 'non-UK component' through Je-S*. It is expected that some projects will have less impact on gender and gender relations and professional judgement of the applicants should be exercised to ensure appropriate consideration of the context and intended aims of the project. You are able to reference other parts of your application within this statement, if relevant. **Applicants are required to address the below criteria**, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria that must be addressed while considering gender impact:

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and the beneficiaries of the research.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

*For Innovate UK, separate guidance will be created for applicants on how to submit Gender Equality Statements.

Sufficient responses

A sufficient Gender Equality Statement will provide sufficient answers to outlined criteria questions the applicant is required to address. They will show that the applicants have proportionately and meaningfully considered how their project is likely to reduce inequalities between persons of different gender throughout the design of the project, implementation of the project and impact. They will acknowledge where there is potential for direct or indirect impact on people of different genders as a result of their project, should it be funded. UK Research and Innovation realises some projects may have less impact on gender and gender relations. In such case, applicants should also thoroughly justify when they believe their project will have minimal impact on gender equality and why. Rather than focusing solely on women, a sufficient Gender Equality Statement will identify how it can enhance inclusion of all genders within a community.

Due regard should be given to the specifics of the proposed research and/or innovation and, therefore, the statement must be tailored according and thus the length and depth of analysis of the project must be adjusted in each case.

A Gender Equality Statement will be deemed insufficient if it does not address all required criteria (with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research, not all questions will be applicable). A Gender Equality Statement may also be deemed insufficient if it does not show how applicants have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act.

Assessment^{†**}

Initial Gender Equality Statement checks will be carried out by UK Research and Innovation; statements which do not meet eligibility as defined in this document (i.e. an insufficient statement is provided), may be returned for amendment before the Peer Review stage. UKRI reserves the right to reject a proposal where the Gender Equality Statement has not been sufficiently considered with no attempt to address the criteria above.

Gender Equality Statements will be shared with external peer reviewers if the application goes through to the Peer Review stage. Reviewers will not be required to comment on the Gender Equality Statement when submitting their review, but will be able to view the document and comment should they wish. However, Panellists will be asked to comment on the appropriateness of the applicants Gender Equality statement as part of the assessment criteria.

The Panel should take the strength of the Gender Equality Statement into consideration when scoring the proposal. In cases where this demonstrates insufficient consideration of gender equality, a potential barrier to delivering impact, and/or if there is potential for the proposed research and innovation to exacerbate inequalities, the panel's score should be reduced to reflect this. Should the Panel consider that has been appropriately considered within the proposal, but the Gender Equality Statement is insufficient, it is at the Panels discretion to make funding conditional on a sufficient revised Gender Equality Statement being submitted.

If you would like more information on this, please contact genderequality@ukri.org and the contact within the call document.

^{**}For Innovate UK, the above assessment process will be amended to fit with Innovate UK's existing processes.