

# Change Makers Funding Programme – technical support and peer learning

## *Call for proposals for a Change Makers learning partner*

### **Executive Summary**

Comic Relief's Change Makers programme is supporting a cohort of 20 funded partners who are making significant contributions to their sector in the wake of Covid-19. Organisations and partnerships across the UK will work across Comic Relief's four social change themes, supported by funding which runs for 3 to 5 years.

Comic Relief is seeking proposals from eligible organisations, or partnerships of organisations, to work with our Change Makers funded partners to provide technical support and facilitate peer learning on both how to make change happen and how to monitor and evaluate social change. The learning partner will work with Comic Relief and the Change Makers funded partners to build their capacity, explore the wider learning potential from the programme and help us achieve the following objectives:

1. To articulate the wider social change and changes to policy and practice that funded partners are trying to achieve
2. To build, share and use knowledge and skills to deliver change
3. To develop and use appropriate MEL tools to measure change
4. To articulate the change achieved (and/or identify the barriers to achieving it)

The successful learning partner will have the opportunity to influence and enhance the systems change the programme aims to make, which will likely align with their own organisational mission. Comic Relief will make £350,000 available over 5 years. We estimate that 25-30% of this will be earmarked for support to Change Maker funded partners for expenses to participate in learning activities. This funding will be made as a single grant, paid in instalments, to support charitable purposes. Applicant organisations must be third sector / charitable organisation(s) with a social purpose. Applicants must also have an annual income of between £250,000 and £10 million, as per our eligibility criteria: <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/eligibility-criteria/>.

Comic Relief recognises the breadth of scope of this call for proposals and welcomes proposals from single applicants or partnerships that are capable of meeting the grant objectives. In the case of partnerships, one organisation must be the lead applicant and assume overall responsibility for delivery, spending and compliance.

Written applications will close on 20th August 2021. Following assessment and due diligence checks, the grant will be awarded by the end of November 2021.

### **Background to the Change Makers Programme**

Comic Relief's Change Makers programme looks to the future to make bigger change. We are working with organisations that are making a significant contribution to their sector by forging new ways of working in the wake of COVID-19, contributing evidence that moves things forward, collaborating across sectors and advocating and campaigning for change.

We asked applicants to propose work that is for more than their organisation or their direct beneficiaries. This could include, for example:

- working with others directly in partnership
- creating shared learning, evidence, research
- producing and sharing evidence of effective models of working
- working with others to model new ways of working

The contribution can be to any forum or area that feels appropriate, for example:

- enhance local authority commissioning, or provide a cross-sectoral response to issues in a local area
- shift the understanding within a sector on an issue, model, approach
- influence communities, charities or the public sector to be more responsive and effective
- shift policy or legislation, or public attitudes

We have funded 20 Change Makers funded partners, large and small, national and local. This includes organisations led by and for communities experiencing racial inequalities, one of the priorities of this funding programme. Some of these organisations have in turn partnered with others, representing 43 organisations in total that will be working across all of Comic Relief's social change themes: Children Survive and Thrive – early childhood development; Gender Justice; Mental Health; Safe Place to Be – Forced Migration; and Safe Place to Be – Shelter.

Change Makers funded partners have set out some big goals, change pathways and interim outcomes that they expect to see along the way. Their funding runs for between three to five years, allowing partners flexibility to be continually responsive to their changing contexts and extend or amend their plans as necessary. We anticipate there will still be value in the learning partner to continue to support funded partners for a short time beyond the end of their funding, particularly to ensure the learning can be synthesised.

More detail on each Change Makers funded partner is given in Annex 1.

### **Purpose and Intended Audience of the technical support and peer learning**

The objectives of this grant are to ensure that Change Makers funded partners can:

- Articulate the wider social change and changes to policy and practice they are trying to achieve
- Build, share and use knowledge and skills to deliver wider social change
- Develop and use appropriate MEL tools to measure wider social change
- Demonstrate the change they have achieved (or explain why it has not been achieved)

Comic Relief is looking for an eligible organisation, or partnership of organisations, to work with us and the Change Makers funded partners to help achieve these objectives and explore the wider learning potential from the programme. We envisage two broad areas of exploration: learning about how to make change happen; and learning about how to monitor and evaluate social change. The successful learning partner will have the opportunity to influence and enhance the systems change the programme aims to make, which will likely align with their own organisational mission.

The audience for this work is Comic Relief and the Change Makers funded partners, but we also intend that both the successful learning partner and Comic Relief will share this learning with the sector more widely, with other Comic Relief funded partners, with other funders and wider public audiences.

## Rationale and Learning Questions

Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) for service delivery will be more familiar to some of our funded partners than MEL for wider social change, which requires different ways of setting outcomes with measurable indicators, uses different methodologies for gathering and validating evidence and learning, and different ways of attributing change. There is a need to support funded partners at different stages of working on wider social change efforts. In addition, given the complexity of the issues on which they focus, some Change Makers funded partners are still exploring the wider social changes they expect to bring about. It can be difficult to identify longer term outcomes at the outset and defining these during implementation can be an important part of the journey. Some of the funded partners may benefit from support to refine their change making approaches (such as campaigning or influencing local authority commissioning). The successful learning partner might achieve this through use of existing resources, inviting external expertise, or facilitating learning with peers. The successful learning partner will provide a supportive learning environment for peer and expert support for Change Makers funded partners to keep thinking about their change efforts, strengthening this work as their efforts are rolled out, and as they monitor and evaluate their individual and collective efforts.

In June 2021, Comic Relief held a short participatory exercise with Change Maker funded partners where they were able to discuss and explore some potential key learning questions. These are not definitive, but illustrate some of the learning aspirations of funded partners:

### 1. Learning about how to make change happen

- Influencing wider change – how to best use evidence to influence policy; how to translate national policy change into measurable local impact; how to achieve and communicate ‘change to systems’ into ‘change for people’.
- Putting people with lived experience at the heart of change-making – how to meaningfully engage and consult with the target group in creative ways; how to test services for feedback; how to create spaces where equity and inclusion are honoured; how to redress real and perceived power imbalances.
- Collaboration – how to leverage partnerships for change; how to navigate challenges including lack of time and virtual working; how to remain beneficiary-led when working with diverse collaborative partners.

### 2. Learning about how to monitor and evaluate social change

- Attributing social change to our efforts – how to measure the success of campaigning; how to quantify political engagement; how to evidence attribution or contribution (both in defining outcomes and acknowledging contribution of others); how to track transformative institutional change.
- Communicating change efforts and results – how to communicate complex systems change concisely and in an engaging manner.
- Technical approaches to measurement – how to define realistic and meaningful outcomes and indicators; how to use appropriate and robust methodologies to measure social change; how to include people with lived experience alongside data and evidence.

## Approach and Methodology

Your proposal will set out how you intend to meet the grant objectives and align with the phases and activities outlined below:

We suggest that the Changemakers learning partner works initially in two phases:

- Phase 1: work with Change Maker funded partners on technical MEL support, including identification of potential shared / cohort level outcomes.
  - While some Funded partners within Change Makers will know what they want to achieve and have indicators for this, others will need more support and the successful learning partner may identify shared / cohort level means to measuring change.
  - This can be used as a basis for Change Makers funded partners to complete their Comic Relief Funding Overview Form (FOF) from approximately January/February 2022. The FOF then becomes the basis of annual reporting and grant management for Change Makers funded partners throughout the grant.
- Phase 2: the successful learning partner will transition to other MEL and learning needs of the Change Maker funded partners. For example:
  - Playing a convening role across the cohort, bringing Change Maker funded partners together in person/remotely to share learning about how change happens; what works and what doesn't in the UK; reviewing change and impact across the cohort.
  - More detail about Phase 2 focus and approaches will become clear after working with Change Maker funded partners on their needs during Phase 1.

This table shows the key MEL activities for Change Maker funded partners and some key activities the successful learning partner will need to consider:

Phase	Change Maker funded partner role	Change Maker learning partner role
1.Startup (Oct/Nov)  (Nov-Jan)  (Jan/Feb)	-start up, recruitment, planning  -Work with Learning Partner to define learning and technical support needs -submit FOF to Comic Relief	-Assess the technical support and MEL needs of funded partners -Deliver learning and technical support activities to meet the identified needs -Report intended outcomes and measurement methods
2.Implementation (Feb'22 onwards)  (Annually)	Participate in learning opportunities  Report in relation to intended outcomes and activities	-Create and deliver learning opportunities to meet identified needs through participation with Funded partners

The successful learning partner will also need to take into account principles of impartiality, respect for people, transparency, privacy, accountability and professional objectivity throughout the technical learning and peer support process.

### Grant Management

The grant will be managed by Comic Relief's Evidence and Learning team who will provide key documentation (Change Maker funded partners applications, annual reports and final evaluations and any other relevant documents). They will also be available to review progress, provide input to specific outputs and agree revisions to planned activities throughout the grant.

### Grant Value

Comic Relief will make £350,000 available over 5 years. We estimate that 25-30% of this will be earmarked for use by Change Maker funded partners to support their travel and expenses to participate in learning activities. The successful learning partner will be expected to manage these funds and should include this in the proposal budget.

Please note that this funding is not in consideration for any taxable supply for VAT purposes and Comic Relief will not pay any amounts in respect of VAT in addition to the funding (see Eligibility section below).

### **Eligibility**

The lead organisation will be the grant holder and must meet the following eligibility criteria (for partnership proposals, other organisations will be included as formal partners):

- Be a third sector / charitable organisation – this funding will be made as a grant to support charitable purposes (advancement of education and public benefit), so the successful learning partner must be eligible to receive a grant from us. Funds will be allocated using a legally binding conditions of grant funding, not a contract for services, such that the funding is not in consideration for any taxable supply for VAT purposes and Comic Relief will not pay any amounts in respect of VAT in addition to the Funding.
- Have an annual income of between £250,000 and £10 million.
- Be based and registered in the United Kingdom.

For more detail on eligibility, including further details on partner organisation eligibility, please see our website [here](#).

Please note, if you intend to engage an organisation that does not meet the eligibility requirements (a private provider or consultancy), they cannot be a partner, but may be included as a contractor with sufficient justification. You would need to send Comic Relief their terms and conditions before engaging them, and we may require amendments to these terms and conditions.

The selected grant-holder will be expected to comply with Comic Relief's [Safeguarding Framework](#) and Safeguarding [Code of Conduct](#).

### **Applicant Profile and Competencies**

The successful learning partner will:

- Have relevant experience in delivering high quality remote learning convenings / networks;
- Have experience in facilitating learning and participatory processes to validate and integrate research findings into actions;
- Have experience of providing technical monitoring and evaluation support to charities, specifically those focused on achieving systems change;
- Be able to clearly and accessibly communicate findings and recommendations to a variety of audiences and stakeholders;
- Have experience of procuring or partnering with other organisations where specialist / additional expertise is required;

### **Application process**

Proposals must be submitted by 9am (BST) on **August 20<sup>th</sup>** to [evaluationandlearning@comicrelief.com](mailto:evaluationandlearning@comicrelief.com) with the subject "Proposal for Change Makers Learning Partner – [your name or organisation]". Any applications received after this time will not be considered.

If you have any questions on this call for proposals or the application process, please email [evaluationandlearning@comicrelief.com](mailto:evaluationandlearning@comicrelief.com) by **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August** and we will provide FAQ responses on **Friday August 14<sup>th</sup>**.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that their proposal is complete and meets the requirements laid out in this call for proposals. Please ensure that you have read and fully understand the requirements as failure to comply may lead to your proposal being rejected.

Proposals will need to include demonstration of the following (5 pages of A4 max):

1. Experience in relation to the scope of this funding call
2. A description of the suggested approach and methodology for achieving the objectives of the grant, including how you anticipate the work aligns with your own organisational mission.
3. Team composition, roles and responsibilities
4. The name and contact details for two independent referees.

Annexes should include:

1. A budget that covers how you intend to spend the grant over each of the 5 years, including a breakdown of any sub-granting/procurement you propose, and an estimated breakdown of the 25-30% of funds intended to support Change Makers funded partners with incurred expenses.
2. CVs of relevant team members (max. 2 pages per person)
3. Two examples of relevant, previous work (ideally of a comparable nature/scale)
4. Completed submission checklist in annex 2

### Selection process

We anticipate a two-stage selection process:

1. We will review initial applications for their eligibility and proposed approach and create a shortlist of applicants that to be invited to further assessment.
  - a. All applicants will be notified of the outcome by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August**.
2. **By noon (BST) on 10<sup>th</sup> September**, shortlisted applicants will be asked to upload the following documentation:
  - a. Your most recent set of annual accounts
  - b. Your most recent set of management accounts
  - c. Constitution and/or Memorandum and Articles of Association
  - d. Safeguarding Policy or other policies relating to the safety and protection of beneficiaries, staff and others connected with your work
  - e. Diversity/equal opportunities policy
  - f. Any other documents that may be relevant

At this point, shortlisted applicants will also be asked to provide further information in relation to:

- g. Organisation details (including basic details for all organisations in a partnership applications)
- h. If you are applying in a partnership, the lead applicant must undertake a Partner Financial and Compliance Assessment for each partner. The format can be found [here](#).
- i. Further information about your organisation's approaches to safeguarding and the safety and welfare of people connected with your work.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to discuss their proposals as part of our grant assessment process, which will likely take place during the week of **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will share written feedback with each shortlisted applicant before this discussion.

We anticipate that final decisions will be communicated following grant approval by our Social Impact Committee **by November at the latest**.

Comic Relief, at its sole discretion will select the successful proposal and shall be free to:

- Accept the whole, or part only, of any submission
- Accept none of the proposals
- Republish this funding call

**Processing your data**

Please let us know if you would like us to keep your personal details in our database for future reference. We will process your personal data according to the UK data protection law (the General Data Protection Regulation). If you want to know more about how we will use it, please refer to our [Privacy Notice](#) on our website.



## Annex 1: Change Makers funded partner project details

Proposal Name	Location of work	Short summary of work
<b>Global Mental Health</b>		
Autism AIM Yorkshire	Yorkshire	The autism-led AIM project will work with existing partners, to improve local NHS and community responses, as well as support groups to help autistic people improve their own mental wellbeing.
Journey of Hope: Transforming BME migrant women's mental health.	London	The vision is to create a lasting change in the effectiveness of mental health services for BME migrant women.
Therapeutic Intervention For Peace (TIP)	London	The aim is to have culturally competent services co-designed with 'BAME' young people and others focused on better mental health and ultimately reduced violence.
#YoungAndBlack Changemakers	England	Young people from racialised communities to reimagine the mental health support they need.
<b>Children Surviving and Thriving – Early Childhood Development</b>		
Transforming early education for children with SEND by building inclusion	England	Empower early years practitioners to deliver inclusive practices, and upskill them through training and shared information and learning resources, to create an additional 6,900 early years special education needs and disability places across 30 local authorities.
Kinship Campaigners	England and Wales	Work with kinship carers across England and Wales to raise awareness, influence policy and campaign for rights of carers
See, Hear, ACT! - Helping young children and their mums survive and thrive	Northern Ireland	To improve the lives of young children aged 0-5 years who live in homes affected by domestic abuse in Northern Ireland.
Starting Strong - addressing inequalities facing marginalised mothers and babies	London	To help support early child development and strengthen relationships between children and their mum, and the mum and their peer supporter (Maternity Mate).
<b>Safe Place To Be - Shelter</b>		
Building a network of change-makers towards ending homelessness with evidence	UK wide	Embedding evidence-based working across the sector, and scaling 'communities' of leaders, practitioners and people with lived experience who are committed to evidence-based ways of working towards ending homelessness in the UK.
ListenUp!	England	Seeks to end homelessness by tackling health inequalities experienced by homeless people and effect change with



		the commissioners of health services by harnessing the lived experience of people experiencing homelessness
Building the Nation of Sanctuary - A Joined Up Approach	Wales	To reduce the risk of refugees becoming destitute and homeless when granted leave to remain and to support those going through the immigration system
<b>Safe Place To Be – Forced Migration</b>		
Refugee Integration: Connecting Innovation to Policy in Bristol and Beyond	South West England	Provide annual data and evidence of the state of refugee and asylum integration; influence refugee integration policy and service practice that will improve the integration process and outcomes for refugees; deepen working relationships between statutory institutions and the refugee sector; improve joined up approaches to policy and service provision and access to funding for the refugee sector
Scaling Deep: Leading Transformational Change from the Margins	UK wide	142 migrant and refugee Lived Experience Leaders will apply their lived and practice expertise to address social issues faced by the communities they serve
Step Change	England	Members of the wider community and detention survivors walk together and share their conversations more widely through different forms of media to call for change. Aims to change policy and ultimately end detention
Identifying and supporting victims of trafficking and organised immigration	South East England	Work with Border Police, Police, immigration and other professionals to assist in identifying vulnerable migrants and victims of slavery and gathering evidence or best practice, and support vulnerable migrants and victims of slavery to access the specialist support they need to stay safe
Cross Borders	Scotland	Work with refugee artists, the arts and cultural sector in Scotland and refugee organisations to work towards refugee and migrants living meaningful lives as well as shaping Scottish cultural and social life
<b>Gender Justice</b>		
Full Time Fierce: young working-class women making change	Manchester	RECLAIM and The Pankhurst Trust will work to include the voice of young working-class women in social movements and grass roots campaigning. They will train and support 75 young women aged 15-21 (25 women per year) from across Greater Manchester.
NO Recourse NO Safety: Changing Narrative & Evidencing Impact of NRPF on VAWG	UK wide	Working nationwide, partners will build a unique sector evidence base and model to evidence the change that is needed and ensure all women, regardless of migration status, have access to safety.

Call to Action - Friends, Family and Community	North East England	Working in the North East, to build capacity in services and communities by empowering significant others to take a central role in the protection and prevention agenda for victims of domestic abuse
Local Data Project and core funding	UK wide	As well as core funding to support the continuation of their work, this funding will enable the Group to work in-depth with local women in towns and cities across the country to learn how to access and analyse available data.

## Appendix 2: Checklist for your proposal

Please attach this checklist to your submission.

	<b>I have read the Comic Relief grant eligibility criteria: <a href="https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/eligibility-criteria/">https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/eligibility-criteria/</a> and confirm that:</b>
	1. The organisation type is eligible to receive a charitable grant
	2. The organisation income is between £250,000 and £10m
	3. The organisation is based in the United Kingdom

	<b>The submission includes the following documents:</b>
	1. A proposal of no more than 5 sides A4
	2. A budget
	3. CVs of relevant team members
	4. 2 examples of previous relevant work

	<b>I confirm that the following documents are/will be available for review if I am shortlisted for assessment (you do not need to submit them at this stage):</b>
	1. Most recent set of annual accounts
	2. Most recent set of management accounts
	3. Constitution and/or Memorandum and Articles of Association
	4. Safeguarding policy
	5. Diversity/equal opportunities policy
	6. Organisation information