



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Project Goal: The Solidarity Center seeks to partner with a professional social science research organization that will compile qualitative data and conduct quantitative research on three to five international cities, this year, to compare the ability of platform (app-based) workers to support themselves and their families based on the actual cost of rent, food and other essentials.

I. Background

- A. The Solidarity Center is the largest U.S.-based international worker rights organization helping workers attain safe and healthy workplaces, family-supporting wages, dignity on the job, widespread democracy and greater equity at work and in their community. Allied with the AFL-CIO, the Solidarity Center assists workers across the globe as, together, they fight discrimination, exploitation and the systems that entrench poverty—to achieve shared prosperity in the global economy.
- B. The Solidarity Center acts on the fundamental principle that working people can, by exercising their right to freedom of association and forming trade unions and democratic worker rights organizations, collectively improve their jobs and workplaces, call on their governments to uphold laws and protect human rights, and be a force for democracy, social justice, and inclusive economic development.
 - a) Based in Washington, D.C., our professional staff of nearly 300 people works in 60-plus countries with more than 900 partners including 500 trade unions, worker associations, and community groups to provide a wide range of education, training, research, legal support, and other resources to help build strong and effective trade unions and more just and equitable societies. Our programs focus on human and worker rights awareness, union skills, occupational safety and health, economic literacy, human trafficking, women’s empowerment, and bolstering workers in an increasingly informal economy. Solidarity Center programs support and contribute to the global movement for labor rights.
 - b) Founded in 1997, the Solidarity Center receives funding from public and private sources. The most recent list can be found in our annual report.

II. Project Overview

A. The Issue to Be Examined

1. Around the world, many workers are paid a wage that is far below the minimum necessary to meet their families' needs. For workers to advocate and bargain for fair wages, they need reliable empirical data and analysis to support their efforts to secure livable wages through their governments—for instance, in establishing higher minimum wage rates—or in bargaining with employers.



- B. Scope of Project (multi-year)

The Solidarity Center seeks to produce a series of short reports, each on a specific type of low-wage worker. In the first year, which this RFP covers, the report series will focus on platform / app-based workers.
 - C. Goal for Reports
 1. Research results will support workers' and unions' efforts to achieve a wage that enables them to live with dignity. The study of wages and purchasing power for a single group of workers, such as platform workers, likely will expose predatory practices and disparities among workers with similar employers and so support advocacy efforts with government, employers, and consumers.
- III. Project Deliverables
- A. Creation of three to five short reports based on data collected in three to five cities. The reports (eight to 12 pages each, including text and charts) will be modeled on the Solidarity Center study, [The High Cost of Low Wages in Haiti](#).
The report will include:
 1. Pricing tables
 2. Worker stories (gathered by the Solidarity Center and/or the researcher with direction from the Solidarity Center)
- IV. Methodology
- The research will provide reliable and comparable data on wages and living conditions for platform workers through an analysis of pricing data for a specific basket of goods vis-a-vis platform workers' wages. The Solidarity Center report, [The High Cost of Low Wages in Haiti](#) provides a model. This work, which will not involve travel but be conducted online, will include:
- A. Desk research using available resources, including government data, to determine the cost of living and purchasing power parity and analyze local economic/regulatory factors and pricing of a common basket of goods and services. Data-driven support for determining a specific basket of goods, services, and expenditures (e.g., food, potable water, clothing, transportation, school fees, rent) comparable across the countries selected.
 - B. Drafting of a common questionnaire for us with all worker cohorts.
 - C. In-person worker interviews, facilitated by the Solidarity Center.
 - D. Worker-driven research that ensures workers' input and experience is front and center.
- V. Target Geographies/Demographics
- A. The initial focus will be a city in:
 - a) Kosovo



- b) Nigeria
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Thailand
- e) Palestine

VI. Participant Criteria

- A. Platform / app-based workers representing a balance of gender and, where applicable, ethnicity, migration status, and other intersectional factors.

VII. Project Timeline

- A. Final project due date – as completed, by December 31, 2022.

VIII. Budget

- A. Projected budget: \$50,000

IX. Proposals

- A. Prospective project awardees will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - 1. Previous experience and past performance history
 - 2. Samples and/or case studies from previous projects
 - 3. Experience and technical expertise
 - 4. Familiarity with labor rights issues in general and the work environment of app-based workers in particular, and previous research in the Global South a plus

- B. Proposal Submission Requirements

Those interested in submitting a proposal must adhere to the following guidelines for consideration:

- 1. Submit short proposals by August 26, 2022
- 2. Include a sample of related past work

- C. Submission:

- 1. Please send inquiries or proposals to:
Kate Conradt, communications director
Solidarity Center
kconradt@solidaritycenter.org

- D. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.