

# Grant Application Info Pack - 2024

Thank you for your interest in applying for SolidariTee funding. This pack is intended to provide all the information you need in order to understand your organisation's eligibility and complete an application, so please review it thoroughly before submitting.

If you have any questions about this application cycle or any feedback that you would like to share, please contact CEO Alexa Netty via [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk)

## About SolidariTee

SolidariTee is a charity led and run entirely by volunteers who are students and young people. We exist to further lasting, dignified forms of support to refugees, asylum seekers, and other people forced to flee their homes or migrate in vulnerable situations.

We do this by providing funding and other forms of support to local and national NGOs, as well as through our education and awareness raising activities such as conferences and speaker events.

We currently have over 200 volunteers across student teams at 24 universities, who organise events to raise awareness and to fundraise, as well as selling our t-shirts, or SolidariTees. The vast majority of the funding we're able to provide comes from our student volunteer activity.

We primarily support grassroots NGOs working in Greece. Our mission more specifically with our grants is to **bridge the gap between legal aid and mental health support** to provide lasting, empowering forms of support to clients navigating the asylum system.

## About our previous grant cycles

Since SolidariTee was set up, we have provided more than £400,000 in grant funding, and have worked with 15 partner NGOs. In 2023, we specifically shifted our focus to include trauma informed approaches to legal aid, with a focus on bridging the gap between legal and mental health support. You can read more about this in our [previous grant cycle information pack](#) - please note dates & deadlines are not applicable, as this is a past document.

# About this grant cycle

## Available Funding

In this grant cycle, SolidariTee is pleased to be able to provide funding in both 2024 and 2025, across two funding streams.

### **Funding stream 1: one-year funding (open to all eligible organisations)**

This funding will be disbursed in 2024, and will consist of £10,000 - £15,000 grants awarded to each organisation. We anticipate selecting 2 or 3 organisations to receive this funding. Organisations who have never been funded by SolidariTee will be considered without bias alongside organisations who have previously received grant funding.

### **Funding stream 2: two-year funding**

This funding will be disbursed in late 2024 and 2025, and will consist of £40,000 - £60,000 grants awarded to each organisation across the whole period. We anticipate selecting 2 or 3 organisations to receive this funding.

**Only organisations who SolidariTee has already supported in the past will be eligible to apply for the 2-year funding.** We are trialling this as a form of 'NGO passporting' which will allow less repetitive application processes and bureaucracy for all parties in accessing renewed funding, and hope to roll this out more widely.

In total, we anticipate providing approximately £100,000 in 2024 and 2025, but this is subject to change depending on the composition of selected partners.

## Eligibility Criteria

Organisations are eligible to apply for funding if they meet **all** of the below **essential criteria**:

1. Currently operating in any region of **Greece** (mainland or islands)
2. Working in a way that supports people to access and enjoy their rights in the **long-term, and which bridges the gap between legal aid and mental health support**
3. Providing one or more of the following services as a substantial part of their work:
  - a. **Legal aid in relation to the asylum processes** - this could include interview preparation, appeals, family reunification procedures
  - b. **Legal advice relating to other challenges** that affect forcibly displaced people and people forced to migrate in vulnerable situations - this could include residence permits, travel documents, ID card renewal, and support to those in immigration detention
  - c. **Information sessions** relating to the legal process
  - d. Provision of **mental health support** through 1:1 or group sessions, in a way that is **explicitly linked** to supporting people within the asylum process
  - e. Provision of **translation, interpretation and cultural mediation** services, in a way that is **explicitly linked** to supporting people through the asylum process
  - f. **Training or capacity building and bridging** to organisations providing legal aid and/or mental health support in the Greek context
  - g. **Advocacy, research or learning** activities relating to the asylum and migration context in Greece and the wider region
4. Able to demonstrate that they work in a [trauma-informed](#) manner.
5. Able to demonstrate that they have **robust safeguarding mechanisms** in place to protect their clients and team members, and know how to appropriately implement them.
6. Able to demonstrate **effective cooperation and collaboration** with other local actors
7. Able to demonstrate strong [accountability to affected people](#) and communities
8. Able to demonstrate strong learning and continuous improvement processes (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning = [MEAL](#) processes)

## Further guidance on eligibility

**Budget:** We have not set limits on an organisation's overall income and expenditure levels, but we would remind organisations that SolidariTee commonly provides between £15,000 - £30,000 per year, so organisations should ensure that this amount will make a meaningful difference to the organisation.

**Restriction:** Wherever possible, we prefer to provide unrestricted funding, which can be used for core costs including salaries. Where only part of an organisation's work falls under SolidariTee's remit, we may restrict the funding to only those elements of your work which are more directly relevant to our mission (see example 2 - NGO B below on page 5).

**Guidance for legal aid NGOs:** We do NOT require that you have an in-house psychologist or for all team members to be trained counsellors to be eligible for funding. However, we will be closely assessing applicants on *the extent to which the legal support they provide is trauma-informed*, and the efforts made to provide clients with appropriate mental health support, whether that be through internal policies or through external cooperation and referrals.

**Guidance for mental health and psychosocial NGOs:** We do NOT require that you have an in-house lawyer, especially if this would result in duplication of efforts, but we are looking for an *explicit connection and integration with the legal procedures that your clients are undertaking*, and with the legal actors supporting them. Examples could include providing written memos or supportive evidence for legal teams, or conducting specific preparation or debrief sessions following key legal processes.

**Exceptions:** if an organisation is not currently operating in Greece but intends to, or is working in another country but meets all of the remaining essential criteria, they are advised to contact [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk) to arrange a short meeting to discuss whether an exception can be made. Please do NOT submit an application without first discussing your proposal, as it will not be considered unless an exception is granted.

**Examples of eligible and ineligible activities:**

**Example 1:** NGO A operates a community centre where individuals are welcomed to participate in activities such as art, yoga, and mindfulness activities. They carry out these activities in isolation.

*Eligibility:* this project would unfortunately not be eligible for SolidariTee funding. Whilst we absolutely recognise the importance of holistic mental health and psychosocial interventions to promote wellbeing and a sense of community and support, we are focused on interventions which are connected to the asylum process itself.

**Example 2:** NGO B operates a community centre which organises language classes, but they wish to apply for funding for a part-time lawyer to join their team.

*Eligibility:* NGO B are eligible to apply for SolidariTee funding, but if they are successful, the funding would be restricted to their legal project only. However, this NGO would need to clearly demonstrate why they feel that this is the most effective way of supporting their clients with legal support, and explain why they don't feel able to collaborate with an existing legal aid NGO.

**Example 3:** NGO C operates a community centre where individuals are able to receive support from a psychologist, in addition to participating in art therapy sessions and receiving support in making and attending medical appointments. They work closely with a legal aid NGO, supporting the legal team in relation to the provision of evidence for shared clients' asylum claims, and organise sessions to specifically support and prepare clients both before and after legal milestones and meetings.

*Eligibility:* NGO C are eligible to apply for funding. They have clearly demonstrated how their intervention ties into their clients' ability to navigate the legal system and enjoy their fundamental rights in the longer-term.

# Application Process

The first step in the process will be to complete a written application form. This application form is centred around the 9 commitments contained within the [Core Humanitarian Standard](#).



**Dates & deadlines:** Written applications must be submitted by Friday 29th December.

After this time, shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview in the week commencing 8th or 15th January.

Decisions will be communicated by the end of January 2024.

## **Written application requirements**

You will need some information to hand about your organisation's annual budget, and income and expenditure over previous years. You will also be asked to upload copies of policies that you may have such as safeguarding, whistleblowing and complaints.

Organisations who don't have certain policies, or who are revising outdated policies will not necessarily be penalised for this, providing that valid reasons exist for not yet having these in place (such as being a brand new organisation, or realising that prior policies were unfit for purpose). Should an organisation be successful however, no funding will be disbursed until policies are deemed to be of the necessary standard - SolidariTee is happy to provide internal and external support should this be required.

## **Interview process**

Interviews will be held online, and will focus on any aspects of the written application which the grant committee would like further information on, as well as questions aimed at assessing:

- the organisation's implementation of trauma-informed approaches
- the organisation's real-world implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures
- the organisation's approach to evaluation, learning and continuous improvement, in collaboration with affected communities and clients

## **Selection panel**

The grant committee will be led by CEO Alexa Netty, in collaboration with a selection committee including both trustees and at least one external reviewer. Decisions will be made by consensus, and should conflicts of interest arise, relevant members of the selection committee may abstain from voting.

## Management response to feedback from prior grant cycles:

We are grateful to receive feedback from people who have applied for prior funding from SolidariTee, and actively solicit feedback from organisations who are both successful and unsuccessful in being awarded funding.

We have received a number of pieces of positive feedback about the process being clear, transparent, and respectful, for which we are appreciative. We seek to build on this by continuing to make explicit our vision and focus for our funding, and by ensuring that we continue to take the time to understand in detail the work done by each organisation.

Other pieces of feedback we have received include:

<b>Feedback for Improvement Received</b>	<b>Response &amp; Action Taken</b>
<p>The written application process takes a long time to complete.</p>	<p>We have reviewed and updated our application form this year with an aim of making it easier and more relevant to complete, and encourage applicants to spend up to two hours on the form. We are aware that applying for grants can be stressful, and emphasise that the purpose of the written application is for us to understand the eligibility and ethos of your work. The quality of writing is very much not assessed, and as long as brief thoughts (in bullet or note form) are provided for each question, you will not be penalised.</p> <p>We have also extended the window for applications slightly.</p> <p>If organisations find the form challenging for other accessibility reasons (language, IT requirements, reading &amp; writing difficulties), we encourage team members to reach out to find alternative ways of providing the information.</p> <p>We also encourage organisations to submit pre-existing documents, such as annual reports or applications written for other funding, where appropriate to supplement short answers - we will review all documents in detail.</p> <p>Finally, having reviewed criteria for other funding applications, along with humanitarian best practice, we do feel that many of the questions asked are essential, and that our application processes are still substantially shorter than many others.</p>



<p>Organisations of a small to medium size feel that they don't have the capacity to meet requirements relating to MEAL (monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning)</p>	<p>We have offered capacity building sessions in the past relating to MEAL, and will continue to do so again in future.</p> <p>We emphasise that we do not expect organisations to have teams of people working on these functions - we know all too well that budgets and capacity are often limited.</p> <p>However, we re-emphasise our interest in a <b>culture</b> of actively soliciting understanding about the impact of your work, and of continual reflection and improvement based on feedback from clients and affected communities. Being able to show how feedback is intentionally gained, and used, and how your strategy is led by the priorities and needs of those most impacted, is central to us. Whether this is achieved by simple processes or by more technical approaches is much less important to us.</p>
<p>Legal aid organisations felt confused as to whether they would be penalised for not having an in-house psychologist</p>	<p>We would like to clarify that legal organisations without a psychologist are certainly eligible to apply and won't be penalised for the lack of one, especially where this may not make sense in terms of management expertise or duplication of efforts. However, we are looking for an active effort to learn about and respond to the mental health needs and challenges of clients.</p> <p>We also partnered with AMERA International in 2023 to organise a free of charge 6-month course focused on 'trauma informed lawyering', which NGOs were eligible to participate in whether or not they were receiving SolidariTee funding.</p>

We welcome additional feedback, and are happy to answer any questions or concerns. If in doubt, we encourage organisations to reach out to discuss their work BEFORE spending time submitting a proposal.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Alexa Netty via [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk) in the first instance, who will respond within 5 working days.

We thank you for your interest in working with SolidariTee, and hope that you have found this document useful.