

Application: The City of Gothenburg

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2021 Global Mayors Challenge

Summary

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Select a language

Completed - 28 Jan 2021

Select a Language

Language of response

English

Complete application form

Completed - 17 Mar 2021

Application Form

I. Admin

Please enter the Unique City ID we shared in the email with your application link:

3.172.1

Challenge Requirements:

1. Due to the ongoing global pandemic, we anticipate that the majority, if not all, of the Mayors Challenge will run completely online. Please confirm that you have all the necessary tools, connectivity, and software to participate in this challenge virtually.

Basic requirements include:

High-speed internet access	Yes
Access to computers/mobile phones, including audio and video capabilities	Yes

2. The Champion City phase will require each member of the project team to dedicate 8 hours per week for 4 months. To ensure your full participation, can you confirm that your team will be able to meet the time commitments?

Yes

Applicant Information:

3. Please write the name of your Mayor (or Chief Executive/Governor/City Leader)

Mr. Axel Josefsson

4. Is your city leader elected?

Yes

5. If your city leader is elected, please list the date of their next election. In "Other Details", please list if your current leader is eligible for re-election, and if they plan to run. Please note any other anticipated transitions in leadership.

Date of the election (MM/DD/YYYY)	09/11/2022
Other details	Yes he will run for the next election

Primary Contact Information:

6. Who will be the primary contact person for this project? Please provide their first and last name, role, office, email address, and phone number.

First name	Louise
Last name	Stiernström
Role	Developing Manager International Affairs
Office	The Administration for Social welfare Centrum
Email address	louise.stiernstrom@socialcentrum.goteborg.se
Phone number (include country code)	+46702438731

7. Does the primary contact report directly to the Mayor/City Leader's office?

No

8. If not, please explain the organizational structure and relationships of the primary contact's department to the Mayor's office.

The City of Gothenburg is divided into professional administrations based on various thematic issues. Such as social welfare, elderly care, disabilities, and more. The Administration of social welfare (Centrum) has the task from the city council, to work with social development, education and implementation of long-term social programs. The chairman for the political committee in this administration is also a deputy mayor and representing the same political party as the Mayor and they are both members of the city council.

The City Council provides the annual budget for the social administrations and the GD reports to the political committee.

II. Vision

Pitch Your Idea:

9. Tell us about the problem facing your city and how your idea addresses it. Include specific examples and data.

Domestic violence is not just a threat to the direct or indirect victims, but for the whole society. The City of Gothenburg has worked to educate, counteract and offer measures against domestic violence and honor-related violence.

During the covid-19 pandemic, everyday life for our residents has been extremely isolated and with isolation at home; frustration, conflicts, and the risk for violence increases. During 2020 we've seen 18 % more cases for adults at the social services compared to 2019, which can be an effect of the pandemic. Number of contacts has increased at the NGOs helplines and chat forums. Early in the pandemic the city launched an information campaign, to make it easier for residents to find the way to help and support.

The long-term social negative effect of the pandemic has only just begun and the work against domestic violence must strengthen. Efforts need to be made to reach out to those who we can assume, of various reasons, never will get in contact with the social services for help. More information about the extent and structure of the problem in our city is needed.

Domestic violence is a global issue and a challenge for many cities and communities.

10. Please select the theme that best captures your idea (select up to 2).

Responses Selected:

Health & Wellbeing

Equality & Good Governance

Define the Problem:

11. What is the problem you're trying to address? Include supporting data.

The pandemic has increased the risk of domestic violence. This is related to the socio-economic changes brought about by the pandemic, as well as family isolation, stress and poor mental health.

The social services cases have for adults increased by 18 % and for children with 2 % during 2020 compared to 2019. The social unrest makes children extra vulnerable. The pandemic makes it even harder to reach out to extra vulnerable groups exploited for domestic violence.

12. If it's a problem that existed prior to 2020, what, if any, past efforts has the city made to address this problem?

Efforts have been made to give all administrations working in the social field a structure, a toolkit and education in observing and addressing the matter of domestic violence in the meetings with residents. The City of Gothenburg implemented an activity plan for how to work to reduce and respond to domestic violence during 2014 - 2019. During 2020 we have a new activity plan for honor-related violence and the city council has a new activity plan for domestic violence ready for decision in the spring of 2021.

13. If the past effort was implemented, was it successful? Why or why not?

In our follow-up of the work against domestic violence, we have noted the following success factors:

- coordination
- skills development
- child- and family-oriented approach
- annual attention around Orange Day cross-sectoral in the city's administrations

The work concept with a child- and family-oriented approach has been a huge success factor. During 2020 Gothenburg's knowledge center of domestic and honor-related violence has educated 1923 employees in the city. The city districts have made local educations as well.

The covid-19 pandemic will lead us to a wider problem that we have to address with new tools.

14. Which residents in your city are most impacted by this problem and why? Please estimate the percentage of the sub-population impacted by this problem.

Most effected are women from all parts of the society but some groups may find themselves in a particularly vulnerable situation because of society's discrimination and marginalization. This may apply to LGBTQ people as well as younger and older women, women with disabilities, women in substance abuse or prostitution, or those with a foreign background.

In a national study (2014) 14 % women and 5 % men had been victims of physical domestic violence in a present or past relationship. If a person is victimized as a child, the risk of being a victim as an adult multiplies.

15. Understanding the problem begins with talking to those that are most affected. Please share brief quotes from three individuals (residents or other stakeholders) that demonstrate a need for addressing this specific problem.

1. "Many times you have often lived very isolated. You have no network. And then you do not have relatives that you can revisit. I do not have that. I have my mother who is not very alert and healthy. Or yes, she can help me to some extent. She lives miles away. I have no one else and that is how it looks to very many. Many of these men become very isolated with you. There is also one thing that... how to handle this really? I saw women who came from suicide attempts into the shelter. This is not at all strange. This is not always like a beautiful world. They come in one set of clothes. They have nothing."
2. "In February, my neighbors called the Police because they saw that I was beaten at home and heard screams and gaps and heard my daughter. And the police came home and arrested my husband and then I dropped the whole bomb. Something that I have denied. I mean I have not been beaten. And it's very sick like this afterwards, but that was it. Because I am well educated, I have a great job, I have good finances. I do not look like the person you think is being abused."
3. "I would like to talk about having to be at home now. Think it's hard. In ordinary cases I usually do not stay at home that much, and the feeling of not being able to go anywhere makes me stressed. I have kind of lost hope and feel quite depressed. It's always been noisy at home, and it's only getting worse now that everyone is at home." (BRIS, Children's Rights in Society)

16. Please describe both the quantitative and qualitative data you have used to understand the problem better. Explain briefly and share how this research has helped you refine your understanding.

The city follows national and local statistics annually to see trends in exposure to violence and reports of crime. When it comes to domestic violence and honor-related violence the assumptions are that hidden figures are huge, so we are careful not to draw conclusions only from the statistics. To really be able to comment on the vulnerability a local survey is needed, where questions are asked to our residents. We have a national survey from 2014 that we compare to the cases in our social services.

17. What is the current and long-term impact of this problem on the residents of your city? How did you quantify this impact? If the problem is not addressed, what will be the consequences?

Domestic violence affects our whole community in a very negative way. The victims of direct or indirect violence are likely to suffer from problems with their health, social inclusion, and participation in society. The domestic violence also generates costs for and pressure on public services that is measurable. Children that are exposed to violence during their childhood will be at risk for both being future perpetrators or victims themselves. The city must work with this problem from many perspectives to reach out and create a common awareness of the extent of this problem.

III. Innovation

Describe the Impact of your Idea:

18. Briefly describe your idea to address the problem.

The city needs a toolkit based on a self-assessment study with a wider group of citizens. After the study we want to make a coordinated campaign with supermarkets, liquor shop chains, pharmacies, health centers and preschools. We need tools for measuring the effect and the reach out to our citizens.

19. What makes your idea innovative? How is the approach unexpected and new to the city?

The idea has two steps, first we need knowledge about the extent of the problem and its structure, this we will do by a self-assessment study with a wider group of citizens. Next step is to cooperate with the commercial sector and use their tools and platforms to reach out. With the product design academy Chalmers, we will develop new tools that will help the victims. The innovation is that the city has not previously made such a proactive and broad survey and we haven't worked on this matter with the commercial/private/academic sector.

20. If your idea builds on an existing idea from another city (or your own), which elements are new? Have other cities implemented a similar idea? If yes, please list the city and explain what differentiates your idea.

The City of Gothenburg is a frontline city in Sweden as well in the EU when it comes to the work against domestic violence over time. We have also built an extra capacity and knowledge when it comes to so called honor-related violence, a very dangerous form of violence against especially young women and men in some migrant contexts.

We think that our idea will be important for the work in our city but also can be adopted and transferred to other cities around the globe.

21. How would you know that you've succeeded in addressing the problem for residents? What short- and long-term outcomes would you need to see to achieve success?

Increased

- number of reported cases to the social services.
- number of perpetrators and victims that seek help
- awareness and knowledge of the tools among citizens

Decreased

- number of deadly cases of domestic violence.
- number of persons with problematic norms and values regarding domestic violence
- number of cases of sexual and gender-based crimes

Short-term outcomes

Self-assessment report will give us knowledge on the actual extent of domestic violence in our city. How many of our citizens that are facing this kind of violence.

Long-term outcomes

The city will have new tools to help and support victims from a wider target group. Have created a long-term cooperation with external partners and stakeholders since this is a problem for the whole society and we all benefit from cooperation.

Vision for Impact:

22. How has the COVID-19 pandemic caused or exacerbated the problem your idea addresses?

The isolation creates opportunities to exercise control and violence. According to UN Women, some countries have seen a fivefold increase in contacts to social support centers since societies began to shut down. The number of calls to BRIS (Children's Rights in Society) has increased by 30 %. The Women's Peace Line at Uppsala University has seen an increase in number of calls during last year when they answered 46,723 calls. In Gothenburg the number of cases to the social services considering adults, have increased with 18 % during 2020 compared to 2019 which can be an effect of the pandemic.

23. How does this idea align with a broader vision of your city government? How does addressing this problem tie to your city's long-term strategies around the issue? Please provide information to demonstrate that the idea ties to a mayoral priority.

The city has a long-term program called Equal city, that includes a good start in life, preconditions for employment and health, promoting activities and active participation in society. The objective of the program is to tackle different reasons for inequality in life conditions and wellbeing for our citizens. Furthermore, we have a strategic plan confirmed by the political committee about domestic violence and a special plan for honor-related violence taken into practise 2020. Domestic violence is also integrated in several other strategic plans. The city government has given this problem a priority for the administrations of social welfare.

IV. Implementation

Build Support for your Idea:

24. Which internal and external stakeholders need to be involved to ensure a successful project? How will you engage them?

In the city we have four geographical social administrations with coordinators working together with our team with the assignment to support the whole city with reports, programs, and seminars in the work against domestic violence.

We will have to engage chains of supermarkets, liquor stores (Systembolaget monopoly in Sweden) the region (hospitals and health centers) the national authorities working in the field and different NGO's working for women's safety and rights.

Chalmers University of Technology and the City of Gothenburg has started a possible cooperation to work with social inventions made into practical objects that needs design and new 'know how'.

We will use our method 'Social innovation lab' to assure mutual learning for all stakeholders and within the social innovation labs solve complex social challenges related to domestic violence. This is an ongoing process that we will use during the whole project time. The main objective with this is to get a broader awareness and knowledge about the actual problem and to find solutions that the city can't make by themselves. The lab model also makes sure that the target group can get their saying and be active participants in finding the right solutions.

25. Will this project require you to collect data that you do not currently collect? If existing data capture systems are not sufficient, please explain how you will collect this information.

We need new knowledge about the extent of the problem and its structure after the pandemic.

Therefore, we will conduct a self-assessment study with a wider group of citizens. This data collection will provide information that we can use for a baseline study and compare new figures and facts with the knowing we have from cases at the social services, police cases and contact calls from the NGO's.

We will collect this data from a broad group of citizens, and we will get the expertise from an institution used to collecting and analyzing larger amounts of data.

26. What government office is most closely associated with the problem? Do they have jurisdiction over the problem? How will they be involved in this project and its implementation?

In 2016, the government decided on a cross-sectoral national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The strategy includes violence in close relationships and honor-related violence and oppression. The Gender Equality Authority has the task of coordinating and supporting other authorities in the work of implementing the strategy and the county's makes the implementation. Since 2012, the National Board of Health and Welfare has been tasked by the government to together with the county administrative boards, provide competence support to municipalities and non-profit organizations. These authorities and boards will be a part in our social innovation labs.

Develop a Plan for Implementation:

27. Does your city's ability to dedicate resources to implementation, including staff and budget, rely on support from a legislative body, such as city council? If so please describe that process of approval.

The City of Gothenburg is divided into professional administrations based on various thematic issues. Such as social welfare, elderly care, disabilities, and more. The Administration of social welfare (Centrum) has the task from the city council, to work with social development, education and implementation of long-term social programs. The chairman for the political committee in this administration is also a deputy mayor and representing the same political party as the Mayor and they are both members of the city council.

The city council provides the annual budget for the social administrations and the GD reports to the political committee.

28. How will you actively involve residents and other groups in your implementation, and what will their level of involvement be?

The project aims to find new ways of reaching residents who are exposed to domestic violence that we today believe that we do not reach with the methods we have. At an overall level, our residents will be involved through the self-assessment survey. At the performer level an advisory board of residents with own experience of domestic violence, will be involved both in our social innovation labs, with other stakeholders, and as referent's to the cooperation we will do with Chalmers Technological University to see if we can make new social innovation products for our cause.

29. Which other key partners from outside of government might be called upon to help implement or sustain the project? This could include local philanthropy, private sector, NGOs, universities, etc.

The City of Gothenburg have identified a need for new cooperation's to better reach out and address the problem of domestic violence. Our idea includes a coordinated campaign with supermarkets, liquor shop chains, pharmacies, health centers and preschools. We need tools for measuring the effect and the reach out to our citizens.

With the city's method 'social innovation lab' we will invite all kinds of different stakeholders several times during the project to work cross sectoral. It includes already mentioned stakeholders as well as NGO's, national authorities, Chalmers Technology University and Gothenburg University. An advisory board of residents who has been exposed to violence will be involved in all labs.

Complete budget form

Completed - 17 Mar 2021

Please fill in the template ([link here](#)) detailing key implementation activities and associated costs, by phase, for your idea over the course of a 3 year grant period.

[1Gothenburg Budget and key activity template](#)

Filename: 1Gothenburg_Budget_and_key_activity_template.xlsx **Size:** 798.3 kB