
IRCT to provide grants of up to 1000 Euro to Member Centres affected by Covid-19 Pandemic

Dear IRCT members,

We hope that your staff and the survivors you support are safe and managing the best way possible in these difficult times of the global Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. Over the past two weeks, we have reached out to all of you to understand how this impacts your work and how the IRCT can best support you. These many exchanges have made us acutely aware of the pandemic’s severe consequences for torture survivors and for IRCT members and their staff.

We have also learned about the immense expertise and innovative approaches you are using to make sure that survivors have as much support as possible under the circumstances. These include virtual protocols, care-for-care giver protocols or other novel techniques. The IRCT intends to facilitate sharing these solutions to immediately benefit all IRCT members. Your expertise in care-for-caregiver programmes could also be useful to a wider group of health-care workers who are on the front line fighting the pandemic.

Although we know that torture is a continuing and ignored global pandemic, we are concerned that torture survivors may be disproportionately impacted during the current pandemic: they may unable to access rehabilitation services due to restrictions on movement and social contact, they may be isolated from updated information, they may be unable to access online treatment or phone therapy or they may have basic needs which are not met in this extraordinary situation.

To support IRCT members dealing with challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the IRCT has taken a strategic decision to distribute a limited number of micro grants (500 – 1000 EUR) for IRCT members to pursue one of the following two objectives:

1. **Strengthening the collective** by developing, documenting and/or sharing good practices or innovative methods and approaches for providing rehabilitation services and care-for-caregivers in the context of the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. **Enabling individual members** to address Covid-19 related obstacles to existing rehabilitation services.

We invite IRCT Members to send us a 1 page (max 300 words) or 2-minute video presentations explaining:

- What the challenge is
- The amount you request in Euro and what you will do
- What the change will be and, if relevant, how it may be shared and benefit other members
We will assess applications starting 15 April and thereafter on a rolling basis in the order they are received. The IRCT can provide a maximum of 1000 Euro but you are welcome to use this as co-funding for a larger activity as long as it addresses the objective.

We do not require financial reporting, but we do ask for a 1-page (max 300 word) report explaining the impact or change by December 1, 2020. We also request that you make yourself available for a short video interview.

Please send your applications to Dastan Salehi at ds@irct.org