

11 February 2026



Rhys Hurley
rhys@taxpayers.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 2526-0759

Tēnā koe Rhys

Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2026 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“We ask for more information about funding for Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa. Specifically the amount funded in the last two years, whether \$30k from the Ethnic Communities Development Fund to a “cultural centre” in Christchurch to launch the “4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign and if any issues around political campaigning have arisen due to any funding given?”

As you are aware, on 21 January 2026, the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request and advised you that the Ministry has not provided any funding towards the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa and that the \$30k funding was granted to Asturlab Cultural Centre and their 4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign.

On 23 January 2026, you responded that you were seeking any information on the funding, and any concerns raised, regarding the \$30k funding that was granted to Asturlab Cultural Centre and their 4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign.

Decision

The Ministry has previously responded to an Official Information Act request for the same information, which is attached to this response. Although no specific concerns were raised, it is important to note that all Ethnic Communities Development Funding applications, including the funding granted to Asturlab Cultural Centre, go through the Ministry’s standard due diligence process.

If you have any concerns or information on how the funding has been used, I encourage you to provide the Ministry with additional information so it may be reviewed in accordance with the Ministry’s assurance and compliance processes.

As required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9(2)(g) of the Act are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Under section 28 of the OIA, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.



Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team:

Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services

20 August 2025



fyi-request-31696-d425481a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 2526-0072

Tēnā koe

Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2025 to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 24 July 2025, your request was transferred to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) for response under section 14(b) of the Act as the information requested is held by the Ministry. Your request and our response is as follows:

- 1) I request to see [Asturlab Cultural Centre's] proposal to DIA (DIA funding org) for this money, your approval letter, and all emails, memos of meetings, and correspondence in regards to this fund. Also, any final or interim report on the grant.*

In response to your request, seven documents have been identified and are summarised in the document schedule below. Six documents are being released to you with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The remaining document within scope is being withheld for the time being under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act to protect information, which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied. Since the Ministry has received the final report (document seven), we have sought clarification and further information from the applicant. The Ministry is currently waiting for this information to be provided and as such, we are withholding document seven for the time being, until this information is available.

- 2) Please supply evidence that you did due diligence on this grant application to ensure that the New Zealand taxpayer via DIA are providing funds for the charitable purpose of Asturlab, a local charity for local people, and that it is not used in any other manner, ie. amplifying the war goals of Hamas. Noting that Hamas in its entirety is designated as a terrorist entity in New Zealand, after the horrific terrorist attacks on 7 October.*

All Ethnic Communities Development Funding (ECDF) applications, including these applications, go through the Ministry's standard due diligence process. I refer you to the email correspondence (documents four and five) with the organisation, noted in our response to question one. For further information on the ECDF processes, please see the Ministry's Policy Guidelines at [Policy and Administrative Guidelines 2023](#).

3) *Was any of this fund used for the provision of private humanitarian support to Palestinian civilians, or to amplify the war goals of Hamas?*

No.

As is required by section 9(1) of the OIA, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9 of the OIA are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services

Document Schedule

No.	Date	Title	Comments
1	27/11/23	<i>ECDF Funding proposal for 4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign</i>	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a).
2	01/12/23	<i>ECDF budget for 4 for 40 Stop the Silence</i>	Released in full.
3	03/12/23	<i>Job Description – Campaign Manager</i>	Released in full.
4	04/12/23	<i>Email: RE: revised budget with clarifying details</i>	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a).
5	04/12/23	<i>Email: Re: R-ECDF-2024-255668</i>	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a).
6	06/12/23	<i>Grant confirmation letter</i>	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a).
7	08/04/25	<i>Otinga Kōrero Final Results Report</i>	Withheld in full under s9(2)(ba)(i).

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



If you require assistance when applying on behalf of your organisation or assistance with reporting requirements or other assistance, contact:

- freephone 0800 656 656
- ecdf@ethniccommunities.govt.nz

REQUEST FOR
Ethnic Communities Development Fund
R-ECDF-2024-255668
Asturlab Cultural Centre
4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign

*To accept these Terms and Conditions, the person who is authorised to accept on behalf of the organisation should select **Edit**, then in the Terms and Conditions Acceptance section, at the **Acceptance of Terms and Conditions** select **I accept**' and then **save and continue** or **save and close***

You have accepted Terms and Conditions but not submitted the request

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Organisation	Asturlab Cultural Centre
city/town	Christchurch
Primary contact for this request	s9(2)(a)
Person authorised to accept Terms and Conditions	s9(2)(a)

The Terms and Conditions for this grant must be accepted by a person authorised by your organisation. If you are not authorised please add the details of an authorised person.

Confirm Organisation Details

organisation email	info@asturlab.org
bank account	Bank account details are current
GST registration	Registered

If these details are not correct (including bank account verification document is for your current bank account) your profile secretary must correct these details on your organisation profile.

Confirmation that our organisation details are correct: I confirm

REQUEST DETAILS

For more information on Ethnic Communities Development Fund, please visit the Ministry of Ethnic Communities website at - Ethnic Communities - Ethnic Communities Development Fund

Click on the 'save' button regularly when filling out your request to ensure that information you have entered is saved.

What are you requesting funding for? Project or event more than \$5000

What is the name of your project or event? 4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign

What do you want funding for?

We are requesting \$30,000 for the '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign', a nationwide initiative running from December 1st to February 1st. This campaign is dedicated to raising awareness about the Gaza crisis, with a strong focus on building social cohesion and connecting New Zealanders to their core values as they resonate with global issues. Primarily utilising digital platforms and community events across New Zealand, we aim to engage over 100,000 individuals. Our initial focus will be on engaging with the Middle Eastern and Muslim communities in New Zealand, including Kiwi Muslims, Palestinians, and Arabs, to ensure our messaging resonates with their experiences and perspectives. This targeted approach is crucial for creating a foundation of support and understanding within these communities before we expand our outreach to the wider New Zealand public.

We have already established a dedicated website (4for40.nz) and social media platforms, and have begun initial team formation and content development. The funding will be allocated as follows: \$10,000 for team and capacity building (including training, platform development etc), \$10,000 for network development and community engagement, and \$10,000 for media and promotional activities plus surveying/polling. This strategic allocation of funds will ensure a far-reaching and impactful campaign that not only raises awareness but also fosters social cohesion and connects Kiwis to their values as they relate to global issues.

Please write a few sentences summarising your project or event, including:

- when and where it will take place
- who will benefit and how many people will attend or participate
- how much planning you've done so far
- what costs you require funding for

Example 1: We are running a Diwali Festival event for our community and the wider public on 1-2 November at the City Council square. We expect 500 people to attend, based on last year's attendance numbers. We have planned the event logistics and marketing campaign. Our grant request is to cover costs for venue hire, stage production costs and performance fees.

Example 2: We are hosting six CV-writing workshops from January to June at the City community hall. The workshops are aimed at new migrants from Latin American communities. We expect about 10 people per workshop to attend, or 60 people in total. We have already designed the lesson plans for each workshop. Our grant request is to cover costs for workshop facilitator, venue hire and stationery.

How does your request align with one of the priorities of this fund?

Our '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' aligns closely with the fund's priorities, particularly (4) connecting and empowering ethnic community groups, with an emphasis on the Middle Eastern and Muslim communities in New Zealand.

Also, priority (1): promoting diversity and inclusion. By amplifying narratives from Palestinians and aligning with their values as New Zealand Palestinians, our campaign fosters social inclusion and cohesion, ensuring they feel a strong sense of belonging in Aotearoa. Our social media platforms, which showcase diverse

perspectives in a safe environment, further reinforce this sense of inclusion and cohesion.

In terms of priority 2, equitable provision and access, our campaign addresses the challenge faced by Muslim and Middle Eastern communities in finding media representation that resonates with their experiences. We aim to build a team of young, dynamic social media creators and content writers to present information in a balanced, accessible manner to a New Zealand audience. This approach is not solely current affairs but includes cultural aspects, such as sharing Palestinian recipes, stories on Palestinian families in Aotearoa etc. to maintain optimism and highlight humanity amidst adversity. By focusing on human stories and aspects of Palestinian culture, we aim to provide an alternative to the often polarising and overwhelming mainstream media narratives, thereby promoting a more inclusive and balanced understanding for Kiwis of all backgrounds.

Our approach is designed to create a more inclusive media landscape that reflects the diversity of New Zealand's communities, contributing to a broader understanding and appreciation of different cultures and narratives within our society.

Fund Priorities:

1. *Take action to promote the value of diversity and improve inclusion of ethnic communities*
2. *Ensure equitable provision of, and access to, Government services for ethnic communities*
3. *Develop and support initiatives to improve economic outcomes, including addressing barriers to employment*
4. *Work to connect and empower ethnic community groups*

What other community groups, organisations or agencies are you collaborating with, if any?

Our current collaborations primarily involve grassroots organisations and groups that have actively responded to the crisis in Gaza, including FIANZ, various local Muslim community groups and associations, Palestinian groups, and social action collectives across New Zealand. These partnerships have emerged organically, reflecting a community-driven response to urgent needs.

In addition to strengthening these existing collaborations, we plan to significantly expand our network. This expansion includes engaging with like-minded groups across other faith communities, including multi-faith networks and intra-faith groups such as the Shia community. We also aim to collaborate with external organisations like peace groups, social cohesion networks, and local Muslim community-led groups active in social cohesion, such as Mahia Te Aroha and Sakinah Community Trust.

A key aspect of our campaign is to ensure we work closely with Palestinian and Muslim groups intimately connected to this issue, while also building bridges with like-minded individuals and groups from the Jewish community and other groups. This approach requires dedicated effort and resources, potentially including hosting meetings and visiting other centres to foster these relationships.

We are guided by a commitment to social cohesion and balanced narratives. We will strategically steer our efforts based on the advice and feedback from diverse stakeholders in this space as well as aligning with both national and international trends. This includes being both responsive to and proactively seeking feedback from our collaborative partners, as well as other key voices in the community on this topic such as leaders from the Jewish community. Such consultations are intended to ensure our campaign remains responsive and relevant. We recognise this is a sensitive topic. Our approach is to listen, adapt, and align our strategies to create a responsible and impactful campaign.

What are the expected benefits/outcomes? for whom?

The '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' primarily aims to elevate awareness among the general New Zealand public about the Gaza crisis and the Palestinian people, while actively engaging with core New Zealand values of peace, understanding, and community solidarity. A key priority of this project is to foster social cohesion and reinforce the connection of New Zealanders to their inherent

values. We intend to achieve this by increasing the percentage of New Zealanders who support peaceful resolutions, such as a ceasefire, through informed perspectives and empathy-driven narratives. In addition, our goal is to cultivate a substantial online community, targeting a following of approximately 100,000 across our digital platforms. This community will be a dynamic space for dialogue and action, reflecting a diverse range of voices and perspectives. The success of this engagement will be measurable through data analytics, which will track participation and interaction across our email campaigns, social media posts, and comments. By doing so, we aim not only to raise awareness but also to strengthen the sense of unity and shared values among New Zealanders, creating a more cohesive and empathetic society.

The primary benefit of the '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' is to raise awareness among the general New Zealand public about the Gaza crisis and the Palestinian people, and to activate core NZ values of peace, understanding, and community solidarity. Specifically, we aim to increase the percentage of New Zealanders supporting peaceful resolutions, such as a ceasefire, by providing informed perspectives and fostering empathy. Additionally, we target to build a following of approximately 100,000 on our digital platforms, creating a substantial community engaged in dialogue and action. This engagement will be quantifiable through a dashboard that will capture data analytics, tracking participation and interaction in our email campaigns, social media posts, and comments.

How many will be expected to benefit? 1000+

How will you show you have achieved success?

Our campaign's success will be determined through a blend of qualitative and quantitative measures. Quantitatively, we will leverage data analytics to monitor engagement levels, tracking metrics such as social media followers, email campaign open rates, and interactions including comments and shares. This will provide a clear picture of our reach and the level of active participation. Qualitatively, we will assess the depth of engagement and shifts in public opinion through feedback, surveys, and analysis of the dialogue on our platforms. Regular polling will be a key tool in this process, allowing us to gauge public perspectives on the Gaza crisis and related issues, and to adjust our approach for greater effectiveness.

In addition to these methods, we recognise the importance of managing sensitivities and ensuring a safe, respectful online environment. We will closely monitor conversations and comments, employing strategies to mitigate anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate speech. Our established set of community guidelines aims to foster constructive dialogue and reduce harmful rhetoric. We plan to use data analytics not only to measure engagement but also to identify successful tactics in defusing emotionally charged or hateful comments. The ability to maintain a balanced and respectful discourse will be a crucial indicator of our success, alongside achieving our goal of engaging 100,000 individuals and effecting a noticeable shift in public opinion and awareness.

What is the project start date? 1/12/2023

What is the project end date? 15/2/2024

Where will the main benefit of the project be realised? Canterbury

Which ethnic community will be the main beneficiary of your project? Middle Eastern

AMOUNT REQUESTED

*If you are GST registered, the amounts should be exclusive of GST.
If you are not GST registered, the amounts should be inclusive of GST.*

What is the total amount you are requesting? \$30,000.00

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Required documents:

1. Budget for this request is **Required**.

Refer to Community Matters for more information

Community Matters - Budgets

Organisation Documentation:

Refer Community Matters - financial requirements for organisations

Refer Community Matters - financial statements

Click on the 'Add Document' plus sign icon to upload documents

Click on the 'Edit Document' icon to change the document type label

Click on the 'Delete' icon to remove a document

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

▼ TERMS AND CONDITIONS



Ministry for
**Ethnic
Communities**
Te Tari Mātāwaka

1. A grant recipient must:

- a. Spend the grant within 12 months of a grant request being approved. Or if awarded a multi-year grant, spend within the approved timeframe specified in the Reporting and Payments Schedule.
- b. Spend the grant only for the purpose(s) approved by, and subject to any conditions imposed by, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities.
- c. Return to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities any portion of the grant that is not spent on the approved purpose(s). If the grant payment includes GST, the grant recipient must also return the GST component of the grant.
- d. Complete a results report when the grant has been fully spent, or within 12 months after the grant has been approved, or upon request by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, whichever comes first. Or, if awarded a multi-year grant, meet milestone conditions such as providing results report by the due dates, which will be specified in the Reporting and Payments Schedule. Payment of any subsequent grant installments may not be made until all the milestone reporting requirements are met in full and is subject to funding being available.
- e. Make any files or records relating to the activity or project available for inspection within 10 working days if requested by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities.
- f. Keep financial records that demonstrate how the grant was spent for seven years after the end of the

agreement term.

g. Acknowledge the receipt of an Ethnic Communities Development Fund grant as a separate entry in its financial statements, or in a note to its financial statements.

h. Inform the Ministry for Ethnic Communities of any changes that affect the organisation's ability to deliver the activity(ies) or project(s) (eg changes to financial situation; an intention to wind-up or cease operations; or any other significant event, or failure to meet child protection standards), before the grant has been fully used.

i. Agree to notify the Ministry for Ethnic Communities immediately if any of the grant money is stolen or misappropriated and to consider if Police charges need to be laid.

j. Agree that the Ministry for Ethnic Communities have authority to publish that the grant has been made to the grant recipient for the approved purpose.

2. During the term of this agreement a grant recipient may request a variation to the purpose, term, or conditions of this agreement.

3. A grant must not be spent on any item that falls within the Ethnic Communities Development Fund exclusions (Ministry for Ethnic Communities website) *Ethnic Communities Development Fund - what we do not fund*

4. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions within this agreement, or the provision of false information in the request may result, without limitation, in the Ministry for Ethnic Communities terminating this agreement and:

a. Requiring repayment of all or part of the grant

b. Withholding payment of this grant, any other Ministry for Ethnic Communities' administered grants and any Department of Internal Affairs' administered grants until issues are resolved

c. Imposing additional terms and conditions before any Ministry for Ethnic Communities' administered grants and any Department of Internal Affairs' administered grants funding is approved

d. Recommending to funding committees of Ministry for Ethnic Communities' administered grants and Department of Internal Affairs' administered grants, to decline future funding.

5. For the purpose of gaining or providing information relevant to the funding of the organisation, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities may disclose to, or obtain information from, any other government department or agency, private person or organisation.

6. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be required to release information unless there is good reason under the Act to withhold the information.

DECLARATION

I confirm that I have the authority to make this request and to accept these terms and conditions on behalf of my organisation and declare that:

I understand and accept the terms and conditions set out above, which will form a legally binding agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Internal Affairs if our organisation is successful in receiving a grant.

All the information provided for this request is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I have notified the Department of Internal Affairs of any conflicts of interest of which I am aware.

Our organisation is fully compliant with all applicable legislation, including the requirements under the Children's Act 2014 (if applicable).

I have been duly authorised by our governing body to commit our organisation to this agreement.

Our organisation has the following minimum set of internal controls in place:

Two signatories to bank accounts.

Maintenance of a cash book or computer equivalent.

A person responsible for maintaining financial records.

Regular financial reporting to every full meeting of the governing body.

The ability to provide an income and expenditure statement, which reports what happened against the budget presented with our request.

To accept these Terms and Conditions, complete and save the request. The person who is authorised to accept on behalf of the organisation, should select Edit, then select 'I accept' and save the request. Once this has been done the request can be submitted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ACCEPTANCE

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

4 for 40 Stop the Silence

1 Dec 2023 - 31 Mar 2024

INCOME

Funding request details

Budgeted amount

Add request details here

Amount requested

ECDF	30,000.00
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OTHER INCOME

Budgeted amount

List all expected and confirmed project income

Budgeted amount

Seed Fund - FIANZ	5,000.00
Admin support (Asturlab)	5,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,000.00

EXPENDITURE

Budgeted amount

List all expected and confirmed project expenses

Weekend Wānanga (in Christchurch) - youth networking	5,000.00
Project Coordination and relationship building (200hrs @\$35/hr)	7,000.00
Volunteer Reimbursements and koha	2,000.00
Training and development - upskilling in social media skills	2,500.00
Meetings and community engagement sessions	2,500.00
Content development - creating social media posts (5/wk x 6 wks) on Facebook, instagram and X	2,000.00
Photographer - support content creation, capture engagements etc.	1,000.00
Videographer - to develop short videos and reels for social media	1,000.00
Boosting posts (\$200-\$400/wk over 6 weeks)	2,000.00
Comments Moderation (2 people x 1hr/day x 50 days x \$25/hr)	2,500.00
Surveying participants (developing, delivery and analysis)	1,000.00
Email writing (daily emails for campaign subscribers \$50/email x 50 emails)	2,500.00
Establishing Website (design, development, domain, hosting etc)	3,000.00
Campaign Monitor and social media platform setup	1,000.00
Initial Content development (welcome pack, FAQ, website)	1,500.00
Conceptual design and framing including logo and initial content	1,000.00
Volunteer induction, coordination and support	2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	40,000.00

Operational Surplus/Deficit

-30000.00

Job Description – Campaign Manager

Job Title: Campaign Manager - '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign'

Contract Duration: 200 hours

Job Overview:

We are seeking a dedicated Campaign Manager to oversee and coordinate the '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' (more info on the campaign can be found here: 4for40.nz). This role is pivotal in ensuring the campaign's success through effective management, coordination, and relationship building. The Campaign Manager will be responsible for overseeing various aspects of the campaign, from strategic planning to execution, while expanding our network and outreach.

Key Responsibilities:

Campaign Oversight and Coordination:

- Oversee all aspects of the campaign, ensuring milestones and objectives are met.
- Coordinate between different teams and stakeholders to ensure smooth execution of campaign activities.

Strategic Planning:

- Develop and implement strategic plans to enhance campaign effectiveness.
- Adapt strategies based on feedback and evolving campaign needs.

Relationship Building and Network Expansion:

- Build and manage relationships with existing and potential partners, including community groups, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Expand the campaign's outreach by identifying and engaging with new networks and collaborators.

Campaign Team Management:

- Provide guidance and support to volunteers and team members.
- Ensure effective communication and collaboration within the team.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- Monitor campaign progress and provide regular updates to stakeholders.
- Evaluate campaign effectiveness and suggest improvements.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Proven experience in campaign management or a related field.
- Strong organisational and leadership skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal abilities.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment.
- Knowledge of social media and digital marketing strategies.
- Understanding of the issues surrounding the Gaza crisis and a commitment to social cohesion and balanced narratives.

Contract Details:

This is a contract position for a total of 200 hours, with flexibility in scheduling based on campaign needs.

From: s9(2)(a)
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: revised budget with clarifying details
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 07:45:37

You don't often get email from s9(2)(a)@asturlab.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Sorry – I should have clarified that refers to the project coordination and relationship building item in the budget

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:01 AM
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: revised budget with clarifying details
 Hi s9(2)(a)

I have also attached a job description for the campaign manager role

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 6:24 PM
To: s9(2)(a)@ethniccommunities.govt.nz
Subject: RE: revised budget with clarifying details
 Hi s9(2)(a)

Here is a detailed anticipated budget.

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)@ethniccommunities.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:16 PM
To: s9(2)(a)@asturlab.org
Subject: RE: revised budget with clarifying details
 Thanks s9(2)(a) any chance you could break that \$20k down as well?

From: s9(2)(a)@asturlab.org
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 1:28 PM
To: s9(2)(a)@ethniccommunities.govt.nz
Subject: revised budget with clarifying details

You don't often get email from s9(2)(a)@asturlab.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Please find attached updated budget. Let me know if anything is missing.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

From: info@asturlab.org
To: s9(2)(a)
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: R-ECDF-2024-255668
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 09:59:57

5

Dear s9(2)(a)

My apologies for the late response and I have now cc'd s9(2)(a) into this email, so you can communicate directly via email as well.

Many thanks s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: 01 December 2023 10:59
To: info@asturlab.org
Subject: RE: R-ECDF-2024-255668
Kia ora s9(2)(a)

I tried to call you from s9(2)(a) Hoping you can call me back soonest – I would like to complete your application assessment and get it approved today. Time is very short as approvals need to happen by 2-3pm.

Two things I need to clarify and discuss with you as below:

1. How many people will the project benefit? You have indicated 1,000 plus but do you think you have a specific estimate?
2. We do not fund operational costs and I can see in your application you have requested:
 - 10,000 for team and capacity building (including training, platform development etc),
 - \$10,000 for network development and community engagement,
 - and \$10,000 for media and promotional activities plus surveying/polling.

While second and third requests are fine, 1 appears to be operational cost.

I see you have put community engagement and networking expenses as well in your budget - is it possible for ECDF grant to go towards this instead?

And are you able to provide further breakdowns of the community engagement, social media promotion and establishing website expenses?

Capacity building and Team development	10,000.00
Community Engagement and networking/relationship building	10,000.00
Social Media promotion, advertising, surveying etc	10,000.00
Establishing Website, campaign, and platform framing	10,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	40,000.00

Talk soon.

Regards

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 3:51 PM

To: info@asturlab.org

Subject: R-ECDF-2024-255668

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

It was lovely talking to you during the day.

As discussed, we would appreciate if you could tweak the following section of your application to reflect our comment highlighted in yellow:.

I have put your application back in draft – please confirm. Tweak and resubmit then we would be able to expedite for you. Hope you can do that today or at your earliest.

What other community groups, organisations or agencies are you collaborating with, if any?

Our current collaborations primarily involve grassroots organisations and groups that have actively responded to the crisis in Gaza, including FIANZ, various local Muslim community groups and associations, Palestinian groups, and social action collectives across New Zealand. These partnerships have emerged organically, reflecting a community-driven response to urgent needs.

In addition to strengthening these existing collaborations, we plan to significantly expand our network. This expansion includes engaging with like-minded groups across other faith communities, including multi-faith networks and intra-faith groups such as the Shia community. We also aim to collaborate with external organisations like peace groups, social cohesion networks, and local Muslim community-led groups active in social cohesion, such as Mahia Te Aroha and Sakinah Community Trust.

A key aspect of our campaign is to ensure we work closely with Palestinian and Muslim groups intimately connected to this issue, while also building bridges with like-minded individuals and groups from the Jewish community and other groups. This approach requires dedicated effort and resources, potentially including hosting meetings and visiting other centres to foster these relationships.

Furthermore, we will seek strategic advice from established leaders in the sector, such as FIANZ and Palestinian group leaders, (we think social cohesion can be strengthened when all parties are considered key actors to the programme – are you able to seek input or consult the Jewish leaders in the community as well for your project?) Please add a line saying - you will strengthen social cohesion by consulting all the key stakeholders including FIANZ, Palestinian and the Jewish leaders in the community. Their diverse feedback would form a collective view which would be used in the strategic decisions and directions related to the campaign. The funding we seek will be instrumental in facilitating these efforts, enabling us to nurture and broaden our collaborative relationships for a sustained national impact.

Thanks

s9(2)(a)

Community Funding Advisor

System Capability and Programmes

Te Tari Mātāwaka | Ministry for Ethnic Communities

215 Lambton Quay, Wellington

www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz



If you require assistance when applying on behalf of your organisation or assistance with reporting requirements or other assistance, contact:

- freephone 0800 656 656
- ecdf@ethniccommunities.govt.nz

**REQUEST FOR
Ethnic Communities Development Fund
R-ECDF-2024-255668
Asturlab Cultural Centre
4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign**

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Organisation Asturlab Cultural Centre
city/town Christchurch
Primary contact for this request s9(2)(a)
Person authorised to accept Terms and Conditions s9(2)(a)

Confirm Organisation Details

organisation email	info@asturlab.org
bank account	Bank account details are current
GST registration	Registered

Confirmation that our organisation details are correct: I confirm

REQUEST DETAILS

For more information on Ethnic Communities Development Fund, please visit the Ministry of Ethnic Communities website at - Ethnic Communities - Ethnic Communities Development Fund

What are you requesting funding for? Project or event more than \$5000
What is the name of your project or event? 4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign
What do you want funding for?

We are requesting \$30,000 for the '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign', a

nationwide initiative running from December 1st to February 1st. This campaign is dedicated to raising awareness about the Gaza crisis, with a strong focus on building social cohesion and connecting New Zealanders to their core values as they resonate with global issues. Primarily utilising digital platforms and community events across New Zealand, we aim to engage over 100,000 individuals. Our initial focus will be on engaging with the Middle Eastern and Muslim communities in New Zealand, including Kiwi Muslims, Palestinians, and Arabs, to ensure our messaging resonates with their experiences and perspectives. This targeted approach is crucial for creating a foundation of support and understanding within these communities before we expand our outreach to the wider New Zealand public.

We have already established a dedicated website (4for40.nz) and social media platforms, and have begun initial team formation and content development. The funding will be allocated as follows: \$10,000 for team and capacity building (including training, platform development etc), \$10,000 for network development and community engagement, and \$10,000 for media and promotional activities plus surveying/polling. This strategic allocation of funds will ensure a far-reaching and impactful campaign that not only raises awareness but also fosters social cohesion and connects Kiwis to their values as they relate to global issues.

How does your request align with one of the priorities of this fund?

Our '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' aligns closely with the fund's priorities, particularly (4) connecting and empowering ethnic community groups, with an emphasis on the Middle Eastern and Muslim communities in New Zealand.

Also, priority (1): promoting diversity and inclusion. By amplifying narratives from Palestinians and aligning with their values as New Zealand Palestinians, our campaign fosters social inclusion and cohesion, ensuring they feel a strong sense of belonging in Aotearoa. Our social media platforms, which showcase diverse perspectives in a safe environment, further reinforce this sense of inclusion and cohesion.

In terms of priority 2, equitable provision and access, our campaign addresses the challenge faced by Muslim and Middle Eastern communities in finding media representation that resonates with their experiences. We aim to build a team of young, dynamic social media creators and content writers to present information in a balanced, accessible manner to a New Zealand audience. This approach is not solely current affairs but includes cultural aspects, such as sharing Palestinian recipes, stories on Palestinian families in Aotearoa etc. to maintain optimism and highlight humanity amidst adversity. By focusing on human stories and aspects of Palestinian culture, we aim to provide an alternative to the often polarising and overwhelming mainstream media narratives, thereby promoting a more inclusive and balanced understanding for Kiwis of all backgrounds.

Our approach is designed to create a more inclusive media landscape that reflects the diversity of New Zealand's communities, contributing to a broader understanding and appreciation of different cultures and narratives within our society.

Fund Priorities:

1. *Take action to promote the value of diversity and improve inclusion of ethnic communities*
2. *Ensure equitable provision of, and access to, Government services for ethnic communities*
3. *Develop and support initiatives to improve economic outcomes, including addressing barriers to employment*
4. *Work to connect and empower ethnic community groups*

What other community groups, organisations or agencies are you collaborating with, if any?

Our current collaborations primarily involve grassroots organisations and groups

that have actively responded to the crisis in Gaza, including FIANZ, various local Muslim community groups and associations, Palestinian groups, and social action collectives across New Zealand. These partnerships have emerged organically, reflecting a community-driven response to urgent needs.

In addition to strengthening these existing collaborations, we plan to significantly expand our network. This expansion includes engaging with like-minded groups across other faith communities, including multi-faith networks and intra-faith groups such as the Shia community. We also aim to collaborate with external organisations like peace groups, social cohesion networks, and local Muslim community-led groups active in social cohesion, such as Mahia Te Aroha and Sakinah Community Trust.

A key aspect of our campaign is to ensure we work closely with Palestinian and Muslim groups intimately connected to this issue, while also building bridges with like-minded individuals and groups from the Jewish community and other groups. This approach requires dedicated effort and resources, potentially including hosting meetings and visiting other centres to foster these relationships.

We are guided by a commitment to social cohesion and balanced narratives. We will strategically steer our efforts based on the advice and feedback from diverse stakeholders in this space as well as aligning with both national and international trends. This includes being both responsive to and proactively seeking feedback from our collaborative partners, as well as other key voices in the community on this topic such as leaders from the Jewish community. Such consultations are intended to ensure our campaign remains responsive and relevant. We recognise this is a sensitive topic. Our approach is to listen, adapt, and align our strategies to create a responsible and impactful campaign.

What are the expected benefits/outcomes? for whom?

The '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' primarily aims to elevate awareness among the general New Zealand public about the Gaza crisis and the Palestinian people, while actively engaging with core New Zealand values of peace, understanding, and community solidarity. A key priority of this project is to foster social cohesion and reinforce the connection of New Zealanders to their inherent values. We intend to achieve this by increasing the percentage of New Zealanders who support peaceful resolutions, such as a ceasefire, through informed perspectives and empathy-driven narratives.

In addition, our goal is to cultivate a substantial online community, targeting a following of approximately 100,000 across our digital platforms. This community will be a dynamic space for dialogue and action, reflecting a diverse range of voices and perspectives. The success of this engagement will be measurable through data analytics, which will track participation and interaction across our email campaigns, social media posts, and comments. By doing so, we aim not only to raise awareness but also to strengthen the sense of unity and shared values among New Zealanders, creating a more cohesive and empathetic society.

The primary benefit of the '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' is to raise awareness among the general New Zealand public about the Gaza crisis and the Palestinian people, and to activate core NZ values of peace, understanding, and community solidarity. Specifically, we aim to increase the percentage of New Zealanders supporting peaceful resolutions, such as a ceasefire, by providing informed perspectives and fostering empathy. Additionally, we target to build a following of approximately 100,000 on our digital platforms, creating a substantial community engaged in dialogue and action. This engagement will be quantifiable through a dashboard that will capture data analytics, tracking participation and interaction in our email campaigns, social media posts, and comments.

How many will be expected to benefit? 1000+

How will you show you have achieved success?

Our campaign's success will be determined through a blend of qualitative and quantitative measures. Quantitatively, we will leverage data analytics to monitor engagement levels, tracking metrics such as social media followers, email campaign open rates, and interactions including comments and shares. This will provide a clear picture of our reach and the level of active participation.

Qualitatively, we will assess the depth of engagement and shifts in public opinion through feedback, surveys, and analysis of the dialogue on our platforms. Regular polling will be a key tool in this process, allowing us to gauge public perspectives

on the Gaza crisis and related issues, and to adjust our approach for greater effectiveness.

In addition to these methods, we recognise the importance of managing sensitivities and ensuring a safe, respectful online environment. We will closely monitor conversations and comments, employing strategies to mitigate anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hate speech. Our established set of community guidelines aims to foster constructive dialogue and reduce harmful rhetoric. We plan to use data analytics not only to measure engagement but also to identify successful tactics in defusing emotionally charged or hateful comments. The ability to maintain a balanced and respectful discourse will be a crucial indicator of our success, alongside achieving our goal of engaging 100,000 individuals and effecting a noticeable shift in public opinion and awareness.

What is the project start date? 1/12/2023

What is the project end date? 15/2/2024

Where will the main benefit of the project be realised? Canterbury

Which ethnic community will be the main beneficiary of your project? Middle Eastern

AMOUNT REQUESTED

*If you are GST registered, the amounts should be exclusive of GST.
If you are not GST registered, the amounts should be inclusive of GST.*

What is the total amount you are requesting? \$30,000.00

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Required documents:

1. Budget for this request is **Required**.

Refer to Community Matters for more information
Community Matters - Budgets

Organisation Documentation:

Refer Community Matters - financial requirements for organisations
Refer Community Matters - financial statements

*Click on the 'Add Document' plus sign icon to upload documents
Click on the 'Edit Document' icon to change the document type label
Click on the 'Delete' icon to remove a document*

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

▼ TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. A grant recipient must:

- a. Spend the grant within 12 months of a grant request being approved. Or if awarded a multi-year grant, spend within the approved timeframe specified in the Reporting and Payments Schedule.
- b. Spend the grant only for the purpose(s) approved by, and subject to any conditions imposed by, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities.
- c. Return to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities any portion of the grant that is not spent on the approved purpose(s). If the grant payment includes GST, the grant recipient must also return the GST component of the grant.
- d. Complete a results report when the grant has been fully spent, or within 12 months after the grant has been approved, or upon request by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, whichever comes first. Or, if awarded a multi-year grant, meet milestone conditions such as providing results report by the due dates, which will be specified in the Reporting and Payments Schedule. Payment of any subsequent grant installments may not be made until all the milestone reporting requirements are met in full and is subject to funding being available.
- e. Make any files or records relating to the activity or project available for inspection within 10 working days if requested by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities.
- f. Keep financial records that demonstrate how the grant was spent for seven years after the end of the agreement term.
- g. Acknowledge the receipt of an Ethnic Communities Development Fund grant as a separate entry in its financial statements, or in a note to its financial statements.
- h. Inform the Ministry for Ethnic Communities of any changes that affect the organisation's ability to deliver the activity(ies) or project(s) (eg changes to financial situation; an intention to wind-up or cease operations; or any other significant event, or failure to meet child protection standards), before the grant has been fully used.
- i. Agree to notify the Ministry for Ethnic Communities immediately if any of the grant money is stolen or misappropriated and to consider if Police charges need to be laid.
- j. Agree that the Ministry for Ethnic Communities have authority to publish that the grant has been made to the grant recipient for the approved purpose.

2. During the term of this agreement a grant recipient may request a variation to the purpose, term, or conditions of this agreement.

3. A grant must not be spent on any item that falls within the Ethnic Communities Development Fund exclusions (Ministry for Ethnic Communities website) *Ethnic Communities Development Fund - what we do not fund*

4. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions within this agreement, or the provision of false information in the request may result, without limitation, in the Ministry for Ethnic Communities terminating this agreement and:

- a. Requiring repayment of all or part of the grant
- b. Withholding payment of this grant, any other Ministry for Ethnic Communities' administered grants and any Department of Internal Affairs' administered grants until issues are resolved
- c. Imposing additional terms and conditions before any Ministry for Ethnic Communities' administered grants and any Department of Internal Affairs' administered grants funding is approved

d. Recommending to funding committees of Ministry for Ethnic Communities' administered grants and Department of Internal Affairs' administered grants, to decline future funding.

5. For the purpose of gaining or providing information relevant to the funding of the organisation, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities may disclose to, or obtain information from, any other government department or agency, private person or organisation.

6. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be required to release information unless there is good reason under the Act to withhold the information.

DECLARATION

I confirm that I have the authority to make this request and to accept these terms and conditions on behalf of my organisation and declare that:

I understand and accept the terms and conditions set out above, which will form a legally binding agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Internal Affairs if our organisation is successful in receiving a grant.

All the information provided for this request is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I have notified the Department of Internal Affairs of any conflicts of interest of which I am aware.

Our organisation is fully compliant with all applicable legislation, including the requirements under the Children's Act 2014 (if applicable).

I have been duly authorised by our governing body to commit our organisation to this agreement.

Our organisation has the following minimum set of internal controls in place:

Two signatories to bank accounts.

Maintenance of a cash book or computer equivalent.

A person responsible for maintaining financial records.

Regular financial reporting to every full meeting of the governing body.

The ability to provide an income and expenditure statement, which reports what happened against the budget presented with our request.

ACCEPTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I, **s9(2)(a)**, confirm that I have the authority to accept these Terms and Conditions on behalf of Asturlab Cultural Centre and I accept these Terms and Conditions

Terms and Conditions Acceptance by authorised person: I accept

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

Decision: Fund

Grant Awarded: \$30,000.00

Grant Term: from 1 December 2023 to 1 December 2024

Decision Reason: It was noted that the request aligned with the Ethnic Communities Development Fund's priorities and funding criteria. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities is pleased to be able to fully fund your request on this occasion.

The Ministry wishes you every success with your project.

GRANT AWARDED

Grant Awarded On:



This is confirmation that you have been awarded an Ethnic Communities Development Fund grant of **\$30,000.00** to support you to achieve the outcomes described in your request.

The term of this grant is from **1 December 2023 to 1 December 2024**

Reporting and Payments

REPORTING SCHEDULE	
Report Date	Report Type
30/11/2024	Otinga Kōrero Final Results Report

- The Department of Internal Affairs will pay the grant as set out in the following payment table:

PAYMENTS SCHEDULE	
Scheduled Date	Payment
13/12/2023	\$30,000.00

OTINGA KŌRERO/RESULTS REPORT SAMPLE

At the end of the term of this grant, you will need to complete a results report that includes the following questions and requirements.

What happened?	
Who participated or benefited and how many?	
What was achieved? Did the project achieve it's goals?	
Please upload an income and expenditure statement which reports what happened against the budget presented with your request. The Ethnic Communities Development Fund grant and any other grants or income should be clearly stated in the summary, along with all the expenses incurred.	
How did you use the grant?	
Did you use the entire grant?	
How much is your refund?	

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All the information provided for this request is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I have notified the Department of Internal Affairs of any conflicts of interest of which I am aware.

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Maintenance of a cash book or computer equivalent.

A person responsible for maintaining financial records.

Regular financial reporting to every full meeting of the governing body.

The ability to provide an income and expenditure statement, which reports what happened against the budget presented with our request.

ACCEPTANCE

I, s9(2)(a), confirm that I have the authority to accept these Terms and Conditions on behalf of Asturlab Cultural Centre and I accept these Terms and Conditions

Terms and Conditions Acceptance by authorised person: I accept

17 November 2025



fyi-request-31696-d425481a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 2526-0072

Tēnā koe

Response to your Official Information Act request

This letter follows the Ministry for Ethnic Communities' (the Ministry) previous response to your Official Information Act request dated 20 August 2025.

In our earlier response, the Ministry advised it was withholding the final document, *Otinga Kōrero Final Results Report*, for the time being while clarification and additional information was sought from the applicant.

The Ministry is now in a position to reconsider its original decision to withhold the final document in full. As such, please see the attached summary of the Asturlab Cultural Centre's *Otinga Kōrero Final Results Report*.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward Firth'.

Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services



Appendix A: Otinga Kōrero Final Results Report - Summary

Grant expenditure:

Asturlab Cultural Centre was awarded an Ethnic Communities Development Fund (ECDF) grant of \$30,000 in December 2023, to support the successful implementation of the *4 for 40 Stop the Silence* campaign. Please see **Appendix B** for a detailed expenditure breakdown.

Campaign details:

The "4 for 40 Stop the Silence" campaign focused on raising awareness about the Gaza crisis and promoting social cohesion. It included a 40-day email awareness campaign; a Social Media Hackathon; launch of a billboard campaign drawing attention to the International Court of Justice findings; prayer space facilitation at various community events and development of the stopthesilence.nz website as a dedicated platform for awareness.

Campaign outcome:

The campaign primarily engaged Muslim communities across New Zealand, particularly those seeking a nuanced understanding of complex global issues. Youths benefited significantly from the Social Media Hackathon, gaining essential digital skills and creative collaboration opportunities. Event organisers gained increased Muslim community participation after the issue of lack of prayer spaces was addressed. The wider New Zealand public engaged with the billboard campaign and educational content, providing balanced perspectives on challenging topics. The campaign provided the community with tools for constructive engagement particularly during challenging period. The organisational capacity for digital outreach and public advocacy was enhanced and the team developed valuable skills in campaign management, social media strategy, and public messaging that will benefit future initiatives of the organisation.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Appendix B: Otinga Kōrero Final Results Report - Final expenditure report

4 for 40 Stop the Silence

1 Dec 2023 - 31 Mar 2024

INCOME

Funding request details

Add request details here

Budgeted amount

Amount requested

Actual amount

ECDF	30,000.00	30,000.00
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OTHER INCOME

List all expected and confirmed project income

Budgeted amount

Budgeted amount

Actual amount

Seed Fund - FIANZ	5,000.00	5,000.00
Admin support (Asturlab)	5,000.00	4,500.00
Community donations (from billboard campaign)	0.00	2,478.00
TOTAL INCOME	40,000.00	41,978.00

EXPENDITURE

List all expected and confirmed project expenses

Budgeted amount

Actual amount

Amount paid by grant

Please provide the breakdown of all actual expenses upon completion of your

Weekend Wānanga (in Christchurch) - youth networking	5,000.00	382.06	382.06
Project Coordination and relationship building (200hrs @\$35/hr)	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Volunteer Reimbursements and koha	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Training and development - upskilling in social media skills	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Meetings and community engagement sessions	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Content development - creating social media posts (5/wk x 6 wks) on Facebook, Instagram and X	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,671.17
Photographer - support content creation, capture engagements etc.	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Videographer - to develop short videos and reels for social media	1,000.00	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Boosting posts (\$200-\$400/wk over 6 weeks)	2,000.00	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Comments Moderation (2 people x 1hr/day x 50 days x \$25/hr)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Surveying participants (developing, delivery and analysis)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
		2,500.00	2,500.00
Email writing (daily emails for campaign subscribers \$50/email x 50 emails)	2,500.00		
Establishing Website (design, development, domain, hosting etc)	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,365.99
Campaign Monitor and social media platform setup	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Initial Content development (welcome pack, FAQ, website)	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Conceptual design and framing including logo and initial content	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Volunteer induction, coordination and support	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00
Billboard Campaign	0.00	3,500.00	1,022.00
TOTAL Budgetted EXPENDITURE	40,000.00	39,382.06	29,941.22

Operational Surplus/Deficit

0.00

\$2,596

\$59