

## Part A - General Information

### Organisation/Individual Name

The Vavengers

### Organisation Type/Structure

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

### Theme/Nature of Project

Human Services

### If 'Other' please specify

Supporting survivors of all forms of Gender-Based Violence and at-risk women and girls

### Charity Registration Number (if applicable)

1184202

### Project Name (if same as Organisation Name, please leave this blank)

The UK's only pop-up support & wellness hubs for women & girls

### Name of Lead Contact

Sema Gornall

### Email

[s.gornall@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:s.gornall@thevavengers.co.uk)

### Phone / Mobile

7495446908

### Website

<https://thevavengers.co.uk>

### Social Media Handles (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram etc):

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/11410583/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxfwJKwCyCHIXMNyNbs0n2g>

<https://twitter.com/TheVavengers>

<https://www.facebook.com/thevavengers/>

<https://www.instagram.com/thevavengers/>

## Part B - Project Proposal

### Project Mission: A snapshot of the project's intention (50 words max)

The Vavengers hubs are the UK's first and only pop-up holistic support & wellness spaces, led by Community Ambassadors who are experienced in the field or survivors of FGM/C or Gender-Based Violence. The workshops offer well-being sessions, talks on all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls, distribution of food and essential items such as period pads and are a safe space for women and girls who want to get information and referral on support services available in the UK.

### Situation (250 words)

The Vavengers is a UK-based FGM/C (Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting) awareness & action charity led by FGM/C survivors and activists. Through the guidance of survivors, we have grown to understand that Female Genital Mutilation isn't just a singular event; it is part of a greater cycle of oppression with devastating, life-long physical and psychological consequences. Ending FGM/C and supporting those affected requires the energy of women and men of all communities. The Vavengers exist to bring these communities together, transforming singular experiences into shared action. With the continued direction of survivors, and working directly with those on the front line, we ensure that all projects we create and funding we receive are directed to where it is needed most, and we will continue to do so until Female Genital Mutilation is eradicated.

The diaspora communities we currently work with in the UK often sit at the intersection of forced migration, Gender-Based Violence and health inequalities because of their race/gender and legal status. Our community projects, advocacy work, and campaigning aim to empower our beneficiaries to understand their

rights and the services available to them, whilst also creating high-level awareness and understanding of the gaps in healthcare and education for the most marginalised groups living in the United Kingdom.

#### **Complication (250 words)**

For centuries, we have lived in sexist societies undermining the contribution of women and today all across the world, millions of women and girls are being subjected to many forms of abuse purely based on their gender. Women and girls we support are facing many forms of disadvantages, and abuse, and are isolated and marginalised. We want to create a world where women and girls are free of abuse. The issues women and girls are facing such as Female Genital Mutilation, Forced and/or Child Marriage, Climate Crisis, Displacement, Emotional Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Online Abuse and so on are forced upon women and girls.

#### **Solution (250 words)**

Our important work creates safe spaces for women and girls to seek help and we also run powerful campaigns to create awareness and change laws. We need to create more safe spaces like our support hubs in London across the UK and then the rest of the world so that women and girls can access immediate support, learn about their rights and seek support through referrals. Our work has been revolutionary in the VAWG sector as we deliver our hubs in collaboration with many experts and organisations and this is the only space where women and girls share their stories only once to us and then are only referred to services if they are eligible to receive these support lines. We have increased the number of reporting made in child/forced marriage, FGM, domestic abuse and many other forms of abuse. This is due to us being survivor-led and survivor run as the community knows we understand them and relate to them and it built a huge trust between us and the women and girls who are surviving abuse on a daily basis.

#### **Part C - Wider Support**

##### **How would the Stephen Lloyd Award network of partners' support be beneficial to your project? (250 words max)**

We would gain the visibility that our important work deserves and make campaigning against FGM and all other forms of Gender-Based Violence the mainstream. We want to make sure everyone makes it their concern and role to end GBV. We would also be really appreciative of any HR, IT and mentoring supports we can get. We would also take it as an opportunity to educate the network of partners on what Gender-Based Violence really means by giving an insight that we get from our community. We would love to give an action plan to partners where they can learn, grow and act to support our cause.

#### **Part D - Financial Justification**

##### **In general terms, please explain how the winning funds would be used to carry out your project. (50 words max)**

We would use the funds to support the growth of our organisation to execute our five-year strategic plan. The funds would enable us to grow from being a London-wide organisation to UK wide then worldwide in the next five years through increasing capacity and building meaningful partnerships.

#### **Part E - Supporting Information**

##### **Governing Documents: Where relevant, please upload any recent charity accounts and governing documents as attachments.**

- [Accounts The-Vavengers 04.04.2021-v5-2.pdf](#)

##### **Team: We would like to learn a little more about the individual or team invested into the project. What are your individual credentials? Is there a story behind how you or your team all came together to support the project? (75 words max)**

Our organisation was founded by a group of activists and survivors who were disappointed in the lack of action around the world on FGM and GBV. They started as an artist collective and because the work they did was so effective our organisation The Vavengers was born. We use art to communicate difficult subjects such as FGM and GBV and connect communities. Our team has various experts from different sectors. <https://thevavengers.co.uk/team-vavengers>

Our Co-founder Mabel Evans is a Filmmaker who creates films addressing social injustice. Our other Co-founder is Hoda Ali, a globally known activist, a survivor of FGM and a war child who has been featured in many documentaries as self. <https://www.hodamali.com> Hoda is also a sexual health nurse and safeguarding educator.

Our CEO Sema Gornall is a survivor of a few forms of GBV, she is the child of a modern slave and Sema broke the cycle of abuse and freed her mother. Sema is an entrepreneur who founded two companies both working to address social impact issues, a writer who writes fiction and real stories with displacement and

GBV themes, an artist and our leader. [www.semagornall.com](http://www.semagornall.com)

We work with industry-leading wellness ambassadors such as Rose Bonham Carter and healthcare professionals who are NHS registered nurses/midwives and activists running their own organisations to deliver our frontline services.

#### **YouTube Video**

Our What if you knew campaign made up of three videos with survivors of FGM, reached over 20,000 people. We are also currently working on creating our first short motion graphic film and a short film.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd4walNufRs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB6tBVBFkNI>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n-1F\\_1AU9o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n-1F_1AU9o)

#### **Additional References: You are welcome to provide a list of up to 5 links with any relevant supporting material or visuals, as further reference**

Example of our direct support services: <https://thevavengers.co.uk/blognews/the-vavengers-launches-london-wide-support-hubs>

Example of our campaigning: <https://thevavengers.co.uk/blognews/the-vavengers-thoughts-on-the-supreme-courts-overturning-of-roe-v-wade>

Example of our educational services: <https://thevavengers.co.uk/blognews/meet-shamsa-sharawe-our-new-community-ambassador-and-emerging-gbv-activist>