**Background**

Merima is the activist movement for alumni of IGY, the Israel Gay Youth movement. Its objective is to generate political mobilization among the young members of the LGBTQ+ community against the current government's policy. Since the beginning of the mass demonstrations against the various programs of the current radical right-wing government, Merima, which boasts more than a five thousand-strong membership, has been rallying extensive sections of the LGBTQ+ community to action.

Merima focuses on those in the 20-30-year-old age bracket, urging them to engage in political activity on LGBTQ+-related issues but specifically to take part in the broader protests concerning Israel's democratic image. Its underlying working assumption is that the members of the LGBTQ+ community do indeed form part of a community, share a common identity and social ties, as well as that in terms of their identity and community affiliation, it is possible to encourage them to engage in the broader debate and relevant action.

Last year, Merima was awarded an emergency grant for its work in the protests against the regime coup, and now, following the return of the demonstrations against the current government and its policies, we respectfully ask to approve an additional emergency grant to bolster Merima's activity.

The purpose of the grant – forming a strong connection between the LGBTQ+ community and the current protest might succeed in effecting a change in the voting pattern in the upcoming elections and possibly even dissolve the coalition. Moreover, it involves significant potential for bolstering the protest. Merima, as a recognized organization with a unique voice within the LGBTQ+ community, has the potential to link up LGBTQ+ individuals to the protest, in addition to making the necessary content accessible to them in a unique and relevant manner.

The project is to include two central components:

1. Joining in the activities of protest organizations in various protest activities in northern and central Israel on Saturdays and various days of civil disruption;
2. Exerting pressure on government ministers and Members of the Knesset who are prone to influence or who are perceived as sharing the aspiration for promoting liberal values in Israel, specifically on the Speaker of the Knesset, Amir Ohana, and MKs from the Religious Zionist Party to expose their current views and to forge a rift between them and their voters.

**Workplan**

Objectives:

* Creating clear connections, both in terms of content and methods, between the struggle of the LGBTQ+ community and the current struggle to replace the government, aims to rouse the community and increase its visibility within the broader public domain.
* Drawing in activists to take tangible action in the efforts of the current protest while generating a creative experience as part of the struggle.
* Preparing the LGBTQ+ community for the election period.
* Enabling broader sections of Israeli society who do not identify as LGBTQ+ to regard the LGBTQ+ agenda as being a material issue in the struggle against the Messianic right-wing and replacement of the current government.

Plan of action – recruiting a field coordinator to coordinate all the activities to generate political mobilization among the LGBTQ+ community. The coordinator's activities are to include:

* Parlor meetings for more than 5000 LGBTQ+ individuals to discuss the research conducted by Lighthouse on the trends within the government and right-wing organizations to target the LGBTQ+ community.
* The establishment of four LGBTQ+ cells to bring together activists to initiate actions against the government's current policies.
* Increasing LGBTQ+ visibility at the regular protests calling to replace the government held on Saturday nights at four venues throughout Israel.
* Preparation for election periods and accompanying protests during the election buildup.

**Budget**

Wages for the coordinator for a three-month period: $15,500

Buses for the demonstrations: $750

Equipment for demonstrations and graphic design services: $13,750

Total: $30,000

**Metrics**

Outputs:

* Establishment of four LGBTQ+ cells for the protest activity.
* 3000 members of the LGBTQ+ community participating as one bloc in the Kaplan Street demonstrations.
* More than 5000 members of the community exposed to the research conducted by Lighthouse on the actions being undertaken by the right-wing.

Outcomes:
* A significant voice of criticism against the government's policies and a demand to hold elections – on the part of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Purpose of the Grant**

Support for activity by Merima to generate political mobilization of the LGBTQ+ community.