

LEGAL TRAINEESHIP: RESTRICTIVE POLICIES

Berlin and Amsterdam Based

The European Legal Support Center is the first and only independent organisation providing free and professional legal support and assistance to associations, groups and individuals advocating for Palestinian rights in Europe. The ELSC intervenes to end arbitrary restrictions and the criminalization of peaceful advocacy and humanitarian work. It also develops legal tools and strategies to support civil society advocacy and campaigns. The Center was established in January 2019 as a joint initiative of European jurists, the Palestinian civil society network PNGO and the Dutch NGO The Rights Forum.

We are presently seeking two (2) guest legal trainees for our restrictive policies team. One to be based in Amsterdam and another to be based in Berlin.

As a legal trainee, you will work to develop legal memos, strategy, conduct research and assist clients on their rights as well as monitor developments of attacks against advocates for Palestinian rights across Europe. The work is conducted in partnership with human rights lawyers and NGOs of different European countries and the UK.

Within the restrictive policies team, you will: **a)** research how soft law instruments have been used to restrict fundamental rights of such as impacting advocates for Palestinian rights in Europe; **b)** provide legal advice to ELSC clients on their rights under national and regional human rights law; **c)** develop strategies to defend those affected by these restrictive policies. Specific tasks include:

- Undertaking research work through the analysis of relevant legal material, including legislative provisions, case law and doctrine;
- Assist legal staff in the daily work of the office including translating documents between English and German;
- Develop legal strategies and draft legal opinions, notes, memos, and summaries;
- Any other task relating to the daily work of the team.

Essential

- The candidate must have a level of education, which corresponds to completed university studies in law attested by a Bachelor's degree/diploma. Other academic degrees with a legal track of at least 60 EC will also be considered.
- Sound understanding of international and European Union law is required, especially in the area of fundamental rights protection/freedom of expression.
- A demonstrated understanding of international human rights law with a specific focus on the European Convention on Human Rights.
- Proficiency in **English** with excellent written and spoken communication skills.
- Teamwork skills and flexibility, including the ability to manage time and competing priorities, according to the current demands of the organization

Desirable

- Candidates who are carrying out legal traineeships in law firms (or foresee a career as legal practitioners) are strongly recommended to apply
- Ongoing or finalised Master studies in the field of European law is an asset, in particular with a specialisation in the areas of interest of the organization (EU Fundamental Rights Law, European Convention on Human Rights Law, Data Protection Law, Business and Human Rights).
- Students writing thesis on topics related to our work such as freedom of expression and principle of anti-discrimination under EU law and ECHR, data protection law, EU counter terrorism legislations, business and human rights.
- Previous professional/practical experience in the field of law, including when done parallel to studies, would represent a strong asset.
- Commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people or other causes of political and social justice would be a distinct advantage.
- Familiarity with the historical and present experience of the Palestinian people would be a distinct advantage.
- Experience of being involved with campaigns, in grassroots or non-profit organizations would be an advantage.
- A knowledge of Arabic/Dutch or other languages would be considered an advantage.

Practical Matters

- One position will be based at the ELSC office in Amsterdam and another position will be based in Berlin with a local lawyer partner. Please indicate in your cover letter which location you wish to apply for;
- The applicant **must be** a permanent resident of an EU country, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Turkey, Ukraine, and Kosovo. This position is only open to international applicants. Those currently residing in The Netherlands are **not** eligible for the Amsterdam position. Those currently residing in Germany are **not** eligible for the Berlin position. This is required by the external funding source of this traineeship and not within the control of the ELSC. Applicants who do not meet this requirement cannot be considered. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact application@elsc.support before sending your application.
- Applications should be sent to application@elsc.support including a CV, cover letter and short writing sample (max 1000 words) on a topic related to the work of the ELSC by no later than **20 December at 23:59**;
- Prior to the interview, shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a short assignment. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback to candidates who are not shortlisted;
- The successful candidate will begin a 'work from home' trial period for a maximum of 1 day a week starting in January 2021 (un-paid). Following a successful trial period, the candidate will begin work in Amsterdam/Berlin in February 2021 - July 2021;
- Following the trial period The ELSC will provide a monthly scholarship of EUR 1,100 and a bike. Further details of remuneration will be provided during the interview.

The ELSC is committed to be an equal opportunities organisation and we value diversity in all areas. No rights can be derived from the above statements. The ELSC reserves the right to amend and change the responsibilities or withdraw calls for application in line with organisational needs. All offers are subject to funding approvals.