

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

ELSC ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The European Legal Support Center (ELSC) is seeking a full-time staff member, who has strong communication skills and experience in designing and leading advocacy campaigns around legal issues. The position is located in Amsterdam and available from 1 April 2021.

ABOUT THE ELSC

Established in January 2019, the **ELSC's mission** is to provide legal assistance to organizations, groups and individuals who are facing repression in Europe because they speak out or take peaceful action for the freedom and justice of the Palestinian people, and to give strategic legal support to campaigns of the Palestine solidarity movement.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The ideal candidate is passionate about social justice issues and thrives in a collaborative and dynamic work environment that requires self-management and team leadership skills. S/he has strong skills in human rights advocacy and English language writing and editing, and is comfortable with public speaking and the use of social media.

The Advocacy & Communications Officer performs and represents the ELSC in **two main roles**. On the one hand, s/he leads monitoring and documentation of incidents of defamation and repression of support for Palestinian rights, including production ELSC country reports.

On the other hand, the Advocacy & Communications Officer leads design and implementation of advocacy initiatives and campaigns that support ELSC legal aid and litigation, and enhance their impact. With these advocacy initiatives and campaigns, s/he promotes ELSC analysis and positions on issues of human rights such as the following: freedoms of expression and assembly, issues related to discrimination, shrinking space for civil society, privacy & data protection, and business & human rights.

The Advocacy & Communications Officer (ACO) works as part of the ELSC team which is composed of the Programme Director, the Development Officer, and approximately a dozen temporary legal researchers, interns and consultants. S/he also cooperates closely with ELSC partners across Europe and in Palestine, foremost groups and NGOs that campaign for Palestinian rights and supportive jurists and legal scholars. The ACO reports to the ELSC Programme Director and is expected to work the appropriate and necessary time in order to complete key assignments and related tasks on schedule.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Monitoring and documentation

1. Guide and supervise field workers in designated European countries to ensure systematic and professional documentation of incidents of defamation and repression; organize and lead presentations and discussions of the findings in the respective countries;
2. Produce ELSC country reports: conceptualize content and design of the report in cooperation with an ELSC partner and a consultant in the respective country; supervise write-up, review and edit drafts;
3. Maintain the ELSC's database: ensure that all new incidents reported to the ELSC via the website or otherwise are recorded in the database.

Advocacy initiatives and campaigns

1. Develop and lead advocacy initiatives and campaigns for promotion of ELSC country reports, and to support and enhance the impact of ELSC legal aid and litigation. For this purpose:
2. Develop advocacy strategies and build and coordinate coalitions with human rights activists, experts and lawyers;
3. Produce and disseminate information and advocacy tools, including letters to policy and decision makers, press releases, newsletters and reports, via the ELSC's targeted email-lists, social media and website. Select/solicit visuals for illustration and ensure professional and attractive design of print and digital information/advocacy tools.
4. Conduct briefings of partners and advocacy meetings with opinion influencers and policy- and decision makers.
5. Document, assess and appraise results of advocacy initiatives and campaigns.

General

1. In the performance of job tasks, collaborate closely with the Programme Director and the Development Officer, and guide and supervise work of the legal team. Participate in ELSC program development and planning;
2. Carry out research as required for the performance of job tasks;
3. Maintain, update and develop the ELSC's website and targeted contact lists (email and social media)
4. Maintain regular and professional communication with the ELSC's networks of Palestine solidarity activists, NGOs, lawyers and legal scholars who advocate for Palestinian rights and encourage their active participation in the performance of job tasks. Build new strategic partnerships with European and Palestinian NGOs and grass roots groups.

Selection criteria		Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	Degree or advanced degree in law.		✓
Experience and knowledge	Robust understanding of human rights issues, including relevant domestic European and international legal frameworks (ECHR, European law, IHL).	✓	
	Previous successful work experience (at least 2 years) in advocacy, communications, campaigning or community organizing for human rights, social justice or related issues	✓	
	Understanding of Palestine-Israel historically and under international law and Familiarity with the repression faced by advocates for Palestinian rights in Europe		✓
	Knowledge of two or more of the following areas: freedom of expression, issues related to discrimination, shrinking space for civil society, privacy & data protection, business & human rights, counterterrorism and security, Public international law		✓
Skills and competencies	Ability to communicate, both orally and in writing, human rights arguments and principles clearly and succinctly to a range of audiences	✓	
	Ability to work collaboratively; excellent inter-personal skills	✓	

	Website- and social media posting and management skills	✓	
	Ability to manage multiple and competing priorities, meet deadlines, work independently, and solve problems.	✓	
	Ability to research, scrutinise and formulate complex human rights arguments to a high standard.		✓
	Evaluative - Ability to take a reflective and evaluative approach to work.	✓	
	Attention to detail, including a thorough, accurate and careful approach to work.	✓	
Values	Commitment to building a fair, respectful and diverse working environment	✓	
	Commitment to the mission of the ELSC; ability and readiness to commit to the ELSC for more than one year	✓	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The ACO will work from office space that is shared with colleagues. The ELSC cannot provide housing in Amsterdam. However, if necessary, the ELSC and/or The Rights Forum will assist the search for adequate and affordable housing in the city. Work is expected to require little traveling, and if so, then mainly within Europe. The ELSC is striving to build a team that is truly inclusive. We welcome and encourage applications from marginalised groups.

SALARY AND BENEFITS:

This is a fulltime staff position. The ACO will be employed by the ELSC's host, The Rights Forum and is subject to the rights and duties under its bylaws. Benefits include paid holidays, vacation and sick leave, as well as social and health insurances (insurance arrangements will be finalized pending the status and preferences of the selected applicant). The beginning salary is for the minimum level of required skills, knowledge and previous work experience, with increases possible in subsequent years, pending availability of financial resources and evaluation of performance.

TO APPLY

Please provide the following: CV and a cover letter explaining why you are interested in this position and how you think you can contribute to the ELSC's mission; names and contacts (email, phone number) of two references; a sample illustrating your advocacy work.

Please send your application sam@elsc.support subject line **"ELSC Advocacy and Communications Application."**

Applications will be received until 14 February 2021. We will not consider incomplete applications.

Short-listed applicants will be informed and invited for interviews. Shortlisted candidates will also be asked to complete pre-interview tasks.

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.