

LEGAL TRAINEESHIP: DE-FUNDING AND DE-PLATFORMING

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 a legal trainee for our de-funding and de-platforming team in Amsterdam.

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.

As the de-funding and de-platforming legal trainee, you will work under the ELSC staff jurist to monitor developments in counter-terrorism legislation and financial service provisions in respect to Palestinian NGOs as well as advice clients on contractual matters. Specific tasks include:

- Undertaking research work in counter terrorism legislation and financial services provisions through the analysis of relevant legal material, including legislative provisions, case law and doctrine;
- Assist legal staff in the daily work of the office
- Develop legal strategies and draft legal opinions, notes, memos, and summaries;
- Assist local partners in litigation, monitoring case development and updating clients;
- Work closely with lawyers and human rights NGOs;
- 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.
- A sound understanding of international and European Union law is required.
- Knowledge of counter-terrorism legislation at the national, regional and international level.
- An understanding of contract law in a domestic setting.
- Proficiency in English with excellent written and spoken communication skills. Other languages (German/Dutch/Italian/Spanish/French/Arabic) would be considered an asset.
- Teamwork skills and flexibility, including the ability to manage time and competing priorities, according to the current demands of the organization and being able to work in autonomy

Desirable

- Candidates who are carrying out legal traineeship 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 external relations Law, EU Fundamental Rights Law, European Convention on Human Rights Law, data protection law, counter-terrorism provisions, economic sanctions regimes).
- 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.

Practical Matters

- 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. 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 with the subject line "**Defunding Legal Traineeship Application**" including a CV, cover letter and short writing sample (max 1000 words) on a topic related to the work of the ELSC.
- The deadline for the present round of applications is **21 February 2021**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview in the following week. Unfortunately we are unable to provide feedback to candidates who are not shortlisted.
- Prior to the interview, shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a short assignment
- The successful candidate will begin a 'work from home' trial period for a maximum of 1 day a week starting 1 month before the beginning of the traineeship (unpaid). Following a successful trial period, the candidate will begin work at the ELSC office in Amsterdam.
- Following the trial period The ELSC will provide a monthly competitive stipend, which may vary according to the experience of the selected candidate, and a bike. Further details of remuneration will be provided during the interview.
- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered for this round however may be considered for future rounds.

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.