

ELSC LEGAL TRAINEESHIP: UNITED KINGDOM PROJECT

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 UK project work. The position will be based at the ELSC office 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 in the UK. The work is conducted in partnership with human rights lawyers and NGOs of different European countries.

As part of our UK strategy to monitor, defend and empower Palestinian rights advocates, in this role, you will: **a)** assist the UK Country Officer with research to monitor the repression of Palestinian rights advocates in the UK; **b)** provide legal advice to ELSC clients on their rights under national (UK) and regional human rights law; **c)** develop strategies and guides to defend those affected by restrictive policies **d)** analyse relevant legislation and jurisprudence under British and EU law regarding cases of limits to freedom of expression and human rights advocacy. Specific tasks include;

- Conducting interviews with affected persons and groups as well as undertaking research on civic space for Palestinian rights advocacy by studying online sources and relevant legal materials;
- Assisting the UK Country Officer in the daily work of the office including responding to requests for assistance;
- Develop legal strategies and draft legal opinions, notes, memos, and summaries;
- Any other task relating to the daily work of the wider ELSC team.

Essential

- The candidate must hold a degree in Law (LLB) or equivalent qualification (i.e. GDL or joint law degree) with a demonstrated knowledge of UK law. Candidates with a completed/final stage Master degree in the field of European/Human Rights law are encouraged to apply, particular with a specialisation in the areas of interest of the organisation (EU Fundamental Rights Law, European Convention on Human Rights Law, Data Protection Law).
- 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. Other languages including French, German, Arabic and Dutch are an asset.
- Teamwork skills and flexibility, including the ability to manage time and competing priorities, according to the current demands of the organization
- Commitment/familiarity to the rights of the Palestinian people or other causes of political and social justice would be a distinct advantage.

Desirable

- Candidates who seek to qualify as a solicitor/barrister are strongly recommended to apply.
- 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, would represent a strong asset.
- Experience of being involved with campaigns, in grassroots or non-profit organizations would be an advantage.

Practical Matters

- The position will be based at the ELSC office in Amsterdam.
- Period: September 2021 - February 2022.
- The applicant **must be** a permanent resident of an EU country, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Turkey, **United Kingdom**, Ukraine, or Kosovo. Those currently residing in The Netherlands are **not** eligible for the 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 **by no later than 18:00 CET on 30 June**, including a CV, cover letter and short writing sample (max 1000 words) on a topic related to the work of the ELSC.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an initial (online) interview. 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 a month before the traineeship (un-paid). Following a successful trial period, the candidate will begin work in Amsterdam
- Following the trial period the ELSC, in coordination with an external funding source, will provide a monthly scholarship totalling EUR 1,100. A bike will also be provided for your stay in Amsterdam. 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.