

JUNIOR LEGAL OFFICER: EMPOWER

Amsterdam based

The Organisation

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.

As part of our Empower pillar, we engage in strategic litigation to end impunity of private and public actors who facilitate Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights.

Strategic litigation is the use of legal action to bring about certain social, political or legal changes. The goal of strategic litigation is not to win a case for a particular client, but the impact the legal procedure can have on broader interests. For this reason, strategic litigation is also known as impact litigation and a supplement to other ways of bringing about change; from advocacy to community organizing and protests. An organisation focused on strategic litigation should, therefore, act as an ally to activists, NGOs and grassroots organisations and communities.

The Role

As a Junior Legal Officer: Empower, you will work to develop legal strategies to challenge human rights violations happening in the context of Israel Palestine, mainly (but not limited to) within the following broad fields of law: a. Business and Human Rights; b. International Humanitarian Law; c. International Human Rights Law; d. European Private and Public Law; e. Financial Crimes Legislation.

At the core of the position you will develop all the basic skills required for working in human rights law firms and in NGOs specialized in movement lawyering and strategic litigation. Specific tasks include;

- Coordinate strategic litigation projects with university law clinics and partners organizations;
- Conducting independent legal research on the fields related to ELSC projects including public procurement law and financial crimes to develop advocacy/litigation projects;
- Draft legal memos based on your findings;
- Represent ELSC in conferences and gatherings with lawyers, academics, human rights advocates in the Netherlands;

Requirements

Essential

- A degree in law;
- Sound understanding of national and international human rights law is required, especially in the area of fundamental rights protection/freedom of expression;
- 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;
- Capacity to think strategically and creatively about initiatives to bring about social, political, and legal change;
- Ability to engage with different types of clients and rights advocates under the supervision of the programme director/country officer;
- Commitment/familiarity to the rights of the Palestinian people or other causes of political and social justice would be a distinct advantage.

Desirable

- A Master's degree (LL.M) in human rights/EU law/International law or related field;
- Candidates who have completed a thesis on topics related to our work such as freedom of expression and principle of anti-discrimination under national/international law, data protection law, counter terrorism legislations, business and human rights are encouraged to apply;
- Previous professional/practical experience in a law firm/moot court experience or legal clinic, would represent a strong asset;
- Experience of being involved with campaigns, in grassroots or non-profit organizations.

Practical Matters

- The position is based at the ELSC office in central Amsterdam;
- 40 hours per week
- Applications should be sent to application@elsc.support including the subject line Junior Legal Officer: Empower
- 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;
- A stipend of €1100 with further local benefits.

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.