

JUNIOR LEGAL OFFICER: MONITOR AND DEFEND

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 defend pillar we assist clients when their rights have been restricted, such as in [Germany](#), [The Netherlands](#), [Spain](#) and [elsewhere](#). Under our monitor pillar, we collect and analyse incidents of attacks for the production of [Monitoring Reports](#).

The Role

As a Junior Legal Officer: Monitor and Defend, you will work to develop legal memos, devise strategy, conduct research and assist clients on their rights as well as monitor developments of attacks against advocates for Palestinian rights. The work is conducted in partnership with human rights lawyers and NGOs of different European countries.

As part of our strategy to monitor, defend and empower Palestinian rights advocates, in this role, you will: **a)** assist with research to monitor the repression of Palestinian rights advocates; **b)** provide legal advice to ELSC clients on their rights under European human rights law; **c)** develop strategies and guides to defend those affected by restrictive policies **d)** analyse relevant legislation and jurisprudence under 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 Project Staff 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.

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;
- Ability 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: Monitor and Defend 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;
- 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.