

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS “HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTITIONERS” FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2023

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.

The Human Rights Practitioners Fellowship Programme

We are proud to launch a **Fellowship Programme for young Palestinian law graduates** in order to encourage the focal point of the Palestinian voice in our collective work for justice. The program will equip fellows with further training on the use of legal mechanisms, advocacy, media and other tools to support grass-roots movements and advance social justice causes.

As an ELSC-Human Rights Practitioner fellow, you will work to develop legal memos, devise strategies, conduct research and assist clients with 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

- Being a Palestinian national;

- Being below thirty years old
- Bachelor or Master's degree in Law;
- A student visa for higher education for the Netherlands (MVV)
- 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 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;

Desirable

- 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 Amsterdam for one year (January - December 2023)
- Full-time professional commitment is required (40 hours per week)
- 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 €1.725 with further local benefits

Deadline for applications

All applicants meeting the above listed requirements, should send their CV and motivation letter (max one page) to application@elsc.support by **1 November 2022**, mentioning **Human Rights Practitioners Fellowship** in the subject.