

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ELSC CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

ABOUT US

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 criminalisation 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 the ‘defend pillar’ of our work, we assist clients when their rights have been restricted, such as in [Germany](#), [The Netherlands](#), [the UK](#) and [elsewhere](#). In particular, we have provided free legal support and assistance to many individuals, groups and organisations who have faced repression of their right to freedom of expression through smear campaigns, unfounded complaints and cancellation of events. Under our ‘monitor pillar’, we collect and analyse incidents of attacks for the production of [Monitoring Reports](#).

We now have an exciting opportunity to expand our team and our reach. Therefore, we are looking for a qualified Chief Legal Officer to carry out ELSC’s supervisory responsibilities from February/March 2023.

THE ROLE

As the Chief Legal Officer, you will be responsible for overseeing the legal team on all cases and projects emanating (mainly) from Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. The Chief Legal Officer will report to the ELSC’s Program Director, Giovanni Fassina. Your role will cover five main areas of work:

- a) managing the legal team consisting of three Legal Officers in their daily activities;
- b) supervising the legal team’s casework and research on the repression of Palestinian rights advocates throughout Europe and mainly in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK;
- c) providing legal advice to ELSC clients on their rights under domestic law and European human rights law;
- d) devising and advising on strategies and guides to defend those affected by restrictive

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policies; and

- e) overseeing the legal team's organisation and participation in workshops and advocacy events.

Specific tasks include:

- Giving instructions and providing guidance to the legal team on cases and projects;
- Ensuring the appropriate execution of Legal Officers' tasks;
- Devising legal strategies and reviewing legal opinions, notes, memos, and summaries in coordination with our network of lawyers;
- Responding to requests for assistance and interviewing ELSC clients;
- Maintaining effective communication with clients and partner organisations;
- Regularly coordinating with the ELSC Legal Network;
- Overseeing the organisation and facilitation of workshops with activists, academics, students and lawyers both online and in-person;
- Training new staff and continuously training current staff;
- Speaking at relevant events on behalf of the ELSC;
- Any other task relating to the daily work of the wider ELSC team.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Qualifications: A law degree (LLB) and/or Master's (LLM). Candidates who have recently qualified as lawyers in their jurisdiction are strongly encouraged to apply. Candidates with relevant paralegal experience will also be considered.

Languages: English is the working language of the ELSC. Knowledge of German, Dutch, and/or Arabic would be a unique advantage.

Required skills:

- Excellent communication and legal writing skills;
- Organisational and management skills;
- Ability to deal with a heavy workload and to work well under pressure;
- Excellent time management skills;
- Strong work ethic;
- Knowledge of EU and ECHR law as well as international mechanisms;
- Knowledge of Dutch, German and/or UK domestic law, particularly in the areas of public law, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly is an asset;
- Commitment to the rights of the Palestinian people or other causes of political and social justice;
- An ability to commit to at least 2 years of work with the ELSC.

Location: The position would be based in Amsterdam. Remote-working will be considered an option.

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How to apply: Please send your CV, a **one-page** cover letter outlining why you want to work for the ELSC and how you meet our requirements, in English, to application@elsc.support including the subject line 'ELSC Chief Legal Officer. The **deadline for applications is 30.12.2022**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an initial (online) interview during the second week of January. Prior to the interview, candidates will be asked to complete a short assignment. Unfortunately we are unable to provide feedback to candidates who are not shortlisted.

Further information on our work can be found on our website. Specific questions should be directed to giovanni@elsc.support.

Start date and training period: The shadow position will commence between **01 February 2023 and 01 March 2023**. The successful candidate will be required to undertake **3 or 4 months of training (32 hours per week)** before taking over the role of Chief Legal Officer in **June 2023** (this position is **36-40 hours per week**). Training will involve working alongside the current Chief Legal Officer on the specific tasks outlined above to ensure the candidate has the requisite expertise and knowledge to successfully manage the legal team.

Remuneration: Selected candidates will be paid as consultants during the 4-month training period, with a salary of **2.000 euro monthly (gross)** for a **32 hours per week**. They will be offered a one-year consultancy contract following the finalisation of training and appointment as chief Legal Officer in June 2023 with an annual salary ranging from 30.000 - 36.000 euro **(gross)** for a 40 hours per-week professional commitment, depending on the candidate's level of experience.

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