

## **Amnesty International Litigation Fellowship**

**September 2019- September 2020**

### **Overview of organisation's mission and activities:**

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. We reach almost every country in the world and have more than 2 million members and supporters who drive forward our fight for rights and more than 5 million activists who strengthen our calls for justice.

Amnesty International's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International undertakes systematic and independent research and advocacy activities – including strategic litigation - to disclose human rights abuses accurately, quickly and persistently, and advocate for justice, truth, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence for victims of human rights violations. In addition to its work on specific cases and patterns of human rights abuses, Amnesty International urges all governments to observe the rule of law and to ratify and implement human rights standards, and encourages all organs of society to support and respect human rights.

### **Specific role and responsibilities during the Fellowship:**

The Litigation Fellowship will take place in the London office of Amnesty International's International Secretariat, under the supervision of the Director of Strategic Litigation. The Fellow will sit within the Strategic Litigation Unit in the organisation's International Law and Policy Directorate, which provides leadership in the areas of legal standard-setting, developments in international and post-conflict justice, human rights jurisprudence, international humanitarian law, effective implementation of the law and the development and application of human rights policy. At the same time, over the last 30 years, we have built a solid reputation for successfully litigating landmark cases across a range of thematic issues and jurisdictions.

The Fellow will contribute to a range of activities within the Strategic Litigation Unit. He/she will assist in identifying gaps in the law for selection of new cases and will assist in researching, writing and reviewing of legal pleadings, correspondence and other documents in support of current and new litigation. The Fellow will regularly update Amnesty International's case management database, which tracks progress of our litigation work, and ensure that notes and action points of Litigation Committee meetings are taken and circulated to all members of the Committee and others concerned. The Fellow will also contribute to the development, planning and backing of funding proposals for new areas of work.

The Fellow will gain thorough, hands-on experience of Amnesty's litigation work. Their full engagement in the research, analysis and drafting of cases is essential. As much of

our work covers new legal ground, we also count on their creativity to help establish new jurisprudence. The Fellow can also expect to have significant contact with Amnesty International staff in other departments in the International Secretariat in London, as well as in our 10 regional offices and many of our 70 sections, in addition to regular contact with external partners.

Amnesty International will provide the Litigation Fellow with a workspace, project guidance, mentorship, regular work review, opportunities to deepen their understanding of the international human rights system, and the means to utilise international human rights standards to realise individuals' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. You will work alongside legal and policy advisors whose expertise covers most aspects of human rights law.

### **Length of fellowship**

The fellowship will last for a period of 12 months, starting in September 2019, although this may be subject to renewal by the mutual agreement of both parties.

### **Travel, publishing and external opportunities**

The Fellow will be offered opportunities to travel in order to research cases, collect evidence and/or represent applicants on whose behalf we litigate at regional and international levels. The Fellow may also have an opportunity to publish research based on their work at Amnesty International, for example blogs, academic articles and op-eds related to our litigation. Fellows may also be asked to represent Amnesty at external meetings.

### **Particular skills necessary for fellowship**

The Litigation Fellowship is open to law graduates. Candidates must have finished their degree by the time they start the Fellowship. We require the Fellow to demonstrate strong research skills on both electronic legal databases (e.g. Lexis Nexis) and library materials. Fellows must also show excellent legal writing skills. Fellows must have an understanding of international human rights law. Particular expertise with economic, social and cultural rights, as well as women's rights, is also ideal but not essential. For candidates with little or no knowledge of this area, we would ask for some detail on how their skills can be beneficial to our programme.

Ideally, the Fellow would also be able to at least read in a second or third language (French or Spanish being particularly desirable). Experience conducting human rights research in the field is desirable. Experience working in partnership with human rights or related organisations in the field is also desirable.

Due to the long term nature of the fellowship, we do give preference to applicants who are able to secure the backing of an institution (e.g. university, law firm) to help cover their expenses.

**Funding**

Unfortunately, Amnesty International is not able to fund the fellowship or contribute to financing the work undertaken by the Fellow.

**Housing and visa queries**

We are happy to direct the Fellow to websites that advertise accommodation on an informal basis, should this be necessary.

It will be the Fellow's responsibility to apply for a Tier 5 Charity Worker visa. We will advise you on the appropriate visa to apply for and provide you with the necessary information from Amnesty International for this purpose.

**How to apply:**

Please send a CV, covering letter and short writing sample **by 31 December 2018** to Lucy Claridge, Director of Strategic Litigation: [lucy.claridge@amnesty.org](mailto:lucy.claridge@amnesty.org)

You will be notified if selected for interview. Interviews will take place in early January 2019.