



JOB DESCRIPTION

Legal Officer, Eastern Africa

Responsible to:	Director of ARTICLE 19 Kenya and Eastern Africa
Key relations:	Senior Legal Officer (based in London), Other staff of the Law Programme; other staff of ARTICLE 19 Kenya and Eastern Africa
Gross starting salary/tenure:	From 2,160,000 KES per annum; one year, renewable subject to funding
Working hours:	Full time - 37.5 hours per week, with some evening and weekend work
Special conditions:	Frequent travel in the Eastern Africa region and occasional travel other regions continentally and globally
Location:	Nairobi, Kenya

BACKGROUND

ARTICLE 19 is the leading international NGO promoting and protecting freedom of expression, including access to information, across the world. We believe that full enjoyment of these rights is the most potent force to strengthen peace and pre-empt conflict. They are central to achieving individual freedoms and developing democracy and play a critical role in tackling the underlying causes of poverty. Through our focus on developing and enforcing international standards and domestic legislation, the empowerment of civil society and practical actions on the ground, we deliver a unique contribution to the protection of human rights and development process.

In the previous five years, one of the key achievements of ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa has been expanding and strengthening our international reach by consolidating our presence outside Nairobi. Being based in the countries and regions in which we work, we believe we have a better understanding of regional and national realities and local needs and thus have greater impact on freedom of expression developments. We are able to respond more swiftly to opportunities or crises. We are closer to our partners, and thus more capable to respond to their demands and strengthen interactions and capacities.

ARTICLE 19 regional offices are able to rely on ARTICLE 19's international work, legal and policy expertise, and its reputation for delivery and impact, and bring all of these qualities and characteristics to national debates for a stronger protection of the right to access to information and freedom of expression.

At present, ARTICLE 19 has five regional offices (ARTICLE 19 Mexico and Central America, ARTICLE 19 Brazil, ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa, ARTICLE 19 Senegal and West Africa and ARTICLE 19 Bangladesh) and two regional programmes (Europe and Central Asia Programme and Asia Programme) operating from London. ARTICLE 19 Law Programme is also a part of the London international office.

The ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa was officially launched in 2007 and has since grown from a single country project to multi-projects and programmes covering 10 countries. In 2015, ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa is implementing a number of projects on varied aspects of freedom of expression, media freedom and right to access information. Some of the projects on right to access information focus on right to water, rights of persons with disability and general advocacy around enactment of comprehensive right to information laws. With regard to freedom of expression, some of the projects target at enhancing protection and safety of journalists, bloggers and human rights defender, legal advocacy on media pluralism and diversity and self-regulation.

The post is for an initial one year with possibilities of extension, depending on funding opportunities. ARTICLE 19 aims to raise sufficient funds to make this a permanent post.

JOB SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the Regional Director, the post holder will be responsible for ensuring that ARTICLE 19 plays a crucial role in promoting an enabling legal and policy environment for freedom of expression and freedom of information in Eastern Africa. Based in the region, s/he will be developing policy documents of freedom of expression and freedom of information related issue, analysing laws related to freedom of expression and freedom of information and their conformity with the international and regional standards; researching and monitoring new freedom of expression developments and trends; undertaking national, regional and international advocacy; assisting with national, regional and international litigation; representing ARTICLE 19 at conferences and meetings; and developing and delivering trainings on freedom of expression and freedom of information standards to local and regional stakeholders. S/he will also contribute to ARTICLE 19 work in the region, which will include developing and implementing legal project/s, contributing to the implementation of other projects, and to efforts to raise funds to support ARTICLE 19's activities. The post holder will be based in Kenya and maintain key relations with other ARTICLE 19 offices.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Monitoring and researching legal and policy developments related to freedom of expression and freedom of information in the East Africa region;
2. Analysing and critiquing laws and legislative proposals in the East Africa region from the perspective of international standards on freedom of expression and freedom of information;
3. Undertaking national, regional and international advocacy on freedom of expression and freedom of information related to the countries of the region;
4. Writing advocacy and policy briefs, including but not limited to briefing papers, reports to the universal period review and other sessions of the UN Charter and treaty bodies, advocacy alerts, letters and background analysis documents to support the advocacy objectives;
5. Drafting legal submissions and amicus briefs and advising lawyers in countries of the region on litigation of freedom of expression and freedom of information cases;
6. Developing and delivering trainings for lawyers, media workers, civil society activists, human rights defenders and other stakeholders on freedom of expression and freedom of information in the region and enhancing their capacity to apply international standards in their work;
7. Contributing to standards setting work of ARTICLE 19, through research, preparing legal opinions, studies and briefs and developing specific and practical recommendations to ARTICLE 19 policies;
8. Undertaking public speaking on behalf of ARTICLE 19, including at international and regional conferences and meetings;
9. Building regional network of freedom of expression and freedom of information experts and promoting cooperation and exchange of best practices between them
10. Contributing to ARTICLE 19 publications and web resources – both in Eastern Africa region and in general;
11. Developing library of regional laws and policies on freedom of expression and other relevant materials;
12. Working closely with other ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa officers to develop, as appropriate, projects that advance the goals and objectives of the organisation including providing input to budgets and reporting back to donors;

13. Ensure effective and timely implementation of assigned project/s, if appropriate, including effective project planning, budget management and narrative and financial reporting and evaluation;
14. Undertaking other reasonable tasks as might be assigned by the line manager.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

1. Education/Training/Knowledge

- Law degree, with at least some specialisation in human rights law and/or media law;
- Good knowledge of national laws in at least 3 Eastern Africa countries
- Good knowledge of international and regional human rights law and mechanisms;
- Familiarity with international and regional legal standards on freedom of expression, freedom of information, freedom of assembly and association.

2. Skills and abilities

- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- Ability to produce clear, concise and succinct briefs, reports, articles and other documents;
- Good public speaking and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and manage time effectively;
- Ability to undertake a variety of tasks within the same time frame;
- Self-motivation and the ability to work independently.

3. Experience

- Experience of working in the field of human rights law, preferably in the area of freedom of expression and/or media law;
- Familiarity with East Africa region and experience of working on legal and policy issues in the region;
- Experience in writing and/or editing materials for publication;
- Involvement in policy developments.

4. Other requirements

- Must already have the right to work in Kenya (or other country in the East Africa region);
- Commitment to ARTICLE 19's philosophy and objectives;
- Cultural sensitivity and commitment to equal opportunities;
- Ability to work both independently and as a part of the team.

DESIRABLE

- Proficiency in one or two more languages of the region (spoken and written);
- Media expertise;
- Knowledge of both common and civil law systems.