



LEGAL OFFICER or SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER (depending on experience)

Job Description and Person Specification

Responsible to:	Senior Director for Law and Policy
Starting Salary and tenure:	£31,000 or £36,490 depending on role; one year contract initially, subject to renewal
Working hours:	Full time - 37.5 hours per week, with some evening and weekend work
Special conditions:	Frequent travel required, some evening and weekend work
Location:	ARTICLE 19 London office

JOB SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the Senior Director for Law and Policy, the post holder will play a crucial role in protecting freedom of expression and freedom of information globally, delivering cutting edge leadership of ARTICLE 19 in this area. S/he will provide legal and policy expertise, including through analysing laws and policies on freedom of expression and freedom of information; international, regional and national litigation; researching and monitoring new developments and trends with the view of identifying and responding to key concerns and opportunities. S/he will be also developing and promoting ARTICLE 19 policies and positions on a variety of freedom of expression and freedom of information issues, campaigning for progressive legal reforms, developing resource materials and delivering trainings for ARTICLE 19 stakeholders. Further, the post holder will contribute to the Law Programme's strategic and operational planning and reporting and will be directly responsible for the management and implementation of one or more legal projects. S/he will work closely with ARTICLE 19 regional offices and programmes to address emerging challenges to freedom of expression and freedom of information in respective regions and to identify new opportunities for engagement and advocacy on them in target countries and regions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide high level legal and policy advice

- Analyse and critique laws and legislative proposals from the perspective of international and regional legal standards on freedom of expression and freedom of information;
- Produce for a range of external audiences legal analyses, statements, policy briefs and press releases on freedom of expression and freedom of information;
- Provide sound, timely high level legal and policy advice to ARTICLE 19 regional teams and stakeholders on freedom of expression and freedom of information issues;

- Contribute to standard settings on freedom of expression and freedom of information, through legal research, participation in key meetings, producing statements and draft policies and promoting adopted ARTICLE 19 policies at various forums;
- Work closely with ARTICLE 19's regional offices and programmes to address emerging challenges to freedom of expression and freedom of information in respective regions and identify new opportunities for ARTICLE 19 engagement and advocacy on them;
- Develop and deliver trainings to lawyers, media workers, civil society activists, human rights defenders and other stakeholders in target countries and regions on freedom of expression and freedom of information standards;
- Draft legal submissions and legal briefs and assist lawyers in litigation of freedom of expression and freedom of information cases;
- Monitor global legal and policy trends with regard to freedom of expression and freedom of information and identify key areas of concerns and involvement for ARTICLE 19.

2. Contribute to the Law Programme strategic planning, development and projects implementation

- Contribute to the development and implementation of relevant legal strategies and plans of the Law Programme;
- Develop fund-raising proposals for thematic project on freedom of expression and freedom of information and maintain contact with donors;
- Ensure effective and timely implementation of assigned project/s, including effective work planning, budget management and narrative and financial reporting and project evaluation (for the Senior Legal Officer post, the management of larger scale project/s will be required).

3. Other

- Maintain and increase ARTICLE 19 network of legal contacts globally and expand the contacts related to freedom of expression and freedom of information;
- Represent ARTICLE 19 as appropriate at conferences and events and to various audiences and forums;
- Contribute to ARTICLE 19 publications and media outputs;
- Undertake such other reasonable tasks as may be assigned by the Senior Director for Law and Policy.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

1. Education/Training/Knowledge

- Law degree, preferable at master level or higher with at least some specialisation in international human rights law and/or media law;
- Sound knowledge of international law on freedom of expression and freedom of information;
- Thorough knowledge of international and regional human rights law and mechanisms in general and of recent developments at the international level.

2. Skills and abilities

- Excellent legal analysis skills;
- Outstanding writing skills and fluency in English;
- Ability to manage projects and projects assigned staff and provide leadership;
- Good public speaking and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and manage time effectively, without administrative support;

- Ability to undertake a variety of tasks within the same time frame;
- High level of organization and self-motivation;
- Ability to take initiative and work independently as well as a part of a team;
- Preference will be given to candidates who have proficiency (spoken and written) in other languages, especially in Spanish, Arabic, Asian languages and/or French.

3. Experience

- Experience of working in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of information (for the Senior Legal Officer post, substantial legal and policy experience is required);
- Experience in writing and/or editing materials for publications;
- Experience in managing projects and managing the work of others;
- Strong policy development experience;

4. Other requirements

- Must already have the right to work in the UK or be able to obtain.
- Commitment to ARTICLE 19's philosophy and objectives;
- Cultural sensitivity and commitment to equal opportunities;
- Ability to work both independently and as part of the team.

DESIRABLE

- Regional expertise in Latin America, MENA region, Asia and/or Africa;
- Media expertise;
- Knowledge of both common and civil law systems.

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 has been expanding and strengthening our international reach by consolidating our presence outside the UK, recruiting national or regional staff, and establishing strong and operationally autonomous national or regional offices. Being based in the countries and regions on 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/national 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. ARTICLE 19 Law Programme is operating from London as a part of the international office.

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