ARTICLE 19

JOB DESCRIPTION

SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL

Responsible to: Executive Director

Key relationships: Senior director for law, senior directors for regions, legal staff

Salary: £40,523 per annum

Working hours: 37.5 (part-time can be negotiated)

Contract: Two years, renewable

BACKGROUND

Article 19 is the leading international NGO promoting and protecting Freedom of Information and Freedom of Expression 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, domestic legislation, and empowering civil society and practical actions on the ground, we deliver a unique contribution to the development process.

As a result of a major review of the key trends in our field of work and of our organisational strengths and weaknesses we have set strategic goals for 2005-2010 that are designed to sharpen and focus our impact and establish a new management structure.

One of key goals is to strengthen our international reach by consolidating our presence outside London. We have established ARTICLE 19 offices in Latin America (Mexico, Brazil), and Africa (Kenya), Asia (Bangladesh) and we aim to establish offices in the Middle East (Jordan) and Africa (Senegal) by the end of 2010. By being based in the countries and regions on which we work, ARTICLE 19 will have a better understanding of regional and national realities and local needs and thus have greater impact on freedom of expression developments. We will also be able to respond more swiftly to opportunities or crises. We will be closer to our partners, work more closely with them, and thus be more capable to respond to their demands and strengthen interactions and capacities.

ARTICLE 19 national offices and ARTICLE 19 staff must be able to rely on the organization’s international work and expertise, to be able to bring to the fore of national debate increased protection of the right to access to information and freedom of expression. Providing high level legal and policy advice to support this work and all aspects of ARTICLE 19’s mission is thus the key responsibility of this post.

Over the next decade, ARTICLE 19 will build on its success to date by continuing to provide some of the best legal and policy expertise on freedom of expression, engaging increasingly closely with a variety of legal traditions and systems, understanding legal and policy trends affecting freedom of expression, and building an agenda for stronger protection and respect. We will also strengthen our internal policy recommendations and guidelines to strengthen the
This new set of objectives for the next decade will be supported by a new senior management structure designed to best serve the interests and needs of the organisation as it is decentralising and expanding.

**JOB SUMMARY**
Reporting directly to the Executive Director, in coordination with the Senior Director for Law, and working closely with the other Senior Directors, you will: provide high level legal and policy advice on matters of relevance to ARTICLE 19’s mission; undertake high quality legal work in your fields of expertise, ensuring development and implementation of the relevant policies including, through quality control processes; provide legal advice and support particularly to ARTICLE 19’s regional staff and offices; and develop and manage legal and regional projects.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

**High level legal Advice**
- Lead the provision of high level legal and related policy advice and analysis in fields of expertise.
- Identify and monitor emerging legal developments and key concerns relating to fields of expertise.
- Conduct and oversee significant research into legal issues in fields of expertise.
- Write, edit, and finalise reports, opinions, correspondence, articles, and other documents.
- In collaboration with the Senior Director for Law, lead and contribute to the development of international standard-setting and model laws for the defence and promotion of rights in fields of expertise; develop and implement strategies for the promotion and implementation of such standards and laws.
- In collaboration with the Senior Director for Law, identify and develop legal projects and fund-raise for those projects; provide proper management of relevant budgets and meeting of reporting schedules, including effective liaison with funding organisations.

**Projects Development and Management**
In coordination with Executive Director and Senior Directors, take the lead in developing projects proposals, and seeking fund, and manage projects implementation.

**Policy development and implementation**
- Develop for approval legal policy, particularly in emerging or complex areas of freedom of expression.
- Ensure consistent application of law-related policy across the organization, including by contributing to quality control functions.
- Ensure the development and maintenance of ARTICLE 19’s policy database.

**Other duties**
You will participate in the management of ARTICLE 19, including by:
• Contributing to development of the organisation’s strategic and operational plans;
• Representing ARTICLE 19 at relevant international forums, on fact-finding visits and in other meetings;
• Drafting and/or editing relevant materials for publication; and
• Undertaking any other duties as may reasonably be assigned by the Executive Director.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Experience and knowledge:
• Qualified lawyer, with at least five years experience and recognised international expertise in legal issues directly related to freedom of expression and information
• A track record of preparing high quality, influential legal and policy advice for both expert and non-expert audiences
• Experience of developing, funding, implementing and delivering significant legal and policy research projects
• Excellent written communication skills, with an ability to address both expert and non-expert audiences
• Experience of contributing to the development of international standards and model laws and of developing strategies for their promotion and implementation
• Demonstrated success in developing, funding and delivering new projects and initiatives.

Skills and abilities:
• Self-starter
• Ability to play a leadership role within an organisation
• Ability to work collaboratively with senior staff in legal and other disciplines
• A commitment to excellent performance and a practical understanding of how to deliver effective resources and support to diverse regions
• Excellent written and spoken English is essential; knowledge of at least one other language, particularly French, Spanish, Arabic, is highly desirable.
• Good interpersonal skills with a range of actors
• Ability to work under pressure and manage time effectively

Other Requirements:
• Commitment to work within ARTICLE 19's philosophy and objectives.
• Cultural sensitivity and commitment to equal opportunities
• Willingness to work outside normal working hours including weekends and evenings is essential