



Human Rights Officer, Rights Watch (UK) www.rwuk.org

Job Title: Human Rights Officer

Salary: £28 – 30,000 p.a.

Reports to: Director, and works to the Senior Human Rights Officer on some projects

Responsible for: Volunteers and Interns

Hours: Full-time, 35 hours a week, Monday – Friday

Location: Based in London with some travel in the United Kingdom

Contract: Six month contract with 2 month probationary period

Leave: 16 days of annual leave

Start date: As soon as possible

Application due: COP Monday 12 September 2016

The Organisation and What We Do:

Rights Watch (UK) has over twenty-five years' experience working in the field of national security: initially in Northern Ireland, and, since 9/11, in Great Britain and abroad. RWUK has been at the forefront of exposing and holding the government to account for practices such as torture, as well as indefinite detention and arbitrary deprivation of life. Initially the work of Rights Watch (UK) (or British Irish Rights Watch, as it was then known) was focused on the conflict in Northern Ireland. In 2012 there was a change in leadership and this catalyzed a significant transformation in the organisation. The organisation undertook a strategic review, and in line with an already natural shift in the work of Rights Watch (UK), the organisation officially expanded its mandate to include all UK Government activity in pursuit of national security, both domestically and abroad. The work of Rights Watch UK has received wide acclaim. The organization has received the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Human Rights Prize for 'outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe', the Irish World Damien Gaffney Award and the Beacon Prize for Human Rights.

Vision

Just and Accountable Security

Mission

We work to promote just and accountable security. We do this by ensuring that the measures taken by the UK Government in pursuit of national security are compliant with human rights and international law. We have over twenty-five years of experience of working in the field of national security: initially in Northern Ireland, and, since 9/11, in Great Britain and abroad.

Rights Watch (UK) has three programmes of work

1. Securitisation of Suspect Communities
2. Global Warfare well as practices and conduct that the Government facilitates.
3. Post Conflict Justice

Rights Watch (UK) has three overarching operational goals with respect to these programmes of work

1. Ensure that the national security laws and policies that are directed towards/impact communities and persons in the United Kingdom are compliant with the UK's human rights obligations;
2. Ensure that the national security measures and activities that the UK Government conducts, facilitates and cooperates with abroad are compliant with the UK's human rights obligations; and
3. Ensure that the UK Government is held accountable to victims for any human rights abuses it carries out in the course of its involvement in counter-terrorism operations and/or conflict.

Rights Watch (UK) achieves these goals by

1. Working to ensure that the means and methods used to counter terrorism comply with international and human rights law;
2. Promoting independent and effective oversight, regulation and transparency of government activity in counter terrorism efforts; and
3. Promoting accountability and redress for any individuals who suffer human rights abuses as a result of the Government's conduct in the course of conflict or counter terrorism operations.

Rights Watch (UK) carries out its work by

1. Carrying out research to identify, document and evaluate the human rights compliance of the UK Government's actions in the field of national security;
2. Advocating for human rights compliant laws and policies in the field of national security;
3. Bringing litigation as a way of challenging unlawful practices in the field

- of national security, and intervening in other cases where we can offer our research and analysis to assist the Court to uphold human rights standards in the field of national security; and
4. Facilitating and engaging in discussions on critical issues about national security and human rights.

Duties/Assignments: The Human Rights Officer will be responsible for:

- Carrying out in depth research across our programmes of work
- Keeping abreast of, and keeping the team informed of, relevant issues and developments across the programmes of work and identifying opportunities to develop or enhance our projects in light of these developments
- Producing blog posts and commenting on social media
- Developing and maintaining the organisation's communications presence on our website and social media platforms
- Supporting the Director and Senior Human Rights Officer in developing and carrying out strategic advocacy and litigation
- Representing the organisation at meetings and events
- Assisting the Director with keeping abreast of and identifying fundraising opportunities, keeping our fundraising database up to date, and assisting with fundraising applications and reports
- Assisting with organising events

Application details: If you are interested in this position please send the following material by **COP Monday 12 September 2016** to Yasmine Ahmed, Director of Rights Watch (UK) yahmed@rwuk.org

- (1) Your CV
- (2) A cover letter which describes how you fulfil the person specification (see below) and any other relevant information – maximum 2 pages
- (3) A piece of work that provides an example of your research and writing skills in the area of human rights

Person Specification – Human Rights Officer, Rights Watch (UK)

The Human Rights Officer will be/have:

- At least 2 – 3 years' experience in a similar role or demonstrable aptitude to successfully deliver the role
- Proficient in researching and producing high quality work in the area of international human rights.
- The ability to rigorously prioritise, meet deadlines and work on a number of different projects and subject areas concurrently
- Motivated to work in a small and dynamic values-driven organisation
- Confident with using social media and enthusiastic about developing our communications presence and developing/updating our website

- The ability to keep abreast of current issues and developments and when appropriate, produce blog posts and comment on social media
- Committed to human rights and the aims and values of Rights Watch (UK)
- Ability to think strategically and creatively to further the objectives of the organisation
- A persuasive communicator, with demonstrable empathy and commitment to human rights
- Organised and capable of coordinating high level events

Education and Qualifications

Very Desirable:

- A post-graduate qualification in international human rights or international law or applicable qualifications or experience

Knowledge and Experience

Essential:

- Excellent understanding of the international human rights frameworks
- A good understanding of national security and human rights, with an ability to quickly acquaint oneself in detail with RWUK's programmes of work
- Good understanding of legal and policy context relevant to Rights Watch (UK), including demonstrated understanding of the UK and international legal and policy landscape affecting human rights
- An excellent track record of researching and drafting high quality documents
- Experience of using social media in a strategic and effective way

Desirable:

- Experience of working in the field of national security and human rights
- Experience of drafting successful fundraising applications
- Experience of maintaining a website
- Experience of strategic advocacy

Circumstances

- A willingness to manage a high volume of work