Application Form Fellowship Programme for Human Rights Defenders

Please read this information carefully before you apply!

Shelter City is an initiative by Justice and Peace Netherlands that aims to protect and support human rights defenders at risk through temporary relocation and security training. As part of the Shelter City initiative, Justice and Peace has established a Fellowship Programme for Human Rights Defenders in The Hague, in collaboration with the T.M.C. Asser Institute. With this programme, Justice and Peace aims to add the support of HRD’s work in (applied) human rights law research. HRDs that meet the criteria mentioned below can apply. This form is the first step in applying for the Fellowship Programme for Human Rights Defenders in The Hague. This information will only be shared within Justice and Peace Netherlands and the T.M.C. Asser Instituut. The Asser Institute, supported by Justice and Peace, will select 1 candidate per year for the Fellowship Programme.

In order to be eligible for the Fellowship Programme for Human Rights Defenders, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

1. The applicant must be a human rights defender. His/her work promotes Human Rights or he/she fights against Human Rights Violations in a non-violent way;
2. The HRD has a relevant degree in (international human rights) law and a few years of relevant experience in human rights law work, either in practice or in academia.
3. The HRD is threatened or otherwise under intense pressure due to their work and can benefit from a short period of time abroad;
4. The HRD has a proven track record on conducting research activities and work in (applied) human rights law research;
5. The HRD is willing to carry out a research project that aims to contribute to the improvement of human rights and is able to carry this out independently in the relocation period of 3 months;
6. Since this is a temporary relocation programme, the HRD is able and willing to return to the country of origin after 3 months;
7. The HRD has a good command of English (professional working proficiency – both active and passive);
8. The HRD is willing to speak out in public and take part in (relevant) research activities of the Asser Institute;
9. The HRD should be willing/able to come alone;
10. The HRD is willing to come to The Netherlands around September 2018 for a period of 3 months.

Note that additional factors will be taken into consideration in the final round of selection, such as the added (professional) value of a stay in The Netherlands as well as gender, geographic, and thematic balance.

If you do not meet these conditions, but would still like to apply for relocation, please contact us. We can try to put you in contact with other organizations who have relocation programmes with different parameters.
Modalities of the stay in The Netherlands

The Shelter City Initiative is a programme for short and temporary relocation financed by Justice and Peace Netherlands, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, host organizations and municipalities. A monthly stipend, accommodation, health insurance, visa and flight tickets to The Netherlands are provided.

The T.M.C. Asser Institute is an internationally renowned research centre for international and European law. It fulfils an important role in conducting fundamental and independent policy-oriented research and in providing a platform for international cooperation and partnering in fields of law at the cutting edge of academia and practice. Over the years, the Asser Institute has developed strong independent research activities. In the coming years, the Institute aims to build on these activities to strengthen its academic profile and foster its orientation towards fundamental and independent policy-oriented research – inter alia in the fields of international and European human rights law (Research Strand A, ‘Human Dignity and Human Security in international and European Law’ of its Strategic Research Agenda see for the full ASRA http://www.asser.nl/research/).

Justice and Peace and the Asser Institute have established a collaborative relationship to strengthen and support the capacity of local human rights defenders (HRDs) worldwide. In the context of the Institute’s Visiting Researchers Programme, the Asser Institute hosts one fellow per year for a period of 3 months within the framework of the Justice and Peace Fellowship Programme for Human Rights Defenders in The Hague.

The fellow will carry out a research project during the relocation period and take part in other relevant research activities of the Asser Institute. In line with these activities the Fellow might also perform in public events like lectures or (panel) discussions. Please provide a short synopsis of your plans for the research project below.

If you have any questions about this intake form or the Shelter City Programme, please contact Suzan Goes: suzan.goes@justiceandpeace.nl or sheltercity@justiceandpeace.nl

Intake forms must be sent to sheltercity@justiceandpeace.nl before 11 June 2018. Please complete all sections of the intake form. If you prefer to submit your intake form in a safe way for fear of it being intercepted for example we recommend submitting it to us via the Signal app to +31 6 26 85 77 59. (More on how to use Signal can be found here. If you have further questions on how to use Signal, don’t hesitate to reach out to us.)

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

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2. HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

2.1. What is your area of work? Please describe your latest projects. (max 300 words)

2.2. Please list your track record of research activities and work in (applied) human rights law research / elaborate on your experience in HR law work;
2.3. Are you a member or employee of, or otherwise linked to any organization, academic institution or professional association? If so, please describe its mission or main focus of work, provide address, phone number, email, website and name of the person accountable. *Please note that we will request an employer’s statement in case you are selected.*

2.4. Are you currently employed? If so, can a three-month stay abroad have any adverse consequences on your work situation? Please note that participants are responsible to ensure they can take a three-months leave with their employer. Please provide your employer’s contact information if relevant to your work as HRD.
2.5. Can your activities as a human rights defender in your country be continued from abroad? Please specify your answer.

2.6. Do you or your organisation work or have you worked with organisations abroad? Have you travelled abroad for your work? If so, please specify your answer,
3. **HRDS CURRENT SITUATION**

3.1. *Have you, your family or colleagues been facing persecution, threats, attacks, harassment, arrests, social marginalisation, stigmatization, blacklisting, etc. because of your human rights work? Please give specific examples, with dates. Also try to include threats and attacks you suffered online (threats by email, phishing emails, website attacked, online defamations campaign, account hacked, etc.)*

3.2. *Do you know who is behind the persecution, threats, attacks, harassment, arrests, social marginalisation, stigmatization, blacklisting, etc. mentioned under 3.1? If so, please describe who they are (government officials, judges, lawyers, members of parliament, union leaders, military officials, journalists, public figures, industrialists, businesspersons, other NGO leaders, colleagues, family members, etc.)*

3.3. *What are the reasons why you, your organisation or your family are facing persecutions? Are they a result of your work and/or related to aspects of your personal identity (for example: race, class, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation)?*

3.4. *Can you explain the effect it had on your work and/or your wellbeing?*
3.5. What you have done in return to protect yourself or your organization? Are there things that still prevent you from protecting yourself or your organization? (Talk about vulnerabilities you might have or obstacles you are unable to overcome.)

3.6. Please describe the current socio-political and security context in your country. Is there any planned event (elections, adoption of a new law, etc.) which is likely to affect your personal situation in the coming 12 months? If so, what kind of an effect do you think it could have on your security situation? (max 200 words)

3.7. The duration of the Fellowship Programme for Human Rights Defenders is three months. How do see your return after three months abroad (work situation, income, security, etc.)? Do you plan to work on any specific project after your return? Please specify any difficulties that you expect to face.
4. ACTIVITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

4.1. Please insert here a short description of the research project you would like to carry out during your 3 months stay at the Asser Institute and explain how this will contribute to your human rights work. We welcome you to share the research project idea as an annex to this application form if the space doesn’t allow, but please note that at this stage we do not require a detailed research project plan yet.

4.2. Please give a detailed account of additional needs and activities (besides your research project) you would like to conduct in The Netherlands. Please choose 3 of the options given below and elaborate on those. Please note that the main focus of your stay will be the research project at the Asser Institute. Additional activities should not take place at the expense of the research project.

- Rest/Leisure:
- Training:
- Networking:
- Lobbying on human rights (meetings):
4.3. With what kind of education or training would you and your work be helped? Are there any areas where you would like to be educated in through a short, but intensive, course?

4.4. What kind of education did you follow? Please note that we might request certificates or diplomas in case you are selected.

4.5. Are you willing to speak publicly about your work as human right defender? What kind of impact can a public speech have on your or your families safety?
5. GENERAL QUESTIONS

5.1 Have you ever requested relocation or emergency funding to other programmes? If so, what was the outcome of this request?

5.2 If this request is urgent, please explain why.
5.3 For any additional information you wish to provide please use the space below.

6 REFERENCES

6.1 Provide contact information for at least two references (outside of your organisation who are aware of your situation and work.) If possible, at least one reference should be from a reputable international organization.

Reference 1
Name:
Job title:
Organization:
Email:
Phone number:

Reference 2
Name:
Job title:
Organization:
Email:
Phone number:

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