

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

Job Opening

Counter-terrorism and Human Rights Fellow

100%, twelve-month academic professional position

The Human Rights Center seeks a qualified individual to lead the Center's program in support of the mandate of the [UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights](#), Human Rights Center Faculty Director Fionnuala Ní Aoláin. The Human Rights Center is committed to building a diverse staff and encourages candidates of all backgrounds to apply.

This opening is a unique opportunity for the right candidate to support an important and timely special procedure of the United Nations human rights system and to be part of a dynamic academic center working to advance human rights protections at home and around the world.

Founded in 1988, the [Human Rights Center](#) is committed to effecting change through an integrated research-teaching-engagement approach. The Center promotes research on real-world challenges, prepares future lawyers with the commitment and skills to defend human rights, and partners with civil society, governments, and institutions to impact law, policy, and practice.

Summary

The Fellow will be a part of the Human Rights Center staff and lead the research and logistical support that the Center provides to the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism, working with the support framework provided by the OHCHR. Given the workload implied by this mandate, the Special Rapporteur requires an individual who has the relevant substantive and organizational skills to undertake a variety of activities operating out of her home institution – the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center. The appointee would be expected to have substantive expertise and recent experience in at least one of the following areas of practice: implementation of the law of armed conflict, operations law, terrorism and counter-terrorism regulation, and countering violent extremism. Preference may be given to individuals who are fluent in more than one of the working languages of the United Nations. The appointee can expect to travel extensively to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, funds permitting.

This position is to provide additional support to the mandate. It is not intended to replace, but to complement, the existing human and financial resources assigned to the Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism from the general budget of the OHCHR Special Procedures Branch.

US work permission: Preference will be given to applicants that already have permission to work in the United States. However, sponsorship will be considered for exceptional candidates.

Duties

- Provide specialist legal advice on the interface of human rights with the law of armed conflict, counter-terrorism regimes, and countering violent extremism law and policy.
- Assists the Special Rapporteur to monitor the situation worldwide through analysis of incoming information
- Act as a liaison between the mandate holder and the OHCHR
- Accompany and assist the mandate-holder in fact-finding missions, including preparation of the missions, drafting of mission reports and follow-up to the implementation of recommendations, as appropriate funds permit;
- Assist to supervise and support student research assistants working in the Program;
- Provide support, in close consultation with UN Secretariat colleagues, to the UN Special Rapporteur in preparing communications on violations of the specific right(s) covered by the mandate(s)
- Research and analysis of thematic issues in relation with the mandate, with a view to contributing to the annual reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly; Accompany the Special Rapporteur and participate in her annual presentation to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, including organizing side-events on thematic issues in Geneva and New York;
- Draft a variety of oral presentations, communications, briefings, statements, etc., including to policymaking bodies; Accompany the Special Rapporteur and participate in conferences, seminars, etc., including research and analysis of thematic issues in relation to the mandate for the purpose of public presentations;
- Prepare correspondence for the Special Rapporteur with governments, inter-governmental organizations, UN agencies, funds and programs, as well as civil society organizations and individuals which shall follow appropriate channels of communication in accordance inter alia with the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures;
- Provide administrative support to the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism including maintaining her agenda and monitoring deadlines, providing input to the SR's Webpage; assist in the organization and coordination of meetings and travel and handling of travel reimbursements with appropriate Secretariat colleagues;
- Liaise with colleagues in the Special Procedures Branch working on cross cutting issues in relation to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism;
- Assist in promoting information on mandate activities;
- Participate fully in mission of the Human Rights Center, supporting programming for , inter-University and public events, and communications efforts
- Perform other duties and responsibilities as requested
- Support the Special Rapporteur in engaging with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Executive Directorate (CTED), and the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism.

Qualifications

Education:

Advanced university degree or equivalent theoretical knowledge in law, political sciences or international relations.

Working experience:

- At least two years of relevant experience in the field of human rights, laws of armed conflict, and counter-terrorism. United Nations experience would be considered an asset.
- Fluency in English and/or French, Arabic, or Spanish with good drafting ability.

Other skills:

Substantial knowledge of international human rights standards and the UN human rights mechanisms, especially their interface with the laws of armed conflict and related to terrorism.

Legal research skills

Strong writing skills ideally in more than one language

Competencies:

- Professionalism: good knowledge of and exposure to a range of human rights issues, law of armed conflict and terrorism regulation, good knowledge of institutional mandates, policies and guidelines relating to thematic procedures of the Human Rights Council, sound knowledge of problems, i.e., political, ethnic, racial, religious, gender, social, economic, etc., having a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights;
- Communication: strong communication (spoken, written and presentation) skills, including ability to produce a variety of written reports and documents in a clear, concise style;
- Planning and organizing: ability to establish priorities and to plan work assignments, juggle competing demands and work under pressure of frequent and tight deadlines;
- Technology awareness: good computer skills, including proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets and other commercial software packages;
- Teamwork: proven interpersonal skills and ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity;
- Commitment to continuous learning.
- Commitment to the ethical discharge of the mandate and a sensitivity to the confidentiality and security challenges of the work.

Application Process

This position is open until filled. Review of applications will begin September 1, 2017 with the goal of having the individual hired begin work by October 16, 2017. Applications will only be accepted through the University of Minnesota online employment system. To apply, go to <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/employment/index.html> and use as reference job 318676. Only complete applications will be considered.

Candidates, including people of color and women, who will contribute to the cultural and intellectual diversity of the faculty, are strongly encouraged to apply. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity employer. The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.