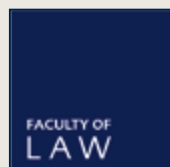


Bonavero Student Fellowships Programme





This report aims to provide information about the Bonavero Student Fellowships Programme. It starts by providing some general information about the programme (Part 1) which can be found in more detail on the [landing page of the programme](#). It displays the opportunities offered to students (Part 2) by listing partner organisations and showcasing the experiences of the 2023 Bonavero Fellows as contained in the reports submitted by them after the end of their fellowships. For more information, please contact the Programmes Administrator Ms Sarah Norman (bonavero-programmes@law.ox.ac.uk).



Part 1: Overview of the Programme

The aim of the Bonavero Student Fellowships programme is to provide opportunities for students to apply and improve their knowledge of human rights law and to obtain a valuable platform to develop careers in this field. Students will have the opportunity to work with a range of organisations working in the field of human rights law, including the rule of law. These, among others, include regional courts and senior appellate courts, world-leading NGOs and research institutions. The Student Fellowships Programme gives our students a chance to explore their professional options in a variety of otherwise unpaid placements, both within the UK and across the world.

Although each Fellowship is unique, we try to ensure that all provide the following common outcomes:

- Experience of working with the chosen partner on a defined project(s) or programme of work, which creates real value for the host organisation and a valuable learning experience for the student;
- Interaction with an assigned supervisor or mentor within the host organisation;
- An award to assist with travel, accommodation, living and other reasonable expenses (this is not payment for work).

The fellowships will provide financial assistance to Oxford graduates seeking practical experience in human rights law and related fields. The programme will provide support to graduate students within the Faculty of Law and at other departments with a previous law degree, as well as to final year undergraduate students about to graduate from the BA (Jurisprudence). Please note that the Samuel Pisar Travelling Fellowship and the OPBP Internship Schemes have more limited criteria.

Most student fellowships are full time, allowing some flexibility if required (and as pre-arranged with the Bonavero Institute and host organisation). The exception to this is the Turpin and Miller scheme which is on a 3 days per week basis.

For more information, please visit the [landing page of the programme](#).



Part 2: Offered Placements and Reports of the 2023 Fellows

1) The AIRE Centre



THE AIRE CENTRE
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe

The AIRE Centre is a voluntary organization providing advice and legal representation to individuals litigating international human rights law and rights of individuals under EU law before international and UK tribunals.

<https://www.airecentre.org/>

About the Internship

Interns may be required as needed to research and drafting of the advice required by particular cases and responding to enquiries received by the telephone advice line. They may also be required to work on individual projects or, if the timetables are right, to research and draft submissions to the two European Courts, or to domestic courts considering European law issues or to become involved in the Centre's policy and standard setting work.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Jessica Wallis

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

An unforgettable insight into European human rights law. From asylum to international child abduction, I explored many new legal problems with the founder of The AIRE Centre – an amazing woman who completely opened my eyes to what a career in human rights law looks like.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

A great tutor of mine, Leah Trueblood, first recommended the fellowship to me. I have always wanted to work in human rights law, but the opportunities are scant and those that exist are often unpaid. The Bonavero fellowship is a brilliant opportunity to get the fantastic experience that these organisations offer without being priced out by unpaid internships. The fellowship also features a fantastic range of organisations, all of which I knew would put me on the path to a career in human rights. The field is very difficult to break into, and the Bonavero fellowship is an excellent first step.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

It exceeded them – on my very first day, I was writing a third party intervention to go to the European Court of Human Rights (and at the time I wasn't even sure what a third party intervention was!) Human rights law is very different in practice



to theory, and I was happy to be tasked with lots of practical work to learn what a career in human rights looks like day to day. I was also delighted to work closely with the founder of the Centre who had been an inspiration of mine, an exceptionally rewarding experience.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I worked closely with Nuala Mole on the Europe Litigation Team – which mainly involved researching for talks and training sessions given to European judges, reading ECtHR judgements relating to our work and working on third party interventions before the ECtHR. I also accompanied Nuala to several conferences, including a Child Rights Law conference at Garden Court Chambers and an Experts’ Meeting on the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention (where I was delighted to meet several judges from around the world). Following the latter, I started ongoing research on the interface of Convention proceedings and asylum law for an article that I am continuing to work with Nuala on for submission to the European Human Rights Law Review. The AIRE Centre is a close knit team, so I also worked with the UK Litigation Team. This involved taking calls on the advice line in order to assist individuals with EUSS applications, and attending court cases at the RCJ. 2023 was also the year of The AIRE Centre’s 30th anniversary, and it was an honour to attend and help organise both a webinar looking back at key cases as well as our in person 30th anniversary celebration.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

Absolutely. I always wanted to become a barrister in human rights law, but it seemed an impossible career to break into until I worked at The AIRE Centre. It has given me a comprehensive introduction to the workings and judgments of the ECtHR, inspiring me to start applying for placements at the Court. I was also lucky enough to be introduced to some great barristers and sets who have acted for The AIRE Centre, giving me a much better idea of where I want to apply for pupillage so that I can develop a career in human rights law. Human rights organisations really work as a team, and I have learnt about several other fantastic organisations (such as ECRE) who the AIRE Centre work closely with to consider applying for in future.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

Don’t be put off if you are an undergraduate or recent graduate! When applying, I noticed that most successful applicants were post-graduate, but if you want to pursue a career in human rights law, it is always worth applying. Also, remember that the scheme is open to recent graduates – my successful application was in the year after graduation, and I am so thankful that the fellowship was still open to me. Lastly, these schemes are incredibly rare so make the most of this



opportunity and take advantage of all the guidance the Bonavero Institute offers (ie. information evenings!)

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

Only for the application process – the interview was in person, and as I no longer live in Oxford I had to make the journey up. I also did a lot of prep but it only lasted 5-10 minutes in the end and was more of a brief chat about arrangements than an interview. It would be great to have had a little more clarity on what the interview would be like or the option for a phone call! However, I want to emphasise what a fantastic programme I think it is. This has easily been the best opportunity I have had from going to Oxford, and I am so grateful for it!

* * *

2) The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL)



The Bingham Centre is a constituent part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), one of the world-leading independent research centres for international and comparative law. <https://binghamcentre.biicl.org>

About the Internship

Interns should be able to contribute to a broadly based research, training and events programme. In particular, they will have opportunities to assist the Research Fellows, Director and staff of the Centre with current research, and the development of new projects and events. Candidates may also undertake similar activities within BIICL, particularly in areas such as human rights, where there are overlapping interests with the work of the Bingham Centre. There may also be opportunities to work on BIICL projects more broadly if interns have a well-rounded knowledge of the relevant legal area at national and international levels.

Report of 2023 Fellow 1 – Ananya Jain

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

I had an overwhelmingly positive experience at the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. I was given the opportunity to do meaningful work on a wide range of projects that aligned with my interests and skills. The members were friendly and keen on supporting my broader career progression.



Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I have a keen interest in public law and human rights since I believe that it illuminates and shapes the values of a society. My lived experience witnessing the rising authoritarianism of the Indian government in recent years has led me to reflect on how executive control of the legislature can enable the government to take measures that fundamentally undermine democratic values, a concern exacerbated in the UK where parliament is deemed sovereign. This led to a passion for examining how the rule of law can be given practical effect across the globe to ensure that those exercising coercive authority are limited in their ability to act on arbitrary whim or personal prejudice. I was therefore drawn to working with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The fellowship certainly lived up to my expectations. Both the Bonavero Institute and Bingham Centre have been very supportive. I was given the opportunity to do meaningful research on a wide range of projects that aligned with my interests and skills, attend evidence sessions with key political and legal figures, present my research in a team meeting and receive feedback from my colleagues, and liaise with members of the larger British Institute of International and Comparative Law whose research interests align with mine.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I conducted research for the Independent Commission on UK Health Emergency Powers with a view to making practical recommendations to promote the rule of law, protect human rights and enhance parliamentary scrutiny of executive action during the next public health emergency. For this project, I attended evidence meetings with key parliamentarians, legal advisers and scientists as well as read through the transcripts of the COVID-19 Inquiry that is currently underway in the UK, reports by Parliamentary Committees on key legislation such as the Civil Contingencies Act, Health and Social Care Act and the Coronavirus Act, and academic literature on matters of concern during public health emergencies. I also examined the impact of the Illegal Migration Bill and Seasonal Worker Visa Scheme on modern slavery in the UK in order to assist Theresa May with an upcoming speech. In addition, I researched and gave a presentation on the notion of corporate political responsibility given the deepening political engagement of the private sector and the increasing privatisation of public functions.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

This fellowship has given me valuable insight into the world of policy-making, law-making and decision-making. Furthermore, many of my colleagues were practising barristers working on interesting court cases or academics at universities around the UK. Being surrounded by people doing a broad range of



work within my field of interest has helped me understand what life is like in a wide range of careers and has ultimately broadened my horizons. This was invaluable for me as someone who is currently on the route to qualifying as a barrister but has aspirations to immerse herself in the legal and socio-political world at large by engaging in research and scholarship as well as policy-making through public-service roles.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

This fellowship is a fantastic opportunity to work at an organisation doing cutting-edge work in the field of public law and human rights. However, it is also important to bear in mind that as an 8-week programme that takes place during the summer, this fellowship is a large commitment and must be treated as such.

Report of 2023 Fellow 2 – Siddharth Saxena

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law is an excellent organisation to work with for anyone interested in public law and projects related, directly or indirectly to the rule of law. I learnt a great deal from not only working with the Independent Commission on Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice, but also from interacting with the other researchers there. Everyone at the centre is extremely friendly and kind, so I did not face any difficulty fitting in or feeling comfortable from the beginning of the fellowship.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied for this fellowship because of my research interests in public law and the accountability of state institutions, and a shared commitment with the organisation to the rule of law. I found numerous projects that they were working on currently to be aligned with my broader academic interests, so, even though they did not overlap precisely with the research areas I am currently working, they covered topics that I was eager to delve into and understand more closely.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The fellowship, broadly, lived up to my expectations. I found the project that I was working on— Independent Commission on Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice—and the specific aspect of it I was engaging with—oversight and review mechanism for national security and intelligence activities—extremely fascinating. However, the primary task that I was assigned—drafting a background paper on comparative approaches to oversight and review mechanism for national security and intelligence activities—less engaging. I would have preferred to, additionally, have the opportunity to work on more than one project or task, especially since I was told that this is generally how the centre



utilised their fellows as well. However, this was not possible as the first task I was assigned was itself of such a scope that it occupied me throughout the fellowship. Everyone that I interacted with at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (which is the parent organisation of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law) was extremely friendly and kind, and they made a consistent effort to create a welcoming environment for me. Unfortunately, I completed my fellowship during a period (August and September) where the centre was much quieter and most staff would not come into the office, so I only got the opportunity to interact with numerous people there towards the end of my last month of the fellowship.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I was assigned to the Independent Commission on Counter-Terrorism Law, Policy and Practice, which was being headed by Tufyal Choudhury who is Senior Research Fellow on National Security and the Rule of Law. I was specifically looking at the oversight and review mechanism for national security and intelligence activities, and, in furtherance thereof, drafting a background paper on comparative approaches to oversight and review mechanism for national security and intelligence activities.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

I chose to work at the Bingham Centre because I was already interested in a career in academic and research, so the fellowship only solidified that position. From a more substantive perspective, researching on a topic that is one that I have not specifically engaged with previously in my personal research led to me, firstly, drawing a lot of interesting connecting between the two and gaining insights that will be beneficial for my ongoing research in other areas. Secondly, it helped me find new topics that I would be interested in research on in the future that I would not have discovered if I had not had the opportunity to undertake this work.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

Firstly, I would recommend completing the fellowship either before the end of July or after the end of September. During the intervening period, the institute is on a de facto break, so most of the staff is not in the office, and they do not have any of their regular events and talks scheduled. Secondly, the centre is very flexible and accommodating. It is not advertised as such but—like the Turpin & Miller LLP fellowship—this one also runs only four days a week instead of five. Lastly, I completed the fellowship in-person and I found that to be a much more fulfilling experience than it might have otherwise been. However, the other Bonavero Institute Fellow completed the entire programme work-from-home outside the



UK, so that may also be available for anyone who wants to work here but is, for whatever reason, unable to attend in-person.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

I cannot comment on fellowships completed in other countries or cities, but I think that the stipend paid to those working in London—from my experience—needs to be reconsidered. It is, understandably, based on the living wage figure provided by the Mayor of London. However, that figure severely underestimates the amount one would need to work in London for two months for a variety of reasons. Firstly, especially given the recent cost of living crisis in the UK, it is extremely expensive to live in London and pay for basic amenities such as groceries, food, etc. Secondly, the living wage figure assumes—even taking into consideration the abysmal renting situation in London at the moment—that those living in London will be leasing their accommodation. However, a fellow, who will only be working in London for two months, will most likely have to book an Airbnb. Not only are Airbnb's ordinarily more expensive than renting but they are particularly so during the summer, which is also the peak tourist season. It may be possible to reduce one's accommodation expenses by booking an Airbnb further out of the city, but whatever savings you make on the accommodation front may be lost on the increased cost of travel. Thirdly, since the fellow will most likely not be a resident of a London borough or meet any of the other relevant requirements, they will be unable to purchase a discounted travelcard to subsidise their travel.

* * *

3) The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)



The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) is an independent, international human rights NGO dedicated to advancing human rights in business and eradicating abuse.

<https://www.business-humanrights.org>

About the Internship

Interns and fellows are full members of the team, and work with us on research, communications, and advocacy in one or more of our project areas. We are looking for students who have excellent research and writing skills, have a strong sense of initiative, and who are willing to be part of a dynamic, committed and brilliant team of human rights professionals from across the world. The nature of the BHRRC's work means that there will be a wide range of tasks and projects to



work on, hence it suits those with a diversity of backgrounds, but strong commitment on human rights is essential.

Report of 2022¹ Fellow – Dana McGibbon

Overview

I started my internship with the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre unsure of quite what to expect. I quickly realised that the Resource Centre comprises a vast network of talented and passionate individuals. As its name suggests, the Resource Centre focuses on collecting and managing data about business-related human rights issues. The Resource Centre works across all global regions, with a particular focus on a number of cross-cutting themes such as technology and human rights, natural resources, and corporate legal accountability. I was placed in the Civic Freedoms & Human Rights Defenders (CF&HRDs) team, which brings together news and information about human rights defenders. Human rights defenders are critical to the business and human rights movement because of their role in highlighting issues and fighting for corporate accountability and responsibility. However, they are often face threats and attacks in retaliation against their work. More generally, business-related human rights abuses are often accompanied by the narrowing of civic space and freedom. For example, there is a growing issue with 'SLAPPS' (strategic litigation against public participation) being used to silence those seeking to raise the profile of corporate human rights abuse.

Interning at the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

My internship began at a point when most of the CF&HRDs team were conducting field work in various regions around the world. This meant that very early in my internship, I had the opportunity to join (remotely) a meeting in Bangkok, where my supervisor was presenting to the Asia & Pacific regional team. It was extremely exciting to see right from the beginning the way in which the Resource Centre works with exceptionally talented regional researchers around the globe.

A core part of my role at the Resource Centre was in helping to update the database of attacks against human rights defenders (HRDs). Unfortunately, business related attacks against HRDs are regular, and the Resource Centre works hard to maintain a database of reported attacks. My research had a particular focus on Africa, as this is a region in which the Resource Centre has more limited capacity. I was able to collaborate with regional researchers based in Africa to identify attacks and input them into the database. I also assisted with 'Company Response Mechanisms', which involve contacting the companies involved in HRDs attacks, to ask for their comments.

¹ The 2023 Fellow hasn't submitted their report yet, hence the report of the 2022 Fellow, which had a different format, is used here.



I was continually struck by the diligent investigations the Resource Centre conducts into each case it reports as an HRD attack. This includes scouring multiple sources, contacting regional researchers (who have a nuanced understanding of local dynamics), and approaching companies to ask for their comments/ responses. This diligence helps to maintain the integrity, openness and reliability of the Resource Centre's output.

The Resource Centre has analytical tools which enable it to identify trends and patterns using the data in the HRDs attack database. I had the opportunity to analyse some of the data for Asia & Pacific with the support of my supervisor. This data will be presented by the Resource Centre at the UN Forum on Responsible Business in Bangkok, in September 2022.

I also had the opportunity to support the team with a research project to identify companies with HRD-specific protection policies. The aim of this research was to provide an information base which can be used by diverse actors, including civil society organisations advocating for HRDs, and investors conducting due diligence investigations.

In addition to these activities, I had the opportunity to join Global Team Meetings, reviews with regional researchers, and the CF&HRDs team meetings. These meetings gave me an invaluable insight into the diverse and wide-ranging work of NGOs like the Resource Centre.

Conclusion

In short, I had a wonderful and insightful time at the Resource Centre. It was a privilege to work with such a dedicated and warm team, and to learn about how the Resource Centre works to increase awareness of and accountability for business-related human rights abuses. The internship has helped me to understand how human rights NGOs work, and has inspired me to engage in further NGO work as I progress in my career. I am deeply grateful to the Resource Centre, and to the Bonavero Institute, for providing me with this exceptional opportunity.

* * *

4) The Center for Law, Justice and Society (Dejusticia)



The Center for Law, Justice and Society (Dejusticia) is a Colombia-based NGO working on strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights in Colombia and across the Global South through rigorous research and activism. <https://www.dejusticia.org/>



About the Internship

Dejusticia has been running a fellowship and internship program since our foundation, and most recently, we have been receiving graduate and undergraduate students from different regions of the world to work with us on research, communications, and advocacy in one or more of our research areas. We are looking for students who have excellent research and writing skills, have a strong sense of initiative, and who are willing to be part of a dynamic, young, and brilliant team of academic-activists not only from Colombia but also other parts of the world. Spanish speaking skills are a plus, although there might be projects that are fit for applicants who only speak English.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Sanjana Gunasekaran

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

My experience at Dejusticia was absolutely fantastic. The work was insightful, important and very manageable. The team was very supportive and welcoming and Bogotá is the most amazing city to live in.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I wanted some experience working in an NGO as I wanted to better understand the nature of the day-to-day work, and I wanted some experience working in the Inter-American system after studying it in the BCL.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The fellowship provided me with the exact insight I sought from applying.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I did mainly research tasks. I produced memos for team meetings and projects. For example, I wrote one on Venezuela and the ICC, and one on African human rights activism. I wrote part of an amicus curae for an upcoming IACtHR advisory opinion. I also did some translation tasks.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

It was really interesting to see lawyers working in the field of human rights without necessarily being involved in litigation. I'm much more keen to go into research-based work. The internship has certainly cemented my desire to work in human rights.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

My core feedback → you need to know Spanish at a good level to do the internship, and I think this should be made more clear by Bonaverio when



individuals are applying. You cannot manage in Bogotá with no Spanish – generally people in shops/restaurants/cafes/small hospitals do not know English. I have an intermediate level and I took lessons before travelling. Moreover, the whole Dejusticia team works in Spanish , and the company talks (on super interesting topics) are all in Spanish. While they can give you tasks in English, you are far more useful to the team and you will have a better experience at work if you have a good level of Spanish.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

Couldn't have enjoyed it more, thank you so so much for this amazing opportunity.

* * *

5) Equal Rights Trust



The Equal Rights Trust is an international NGO which works to eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote equality of participation for all. <https://www.equalrightstrust.org/>

NEW OPPORTUNITY!

About the Internship

The successful applicant will work closely with our small team: conducting research in support of our new strategic plan, [Equal in Dignity: Equal in Rights](#). This plan sees us focus on responding to four major challenges identified by equality activists, academics and advocates: the protection gap, the implementation gap, the application gap, the practice gap. The internship will provide the opportunity to develop research, analytical and drafting skills, to engage with equality activists, academics and advocates from across the globe, and to contribute to innovative, action-oriented research.

* * *

6) The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)



The ECCHR is an independent, non-profit legal and educational organization dedicated to protecting civil and human rights worldwide. <https://www.ecchr.eu>



About the Internship

Bonavero fellows work with ECCHR staff to gain comprehensive insight into individual cases and program areas, as well as the overall philosophy of our work and our approach to strategic legal intervention. By engaging with ECCHR colleagues in other parts of the world, fellows get firsthand experience of global human rights work. They learn to critically assess legal work and hone their understanding of the political and socio-economic contexts of our cases.

About the [Critical Legal Training at ECCHR](#)

Furthermore, interns at ECCHR participate in our Critical Legal Training. The Critical Legal Training hosts regular events including discussions, storytelling and workshops with partners. Regular trainee meetings on current problems and fundamental questions of law supplement the learning program and also serve to trigger and advance important political debate. The same is true for other aspects of the program like the Human Rights Cinema viewings organized by the participants, and alternative tours of Berlin arranged by program staff. All Critical Legal Training elements have one thing in common: they strive to broaden the participants' perspectives beyond traditional approaches to legal work.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Abhinav Chauhan

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

This was a fantastic opportunity to gain experience in strategic litigation and policy in respect of important and varied global justice issues.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

Firstly, I wanted to gain experience in an organisation that carries out both policy and litigation work across a range of substantive international law issues. Secondly, I wanted to expand my knowledge of substantive international criminal law through casework. Finally, I wanted to work alongside other trainees from around the world and participate in the Critical Legal Training (CLT) programme.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

Yes. From the very first week I was involved in casework and policy work in respect of the situation in Ukraine as part of the International Crimes and Accountability (ICA) Team. In respect of learning more substantive ICL, I spent most of my time at the Center carrying out substantive ICL research, and was able to attend seminars and discussions on relevant ICL doctrines influencing the Center's litigation work. Finally, I was part of a large body of trainees and was able to work with them on projects and the CLT programme and spend time with them socially.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I had two research tasks over my time at the Center, one short and the other long.



The first shorter task involved preparing a submission to the German Parliament which is considering reforming its International Criminal Code (Völkerstrafgesetzbuch). This is a very important statute for the Center's ICA team which has been using strategic litigation under the universal criminal jurisdiction of German courts to seek justice for victims of international war crimes. I looked at other similar criminal codes in Europe and made suggestions on ways in which the Prosecutor's discretion as to whether or not to investigate international crimes should be regulated. The longer task involved writing a comprehensive memo on the ways in which the Center might challenge the commission of environmental crimes by Russia in Ukraine. I looked into various provisions of ICL as well as German and Ukrainian law and put together in essence a commentary on potentially applicable norms that explain the standards that must be met to show criminal liability. I then used this research to write a short note on the failings of ICL to regulate environmental crimes for a project being carried out in conjunction with the Research Architecture Lab.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

Yes. In respect of policy and strategic litigation work I learnt a lot about the slow and sometimes frustrating the work of strategic litigation lawyers can be. There are many losses and often casework is used to advance publicity of a certain case or issue rather than in the hopes of developing legal doctrine or even winning a case for a client. While I enjoyed this policy aspect, I have realised that I am more interested in substantive casework and legal analysis. This will definitely inform how I structure my practice when I start as a barrister later next year. While I am still very interested in strategic litigation as a form of policy, my primary interest is in casework.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

The Center is a great place to work, and the only issue I had during my time in Berlin was finding housing. I am very lucky in that I have friends who live in Berlin and so was able to find rooms through them without being at risk of having nowhere to live, but several of the trainees had very intense experiences looking for places to stay and the Center is not really able to help with this.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

The programme ran very smoothly. I was contracted in good time by the ECCHR to figure out where I would work and I had fantastic supervisions while there. I also found that check-in call with Freya before starting the fellowship very useful.

* * *



7) The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance - International IDEA



The International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide.

<https://www.idea.int>

NEW OPPORTUNITY!

About the Internship

The intern, under the guidance of Head, Constitution Building, shall perform the following tasks: conduct Research into issues relating to constitution building processes, assist in research to support responses to requests from constitution making bodies, coding of post-conflict constitution building processes for the Post-Conflict Constitution Building Process Database, attend conferences/workshops bringing together experts and practitioners, attend and actively participate in team meetings, performs any other tasks as requested by the supervisor and/or any other person designated by him/her; actively integrates the inclusion of a gender and diversity perspective in all activities.

* * *

8) JUSTICE



JUSTICE is an all-party law reform and human rights organisation working to strengthen the justice system – administrative, civil and criminal – in the United Kingdom.

<https://justice.org.uk/>

About the Internship

The successful applicant will work closely with our legal staff: conducting legal research; providing commentary on draft legislation; assisting with third party interventions; and supporting working parties of our membership exploring critical issues of law reform. The internship will provide the opportunity to develop research and drafting skills, to engage with litigation and law-making processes, and to be part of a small, friendly and committed staff. Applicants should



demonstrate an interest in the challenges affecting the justice system – whether criminal, civil, family or administrative – and have an understanding of the UK’s constitutional and human rights framework. They should have excellent written and spoken communication skills.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Disha Anand

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

The fellowship was an enjoyable and insightful experience of policy work in a high-profile organisation. I played an active part in the organisation and was involved in their report development from research to drafting, allowing me to gain hands-on knowledge of the process.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied to the Bonavero Fellowship because I was keen to gain practical experience in the human rights field, both to develop my understanding and knowledge of the area, and the realities of working in human rights, as well as to support future applications in the field. I applied to JUSTICE because I have a keen interest in access to justice work, and JUSTICE is a forerunner in this field. I was also interested in the breadth of their projects, which I believed would give me the opportunity to conduct a variety of work during the fellowship.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The fellowship did live up to my expectations. I found it a highly enjoyable and useful experience. I was keen to gain hands-on experience in the human rights field, and I was pleased that I was fully involved in JUSTICE’s work, from staff meetings to report writing, allowing me to truly understand the behind-the-scenes of policy work. I also found it an interesting introduction to issues with which I was not previously familiar. The fellowship will also help in my future career, both by introducing to me a wide network of people and helping me to gain strong transferable skills.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I carried out a number of tasks. I was primarily involved in the preparation of a report on Behavioural Control Orders, which was at its final stages. As part of this, I carried out research to provide evidence for and to supplement the initial framework of the report. For example, I researched Scottish approaches to certain Orders to provide a contrast to the methods utilised in England. I also summarised the findings of reports and studies for my supervisor, making note of any key points of importance for the report. I was also involved in the drafting, research, and writing of one section of the report, which concerned the impact of Orders on homeless populations, as well as re-drafting and tidying up existing sections of the report. Finally, I helped with general administrative tasks, such as footnoting,



proof-reading and drawing up an invite list for the launch event. Outside of this report, I helped with ad hoc tasks for other members of JUSTICE, in particular sending to and collating FOI requests from different local authorities.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

The fellowship has confirmed my interest in a human rights career. I attended a JUSTICE event about the issues plaguing the Afghan Resettlement Scheme. This was an inspiring event, driving home the positive impact that lawyers can have for individuals suffering from human rights injustices. I plan to pursue the Bar and found JUSTICE to be a useful confirmation of my interest in practice, as I appreciate the tangible impact, as opposed to policy. However, I found my experience at JUSTICE also emphasised the impact policy work can have and provided an interesting avenue to consider in future.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

I believe the fellowship is useful both if you are keen to pursue a career in human rights, but also if you are not yet sure about your career path. The Bonavero's ability to partner with highly reputable and impactful organisations means that you gain first-hand insight into human rights in practice, in organisations working on important issues. It is an invaluable opportunity to determine where your interests lie.

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9) Oxford Pro Bono Publico (OPBP)



OXFORD PRO
BONO PUBLICO

Oxford Pro Bono Publico (OPBP), based at the University of Oxford's Faculty of Law, provides pro bono legal research, particularly in the fields of international and comparative law, to individuals and organisations who are themselves working on a pro bono basis.

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oxford-pro-bono-publico/>

OPBP-Bonavero Internship 2024 – African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (see also report on pages 32-34)

Report of 2023 Fellow – Koshika Krishna

In 2023, OPBP partnered with the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights to offer an



internship at the Field Legal Office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Amman, Jordan.

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

My fellowship experience was intellectually rigorous, inspiring and reaffirmed my passion towards human rights and supporting the rights of Palestinian refugees. I gained practical learnings around application of international law, UN privileges and immunities and the Agency's gender mainstreaming strategies within its Jordan Operations.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied for this fellowship with three key aims. First, to gain a better understanding of legal work within UN Agencies, to develop deeper skills and knowledge in interpreting, analysing and applying international law in particular humanitarian and refugee law. Second, to better understand the UN system and whether I could see my career within this space as a human rights lawyer and public policy student. I hoped this fellowship would help me understand various pathways I could take to begin working at the UN with my nationality which offers restricted options. I aimed to proactively connect with UN officials during my fellowship to learn about their experiences and challenges. Third, I aimed to better understand gender related operations/projects within the Agency to gauge career opportunities and better understand how feminist and gender transformative principles are embedded within UN operations in host countries in MENA.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

Yes, the fellowship did live up to my expectations. It allowed me to gain deep insights into the three key areas I have mentioned above. I have gained practical experience into UN operations, legal drafting and analysis and better understood the key challenges that UNRWA experiences in Jordan due to its special mandate in particular around gender mainstreaming efforts due to the cultural context and political economy. Further, living in Jordan for the three months of the fellowship allowed me to fully immerse myself within the culture and better understand the unique challenges that Jordan experiences as one of the largest host countries for refugees. This has been an eye-opening experience into the complicated service delivery mechanisms and rights available for various refugees in the country as well as the unique challenges faced by ethnic and gender minorities within available humanitarian programmes.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

1. My primary task as a case worker was to analyse internal investigation reports on misconduct by UN Staff members. I engaged in legal analysis of these reports through the drafted legal memorandums in response. This involved engaging with the UN Disputes Tribunal, analysing internal Agency policies and guidelines on staff conduct and coordinating across various departments.



2. Drafted contracts to facilitate increased collaboration between the Agency and developmental organisations supporting UNRWA's operations within schools, healthcare centres and housing. This also included drafting contracts to enable financial or in-kind donations to the Agency.

3. Supported the Field Legal Office in designing their policy recommendations for enhancing the investigation approval process within Jordan operations at the pan-agency meeting in Lebanon. This included data analysis, designing a presentation and supporting my colleagues in offering tangible recommendations that could effectively address the current challenges.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

Yes, this fellowship has made me realise that I enjoy working within the UN system. I particularly appreciate the diverse nationalities within UN staff members, the strong mission and value driven work and impact that the Agency makes. I am now strongly considering a career at the intersection of gender and law within the UN System as my interactions with various staff members across these fields have allowed me to better understand where I could fit and support the operations of various UN Agencies effectively.

Further, UNRWA has a very open and inviting culture and offers one space to engage with UN staff members across departments and widen their own understanding of how laws and policies are applied in practise. I was able to proactively connect and speak around various Agency operations with senior management and various programs team at the Agency such as Relief and Social Services, Donor Relations, Public Information Team, Protection and Gender Department.

It is important for me to reiterate that undertaking this fellowship without Bonavero's financial support would have been impossible for me. For other students like me, this financial support helps bridge the huge gap of access to such career opportunities.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

This fellowship is a fantastic opportunity not only to immerse oneself within a UN Agency's legal operations in fulfilment of a challenging mandate but also to experience the wonderful culture of Jordan. In the three months of work, I have become more confident in my application of contract, administration and human rights law as well as experienced personal growth as I have travelled across Jordan. For, future applicants I recommend having a clear goal of what this fellowship aims to do for them. I believe it is essential for fellows to be proactive in their engagements with the Agency. Be curious, ask questions and do not



hesitate to reach out to staff members from across the department to know more about their work, their career pathways and work related experiences. I have found that being proactive has allowed me to engage more deeply with the Agency's operations as well as allowed me to receive strong mentorship and guidance on my career.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

1. I recommend Bonavero to connect previous fellows working at UNRWA with the current fellows as both mentors and to offer in-depth first-hand information about their experiences. In particular for summer fellowships like this that require travelling to other countries these connections can led to fellows having more practical support around accommodation, monthly expenses, visas, healthcare etc., I will share a 'Living in Amman' document separately based on my experience with future fellows and am personally happy to be connected with them. My personal email address is shared above.

2. Bonavero should also organise introductory calls between the host organisations and fellows to discuss the scope of work before the summer fellowship begins. It is important fellows are aware that JFO's work is focused on administration and contract primarily with little engagement on international human rights law.

3. I struggled with renewing my visa the second time due to my nationality (Indian) as the process is very cumbersome in Jordan as did the previous summer fellow Kimberly as per my conversations with Cathy Fall. As such moving forward, I recommend Bonavero offers more detailed support to future fellows with similar visa constraints. In particular ensure that the new fellows connect with previous fellows and the designated UN Staff members at the UNRWA Transport department around visa and its renewal process (if required).

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10) Public Law Project (PLP)



Public Law Project

Public Law Project (PLP) is an independent national legal charity aimed at ensuring that state decision-making is fair and lawful by undertaking research and policy work, legal casework including strategic litigation and offering training to lawyers.

<https://publiclawproject.org.uk/>



About the Internship

You would help develop our evidence-based work in one or more of our priority areas (a constitution that promotes accountability, transparent and fair decision making where new technologies are used by public bodies, or systems by which immigration, benefits and legal aid operate properly and without discrimination). You would work closely with researchers, policy specialists and the casework team at PLP, and be given the autonomy and support to produce an original piece of practical research.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Luca Montag

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

My fellowship experience was a dream come true. The team at PLP was friendly, supportive, and shared my interests. The work was very engaging, and it was a joy coming to work every single day. From start to finish, I was involved in the entirety of the research team's work.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied because I have always admired PLP's work, and its current priority areas – particularly its focus on automation – aligns seamlessly with my current research interests. I also liked the combination of legal research, policy, and casework in PLP's work. I wanted to work with researchers like Lee Marsons whose papers and blogs I had read for years prior.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

It exceeded them. I was mindful that I would be coming into a small and busy organisation that punches well above its weight and thought I would have a more discreet role. However, I found that I was given a lot of responsibility and my opinion was very much valued. I did not expect to have as many opportunities for input as I ended up having, nor did I expect to have so much in common in terms of interests and views with the team. In short, I didn't expect to feel so at home so quickly.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

My tasks varied across internal and external deliverables. I produced internal research notes on ongoing litigation, wrote my own column for Legal Action Group, assisted with summarising government policy for evidence submissions to a Parliamentary Select Committee, drafted and submitted several Freedom of Information Act requests, updated an ongoing database of automated tools used by public authorities which I helped investigate and identify, and assisted with drafting evidence for an intervention in ongoing litigation.

In addition to the above deliverables, I was also able to attend both internal meetings and meetings with other civil society organisations and was involved in



social events as well. Overall, I felt like a real part of the research team, and I will always be thankful for the opportunities and trust I was given.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

Definitely. I would say it has influenced my career in two ways. First, it cemented my commitment to public law – whether in research or practice, the fellowship was a personal confirmation that I am indeed a public lawyer at heart. Second, the fellowship gave me a stronger commitment to research. I got to see first-hand that a research career does not only involve producing papers and teaching students in university contexts – research can be community-led and directed at immediate and material reform. As a result, I am seriously considering a DPhil for the first time in my life.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

Honestly, the only thing I wanted was more time with PLP, three months would have been just fine by me too.

* * *

11) REDRESS



Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

REDRESS is an NGO that pursues legal claims on behalf of survivors of torture in the UK and around the world to obtain justice and reparation for the violation of their human rights. <https://redress.org/>

About the Internship

Legal Fellows at REDRESS experience all aspects of working at a human rights organisation, including: undertaking legal research at the national, regional and international level; drafting submissions before regional or international courts and UN mechanisms; developing policy positions; assisting with casework, including attending meetings with clients or their families; networking and attending meetings with high-level stakeholders; developing advocacy strategies; organising events; assisting with fundraising and communications work; and administrative tasks as required. Fellows are treated as valued members of the team and make a meaningful contribution to REDRESS' work.

Report of 2023 Fellow 1 – Surbhi Sachdeva

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

This fellowship enabled me to learn about and work on various facets of the inter-



national/domestic strategic litigation for torture survivors, including advocacy, drafting, research, and academia. It was an extremely holistic experience, as I had the chance to work on multiple projects, while consistently having very hands-on (albeit remote) supervisors as well.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied for this fellowship as I saw it as an opportunity to work in international human rights law, a field I had only learned about in theory through subjects I had studied during both my degrees. I was always curious to see the field in action, especially the drafting and argumentation processes. I found REDRESS to be a great fit for me, as it had a holistic procedural focus (advocacy, partnerships, and litigation), along with a concrete substantive focus on solely torture survivors. I had also met previous Bonavero fellows who had worked at REDRESS – their positive experiences with the work environment and quality of assigned work were also extremely encouraging.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

It exceeded my expectations in many ways. As an intern, I am accustomed to being assigned research work with limited context on the actual project or final product that I am working on. While such research tasks help enhance my own knowledge and contribute to the project, I did not feel as involved with the outcome, as I was always given limited information. However, at REDRESS, I was actively involved in more strategic and bigger picture aspects of such projects, feeling like a more important cog, wherein my inputs were equally meaningful. The fellowship exceeded my expectations in this sense, along with the office being hearteningly friendly despite the hybrid set-up.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I was primarily working on the Belarus and Ukraine projects at REDRESS, along with some advocacy efforts around making the EU Victims' Rights Directive more inclusive of victims of serious international crimes.

Belarus project:

- Researched on and analysed international practices around tackling withdrawal of consent during human rights investigations, along with suggesting solutions to address this issue. Drafted an extensive research note on tackling this problem.
- Researched on the role of the GDPR in informed consent, including the major exceptions wherein withdrawal of consent can be overridden
- Condensed the Victim-Centred Approach Guide by the IAPB into a publishable document for wider audiences, incorporating visual elements and enhancing readability



Victims' Rights

- Worked extensively on a CEDAW complaint to release a political prisoner detained in Belarus. I drafted four sections from scratch, by using the applicant's evidence, letters, and previous complaints/cases.

Victims' Rights Directive Advocacy

- Analysed the VRD Amendment Proposal published in July 2023, holding REDRESS' previous recommendations as a benchmark. I particularly focused on the proposal's achievements/shortcomings in the inclusion of victims of international crimes in being entitled to the same level of support, protection, and other victims' rights. This analysis was drafted in both tabular and textual forms on my own initiative, paving the way for future advocacy efforts by REDRESS.

Ukraine project (research report under the guidance of Professor Philippa Webb (King's College London) and Victoria Kerr (Legal Consultant at REDRESS))

- Worked on 4 of 12 research questions in this 70-page paper, related to the UK's enforcement jurisdiction with respect to ECtHR judgments, especially its ambit and jurisdiction in releasing immobilised Russian assets to Ukrainian applicants
- Strategised the best way to bring such an application to court (pilot judgment procedures, class action applications, etc)
- Analysed the UK's political and diplomatic willingness to enforce such judgments, given the norms of international reciprocity and the fluctuating support for the "Bill of Rights Bill" in the Parliament
- This paper was submitted to Open Society Foundation in September

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

My academic interest in the field of international human rights law has bloomed into a professional penchant. I am now looking at careers in domestic legal policy, but also careers with similar NGOs as REDRESS, as well as the ICC and UN Women. My thinking was mainly influenced by my colleagues sharing their experiences in the field, as well as learning about the career trajectory in human rights law/policy looks like – all my colleagues came from varied educational/professional backgrounds, but had found this kind of work to be both more rewarding and had a better work-life balance.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

For the Bonavero Fellowship as a whole, I would recommend that applicants do a deeper dive into all the organisations they apply for. I had connected with and spoken to two people through LinkedIn/Bonavero who had previously done the fellowship at REDRESS – their inputs were quite insightful in learning about the type of work I would be assigned, as well as better prepare me for the interview.



If applying for REDRESS specifically, I encourage the applicant to look into their new mission statement and five verticals of focus, along with figuring out which verticals and projects would be best suited to their interests/experiences.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

The Bonavero Institute, especially Sarah and Prof. Baetens, were quite promptly available whenever I emailed them. I still feel that the programme could benefit from some sort of mid-term development and check-in form, so Fellows can highlight any concerns and generally be able to check in about their progress so far. I had three professional development check-in meetings with my supervisors at REDRESS, but I am not certain if these forms/meetings were used to update Bonavero as well. Otherwise, the programme was run very smoothly and I had a wonderful and extremely insightful fellowship experience.

Report of 2023 Fellow 2 – David Zuther

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

My fellowship experience was inspiring and very positive. I learned a lot, was able to develop my skills, and I gained insights into the work my host organisation does. I found the environment to be very welcoming and felt that my input was valued from Day 1.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I knew that I wanted to apply for the Bonavero fellowship from the beginning of my course. I am profoundly interested in human rights, and found it hard to decide which projects/host organisations to select in my application. Experience in the NGO/charity sector sometimes feels difficult to access, and many opportunities are not funded, so a Bonavero summer fellowship presented a particularly good opportunity to gain experience. I ultimately chose REDRESS as I was familiar with its work and felt very passionately about it.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The fellowship lived up to my expectations and gave me a thorough understanding of how my host organisation works. I was placed in the financial accountability team at REDRESS - which works on targeted sanctions and asset recovery - and felt fully included from the beginning. My supervisors involved me in the full range of their work and meetings and were always keen to hear what I would be most interested in doing. REDRESS is a relatively small organisation and regularly holds all-team meetings, which meant I also followed the work that was being done in other projects. REDRESS also organised a detailed induction and development programme for us interns throughout the summer, including sessions on applications and interviews. I was particularly interested in REDRESS'



efforts to be a survivor-centred organisation and to meaningfully engage with partners in the Global South.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

Over the course of my fellowship, I completed a range of different tasks. In my first conversation with my supervisor, I made clear that I was particularly interested in legal research and drafting, and I was able to focus on these activities. I was given ‘live’ pieces of work to assist on, which I found very exciting and motivating. I helped with researching and drafting the historical background and legal analysis sections for a sanctions recommendation which REDRESS is preparing to submit to the FCDO. I also prepared an internal briefing on recent changes to oversight and accountability mechanisms in the UK’s legislative regime on targeted sanctions, and researched the position in other countries for a comparative analysis. I was often asked by my supervisors to draft certain sections of a briefing or join their meetings, which made me feel fully included and helped me develop a strong understanding of an area of law - the UK’s sanctions regime - that I had not really encountered before. In addition to the activities mentioned above, I assisted my supervisors in preparing a study on the impact/effectiveness of sanctions, drafted a blog post on a High Court decision, and analysed the conclusions of a recent inquiry by the Foreign Affairs Committee on state hostage-taking.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

The fellowship has given me a really good understanding of how human rights NGOs operate, and I found this insight fascinating. I would like to remain engaged with NGO-related work, possibly on a volunteer basis, but I decided that I still wish to pursue legal practice for now.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

Don’t be shy and throw yourself into it from the first day - I found that my supervisors were really serious about giving me work that I was interested in and letting me develop my skills and knowledge, so if there is something you would love to try out or get into, be sure to say so - this is an opportunity for you to learn and grow. Secondly, be aware that this is still a summer of work – you will not feel equally motivated or productive every day, and that is entirely okay and normal. Finally, try to join any socials that are offered during your fellowship - it is the best way to forge deeper connections with your colleagues, and you can learn a lot and have informal but valuable conversations about people’s career paths, advice and life experiences.

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12) Reprieve

REPRIEVE

Reprieve is a legal action non-governmental organisation defending marginalised people facing human rights abuses.

<https://reprieve.org/uk/>

About the Internship

Interns at Reprieve will join a team of lawyers, investigators and campaigners seeking to ensure that governments are held to account on human rights issues. The Bonavero fellow will join our South East Asia Death Penalty team, supporting our assistance to those facing the death penalty in the region and to shaping, responding to and anticipating changes in domestic and regional death penalty landscapes. Our approach is holistic, using all the tools at our disposal including legal interventions but also advocacy, media and campaigns. There will always be a combination of investigation and legal work, as that's where Reprieve's strength and uniqueness lies. Reprieve is the type of place where students will learn how to and be expected to use all the tools in the tool box, and because we're a small team where everyone pitches in, students will get exposure to multiple areas of the work of the team.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Madeleine McGregor

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

I worked in the South East Asia Death Penalty Team at Reprieve. This involved a combination of casework for clients on death row and broader anti-death penalty advocacy, for instance, on discrimination in the use of the death penalty. The experience was a rewarding intersection of law and policy directed at international human rights.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied for the fellowship to better understand the role of NGOs in the international human rights law ecosystem. NGOs like Reprieve play a unique role, bridging law and policy, and connecting domestic and international actors. I also applied to better understand the investigative functions of Reprieve, to understand how evidence and information is gathered and deployed.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The experience was rewarding, however I did have some issues with expectations. Mainly, I felt Reprieve is accustomed to receiving law students with little to no practical legal experience. As a qualified lawyer, I was disappointed to be confined to administrative, non-legal tasks and for my legal skills to not be utilised. I was



able to increase my responsibilities over the course of the fellowship, through proactively requesting to help on more substantive tasks, but this took a lot of time.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

My tasks included: writing a series of memos using the case information on file to explain pathways in which consular assistance was provided to foreign national death row prisoners and how mental health assessments were obtained. These were of a purely factual nature, relaying what the documents on file stated. I similarly compiled many case chronologies. I proof read and did the referencing for a submission on the harassment of capital punishment lawyers. I corrected and expanded upon an external memo on discrimination in the application of the death penalty and led the external meeting to provide feedback and further instructions to the law firm completing the memo. I input data into a database on death row statistics.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

The fellowship provided an insight into working in an NGO context, particularly a legal NGO with international reach. It showed me that these NGOs are important for investigating human rights situations, connecting issues to legal practitioners, and agitating for continued attention. I also found drawbacks in terms of the rigour and legal standards expected from work, and that work tends to move at quite a slow pace. Overall, it made me appreciate the work but necessarily want to pursue a career within such an organisation.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

This fellowship is targeted at current law students, as opposed to the typical Bonavero applicant who already possesses legal qualifications. The expectation is taking law students in their first or second year of a JD. The cohort of summer fellows at Reprieve is comprised of US JD students in addition to the single Bonavero fellow. The US students are also selected earlier and selected through an interview process directly with Reprieve. The US students are able to preference what teams they would like to work in, whereas the Bonavero Fellow is allocated (later) to the remaining spot on a needs basis. I was told by Katie Rosenthal, that the Bonavero Fellow will always be allocated to the South East Asia Death Penalty Team, regardless of preferences. If that is the case, I would encourage Bonavero to firstly question whether that is necessary and how the Bonavero Fellow's preferences can be accounted for at Reprieve, or alternatively, advertise the placement as one specifically in that team to set expectations.

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13) Turpin & Miller LLP Immigration Team, Oxford



Turpin & Miller LLP was established in Oxford over 15 years ago and has always been a firm dedicated to publicly funded work.

<https://www.turpinmiller.co.uk/>

About the Internships

This internship is a great opportunity for someone with an interest in immigration law and publicly funded work to obtain first-hand experience. The internship takes place within Turpin Miller's busy immigration team and would follow a programme covering legal research, casework and administration. This would include attending legal aid clinics at HMP Huntercombe, Oxfordshire.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Lauren Fox

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

I had a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience during the Summer Fellowship. I was able to complete a range of interesting tasks related to both asylum and immigration law, and felt that I was able to develop both my depth and breadth of knowledge in the field. Having the opportunity to take first instructions from clients at the in-person legal aid clinic at HMP Huntercombe was a particular highlight, as was finding out that one of the clients whose case I had worked on had been granted asylum. I also particularly enjoyed completing country research and assisting with the preparation and drafting of representations.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I applied for this Fellowship in order to deepen my knowledge and practical experience in the field of immigration and asylum law, as I aim to work in this area of law in the future. Having developed a passion for this field during my undergraduate degree, particularly through working with Turpin Miller as part of the executive committee of Oxford Legal Assistance, I was excited by the opportunity to be able to make a tangible contribution to ongoing cases. I was particularly keen to take the opportunity to work with new clients through the legal aid clinic at HMP Huntercombe.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The Fellowship exceeded my expectations. I was surprised and excited by the amount of responsibility I was able to take on, such as by taking first instructions from clients detained in HMP Huntercombe, and assisting with drafting representations against deportation orders. I was able to build up to more



complex and challenging tasks, which allowed me to further my skills both in terms of speaking to clients as well as legal research and writing.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I was asked to perform a range of tasks during the Fellowship. I attended fortnightly legal aid clinics at HMP Huntercombe, where I took instructions from clients. My work with the deportation team was varied, including reviewing Home Office and medical SARs, drafting chronologies and case summaries, requesting country expert reports, summarising previous decisions from the First-Tier and Upper Tribunals, and undertaking country research. During my work with the asylum team, I assisted with drafting client care letters, completing asylum questionnaires, transcribing witness statements, completing Statement of Evidence Forms for unaccompanied children, and reviewing Home Office asylum interviews. Following this, I was able to draft representations to the Home Office following asylum interviews. I was also able to observe meetings with clients. I found the work very engaging and felt supported by my supervisor. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with multiple teams, as it enabled me to gain a greater understanding of the ways in which different types of cases are managed,

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

Completing the Summer Fellowship has affirmed my aim to have a career in this area of law. I am excited to further my knowledge of this area of law through completing the MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice at Oxford, and have secured funding to undertake a DPhil in this area of law. I found the practical knowledge of the asylum process and immigration detention invaluable in allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of the process and its challenges which I could not gain through academic research alone. I feel motivated to continue to seek a career in this field, and benefitted from hearing about the experiences and career paths of different members of staff.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

I would definitely encourage any future applicants to the Summer Fellowship to consider working with Turpin Miller. One of the key opportunities during the Fellowship is attending the legal aid clinic at HMP Huntercombe, so I would particularly encourage applicants to apply if they have an interest in developing their knowledge of immigration detention and meeting with clients face-to-face. The work is varied and interesting, and I would particularly recommend the opportunity to applicants who are self-starters and enjoy a challenge.



Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

I don't have anything to add except that I thoroughly enjoyed the Summer Fellowship and am very grateful to everyone who made it possible.

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14) The Samuel Pisar Travelling Fellowship in Human Rights

The Samuel Pisar Travelling Fellowship in Human Rights will fund an Oxford graduate student studying law with a specific focus on human rights to work on a summer project, from July 2024 in a developing country. Applicants will need to suggest and organize their own project placement and demonstrate that the suggested project will meaningfully impact on (i) their studies, (ii) an organisation or organisations they would work with in a developing country, and (iii) the Law Faculty and Bonavero Institute.

The areas of focus for the proposed projects could include: advancing education and health rights; women and children's rights; freedom of expression; genocide; refugees' rights; and inheritance law. Projects in other areas that fall within the broad field of human rights will also be considered.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Sfiso Benard Nxumalo

In 2023, the Fellow undertook an internship at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

The fellowship experience was incredibly enlightening. The whole process, from the awarding of the fellowship to date, has been supportive, and everything worked well. My experience at the African Court was also equally supportive. As the Court is severely understaffed, I was forced to learn on my feet, and I was thrown into the deep end (in the best way possible).

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

My interest in doing the fellowship at the African Court was based on, inter alia, my DPhil research. My research explores the African human rights system and the African Charter. The fellowship provided me with an opportunity to engage with the African Charter and human rights in practice. It exposed me to a working environment that will enable me to enhance my theoretical knowledge through practical work. It strengthened my understanding of the institution of the African Court and also introduced me to the practical considerations that occupy the attention of the Court.



Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

Absolutely. I had the privilege of working closely with three legal officers of the African Court. This was an invaluable experience that gave me a unique insight into the inner workings of the Court and the challenges faced by its staff. I assisted the legal officers with a variety of tasks, including researching and drafting legal memoranda and reports, preparing cases for admissibility and merits hearings, and assisting with the drafting of judgments. I also had the opportunity to meet with some of the judges of the African Court to discuss cases, legal issues, and other matters related to the Court's work. My experience at the African Court was incredibly rewarding. I learned a great deal about human rights law and practice in Africa, and I gained valuable skills and experience that will be invaluable in my future career. I am grateful to the legal officers and judges of the African Court for their mentorship and support.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

- Drafting of judgments: I have drafted clear, concise, and well-argued judgments in a number of complex cases. My judgments have been praised by the legal officers for their thorough analysis of the law and the facts, as well as their clear and persuasive reasoning.
- Drafting of legal opinions: I have also drafted legal opinions on a variety of issues, including the interpretation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant legal instruments.
- Helping with assessing the merits and admissibility of cases: I have carefully reviewed the pleadings and evidence in each case, and have provided my analysis and recommendations to the judges.
- Researching legal questions: I have also conducted extensive research on legal questions that have arisen in the cases before the Court. I have provided the judges with comprehensive memoranda on a wide range of topics.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

First, it has exposed me to the important work that the African Court does to promote and protect human rights in Africa. I am now more aware of the challenges that people face in Africa, and I am more motivated to use my skills and knowledge to make a difference. Second, the fellowship has given me the opportunity to work with some of the most brilliant and dedicated legal professionals in Africa. I have learned a lot from them, and I am grateful for the mentorship and support that they have provided. Third, the fellowship has helped me to develop my own skills and knowledge. I have learned how to draft clear and concise legal documents, how to conduct legal research, and how to present arguments persuasively. I have also gained valuable experience in working with people from different cultures and backgrounds. The fellowship has been a



transformative experience. It has helped me to clarify my career goals and to develop the skills and knowledge that I need to achieve them. I am now more committed than ever to using my skills and knowledge to make a difference in the world.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

Applying to the African Court earlier as the Court does take some time to respond to applications.

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15) Foreign Law Clerkship at Namibian Supreme Court



The Namibian Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal in Namibia. The Supreme Court is presided over by the Chief Justice of Namibia and has five permanent judges.

<https://ejustice.moj.na/>

About the Internship

The Supreme Court employs three full-time law clerks, and has welcomed unpaid foreign law clerks for short periods in previous years. Like full-time law clerks, unpaid foreign law clerks work closely with the judges at the court, and will attend hearings, prepare bench memoranda on pending appeals, and otherwise assist judges in their work.

Report of 2023 Fellow – Anupriya Dhonchak

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

The work was challenging and fulfilling for the same reasons. It involved core legal research and drafting work on fascinating questions of law. It was a tremendous learning curve for me. The Judges appreciated my contributions and at the end of my stint, I was officially appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador of the Supreme Court of Namibia by Chief Justice Peter Shivute.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

Namibia was the last colony in Africa and is still emerging from the shadow of South African apartheid. I had relished the opportunity of studying law in context and was interested in witnessing its practical application at the highest court in



Namibia. During my internships with Judges and lawyers at the Indian Supreme Court, I was fascinated by the articulation of claims in the rights-based language of the law.

While studying Law in Society on the BCL, I learnt that the transposition of western legal systems to erstwhile colonies in Africa and Asia had led to a variety of effects on local means of organising social life. For instance, the emergence of customary law as a colonial invention was part of this transposition. I was keen to understand the nuances of litigation and advocacy in another Global South jurisdiction, often left out in the Anglo-American imaginaries of law school pedagogies.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

The Fellowship exceeded my expectations. On my first day, I met all Judges at the Court and was told that the work would be exciting and intellectually stimulating at times but also clerical and boring at others. I was fine with that mix. However, I was barely given any clerical or boring work during my Fellowship.

I was assigned research tasks on intricate points of Namibian constitutional and commercial law. I primarily assisted Chief Justice Peter Shivute and Deputy Chief Justice Petrus Damaseb with substantial judgment drafting and editing duties. I also worked on judgments delivered by other Judges every now and then when my assistance was sought. The Judges were heavily invested in my growth and gave me timely feedback. It was very satisfying to witness my work make its way into the final judgments.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

I worked mostly on judgments in cases on appeal at the Supreme Court. My work typically involved going through both parties' heads of arguments, the precedent cited, and the impugned judgment prior to the hearing, taking notes of their arguments as well as the Judges' questions to them during the hearing, discussing my understanding of which arguments prevailed with the Judges post-hearing, and then preparing a draft of the judgment in the case. In other instances, the Judges sought my opinion on judgments that they had already prepared first drafts for. This was an exercise with a shorter deadline as the judgments would be due for delivery in a few days and my task would be to figure out any substantive details that could be modified to ensure that the losing/affected party as well as other readers of the judgment were provided sufficient reasoning for its outcome. At this stage, I also ensured that the judgment set good precedent and its drafting did not make it liable to be misused or manipulated in subsequent cases.

Other than this, I also drafted speeches to be delivered by the Chief Justice at various fora during my tenure. Once a judgment was finalised for delivery, it was circulated among all law researchers for proofreading. Thus, I also proofread various judgments written by other Judges at the Court.



Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

Absolutely! Sitting through hearings and then discussing their outcomes with Judges made me appreciate the importance of court craft a lot more. I realised that I would enjoy both written and oral advocacy, maintaining doctrinal rigour. I have become keener to pursue a career in litigation as a result of this Fellowship. Witnessing that the outcomes of my work were helpful to and heeded by the Judges I worked for, allowed me to get more impactful and sophisticated work as the Fellowship progressed. It made me realise that I am good at and enjoy cultivating the skills that a professional advocate requires.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

Be prepared to face the struggles of adjusting to a new country with a lower population density. Crime rates in Namibia have gone up due to increasing inequalities, especially after Covid. You will need to be vigilant about your belongings since public spaces are not as safe as they used to be earlier, is what I was given to understand. If you don't speak the local language, you would stick out in a crowd and hence, be prepared for some restricted mobility and the need to be vigilant about your safety. Having friends from the country would be immensely helpful.

Is there anything else you would like to add, for example, suggestions for improvement to the programme?

I believe looking for accommodation in a different country can be particularly challenging, especially if you are a woman. When travelling and living on a budget, it would be helpful to have someone from the Court arrange for a few contacts at Freedom Plaza or 77 on Independence, both extremely close to the Court, allowing Fellows to get a much better rate than they would have been able to secure otherwise. This would not only alleviate the financial stress of the Fellows who undertake this opportunity in the future but also allow them to continue on the fellowship for a longer period than would have been possible due to budgetary constraints if they were left to negotiate for rent by themselves. I managed to negotiate with someone who had listed an apartment in Freedom Plaza on Airbnb, and bring down the rent quoted on Airbnb significantly. However, it was still substantially higher than what I would have had to pay if someone from the Court had negotiated with them instead of me, given the long duration of my stay. I made some friends from other countries in the building who paid lower rates because their employers had negotiated in advance for their rent on their behalf.

This also minimizes the possibility of last-minute hiccups. For instance, in my case, despite paying a hefty monthly rent, there was no functional AC in the apartment



during what was a particularly hot summer. This was despite the landlord having promised me that the apartment would have air conditioning. For a month, every day, I was told a technician would come to fix the AC but that did not happen. This impacts one's ability to work and rest at home immensely. I had to ultimately look for and shift into another apartment in December when it became too hot to live comfortably without an AC.

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16) The Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI)



SERI is a non-profit human rights organisation and public interest law centre focused on providing legal advice and representation, research services and advocacy support to clients and partners.

<https://www.seri-sa.org/>

About the Internship

The Fellow will be placed in SERI's litigation department. SERI has approximately 20 staff, with about 12 in the litigation department. The Fellow will assist with legal research and client consultations, and attend court hearings. SERI has approximately 100 active cases at any time and also receives daily walk-in consultations. SERI's court cases are mainly in the High Court, with some in the Magistrates' Courts. Every year, SERI is likely to have some appeal hearings in the Supreme Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court, too. The Fellow will work under the supervision of a SERI senior attorney and ultimately under the Director of Litigation. The Fellow will provide general assistance but also be assigned one focal case or project during their time, in consultation with them before the Fellowship begins and taking into account their interests. You can find out more about SERI's team (including previous interns), partners, cases, research publications and advocacy work on the [website](#).

Report of 2023 Fellow – Justin Winchester

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

My fellowship at SERI was the most rewarding experience I have had as a lawyer (possibly, even as a person). I was warmly welcomed into the organisation, and immediately entrusted with SERI's challenging and innovative work. I honed my analytical faculties and gained invaluable experience in public interest lawyering.

Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

There are three reasons why I applied for the fellowship at SERI. First, the fellowship was litigation focused. SERI's work is specifically about transforming



institutions and enhancing accountability for socio-economic rights through strategic litigation. Having never worked as a lawyer but hoping to work in a similar space in the future, I wanted this exposure. Secondly, I did my undergraduate law studies in South Africa and felt well-acquainted with the legal materials that make up the bulk of SERI's resources. Finally, I applied for the DPhil and I felt that experience at SERI would be beneficial for my proposed dissertation.

Did the fellowship live up to your expectations? Why (not)?

My fellowship at SERI surpassed my expectations. I was taken aback by the independence I was entrusted with to perform my assigned tasks, and how quickly I was integrated as an equal member of the team. For example, I would discuss and clarify points in drafts of my legal opinions with esteemed counsel on some of SERI's most challenging cases. I was equally inspired by the people-centred spirit that pervades SERI's work. The organisation makes unparalleled efforts to meet with and accessibly explain the progress of cases of their indigent clients and their options for proceeding.

Could you please describe the tasks you were asked to perform?

The main task I was asked to perform was drafting legal opinions. My first opinion was on the available remedies (and their prospects of success) for a person who had their home unlawfully demolished, engaging constitutional and property law. Another opinion I drafted was on the prospects of success (based on domestic law) under various heads of delictual and special damages for the families of the victims of the Marikana Massacre, which I debated with SERI's counsel on the matter. I was also asked to survey international and comparative jurisprudence. One such task was also related to the Marikana Massacre, opining on the availability of bereavement damages and damages for loss of affection, which I also got to discuss with counsel. The other was to reflect on thresholds for the finding of violations of socio-economic rights, particularly under OP-ICESCR, and apply this to the various grounds of review being brought against certain conditions which limit access to South Africa's social relief of distress grant. I also co-wrote an op-ed for Marikana Month, conducted client consultations, attended site visits and meetings with clients, took minutes in litigation strategy meetings, and prepared files for counsel.

Has this fellowship influenced your thinking about your career and if so how?

The fellowship at SERI fortified my inclination that I want to work in litigation — ideally as an advocate (barrister) — and I now have a better understanding of what that requires. Working at SERI is like attending a masterclass in public interest litigation. I have seen the great efforts that must be put in to ensuring clients meaningfully participate in every step of their case, and the role I as a lawyer must play in facilitating that. This is especially true because strategic litigation should



be accompanied by advocacy campaigns that are client-led to secure their effectiveness.

What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?

There are always numerous things happening at SERI at once across their litigation, research, and advocacy teams. They all work together. You are encouraged to take initiative and elect to perform tasks if you are interested (e.g., writing op-eds). Likewise, you will be asked if you would like to be involved in other things (e.g., attending court). It is good to be as involved as possible, but you are welcome to say 'no' if you do not have the capacity. In addition, be prepared for a lot of client-facing and counsel-facing work; there's no hiding in the background!