

Collaborative Legal Aid Clinics on Immigration Law at HMP Huntercombe and in Women's Prisons

Programme Summary

The Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, the Centre for Criminology, and the law firm of Turpin & Miller run two collaborative legal aid clinics providing legal assistance to individuals in UK prisons. The programme provides Oxford University students who wish to develop careers in human rights and immigration law the opportunity to gain expertise carrying out country research, preparing tribunal bundles, taking statements, and liaising with prisons and relevant third parties.

We are looking for twelve students during the academic year 2025- 2026 to participate in these clinics. The first is an in person clinic at HMP Huntercombe and the second is an online clinic with a number of women's prisons. Students will be required to spend one day per month working at one of these clinics, either at HMP Huntercombe for the in person clinic or from the offices of Turpin & Miller for the online clinic. For both clinics, participating students will be supervised by an experienced solicitor and will receive hands-on experience in immigration and human rights law.

The in person clinic will be held on Thursdays every fortnight at HMP Huntercombe under the supervision of solicitor Tom Giles of Turpin & Miller. The online clinic will be held every Thursday at Turpin & Miller's offices in Oxford and is supervised by solicitor Izzy Ellis. At each clinic, two students will assist in interviewing potential clients. Each student will also assist Turpin & Miller with case follow-up.

An introductory seminar will be held to provide an overview of the basic principles of immigration and asylum law and to provide training on interview techniques and the ethics of providing legal advice work in

prisons. There will be regular opportunities for the student group to share their experiences and speak about challenges. Participants will be provided with a certificate to confirm their participation in the programme.

Context of the Programme

Both clinics work with prisoners who are currently facing deportation without any legal representation. This is due to drastic cuts in legal aid that have, among other things, led to the result that the costs of initial consultations with prisoners are not always covered by legal aid and are therefore undertaken at risk. This programme guarantees an initial consultation for prisoners facing deportation and enables Turpin & Miller to secure legal aid for them, where possible, addressing an urgent human rights need.

Profile of Participants

- **Research skills:** Graduate law and criminology students or graduate students of other disciplines with an undergraduate law degree; interest in immigration law and human rights.
- **Availability:** Participants are expected to commit approximately 12 hours per month over the course of the academic year. This includes:
 - a) initial training as well as termly review sessions;
 - b) assisting in either the legal aid clinic at HMP Huntercombe or with the women's prisons clinic (half a day, once per month);
 - c) assisting Turpin & Miller with case follow-up (half a day, once per month);
 - d) a blog post or academic paper on an issue arising from the clinic.

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Students will also be required to attend the introductory seminar, which will be led by Prof. Mary Bosworth, Tom Giles, and Dr Eliza Bechtold and held **in-person** at the Bonavero Institute of Human.

Application

For complete details of dates and times **including the closing date for applications** please refer to the following pages

[Collaborative Legal Aid Clinic: HMP Huntercombe](#)

[Collaborative Legal Aid Clinic: foreign national women prisoners](#)

Please send a letter setting out why you would like to participate in this programme, together with a CV, to: bonavero-programmes@law.ox.ac.uk.

Please indicate your preferred clinic, which we will endeavour to take into account.