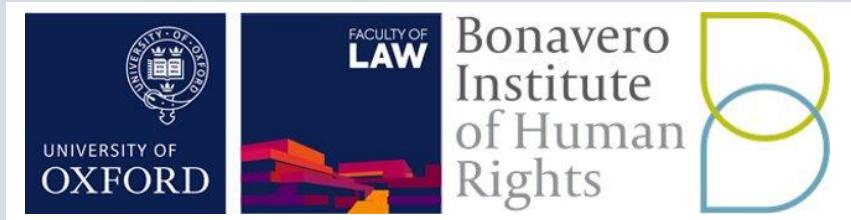


# BONAVERO STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME REPORTS 2025

Advait Tambe



This report provides information about the Bonavero Student Fellowships Programme (Programme). It starts by providing some general information about the Programme (Part 1), which is discussed in more detail on the [landing page of the programme](#). It also displays the opportunities offered to students (Part 2) by listing partner organisations and showcasing the experiences of the 2025 Bonavero Fellows. For more information, please contact the Bonavero's Programmes Administrator, Ms Sarah Norman ([bonavero-programmes@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bonavero-programmes@law.ox.ac.uk)).

## **Part 1: Overview of the Programme**

The Programme provides opportunities for students to apply and improve their knowledge of human rights law and a valuable platform to develop careers in this field. Fellows work with a range of organisations working in the field of human rights law. These, include regional courts and senior appellate courts, world-leading NGOs, and research institutions. The Programme gives students a chance to explore their professional options in a variety of 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 has more limited criteria.

Most 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 Fellowship, 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 2025 Fellows



**Name:**  
**Fellowship partner:**  
**Location:**

**Kacper Kryk**  
**AIRE Centre**  
**London**

### **How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?**

It was fantastic! The AIRE Centre provides exceptional training and professional development opportunities. It is involved in very important, meaningful and creative litigation at all levels of the UK judicial system and I was incredibly grateful for the chance to spend my Bonavero Fellowship with them; in fact, I enjoyed it so much that I stayed with them for much longer than the initially-planned eight weeks.

### **Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?**

I always wanted to practice in EU Law-related fields. Obviously, that became difficult in the UK after Brexit, so the AIRE Centre seemed like a great place to gain some experience and see how EU law continues to be relevant to the English legal order. I found the hands-on nature of the work they do appealing, as I am about to return to Oxford for a DPhil and I was very keen to gain a practical understanding of administrative and human rights law before beginning the doctorate. And, at the time when I applied, I was working as a Judicial Assistant at the European Court of Justice, so I thought my knowledge of EU Law would be an asset.

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

It definitely exceeded them! Firstly, the AIRE Centre does incredibly meaningful and interesting work spanning several areas of domestic and European human rights law. Before starting my Fellowship I didn't quite realise just how many of the cases I had studied at university or read about at the CJEU they had been involved in. Secondly, I had an incredibly warm welcome from everyone on the team. Both senior and more junior members of staff are approachable and happy to help you learn the essential skills and know-how related to all areas of the Centre's practice. I also felt that the balance between autonomy and supervision was just right—I was trusted with doing a lot of my work independently, while still feeling well supported throughout.

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

A major advantage of the Fellowship at AIRE was that it offered a lot of flexibility regarding the type of work I would like to be involved in. At times, I would work almost exclusively with the domestic litigation team, but if I found certain interventions or projects that the European litigation team was working on interesting, the lawyers were very happy to include me. This allowed me to maximise learning opportunities, pursue my existing academic interests, and develop new ones.

The work was always meaningful; nothing disappeared into a proverbial drawer, as sometimes happens during internships. On the domestic side I contributed to cases involving deportation,

immigration, social welfare and support for victims of human trafficking or modern slavery. Early on, I conducted several witness interviews and drafted statements for a deportation trial. The following week, I helped resolve administrative issues with UKVI for a victim of human trafficking. I also wrote advice letters on immigration and access to benefits, and carried out research for interventions we were preparing for the Strasbourg Court.

**Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

I could not have made a better choice this spring than to apply for the Fellowship. My time at AIRE gave me a very realistic grasp of what a career in public law involves, including the challenges come with working in this field (particularly as regards supporting vulnerable clients or those facing the risk of social exclusion), and it opened my eyes to many areas of practice I hadn't had a chance to explore at university.

As an aspiring barrister, I found it particularly instructive to be involved in the AIRE Centre's litigation-related work and to have a chance to attend a Supreme Court hearing for one of our interventions. Academically, I feel that I grounded my knowledge of public law in a firm understanding of administrative practice. The Fellowship also offered a chance to reflect on what we can achieve as lawyers and through law.

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

AIRE is a place where initiative is appreciated—there is relatively little structure and the hierarchies are very simple. I very much enjoyed that flexibility, not least because it allowed me to juggle involvement in several areas of the Centre's practice at once and offered me a measure of control over what my day-to-day looked like.

I would also keep in mind that many staff work remotely or in a hybrid mode; it should be possible to undertake the Fellowship in a hybrid mode, too, in case anyone applying would find daily commutes to AIRE's office difficult.

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**Name:**  
**Fellowship partner:**  
**Location:**

**Zainab Abdulai**  
**Amnesty International**  
**Remote**

**How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?**

I worked with the Strategic Litigation Unit at Amnesty International. The team works on domestic and international cases involving human rights and internationally law globally. Given Amnesty's structure, I also worked alongside Research teams and teams from Amnesty sections in different countries.

**Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?**

I applied for this fellowship because I had long admired Amnesty's work. They are one of the most active organisations in my home country, Nigeria. The Strategic Litigation Unit works on cases globally and on multiple areas of human rights. I knew I would get to work on a diverse range of cases with teams from around the world. Because Amnesty is a large organisation that also works on campaigns and research I was excited to get insight into this work and how it informed the litigation work.

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

Absolutely. I hoped to learn about what informs human rights litigation and their impact on laws and standards. Working at Amnesty gave me this insight and the cases cut across a diverse range of issues. This included initial discussions and research on potential cases, including on which courts and parties were the most suitable. Then, there was the work on the litigation itself, including drafting filings. In terms of the outcome of litigation, my experience has taught me to look at outcomes more broadly in terms of impact on human rights standards, not just which party won the case.

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

I performed research as part of case preparation and case strategy. This included looking into previous litigation on areas Amnesty was working on, the strategies used by the case applicants, and the outcomes of the cases that could inform Amnesty's work. I also researched international law and human rights standards that were relevant to ongoing and potential litigation, and how they could be presented in the case. Research also involved looking into procedural aspects of litigation, such as the rules of various courts for making an amicus submission or intervening in cases as third parties.

I also worked on court filings and briefs for domestic and international courts, preparing part of Amnesty's response to a defence filing by a state and part of amicus submissions.

I worked with the team to review outcomes of litigation, including analysing judgments and opinions from the African Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Similar to this was analysing the impact of litigation Amnesty had undertaken across multiple countries and how the lessons learned would benefit future litigation.

I documented and contributed to Amnesty's internal litigation review and approval processes, discussing the nature of the cases and the opportunities they presented to further human rights standards.

**Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

Yes, this fellowship has further cemented my ambition to work in international law, including human rights. It has also taught me more about what the day-to-day life of a litigator looks like, procedural rules of courts, and the lifespan of a single case. It was a chance for me to think about human rights more broadly and apply some of the international law topics I had recently learned, including sovereign immunities and detention in non-international armed conflicts, and confirm that these are areas of international law I want to keep interacting with through my work.

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

This is a fast-paced fellowship, and you are treated as a member of the team. This helped me settle in and it meant that the work I did was substantial. It also meant that task deadlines can shift and new tasks can arise based on court dates and availability, so you need to manage your time and schedule as well as communicate with the team. It is also helpful to have a list of goals ahead of starting, discussing these with your manager, and working together to make sure those are achieved as you work through your shifting tasks.

The fellowship is also fully remote given that the team is international, but there is the opportunity to go into the office in London and meet colleagues there.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

No

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**Dejusticia**

**Name:** Alma Gamper Saez  
**Fellowship partner:** Dejusticia  
**Location:** Bogotá, Colombia

**How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?**

I had an amazing experience in Dejusticia! I loved being able to spend a summer in an organization that works on so many different important projects—whenever I told people I met around Colombia that I was interning for Dejusticia, they always reacted in an overwhelmingly positive way; they do work that many people really appreciate. My tasks were interesting, varied and manageable and Bogotá is a very cool city to live in!

**Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?**

I am really interested in criminological and social scientific research but also in how to make sure it is in touch with the real world and contributes to social change. I thought that Dejusticia, which has an action-research approach to human rights, would be a fitting place to try and understand what that can look like. I had also visited Colombia previously as part of a project dealing with youth political participation and human rights, and had been waiting for an opportunity to return to the country—and to do so while continuing to learn about its sociopolitical context and human rights situation. Finally, I am really interested in decolonial / Global South perspectives in criminology and the social sciences more broadly and, while these were included the MSc's syllabus, there were no Latin American lecturers or students in my cohort—so this perspective was not part of the conversation most of the time. I was therefore really excited to learn from the work of Dejusticia, which is not only a Colombian NGO but, most importantly, works from a consciously Latin American position and aims to build decolonial alliances throughout the Global South.

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

Absolutely! I was amazed by the breadth and relevance of Dejusticia's work when I started researching about the organisation, and once I got there, I realized that there was so much more for me to learn about. I got to work on a variety of tasks which meant that my days were always a bit different and never got boring, but at the same time there was a lot of flexibility with scheduling and location, which also allowed me to travel a bit around Colombia. While many people worked from home often, Dejusticia's office was a comfortable workspace and there were often events for the team to learn about what specific research groups (*líneas*) were working on and collectively give feedback on it.

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

I assisted Dejusticia's Director—and the researcher on her team—on a variety of tasks across the organisation's many research areas (*líneas*), given that her team (unlike the *líneas*) does not have a specific research focus but instead works on different projects at the time. My tasks included conducting a literature review summarizing different positions within feminism regarding the role of criminal justice and criminal law to prepare a panel at a national conference, as well as researching and co-writing (together with the team's researcher) an article on the aid situation in Palestine for Dejusticia's international blog (still pending publication as of today). An important part of my time was spent at one of Bogotá's biggest libraries conducting archival research: collecting and classifying news articles that mentioned socioeconomic inequality from *El Tiempo*—Colombia's most read newspaper—for a qualitative project deconstructing narratives around socioeconomic inequalities in Colombia, that is being jointly developed by Dejusticia together with Oxfam and the collaborative media platform *Mutante*. I found the team to be overall extremely accommodating when it came to making sure that I was working on projects that were interesting and meaningful to me, which was something I really appreciated.

### **Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

Definitely—and not only because I've gained experience at a very well-regarded NGO. Over the past few weeks, when asked about career prospects, I have often found myself talking about Dejusticia's work: I still plan on applying for DPhils/PhDs this year and do want to spend the next years of my life researching, but I am also very aware of the limitations of academia—some of which led Dejusticia's founders to start this organisation. That's why I have recently said to friends that I would like to work somewhere like Dejusticia: a place with highly qualified academics that conduct rigorous research, but one that is also connected with community organisations and social movements and that is clearly oriented towards advocacy, action and social change. On the other hand, through exploring Dejusticia's work and talking to colleagues at the office, I have stumbled upon criminological and human rights issues and topics that I intend to continue studying and that will probably inform my future academic research. I've also been able to further develop my archival research skills and to continue exploring topics I had worked on before but in the context of Colombia specifically and Latin America in general, which I hope will make me a better researcher.

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

I think that, in order to make the most of the fellowship at Dejusticia, – and of the experience of living in Bogotá and (hopefully) travelling around Colombia – having a good command of Spanish really helps. This will allow you to learn much more about the extremely interesting and varied work done by the amazing team at Dejusticia, be it in informal conversations or in the many internal and external seminars and events that take place at the office. I also recommend going into it with an open mind regarding the type of work you want to do: Dejusticia’s work spans across many topics, which means that you will definitely be able to find something you’re interested or have experience in, but I very much enjoyed being able to explore topics I had not worked on before and which weren’t strictly legal/criminological. On this note, if you’re a criminology student without a previous law degree (like myself!) and are unsure if you have enough of a legal background for the fellowship, I would encourage you to give it a try! While many people at Dejusticia have a legal background and a lot of the organization’s work is of a legal nature (e.g. strategic litigation), there are also many historians, anthropologists, geographers, sociologists and political scientists, and much interdisciplinary work being done! Finally, if you do end up joining Dejusticia, do travel around the wonderful and incredibly diverse country that is Colombia!

### Is there anything else you would like to add?

Thank you for this opportunity! It was truly a privilege to join Dejusticia in Bogotá for a couple of months thanks to the support of the Bonavero.

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Name: Lucy Ryder  
Fellowship partner: ECCHR  
Location: Berlin

### How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?

The best experience possible. The opportunity to contribute to strategic litigation in a practical and meaningful manner was one that I have not experienced before. I was able to both utilise the skills from my undergraduate degree and cultivate new legal research and writing skills.

### Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?

I was especially interested in the role of NGOs in undertaking strategic litigation and facilitating access to justice for vulnerable individuals. I was aware of several cases in which the ECCHR had intervened (i.e., ND and NT v Spain before the ECtHR) and was keen to contribute to such an incredible team. The critical legal training was also something unique that I had not heard of before and allowed me to learn from other trainees qualified in different jurisdictions or with different academic backgrounds. Further, the International Crimes and Accountability team offered the opportunity to develop my knowledge of International Criminal Law.

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

The fellowship exceeded my expectations. The funding was enough to live comfortably in Berlin and avoid financial issues that may have distracted from my work at the ECCHR. At the ECCHR, I had a lot of discretion in choosing my work and knowing where best to apply my knowledge. My supervisors were always on hand to provide direction and feedback, and I completed several memorandums which were instrumental in building up the ECCHR's knowledge of i.e., the African Court. I also assisted in proposing a new project which was taken up by the ECCHR for the coming year.

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

- Memorandum on the crimes of apartheid, enforced disappearances, extermination, and persecution committed in X State (redacted for confidentiality).
- Memorandum on the procedure before the African Court and Commission, with the aim of assessing the feasibility of bringing a case against X State.
- Memorandum on direct access to the CJEU.
- Memorandum on the nexus requirement for the crimes against humanity of enslavement and sexual slavery.
- Trainee presentation on the factual and legal situation in X State, with the aim of exploring opportunities for strategic litigation.
- Presentation to the Directors of the International Crimes and Accountability Team, proposing a new project for the Central Mediterranean sub-team.

**Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

I already have a pupillage lined up but this experience has confirmed my passion for legal research and practical application of the law. I feel a lot more confident in my knowledge of the procedure for bringing cases before regional human rights courts, which will be useful in my work in public law. I also gained effective knowledge of International Criminal Law which proves useful in the current international legal climate. This was especially relevant given that during my fellowship the ICC unsealed several arrest warrants for Libyan officials accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. There was also opportunity to explore various perspectives (such as intersectional and gender-centric) on current legal situations.

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

They should emphasise their ability to have initiative and work independently. The fellowship is well supported but it is what you make of it – if you want more work, you need to ask or go above and beyond in your memorandums, proposing new strategic avenues etc. Also, depending on the team at ECCHR, they should have a solid background in international law, IHRL or ICL for instance.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

I am really grateful for this experience! It would have been helpful to have all the money for the fellowship at one time, as many of the costs of living are upfront.

# REDRESS

Name: Lauren Schaefer  
 Fellowship partner: REDRESS  
 Location: London

**How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?**

My experience at REDRESS was insightful and very rewarding. The work was meaningful, offering exposure to strategic litigation, policy, and advocacy, while the supportive and welcoming team made learning enjoyable. I also found the workload to be highly manageable. Overall, it was a thoroughly holistic experience that deepened my understanding of human rights work and reinforced my career interests.

**Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?**

I applied for a Bonavero Institute Fellowship to gain practical experience in human rights law and understand the realities of working in the field, while strengthening my future career prospects. I was particularly drawn to REDRESS because of the breadth of their work, spanning strategic litigation, policy, and advocacy, allowing me exposure to multiple areas. Their survivor-centred approach, including regular consultation with their Survivor Advisory Group, was important to me and aligned with my commitment to justice that prioritises survivors' voices. I also wanted to engage specifically with anti-torture work, an area I had not previously explored, and learn more about its substantive legal frameworks.

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

Yes, the fellowship definitely lived up to my expectations. From day one, I was given meaningful responsibilities and encouraged to contribute to a wide range of projects. The environment was friendly, welcoming, and supportive, with supervisors keen to involve me in work that matched my interests. As REDRESS is a relatively small organisation, I regularly participated in all-team meetings, gaining insight into the broader portfolio of projects they work on. I had the opportunity to attend meetings and events, observe and contribute to decision-making processes, and work in advocacy, research, and communications. This exposure allowed me to understand the organisation's work holistically and strengthened my practical skills.

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

I contributed to two main streams of work at REDRESS: UK advocacy and Financial Accountability, focusing primarily on Russia/Ukraine reparations. My tasks spanned legal research, advocacy, and communications.

For the UK advocacy work, I monitored legislative and policy developments, drafted briefings for MPs, and produced blog posts for REDRESS's website, learning to convey complex legal information in accessible language. I attended stakeholder meetings with MPs and international organisations, including Amnesty International, and participated in an APPG event at the House of Commons.

In the financial accountability team, I drafted briefings on sanctions and asset recovery, prepared case summaries from the European Court of Human Rights as well as domestic UK courts, and delivered a case presentation to the team. I conducted legal research on UN treaties and bodies and had the opportunity to attend a RUSI workshop on international crimes at Whitehall.

These tasks gave me practical insight into strategic litigation, policy work, and survivor-centred advocacy.

**Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

Yes, this fellowship has been invaluable for my career and professional development. It provided insight into how an NGO operates behind the scenes, from fundraising to project management, and helped me understand the realities of a career in human rights law. I had the opportunity to interact with colleagues who followed diverse legal and policy career paths, getting advice and learning from their experiences. I also had the opportunity to engage with partner organisations, build a network of professional contacts, and develop a clearer understanding of the opportunities available in human rights NGOs.

The fellowship also strengthened my practical skills in legal research, drafting and advocacy, providing hands-on experience in both strategic litigation and policy work. This has equipped me with the knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue further work in international human rights.

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

I think the fellowship is ideal for those unsure about their legal career path, as it exposes you to the variety of ways legal expertise can be applied in human rights organisations beyond traditional lawyering. Applicants should be prepared to contribute meaningfully to projects and embrace a proactive approach. It's important to note that July and August can be quieter months for the organisation due to staff leave and parliamentary recess, so fewer events may be available. The position is hybrid, requiring a minimum of two days in the office per week, but I would recommend attending in person as much as possible maximises learning and networking opportunities.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

Undertaking the fellowship would not have been possible without the Bonavero Institute's generous financial support, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to gain experience in a field where paid entry-level roles are limited and difficult to access.

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**Name:**  
**Fellowship partner:**  
**Location:**

**Sabyia Ahmed**  
**Rerieve**  
**London**

**How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?**

My fellowship was a valuable introduction to human rights work. I gained practical skills in case administration, note-taking, and managing sensitive material. Supporting urgent matters built resilience and time management. Overall, it allowed me to understand the complexities of human rights work.

**Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?**

I applied to a fellowship as post university. I have been exploring different career opportunities available to me, I have always been passionate about human rights but struggled to get my foot into the door due to the notorious lack of funding. The Bonavero fellowship, at the specificity of Reprieve, was an opportunity for me to learn first hand how human rights work looks as well as develop my skills.

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

I believe the fellowship unfortunately did not live up to my full expectations, though I did thoroughly enjoy it and felt I gained some skills. The team I was sitting in was very small and thus my supervisors were incredibly busy, and though they said they were able to support any questions, were not truly available. A lot of the tasks I was given were admin based, which I was completely happy with. I was given some which had more substance, but I found with both I had little to no guidance and I did have to ask repeatedly so that I was able to complete the task.

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

I was assigned a variety of different tasks, the first and main ones I completed were admin related tasks to cases. This included ensuring documents and files were up to date with relevant information for the cases, examples include attaching any correspondence to the clients case, updating chronologies and creating SAR trackers. Though these tasks were more admin based they allowed me to understand the case as a whole. Other tasks included minute taking in meetings, this was really useful as I had the opportunity to learn a more basic task but ensure i was able to master it.

**Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

I do believe I benefited from this fellowship as I will be able to show future employers that I have experience in an office based setting, dealing with sensitive matters. I was able to perfect skills such as taking notes in meetings, which may seem quite basic but can be difficult when you're in a new environment and need to pick up on information quickly. The time spent supporting the team during an urgent case also allowed me to develop my time management skills, which will come in use for my future career.

**What should future applicants bear in mind when considering to apply for this fellowship?  
[100 words]**

I would recommend future applicants bear in mind the difficult content the team are dealing with at Reprieve, the details of the cases are very often very upsetting so it is important you are able to stomach that sort of information . I would also think about whether you are looking for a place that is more fast paced or not, naturally with the death penalty the work being done with Reprieve is very slow paced and you do not see a lot of progress. For me this was still interesting as I was able to understand the details of the case, but others may prefer a more fast paced environment.

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**Samuel Pisar Travelling Fellowship in Human Rights**

Name: **Georgia Speechly**  
 Fellowship partner: **Centre for Constitutional Studies ('CEC')**  
 Location: **Mexico City, Mexico**

**How would you summarise your fellowship experience in 50 words?**

I had a fantastic fellowship experience. I was supported by CEC colleagues and local NGOs in understanding the Mexican context and legal strategies for addressing obstetric violence. On a personal level, my colleagues were welcoming, interesting, and warm people, who contributed significantly to my enjoyment of fascinating Mexico City.

**Could you please explain why you applied for this fellowship?**

The movement against of obstetric violence – my research field – finds its roots in Latin America, with Mexico being one of the countries where several legal and non-legal strategies to address obstetric violence have been employed for almost two decades. Importantly, health rights (also a focus of my DPhil research) have been central to these strategies. The issue of obstetric violence has only recently become a focus of activists in South Africa (my home country and the focus of my DPhil research). As a result, to support both my own research and grassroots movements in South Africa, I wanted to find out what could be learned from Mexican and other Latin American researchers and activists in this field.

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

The fellowship surpassed my expectations. First, I was offered significant support for my research by CEC, including frequent explanations about the Mexican legal system, an assigned assistant (on an informal basis), and access to some confidential court records. Second, I had several helpful meetings with leaders and researchers from leading feminist NGOs, and with notable constitutional law professors, who shared insights about sexual and reproductive health rights in Latin America, and about which strategies have been more or less successful in practice. Through

my research and conversations, I gained a new perspective on issues I thought I understood. I also loved the people, food, history, and culture of Mexico City!

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

I was not asked to perform any specific tasks. I applied to CEC with a research project proposal, and I was expected to work on that project from the SCJN offices, with SCJN resources and support. Based on that research, I have written a draft article titled '*Operationalising health rights to address obstetric violence in South Africa: lessons from Mexico*'. I have submitted that draft to a supervisor at CEC, who will be assisting me with translation into Spanish, so that I can submit the article to the *Revista del Centro de Estudios Constitucionales* (as agreed in advance). I also organised a conference (co-hosted by CEC and GIRE, a feminist legal NGO based in Mexico City). I presented on a panel, along with a colleague from Oxford who was able to attend in person, and a new colleague from Mexico City who works in obstetric violence research and advocacy. The conference was well-attended in person, and our panel was attended online by more than 2000 members of the Mexican public.

**Would you say you have benefitted from this fellowship from a career (or other) perspective?**

I think that comparative research (including comparisons of legal structures, strategies and remedies, and comparisons of social and cultural context) is extremely valuable in several contexts. In relation to my work and career, I have learned a lot about the Mexican approach to interpreting human rights, creative remedies, and enforcement of structural remedies. Since I plan to work in human rights law in South Africa, this understanding of alternative progressive approaches is invaluable. I also had a chance to unpack some of my theories and instincts about responding to obstetric violence (and other forms of violence against women) with people who have tested aspects of these theories or instincts in practice. As a result, I feel I've gained a lot of knowledge about what has worked and what challenges have been faced, which I look forward to sharing with colleagues in South Africa. This knowledge is likely to be useful in at least two of my potential career paths in South Africa (academia or litigating as part of a public interest law firm). Finally, I feel confident that I will keep in touch with many of the Mexican researchers I met, and that I can continue our conversations as my career progresses.

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

I found it very helpful to have already applied and been accepted at my fellowship partner / host before applying for the Samuel Pisar fellowship. That made the application process easier, as I had a clear idea of dates, costs, and expectations. I also found it very helpful to have contacts in Mexico City beforehand (including future colleagues at CEC that I had already been in contact with before arriving, leaders of NGOs that I reached out to in advance, and friends of friends from Oxford), so that my initial weeks were far less daunting.

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