



JOB DESCRIPTION

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| POST TITLE: | Researcher |
| RESPONSIBLE TO: | Regional Director (Europe) |
| LOCATION: | Rue des Deux Eglises 39 1000 Brussels, Belgium (with frequent travel across Europe and, occasionally, beyond) |
| HOURS: | Full time (35 hours per week) Evening and weekend work will be required from time to time |
| SALARY: | €38,000 to €48,000 (including 13th month and holiday pay) |

PURPOSE

Lead Fair Trials' work to document individual miscarriages of justice and breaches of the right to a fair trial in Europe

Highlight the impact of fair trials abuses on the lives of individuals caught up in European criminal justice systems and place fair trials abuses in the broader political, social and economic contexts

Design, develop and implement international, regional and (with Fair Trials' partners and members of its Legal Experts Advisory Panel (LEAP)) national-level campaigns seeking to end fair trials abuses

Develop, fundraise for, coordinate and implement multi-country and multi-partner projects related to documenting and/or campaigning against abusive practices

Research

Research, monitor and document miscarriages of justice, cases in which there are breaches of the right to a fair trial across Europe, and abusive practices used by criminal justice authorities in European countries.

Identify, monitor and follow-up on cross-border criminal justice cases involving European countries, in particular those cases in which there is a risk of human rights abuse in the country to which a suspect or accused person has been or could be extradited or surrendered to.

Design research methodologies, coordinate and/or implement pan-European research projects and activities aimed at documenting individual fair trials abuses or abusive practices, often in partnership with a range of local NGO partners and/or member of Fair Trials' Legal Experts Advisory Panel.

5 Castle Road
London NW1 8PR
United Kingdom
T +44 (0) 20 7822 2370
F +44 (0) 20 7822 2371

Rue des Deux Eglises 39
B-1000
Brussels
Belgium
T +32 (0) 2 360 04 71

1110 Vermont Ave NW
Suite 500
Washington, D.C.
20005 U.S.A.
T +1 202 790-2146

fairtrials.org
twitter.com/fairtrials
facebook.com/fairtrials

Fair Trials comprises: Fair Trials international, a registered charity (No 1134586) and registered with limited liability (No 7135273) in England and Wales; and Fair Trials Europe, a registered public foundation in Belgium (No 0552.688.67)

Communications

Write accurate, unbiased, comprehensive and timely reports and advocacy documents (such as op-eds, briefing memos, submissions to international bodies, statements, and testimony) that highlight the impact of fair trials abuses on the lives of individuals caught up in European criminal justice systems and place fair trials abuses in the broader political, social and economic contexts

Support the Communications Officer and the Legal and Policy Team with communications with the general public in Europe, including efforts to direct occasional requests for assistance to the correct sources, develop notes of advice and other written materials targeting the general public, and produce advocacy films and other multimedia content designed to promote fair trials issues and concerns to a wider audience

Represent Fair Trials in meetings with government officials, opinion leaders, regional fora and agencies, and in civil society networks of which Fair Trials is a member

Campaigns

Assist the Campaigns and Communications Manager (based in the London office) in the development and implementation of Fair Trials' international campaigns to seek improved laws, policies and practices covering Fair Trials' core themes and to end injustice.

Lead in the development and implementation of Fair Trials' Europe-focused campaigns and advocacy efforts, targeting regional fora and agencies, including the European Union, Council of Europe and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, on common European fair trials issues

Support and coordinate local partner NGOs and members of Fair Trials' Legal Experts Advisory Panel across Europe in the development and implementation of campaign and advocacy strategies targeting specific issues identified at the national level

Management and Development

Coordinate and implement multi-country and multi-partner projects and activities aimed at documenting individual fair trials abuses or at developing national or regional campaign and advocacy strategies to end abusive practices, including ensuring timely delivery of project outputs and required financial and narrative reporting

Assist in the development and drafting of fundraising applications for Fair Trials' work in Europe, taking the lead to develop and draft fundraising applications of particular relevance to the Campaigns and Communications Team

Work with the Regional Director (Europe) and the global Campaigns and Communications Team to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the campaigns and communications work

Other

Ensure that the contacts database contains accurate and up to date information on European Campaigns and Communications contacts

Carry out any other duties commensurate with the post

Promote and implement Fair Trials' equal opportunities policy in all aspects of work

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education

An advanced (graduate) degree in social sciences, international relations or journalism (or commensurate experience) is required

A degree in law is not required, though knowledge of criminal justice systems gained through undergraduate or post-graduate courses or through professional experience would be advantageous

Experience

A minimum of five years of professional experience relevant to the position is required, with demonstrable experience conducting challenging investigative research being highly desirable.

Experience that would be most relevant includes work as an investigative journalist, investigator in a national- or international-level criminal justice system, or as a social science or human rights researcher conducting field-based research

Experience designing, implementing and/or coordinating human rights-related campaigns, while not required, is advantageous

Experience with managing grants from statutory donors and the development of funding applications to them, while not required, is also advantageous

Skills

Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to convey complex technical issues clearly and succinctly to a non-expert audience

Ability and sensitivity to conduct interviews with a wide range of people, including suspects and accused persons, their families, victims, witnesses and institutional actors in criminal justice systems

Ability to design and implement field-based monitoring or research activities, and to coordinate a diverse range of actors in multiple locations in the carrying out of research activities

Ability to multi-task effectively, including having good planning and organizing skills, and to produce high-quality results under time pressure

A team worker, able to build effective relationships and work collaboratively with people across, and outside, the organisation

Professional fluency in the English language required, with fluency in another European language (particularly Russian) a distinct advantage.

Other

Right to work in Belgium is required.