



INTERNSHIP AT THE BRUSSELS OFFICE OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION AGAINST TORTURE (OMCT)

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOSTING ORGANISATION

Created in 1985, the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) is today the main international coalition of NGOs fighting against torture, summary executions, enforced disappearances and all other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. With 297 affiliated organisations in its SOS-Torture Network, OMCT is the most important network of non-governmental organisations working for the protection and the promotion of human rights in the world.

Based in Geneva and Brussels, OMCT International Secretariat provides personalised medical, legal and/or social assistance to victims of torture and ensures the daily dissemination of urgent interventions across the world, in order to prevent serious human rights violations, to protect individuals and to fight against impunity. Moreover, some of its activities aim at protecting specific categories of vulnerable people, such as women, children and human rights defenders. In the framework of its activities, OMCT also submits individual communications and alternative reports to the United Nations mechanisms, and actively collaborates in the respect, development and strengthening of international norms for the protection of human rights.

More specifically, based in Brussels, OMCT Europe assists in developing OMCT's mandate in Europe and maintains regular contact between European institutions and OMCT's International Secretariat. OMCT Europe's main goal is to appeal for a more coherent and effective European human rights policy. At the internal level, it advocates for the EU to integrate the various international human rights norms into its legislation. At the external level, OMCT Europe appeals for the creation of a control mechanism on Union activities and the measures it adopts. This double requirement aims to ensure a real coherence in the EU's external policy so that respect for human rights is recognised as an essential element for peace and security, and that it becomes incontrovertible at all levels of the EU's foreign policy.

Created in 1997 jointly by OMCT and FIDH, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders is the leading global programme on the protection of human rights defenders. It bases its action on the conviction that solidarity with and among human rights defenders and their organisations ensures that their voice is being heard and their isolation and marginalisation broken. It responds to threats and acts of reprisals suffered by human rights defenders through urgent interventions, vital emergency assistance for those in need, international missions and advocacy for their effective domestic or international protection.

TASKS TO BE PERFORMED BY THE INTERN DURING THE INTERNSHIP

Based in Brussels, the incumbent will work under the supervision of the Head of OMCT Office in Brussels and the Human Right Officer of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The intern will under the guidance of experienced staff at the OMCT implement a variety of diverse tasks on projects of both OMCT Europe and the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, providing a unique and challenging opportunity of learning about concrete human rights advocacy at the global and European levels.

Activities of the position include:

- To assist with OMCT Europe's advocacy activities towards EU institutions for an effective policy for the protection of human rights defenders and against torture.
- To assist with the drafting of OMCT's briefings in its programmatic areas, and with OMCT's submissions to UN and regional human rights mechanisms.

- To assist in the drafting of urgent interventions on individual cases and other advocacy interventions on cases or legal developments affecting human rights defenders.
- To assist with the organisation of field missions.
- To assist with the organisation of seminars and conferences.
- To assist OMCT's grants officer with individual grants to HRDs and grants to local organisations.
- To attend meetings and sessions of European bodies.
- To assist with other activities of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and OMCT Europe.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

- University degree in law, international relations, social sciences or related field. Specific expertise on human rights would be an asset.
- Good knowledge of EU institutions, UN procedures and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights.
- Good drafting and editing skills.
- Ability to work under pressure to deadlines and to adapt to multidisciplinary work in the environment of a multicultural team.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Fluency in English and Spanish.
- Fluency in French would be a particular asset.

STARTING DATE & CONDITIONS

Starting date: As soon as possible.

Length: Minimum of four months.

Deadline for applications: September 16th.

Please note that our internships are unpaid. Schedule can be flexible and would be agreed between the supervisor and the intern.

TO APPLY:

Please send your CV by email to omcteuropa@omct.org

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interviews. Successful candidates will be notified shortly after the interview.

Interviews will be held in our offices in Brussels (Rue Stevin 115).

OTHER

For more information on OMCT, please visit our website: www.omct.org, <http://www.omct.org/human-rights-defenders/> and <http://www.omct.org/omct-europe/>.