



## Reprive US- 2023 Fellowships

**Reprive US** is an international human rights organization that uses strategic interventions to end the use of the death penalty globally, and to end extreme human rights abuses carried out by states in the context of the so-called 'war on terror'.

We work closely with our Fellows and partner organizations around the world including our sister organization in London, Reprive.

Reprive US invites applications for externally funded fellowship positions beginning in 2023.

Reprive US does not provide direct funding, and so asks applicants interested in our fellowships to seek sponsorships from their law schools, corporate foundations and public interest fellowships. We are also pleased to discuss support for applications to Equal Justice Works, Justice Catalyst and Soros Justice Fellowships. Please state the funding for which you are eligible and intend to apply for in your application.

### Overview

For the past two decades, Reprive and Reprive US have used a fellowship model to support and work with human rights defenders and their organizations in some of the most challenging jurisdictions in the world – including Indonesia, Pakistan, Yemen, Malawi and the US. Reprive US' fellowship program gives fellows the opportunity to be directly involved in ground-breaking human rights work and to work with colleagues and experts around the world. The work of our fellows enables Reprive US and partners to seize on strategic opportunities and develop projects that have the potential to transform the criminal justice landscape.

### Fellowship Opportunity

Reprive US seeks applicants for public interest fellowships to begin in 2023. Fellows will work on a project within one of our areas of focus, outlined below. Applicants should review a list of projects in which they can express an interest, available at the end of this document.

### The Death Penalty

Reprive US uses strategic initiatives to end the use of the death penalty. We fight to save individuals from execution, but also to challenge whole systems of injustice that result in the implementation of the death penalty by focusing on cases most likely to have a wider strategic impact.

We are on the frontline, investigating cases, tracking down evidence and witnesses, and working with attorneys to take action in the courts. We combine legal action with public campaigns and advocacy.

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### Secret Prisons- Guantanamo

Reprieve US works to stop ongoing rendition, unlawful detention and torture/cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment carried out in the name of “counter-terrorism” or “national security”. Past secret prisons related fellowship projects have included working on cases of individuals detained in Guantánamo Bay. Reprieve UK and Reprieve US have since secured freedom for over 80 former detainees – more than any other law firm or NGO – and continues to work to secure the release of those still there.

### Secret Prisons- Syria - the New Guantanamo for Women and Children

There are tens of thousands of detainees held without charge or trial in North East Syria. The majority of them are children, followed by women and then men. All are held on the basis of a perceived association with terrorism. This is thought to be the largest detention site for children in the world - and it is upheld by countries like France, Canada, Britain and Australia.

Reprieve US works to secure the rights of the detainees in NES, including by advocating in the courts of law and courts of public opinion for repatriation, restoration of nationality, and the right to a fair trial.

### Extrajudicial Executions

Reprieve US works to bring an end to state-sanctioned extrajudicial executions carried out in the name of “counter-terrorism” or “national security”, including off-battlefield use of weaponised drones and the use of, or collusion with, other mechanisms for assassinations. Reprieve US is assisting survivors and victims’ families in their fight for legal accountability, transparency and justice. We are seeking an end to the use of extrajudicial execution and complicity in extrajudicial execution by state actors.

### Cross cutting advocacy fellowships

As well as working on individual cases and investigations, Reprieve US advocates for systemic policy change to end states’ use of capital punishment, extrajudicial executions, and secret prisons. We also campaign publicly and engage with the media around our cases and issues, fighting on behalf of our clients in the court of public opinion as well as the court of law.

Our policy and media work is closely integrated with our casework and strategic projects, and aims to secure changes in policy and public opinion across all of our key issues.

Reprieve US’s current policy goals include supporting legislation to abolish and restrict the scope of the death penalty; strengthening policies to prevent the sharing of torture tainted evidence; preventing US and UK complicity in overseas human rights abuses; and advocating for an end to state-sponsored extrajudicial executions.

### **Fellow’s role and responsibilities**

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These will vary according to the applicant's experience, interests and the project devised. Fellows can expect to:

- Conduct legal and/or factual research and analysis and develop theories to support new litigation projects and advocacy strategies;
- Draft memoranda and briefings;
- Participate in casework and office meetings and prepare summaries for these;
- Interview witnesses and people who Reprive US assists as appropriate and as needed;
- Draft and edit public education and non-litigation advocacy materials;
- Provide support to Reprive US partners;
- Assist with administration for casework: filing, taking minutes and so on; and
- Attend conferences as needed, and be an ambassador for Reprive US and its partner organizations.

### **Experience and qualifications**

Fellows should be post-graduates with the necessary qualifications for the relevant fellowship for which funding is sought, and they must have:

- Excellent research and writing skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and judgment;
- Agility, creativity and the ability to work efficiently with limited supervision;
- Analytical and investigative skills;
- The ability to multi-task and to be proactive in their approach to work  
Knowledge of legal issues related to the death penalty, extrajudicial killings and illegal detention (this is desirable but not required); and
- A commitment to the mission of Reprive US.

We also ask candidates to have a can-do attitude and to pitch in on a range of tasks at busy times.

This job description provides a general but not comprehensive list of the essential responsibilities and qualifications that may be required. It does not represent a contract of employment. Reprive US reserves the right to change the job description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.

### **How to apply**

Individuals interested in undertaking a fellowship with Reprive US should submit a letter of interest describing their experience and motivations for applying for a fellowship. Please review the list of 2023 projects below, and identify the two projects you are most interested in in your letter alongside details of your intended funding source. Please also send a resumé, and the names and telephone numbers of two

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professional references by email to: [applications@reprieve.org](mailto:applications@reprieve.org) with “Reprieve US Postgraduate Fellowship Application - 2023” and your name in the subject line of the email and all attachments.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Please note that successful candidates will be subject to funding and identity checks. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled, and subject to funding checks, and identity checks. Applicants are advised to apply well in advance of funding deadlines. Please note that Reprieve US cannot sponsor visas.

## 2023 Projects

Please see below for a list of projects commencing in 2023 that our fellows will work on. Please review this list, identify which 2 or 3 areas are of most interest to you, and explain this in your application:

### Stop Lethal Injection Project: Medical Participation in Executions – Engaging the Medical Community

This project involves building on Reprieve’s pioneering efforts in galvanizing the medical community against the lethal injection by designing a public information campaign targeted at both the medical community and the general public that highlights the dangers of physician participation in executions, the experimental nature of the drugs used in the procedure, the high rates of botched executions, the lack of ethical oversight, and the destructive impact on public confidence in the medical community.

### Stop Lethal Injection Project: Challenging Execution Secrecy

Building on Reprieve’s existing efforts to fight lethal injection and debunk the myth of the humane execution, this project involves strategic litigation and advocacy to challenge execution secrecy and change how lethal injection is perceived by key decision makers and the wider public.

### South Asia – Reducing the scope of the death penalty casework and [advocacy](#)

This project involves supporting the South Asia team with casework, research and advocacy aimed at reducing the scope and application of the death penalty in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. In particular, the Fellow will support strategic work on abolishing the death penalty for drug offences (which disproportionately targets vulnerable and marginalised individuals); the nexus of counter-terrorism and the death penalty; and migrant workers facing the death penalty overseas. The Fellow will work closely with the South Asia team based in London, a consultant based in India, and our local partners in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

### South East Asia – Casework and advocacy highlighting fair trial violations and the discriminatory application of the death penalty

The South East Asia team’s work focuses primarily on Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. In each of these jurisdictions, we undertake casework and advocacy across a number of thematic issues and groups: the death penalty for drug offences; discrimination (race, gender, nationality, socio-economic status); migrant workers; mental health; intellectual disability; fair trial violations; and access to justice. The fellow will work closely with the SEA team based in London, our fellow based in Jakarta as well as our regional

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partners in these countries to undertake research, investigation, advocacy and casework on individual capital cases.

#### Malawi, Tanzania, and Kenya - abolition of the death penalty and torture

These projects involve advocating for thousands of clients who are sentenced to death and/or who have been tortured by the state to elicit confessions. On behalf of these clients, we work with colleagues in country on trial, re-sentencing and appeal cases, clemency applications, strategic litigation before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and briefings/applications to the African Commission and United Nations. In addition to the individual case-focused work, we work on campaigns to abolish the death penalty, the use of torture against suspects by the police and against reliance on torture-tainted evidence in criminal proceedings. In addition to traditional legal work, we also use creative means to hone and share campaign messages, including through radio, drama, and social media.

#### Middle East and North Africa: regional research

Fellows working on our work against the death penalty in the MENA region will research domestic and international law across the region, work on case studies, and conduct data collection and analysis relating to the death penalty. They will also have the opportunity to work on submissions to UN special procedures for individual cases in the region. They will be involved in case investigations and will work with our partners on establishing case theory in our death penalty cases.

#### Guantanamo Bay and Life After Guantanamo

Reprieve represents men in Guantanamo Bay and runs the Life after Guantanamo project—the only dedicated project which seeks to assist former Guantanamo detainees in accessing the services they need for rehabilitation and rebuilding their lives. Fellows working on this project will support ongoing litigation and advocacy to effect the release of our clients and support Reprieve's work towards ensuring safe repatriation and resettlement upon release.

#### Northeast Syria: Repatriation

Right now, thousands of people, the majority of them children, are being held indefinitely in Northeast Syria. Families—many of whom were trafficked to the area from around the world—are held in camps, creating a security and humanitarian nightmare. Still many governments refuse to bring their nationals home. Reprieve works alongside and for individuals in Northeast Syria to advocate for their repatriation to their home countries. This project will involve an intersection of our advocacy—law, policy, and media—to push for the repatriation of individuals indefinitely detained in Northeast Syria.

#### Extrajudicial Executions (EJE): Unlawful lethal force as a counterterrorism tool

Our Extrajudicial Executions team is at the forefront of the fight against unlawful covert drone strikes and the lack of transparency and accountability that surround them. While President Biden promises to end the Forever Wars, he is replacing them with an institutionalised drone programme that kills far too many civilians far from any battlefields and with far too little accountability. We investigate who really gets targeted and killed, we support victims to bring legal cases, and we campaign to end the United States'

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unlawful use of lethal force for counterterrorism purposes. A fellowship with the EJE team in 2023 will contribute to new efforts to press for accountability aimed at ensuring the US learns from the lessons of the past and acknowledges the harm that has been caused. The fellow will support investigation into drone strikes and the algorithms behind the targeting policy; engage in litigation of individual cases, where possible; file complaints and FOIAs regarding specific cases; and carry out advocacy against the use of drones to attack families, journalists, politicians, and peace activists in Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan, and elsewhere.

This Fellowship opportunity is posted by Reprieve US a registered US 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Reprieve US is an equal opportunity employer.

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