
Terms of Reference

Consultancy:	Campaigner Against Citizenship Stripping - Consultant
Project	Policy Team, overseen by the Head of Policy and Public Affairs
Fee:	£200-250 per day (negotiable)
Location:	UK (remote, with some requirement to attend meetings at the Reprieve office, in Parliament, and elsewhere in central London)
Deadline for applications:	24 June 2024, after which applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis
Duration:	Estimated two days a week for six months, to be finalised between Reprieve and the consultant upon appointment

About Reprieve

Reprieve is a UK charity founded in 1999. Reprieve uses strategic interventions to end the use of the death penalty globally, and to end extreme human rights abuses carried out in the name of “counterterrorism” or “national security”.

Reprieve works with the most disenfranchised people in society, as it is in their cases that human rights are most swiftly jettisoned and the rule of law is cast aside. Thus, Reprieve promotes and protects the rights of those facing the death penalty and those who are the victims of extreme human rights abuses carried out in the name of “counterterrorism” or “national security”, with a focus on arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial executions.

Reprieve’s main office is in London, UK. Reprieve also supports full-time consultants, who work as lawyers, investigators and campaigners in the countries in which we work. We work closely with a number of partner organisations in jurisdictions all over the world, who provide access to beneficiaries, expertise, knowledge and guidance on specific issues or regions. We work in cooperation with relevant government officials, individual lawyers and human rights defenders, as well as individual, corporate and foundation funders to further the cause of our shared goals.

Background to this consultancy

In the last twenty years, government powers to strip people of their British citizenship for national security purposes have expanded markedly. A power that was rarely used before 2000 has increasingly become seen by governments as a key tool to protect national security. In 2003, it became possible to deprive British-born dual nationals for the first time. Successive changes to the law have turned a narrow and specific power into a broad power for the Home Secretary to deprive people on the basis that it would be conducive to the “public good”.

Citizenship stripping is an extreme measure – deprivation of what Hannah Arendt called ‘the right to have rights’. It fell out of use following the Second World War, as democracies recoiled from the citizenship-stripping practiced by the Nazis in the

Nuremberg Laws. The UK didn't strip anyone on national security grounds from 1948-1971 and then from 1972-2006 only 10 people.

In the last decade the Government has presided over a 4000% increase in deprivations on the previous three decades put together. While the Government does not routinely publish comprehensive figures, the available data shows that there have been at least 217 deprivations for the “public good” since 2010.¹ A 2022 report by the Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion and the Global Citizenship Observatory concluded that since 2000 the UK had stripped more people of their citizenship under these powers than any country except Bahrain.² The UK is the only country in the G20 to strip citizenship in bulk. The UK has stripped ten times as many people of citizenship since 2000 as France or the Netherlands.

Citizenship stripping is a racist, two-tier regime. Two in five people from an ethnic minority background are at risk of being deprived of citizenship – up to six million people.³ Research by the Institute of Race Relations suggests that these powers have been used almost exclusively against Muslims, mainly of South Asian, Middle-Eastern, and African heritage. The result, as the Institute of Race Relations described it, has been to convey the message that British Muslims are not “real, full British citizens”.⁴

Reprieve’s campaign against citizenship stripping

We believe it is time to build a cross party and cross community coalition to end citizenship stripping once and for all.

The aim of the campaign is to end citizenship stripping in the UK by:

- Building political and public awareness citizenship deprivation is racist, wrong, and fundamentally ineffective
- Making it harder for governments to use citizenship deprivation powers by holding them accountable for their true impact on individuals and communities
- Securing commitments from political parties to change the law on citizenship deprivation

Required expertise

The campaigner will have significant experience of leading strategic campaigns to achieve policy change. They will have experience engaging with politicians, working with the media, and managing coalitions of stakeholder organisations, including grassroots and volunteer-led groups. They will have an interest in and good understanding of the UK parliamentary system and policy making processes, and some knowledge of international and domestic human rights law. They will have strong skills in written and verbal communication, campaign and project management, and in maintaining and building relationships with senior stakeholders.

¹ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06820/#:-:text=Over%201%2C000%20citizenship%20deprivation%20orders.public%20good'%2C%20since%202010.>

² https://files.instituteforstatelessness.org/Instrumentalising_Citizenship_Global_Trends_Report.pdf.

³ <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2021/12/exclusive-british-citizenship-of-six-million-people-could-be-jeopardised-by-home-office-plans>

⁴ <https://irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Deprivation-of-citizenship-Final-LR.pdf>

This is a role that would suit an experienced all-round campaigner, who can speak to past successes in achieving policy change.

Deliverables

We are looking for a consultant who can take a strategic approach to campaigning and engage at a senior level with community leaders, charity CEOs, and senior politicians. The consultant will take the lead in driving forward the campaign to abolish citizenship stripping and will work closely with Reprieve's policy team, who will provide support as needed. The consultant will be managed by the Head of Public Affairs and Policy.

You will complete the following deliverables as part of this Project:

1. Establish an evidence-based policy position on citizenship stripping
2. Build a coalition of organisations to campaign against citizenship stripping
3. Deliver a programme of advocacy with parliamentarians and engagement with journalists and the general public

We would anticipate that this work will take approximately 2 days per week over a period of 6 months, after which we would wish to assess the status of the project and next steps.

How to apply

Please send a CV and cover letter in PDF format to applications@reprieve.org.uk by 24 June. After this date applications will be assessed on a rolling basis. If you have any questions please email applications@reprieve.org.uk.