
Fellowship Description and Person Specification

Job Title:	Unlawful Detentions Team Postgraduate Fellow
Reports to:	Head of Unlawful Detentions Team
Salary:	\$56,278 annually. The successful candidate will secure a minimum of \$50,000 in institutional funding with the remainder provided by Reprieve US.
Benefits:	Health, dental, and vision insurance as well as vacation time of 25 days per year, plus federal holidays
Deadline for applications:	Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled
Start Date:	Approximately 01 September 2025
Duration:	Applicants are expected to secure institutional funding for a minimum of one year.

About Reprieve US:

Reprieve US is a registered 501(c)(3) assisting victims of extreme human rights abuses carried out by governments. We are made up of lawyers, investigators, and advocates helping people face detention without trial, execution and extra judicial execution. We are a small team but we are fearless in our fight for justice.

We work closely with our sibling organization, Reprieve, a UK charity founded in 1999. Reprieve US 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”.

About postgraduate fellowships:

For the past two decades, Reprieve and Reprieve 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. Reprieve 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 Reprieve US and partners to seize on strategic opportunities and develop projects that have the potential to transform the criminal justice landscape.

Reprieve US invites applicants for a public interest fellowship with our Unlawful Detentions team beginning in 2025.

Fellows will work from Washington DC, and should have the right to work in the US at the time of application and for the duration of their fellowship. We hope that fellows will have the opportunity to visit Reprieve UK’s London office.

Our preference is that postgraduate fellowship awards are transferred to Reprieve for disbursement to fellows, who will join us as staff members. If an awarding body has a policy requiring direct payment to the fellow we are happy to consider this arrangement on a case by case basis. Reprieve has an open and transparent salary structure, governed by a principle that the highest-paid member of staff is paid no more than double the lowest-paid member of staff. Our postgraduate fellow salary is fixed at \$56,278. If fellowship funding falls between \$50,000 and \$56,278 we will top up the amount to meet our fixed salary.

Reprieve US offers staff a broad range of benefits including a generous annual leave allowance of 25 days plus federal holidays and their birthday off. We also provide healthcare and dental to fellows who join us as staff members.

Background on the Unlawful Detentions Team

Reprieve was one of the very first organisations allowed inside Guantánamo. Since then, we have secured freedom for more than 80 men illegally detained without charge or trial, and we continue to support some of these men through our Life After Guantánamo project.

Reprieve also advocates for the release and repatriation of foreign nationals detained in camps and prisons in NES. We aim to ensure that detained individuals are treated in line with international law, and not subjected to the death penalty, extrajudicial execution, arbitrary detention, torture, or rendition. We also advocate for and support clients and their children after their release from arbitrary detention. Through our work we aim to challenge and change flawed 'War on Terror' narratives and legal and political frameworks – including in the UK, Europe and the US – that engender state sanctioned discrimination and abuse, undermine the rule of law and human rights, and create two-tiered layers of citizenship rights for ethnic minorities in Western countries.

Unlawful Detentions Team Postgraduate Fellow- Responsibilities

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 assist with relevant preparation;
- Draft and edit non-litigation advocacy materials;
- Provide support to Reprieve US partners;
- Assist with administration for casework: filing, taking minutes and so on;
- Attend conferences as needed, and be an ambassador for Reprieve US and its partner organizations;
- Assist in investigating client cases and background creating an evidentiary base sufficient for litigation and advocacy; and
- Build the evidentiary base for relevant thematic areas, including human trafficking and children's rights, among others.

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. Reprieve US reserves the right to change the job description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.

Person Specification

Applicants should demonstrate the skills and experience below:

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
The right to live and work in the US for the duration of the fellowship	✓	
Excellent research and writing skills	✓	
Excellent interpersonal skills and judgement	✓	
Comfort and confidence in working efficiently with limited supervision	✓	
Excellent analytical skills	✓	
Familiarity with the policy issues and domestic and international political dynamics underpinning unlawful detention and other abuses carried out in the so-called 'war on terror'		✓
An awareness and sensitivity to the needs and concerns of individuals from diverse cultures, backgrounds and orientations	✓	
Arabic, Urdu, Bengali or Kurdish language skills		✓
A commitment to the mission of Reprieve US	✓	

How to apply

Please submit a letter of interest of no more than 2 pages detailing your experience and motivations in applying for the Unlawful Detentions Team team postgraduate fellowship position, and a resumé. Please ensure your letter of interest details how you meet the criteria above and includes details of your proposed funding source, the funding amount, and funding application deadlines.

Your resumé should include a contact number and your address. Please send documents in PDF format to applications@reprieve.org.uk with "Unlawful Detentions team postgraduate fellowship- your name" as the subject line.

Please note that Reprieve US has a Safeguarding Policy. We will ask candidates prior to making an offer if there are any issues that may impact their ability to effectively carry out this role

Once applications are submitted they will be assessed by our fellowships panel. Applicants are invited to attend two round of online interviews before an offer for a postgraduate fellowship is made. Offers are dependent on successful applications for funding. If an offer is made and accepted we will work with the prospective fellow on their funding applications.