



Reprieve is an international human rights organization based in London that works with partner organizations including Reprieve US (collectively “Reprieve”) and other partners around the world. Founded in 1999, we provide free legal and investigative support to some of the world’s most vulnerable people: those who face the death penalty and those who are the victims of extreme human rights abuses committed by states in the name of “counter-terrorism” or “national security”.

We pursue strategic initiatives to end extreme human rights abuses through a unique combination of investigation, litigation, and press and political advocacy. We work closely with our fellows and partner organizations around the world. We have around 50 staff worldwide and engage fellows in Egypt, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Tanzania, Kenya, and Malawi.

Seasonal Fellowship Opportunities

Reprieve is pleased to collaborate with schools and universities to enable students to undertake placements with us. Reprieve’s combination of investigation, litigation, press and political advocacy means that fellows can expect to work on a variety of legal and non-legal tasks. Placements will be of particular interest to students studying law, but we are pleased to accept applications from students of any discipline.

Reprieve is interested in welcoming candidates to join a team focusing on one of the following three areas:

The Death Penalty

Reprieve 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 wide strategic impact. Reprieve’s regional death penalty teams focus on Africa, the MENA region, South East Asia, South Asia and seasonal fellows who work on the death penalty will join ones of these teams.

Unlawful Detentions

Reprieve’s Unlawful Detentions Team works on a range of casework activities to support our work on detention cases in North East Syria (NES), and our Guantánamo and Life after Guantánamo Projects.

Reprieve aims to ensure that individuals detained in Syria are treated in line with international law, and not subjected to the death penalty, extrajudicial execution, arbitrary detention, torture or rendition. Where possible, we advocate for the release and repatriation of foreign nationals detained in NES, many of whom are victims of trafficking and / or minors. We also advocate for and support clients and their children after their release from arbitrary detention.

Cross cutting advocacy fellowships

As well as working on individual cases and investigations, Reprieve 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’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.

Applicants are invited to identify teams of specific interest in their application. These will be taken into account when making fellowship offers but we cannot guarantee a placement with a specific team due to wide ranging fellowship deadlines and organizational needs.

Role and responsibilities

These will vary according to the applicant's experience, interests and the project devised. As an organization committed to ending extreme human rights abuses, our teams focus on a combination of legal, advocacy, media, and campaigns initiatives, and fellows will be involved in all aspects of the work of the team they join. Broadly, seasonal fellows will be expected to:

- Conduct legal and/or factual research and analysis and develop theories to support new litigation projects and advocacy strategies;
- Draft legal and non-legal memoranda and briefings;
- Draft and edit public education and non-litigation advocacy materials;
- Provide legal and research support to Reprieve partners;
- Take part in Reprieve's program of activities for seasonal fellows.

Successful applicants will be offered a role on one of Reprieve's teams, and will work on a variety of projects and tasks on that team. Fellows can expect to join team and cross organizational meetings, and fellowships will include opportunities to learn about the work and cases of our other teams.

The specific work that each fellow does will depend on the caseload and work priorities of the team they join.

Experience and qualifications

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and judgment
- Agility, creativity and the ability to work efficiently with limited supervision
- Skilled at complex analysis
- Self-motivated and able to manage a variety of tasks
- Knowledge of legal issues related to the death penalty, extrajudicial executions and illegal detention is desirable but not required
- Commitment to the mission of Reprieve

Administrative tasks are shared across teams at Reprieve, and fellows can expect to get involved in this work alongside larger projects.

Funding and location

As a non-profit Reprieve is not able to offer any funding for seasonal placements. Applicants must have school funding/fellowship awards that meet or exceed the minimum wage in the location that they will be based for their fellowship. Funders are often universities or other institutions. We don't typically have other funding sources but can accept applications on the basis of academic credit during term-time. We do not accept applications for self-funded placements, or seasonal credit outside of term time.



Fellowships are available on a full-time basis only to offer the fellow, our clients and the organization the most benefit.

Applicants are expected to complete their fellowships remotely from the US, and there may be an opportunity to spend some time in our Washington DC office which we are pleased to discuss.

How to apply

Please ensure you read the applicant information available on our website before beginning your application.

As an initial step, and prior to applying to Reprieve, please liaise with:

- your university careers office; or
- the relevant scholarship or public interest fellowship coordinator/office; or

Please discuss your decision to apply for a placement at Reprieve, and determine whether funding, or seasonal credits (if applying for a term-time placement) are available. Once you are confident that funding, seasonal credits, or both are available for you to complete a placement with Reprieve for a period of at least 8 weeks, please send us your application, which should consist of:

- a cover letter of no more than one page, including information on any specific areas of our work that are of interest to you
- a resume of no more than two pages
- this [application form](#)
- full details of the funding or academic credit that you are eligible for
- your interest on working for a particular team or on a particular region

Please send your application to applications@reprieve.org.uk with reference [Reprieve Seasonal Placement- your name] in the subject line and in the name of all attached documents. If you require any adjustments for online interviews please include this in your application.

Applications for fellowships between May-September 2026 should be submitted by 31 December 2025. Applications will then be assessed, and any remaining places will be available on a rolling basis until they are filled.

Applications for fellowships for the rest of the year are welcomed at any time.

Applications are subject to funding checks, references and identity checks. Interviews will normally take place online.

Applications are particularly welcome from those who are considering a future postgraduate fellowship with Reprieve.

This role 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 reserves the right to change the role description and/or posting at any time without advance notice.

This placement opportunity is posted by Reprieve, a UK registered charity (No. 1114900).



When you supply us with information about you ('Personal Data') we will use your Personal Data strictly in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Reprieve is the data controller and will only use or pass on to our partner organisations your Personal Data in order to perform our obligations and services to you, in this case, considering your application. We may send your Personal Data to Reprieve US - an independent public charitable organisation with a similar mission to Reprieve UK – or to one of our other partner organisations, in the event that you specifically elect for your application to be considered by those organisations and provided to them over email (see above). In such an instance, you are aware that those countries may not have an adequate level of data protection legislation in relation to the processing of personal data.

Reprieve is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from people from diverse backgrounds, including from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds.