

# Refugee Advocacy Fellow at ECRE

ECRE is seeking to recruit a full-time advocacy fellow to be based at its Brussels office. Candidates must have a refugee background, i.e. having held or currently holding the legal status of asylum-seeker, refugee or beneficiary of international protection. The advocacy fellow will work in ECRE's advocacy team, reporting to the Head of International Advocacy. The fellow will be employed as part of the Open City Fellowship programme, more information below.

## Job description

The fellow will carry out advocacy work on one of the political issues currently covered by ECRE or under development. This will include:

- preparation of analysis and recommendations for change of EU policy and practice,
- development of strategies to influence policy-makers,
- presentation to and persuasion of policy-makers and opinion-formers,
- participation in and shaping of policy debates,
- informing and mobilising ECRE members and other civil society organisations,
- identification of opportunities for advocacy on EU policy and practice in the broader MENA and West Asia region,
- exploring opportunities for cooperation with civil society organisations working on refugee rights outside Europe.

The policy areas covered by ECRE include: European asylum policy and practice, EU external affairs and protection in global politics (returns, migration in development, migration and security, relations with third countries), rights of refugee children, and refugee inclusion.

The fellow will also be part of the European Migrant Advisory Board which is an initiative of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees of the Urban Agenda for the EU (for more information see below).

## Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must have a refugee background, i.e. having held or currently holding the legal status of asylum-seeker, refugee or beneficiary of international protection.

## Ineligibility Criteria

Full-time students will not be eligible.

## Experience and skills

- Experience working for a government or multilateral institution or significant experience in advocacy targeting policy-makers (within civil society or as a lobbyist)
- Strong research and analytical skills
- The ability to prepare rigorous, clear, succinct written analysis, including providing advice and actionable recommendations to policy-makers
- Good knowledge of international relations and European policies and practice on refugee protection, migration and related issues
- Direct experience in programme management or operations for civil society, governmental or inter-governmental organisations
- Fluency in written and spoken English is essential. Knowledge of other languages is a strong advantage, especially: French, German, Persian, Pashto, Dari or Arabic.

- Persuasion, negotiation and diplomacy skills
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- The ability to communicate with, inspire and mobilise civil society, including ECRE members and refugee advocates
- Experience of and ability to organise advocacy events
- Respectful and positive attitude and ability to contribute to ECRE's overall work, and specifically to changes aimed at strengthening its advocacy
- Independence and ability to use initiative while contributing to overall organisational objectives

### **Purpose and Priorities of the Open City Fellowship**

Migration has preoccupied policy makers and administrations, and prompted enormous policy reform, yet refugees and migrants are themselves often excluded from this policy debate and formulation, particularly those in more recent refugee and migrant populations. The Open City Fellowship is a new program supporting the leadership of refugees and migrants in policy development that directly impacts the inclusion and wellbeing of these communities, with a focus on urban integration. In this first year, the Open Society Foundations will offer five Open City fellowships. One fellow will be based in Brussels with ECRE. Four fellowships will involve collaborations with four partner cities: Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, and Berlin – all members of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees of the Urban Agenda for the EU.

The Open City Fellowship responds to this need by creating platforms for refugees and migrants with demonstrated track records of working for refugee or migrant communities. The aim is to improve integration through stronger participation of and consultation with refugee and migrant communities. In addition, it will provide training and professional development for the fellows. Over time, the ambition is that Open City Fellows will become a cohort of experienced and recognized leaders who represent refugee and migrant communities, benefitting the individual fellows and the community more broadly.

### **Structure of the Open City Fellowship**

Open City fellows will engage in the following initiatives:

- **Collaborate with a host:** Fellows will collaborate with their designated host. In Brussels this will include but may not be limited to the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). Each fellow will collaborate with the fellowship host to create a project that reflects the expertise and experience of the fellows, as well as the needs of the fellowship host. This might include, for example: a review or assessment of existing policy, consultation on prospective policies, or designing and leading engagement from affected communities – all with a view to improving refugee or migrant related policies.
- **Participate on the European Migrant Advisory Board:** Fellows will automatically become members of the new European Migrant Advisory Board, which is an initiative of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Partnership is made up of experts from EU member states, the European Commission, cities, EURO CITIES and NGOs. The European Migrant Advisory Board will advise the Partnership and its members with the goal of developing and launching policies and initiatives that are successful in addressing the inclusion of migrants and refugees and that will be well received and utilized by the beneficiaries. To ensure that it

has maximum impact, the Advisory Board will be involved from the earliest stages of policymaking.

- Being a member of the European Migrant Advisory Board will provide fellows with the opportunity to advise the Partnership and its members on existing policy, propose ways to improve refugees and migrant policy, and expand their network at the EU level.

The main tasks of the **European Migrant Advisory Board** will be to:

- Provide advice on the actions of the Partnership;
- Provide advice for the members of the Partnership;
- Participate in ad hoc consultations of the European Commission, in particular of Directorate General Home & Migration;
- Participate in designing the pilot year of the European Migrant Advisory Board and evaluate its first year.

(The European Migrant Advisory Board will have additional members that are based in the Partnership cities and/or countries but who are not Open City Fellows.)

### **Terms and conditions**

This is a full-time position based in Brussels. The contract will be for twelve months with the possibility of a six months extension.

The salary for advocacy fellow fits within ECRE's salary bands at the level of advocacy officer which is at 2200 to 2700 Euro monthly gross salary.

### **Selection Process**

Selection of the Open City Fellows is based on the applicant's credentials, his/her fit with the overall fellowship objective of supporting promising leaders in the refugee and migrant communities in Europe and suitability for employment at ECRE.

Please send a copy of your CV (maximum two pages) and a cover letter explaining why you are qualified for the position to Josephine Liebl ([jl Liebl@ecre.org](mailto:jl Liebl@ecre.org)) by Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 stating 'Refugee Advocacy Fellow' in the subject heading.

The deadline for applications is Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Finalist interviews: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Fellowship begins: Beginning of June 2018