



Strategic Advocacy  
Human Rights

## CALL FOR APPLICATION: INTERNSHIP

POST TITLE:	Legal Intern
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Legal Director / Legal Associate
LOCATION:	Global/remote
HOURS:	full time
DURATION:	12 weeks (renewable upon satisfactory performance review)

*Established in 2008, SAHR is a transnational community of human rights defenders across the world whose mission is to end impunity for widespread sexual and gender-based crimes. SAHR is committed to working on these cases to honour the fight of survivors; and to inspire a culture of accountability and legal practices that center survivors. They envision a world where every survivor of gender violence is represented and is treated with dignity and respect throughout the judicial process. Across Kashmir, Afghanistan, Libya, India, and Syria, their groundbreaking work has seen dozens of survivors secure their freedom and receive reparations for wrongful convictions.*

## CONTEXT

Under the direct supervision of the Legal Director/Associate, the successful candidate will be responsible for development of SAHR's approach to the use of law as a tool for promotion of Human Rights. SAHR will provide the full spectrum of support associated with our other legal and advocacy based initiatives.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDERS

[SAHR](#) is a women-led, non-governmental organization (NGO) registered in the United States. SAHR (formerly known as Femin Ijtihad) was founded in 2008 by Singapore-born human rights lawyer, [Natasha Latiff](#).

While cultivating her legal interests on women's rights in Afghanistan first as a student activist and then as a lawyer, Natasha envisaged a world where every survivor of gender based violence has access to justice that is fair, equal and inclusive. The survivor has every right to be accompanied by a highly competent lawyer and must indeed be treated with dignity and respect throughout the judicial process. In 2011, Natasha was joined by [Sara Bergamaschi](#), an Italian-born, Arabic-speaking human rights advocate. Sara is interested in the possibilities of women's justice within Islamic frameworks as well as in the gender-equitable interpretation of *Sharia* law.

Over the past 10 years, SAHR's team has worked almost exclusively on a pro bono basis with unwavering commitment to practice the law through a feminist lens. Its legal programs have been life-changing in bringing justice to hundreds of survivors of gender-based violence, including women and girls wrongfully imprisoned for crimes such as rape, committed against them in some of the most dangerous contexts in the world. All throughout, we have been challenging biased stereotypes, victim-blaming attitudes as well as oppressive patriarchal norms that fuel the endless spirals of violence.

## ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP

SAHR is in need of legal interns to provide technical programmatic and legal services to fulfil its mandate. SAHR has taken up cases and projects in multiple countries including Afghanistan, South Sudan, Egypt and Vanuatu through its expanding [Gender Justice Legal Defenders Fellowship Program](#), which works with aspiring female and gender-non conforming human rights lawyers and activists to take on cases of gender violence with support from SAHR's lawyers and its network of legal experts.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. Research and Advocacy

Working with the Legal team to:

→ Develop and demonstrate expertise on areas of SAHR'S' work, including

the development of SAHR's innovative, strategic and dynamic approach to the use of law as a tool for the promotion of human rights;

- Research substantive issues of comparative and international human rights law and Practice
- Monitor national, regional, and international legal developments to identify opportunities for SAHR to advance its mission;

## 2. Casework and Strategic Litigation

Working with the Legal team to:

- Draft or coordinate the production of clear and concise legal memoranda, memos, briefs, and opinions;
- Draft individual communications for submission to dispute resolution or adjudicative bodies;
- Undertake litigation work with SAHR's partners;
- Develop strategies for both domestic, regional, and international litigation, which will further SAHR's strategic aims.

## OUTPUT/DELIVERABLES

The interns will submit outputs and deliverables based on the above scope of work on a need basis. For further information, please contact SAHR's Legal Director Natasha Latiff at [natasha@sa-hr.org](mailto:natasha@sa-hr.org)

## PERSON SPECIFICATIONS:

- Professional fluency in the English language is required, with other language skills as an advantage.
- Admitted to a legal degree programme at least at the undergraduate level. If you have taken up modules in international law, women's rights, human rights, criminology or criminal law it is an advantage.
- Demonstrated enthusiasm and dedication to gender justice;
- Excellent legal analytical and research skills and the ability to scrutinise legislation, policy proposals and legal decisions.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills - able to convey complex legal arguments and principles clearly and succinctly to a non-legal audience.
- Meticulous attention to detail;
- Experience in legal work in the field of human rights

- In-depth or sophisticated understanding of international and comparative human rights mechanisms, as well as of international and regional human rights monitoring and enforcement bodies.
- Knowledge and understanding of women's human rights and feminist analysis;
- Highly organised with excellent time-management skills;
- A quick learner used to working well under pressure;

**Note:** Priority will be given to qualifying women and gender non-confirming applicants from the Global South (or minorities, marginalised or indigenous communities in the Global North);

## REMUNERATION

This opportunity to join SAHR's team is meant for law students looking for professional experience to assist a team of experienced human rights lawyers working on highly complex gender justice cases and projects. The engagement is pro bono in nature.

The work cannot unfortunately be compensated for lack of core funding. Moreover, the position holds no guarantees for a paid job at the conclusion of the internship.

Nevertheless, if students have the chance to earn school credits or write a dissertation during their time with us, SAHR will be happy to take that into account and provide full support to that end.

## SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Applicants should submit a CV, a cover letter and a writing sample, to [natasha@sa-hr.org](mailto:natasha@sa-hr.org) and cc [sara@sa-hr.org](mailto:sara@sa-hr.org) and [stephanie@sa-hr.org](mailto:stephanie@sa-hr.org).

Your CV and cover letter should include:

- Your name and contact details.
- Your educational history, including universities/colleges attended with dates and significant qualifications obtained.
- Your previous professional experience with description of the main duties
- An explanation of why you would like the job; the qualities you would bring to it; how you would approach the tasks if you were awarded the post.
- Information about how you learned of the post.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

SAHR is conducting this appointment on equal opportunity principles and will welcome applications from candidates who can fulfil the requirements of the post irrespective of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.

The personal data which has been provided, and which we may request, in connection with all applications, will not be retained beyond 12 months should your application be unsuccessful. The personal data of the person appointed will only be used for the purposes of human resources management.

**Strategic Advocacy for Human Rights (SAHR)**

18 May 2020