

Human Rights Program | Internships

Overview

A commitment to human rights for all people around the world is a founding principle of The Carter Center. The Human Rights Program works to advance human rights globally through the protection of human rights defenders, the convening of leading activists and decision-makers, and the building of capacity for local actors to promote human rights in their communities.

An internship with the Human Rights Program involves rewarding, substantive contributions to all aspects of the program's work, including communications with those seeking help, nongovernmental organization partners, attorneys, government offices, and local human rights NGOs worldwide.

Interns carry out scholarly research and analysis to inform the annual Human Rights Defenders Forum, as well as produce online content to support and promote public dialogue on human rights issues. Interns also support the Human Rights House and Extractive Industries Governance programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Mobilizing Faith for Women and Girls initiative in Ghana and Nigeria.

Number of Interns per Semester: 2

Internships are available in the following areas:

Human Rights Defenders Initiative

The Human Rights Defenders Intern at The Carter Center will support initiatives to strengthen and promote the work of human rights defenders worldwide. Working closely with the Human Rights Defenders Initiative team, the intern will assist with event coordination, research, project coordination, and engagement activities related to solidarity building and supporting human rights defenders.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support the planning and execution of events, workshops, and convenings focused on human rights defenders' protection, advocacy, and capacity building.
- Conduct research on issues affecting human rights defenders, including threats, restrictions, protection mechanisms, and international standards related to defender safety and freedom.
- Assist in the development and implementation of projects and initiatives aimed at supporting human rights defenders across regional and thematic contexts.



- Assist in preparing reports, briefings, presentations, and other materials documenting the impact of the Human Rights Defenders Initiative's activities.
- Collaborate with other teams within The Carter Center to integrate relevant programs and initiatives.
- Stay informed about global human rights trends, civic space developments, and best practices related to the protection and support of human rights defenders.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Majors: Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program, or recent graduate, with a degree in relevant fields such as international relations, political science, human rights, law, sociology, public policy, or related disciplines.
- Strong interest in and commitment to human rights, particularly the support of human rights defenders.
- Excellent research and analytical skills, with the ability to synthesize complex information from diverse sources.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including experience drafting reports or briefs.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and independently in a team-oriented environment with minimal supervision.
- Experience with human rights advocacy, civil society engagement, or international development work is preferred.
- Understanding of the risks faced by human rights defenders and the intersectional challenges related to gender, identity, geography, and political context.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and other relevant software applications.
- Flexibility, adaptability, and willingness to take on new challenges in a dynamic work environment.



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Program

The Carter Center has been engaged in DRC since 2006, working to promote democratic governance and protect human rights. We have three primary projects, including Citizen Observation, Human Rights House, and Natural Resource Governance. Additionally, the Center has two DRC country offices, Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, and dozens of country staff supporting each of these initiatives.

Key Responsibilities:

- Track news and current events in the DRC; provide analysis and daily updates
- Provide support on drafting concept notes, proposals, reports, memorandums, and other documents or materials
- Conduct research projects as needed by project staff

- Attend weekly team meetings and take notes on action items to be circulated to meeting attendees
- Document translation (French)
- Engage in diverse tasks encompassing complex problem-solving to basic logistics, ensuring the smooth operation of program activities

Preferred Qualifications:

- Minimum GPA: 3.0
- Majors: Social Sciences, International Relations, or Environmental Sciences, preferred
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and other relevant software applications
- Exemplary organizational skills
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and willingness to take on new challenges
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and independently in a team environment with minimal supervision
- Familiarity with and interest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Sub-Saharan Africa
- Data analysis and visualization skills strongly preferred
- French language skills strongly preferred