



RESEARCH ASSISTANT – Public use of international human rights law

Placement Site: Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle

Site Description: The Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle works to build community commitment and capacity to act and reflect around matters of social justice and human rights. Our institute seeks to promote action and thought that might assist better outcomes for entire societies, and for the least fortunate in particular.

Address: 24 High Street, Fremantle WA

Telephone: (08) 9432 2410

Email address: volunteers@erisj.org.au

Website: www.erisj.org.au

Contact Person: Volunteer and Internship Coordinator

Time Commitment: 8 hours per week

Position Description

The research project is divided into four components. The position involves undertaking research activities in each of these areas. The project is under the leadership of the ERISJ Director.

Part 1: Locate, record and provide link to **verbatim versions of key international human rights laws & conventions**. Most of these are on various websites (UN, etc), and it's mainly a matter of stating the convention by name, and providing a link to it.

Part 2: Identify and re-state **verbatim key paragraphs, sentences and clauses** in key international human rights laws & conventions. The precise clause number would be stated prior to each clause, so that it is easy to refer to in letters (see below).

Part 3: Gather existing **plain-English summaries/simplifications** of key documents. Where these cannot be found for key conventions and treaties, consider (optional) preparing your own.

Part 4: Prepare numerous **sample letter templates** addressed to VIPs that utilise these verbatim 'chapter and verse' extracts to raise/contest International Law violations in which key organisations are complicit or unconcerned, etc. These would be variously addressed to the UN Secretary General, PM of Australia, President of USA, World Bank, ILO, etc. The letter would specify the postal and email address of each, giving the letter-writer the option of the medium of posting.

Desirable Skills/Attributes:

- Research & Writing Skills
- Analytical Skills
- Computer Literacy
- Sound knowledge of the internet
- Motivation and interest in Social Justice and Human Rights issues
- Ability to work with minimal direction

- Supervision/Support:** Volunteer and Internship Coordinator will provide supervision and support as required. Research tasks will be directed by the ERISJ Director.
- Training/Induction:** Volunteer training and induction into the Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice will be provided.
- Fee Structure:** A one-off fee applies for the compulsory training and induction. Please see our website for details of the fee structure.