

Each year, the Open Society Justice Initiative, a program of the Open Society Institute, sponsors 10 fellows from Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America for a two-year program of study and practical work experience in human rights. The Justice Initiative created the fellows program to support human rights efforts around the world by increasing the number of lawyers in the field, improving advocates' legal skills, and strengthening the capacity of local organizations working on the front lines.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Justice Initiative Fellows Program is announced each year in September. The details of the application process and accompanying documents are posted on the CEU website at

http://web.ceu.hu/legal/prosp_students.html.

The announcement is also available at www.justiceinitiative.org.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE

The Open Society Institute (OSI) works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are responsible to their citizens. OSI's Open Society Justice Initiative pursues law reform activities grounded in the protection of human rights, and contributes to the development of legal capacity for open societies worldwide. The Justice Initiative combines litigation, legal advocacy, technical assistance, and the dissemination of knowledge to secure advances in the following priority areas: anticorruption, equality and citizenship, freedom of information and expression, international justice, and national criminal justice reform. The Justice Initiative has projects in over 70 countries and staff in Abuja, Almaty, Amsterdam, Budapest, London, Mexico City, New York, Phnom Penh, and Washington DC.

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For more information about this program please visit

www.justiceinitiative.org

and

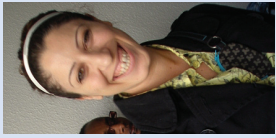
<http://web.ceu.hu/legal/>

OPEN SOCIETY
JUSTICE INITIATIVE
FELLOWS PROGRAM

Training the Next Generation of Human Rights Advocates



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE



It gives you a unique opportunity to dedicate yourself to what you want to do in your career. It allows you to get a clue into other people's cultures and mentalities and to feel yourself a real "citizen of the world" in the field of human rights, but at the same time to do a lot for your own country and its people.



—Anna Yerofoeva from Russia

It was an amazing experience of intense learning and exposure to top quality scholarship.

To be taught by such an array of professors from such a diversity of institutions and regions of the world was a dream come true.

My stay at CEU under this

program was excellent preparation for my long-term goals. I think I'm now more than capable of facing whatever career challenges I may face in the future.

—Basil Ugochukwu from Nigeria

The Chinese have a saying that even the journey

of a thousand miles should begin by one step.

The CEU—Justice Initiative program was my first step in shaping my career. I have had the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life who in one way or another have influenced my life.

—Job Nzovu Ruzage from Rwanda

The entire academic year was eventful, with the burdens and pressures of school work cushioned by the warm reception and willingness of staff to help, not to mention the unforgettable friendships.

The Fellows Program has been valuable both for insight into the fundamental concepts of human rights and for practical experience applying legal and other skills. If you think human rights should not just be rhetoric, then from the brilliant and inspirational lectures to moving stories from colleagues, this program presents you with an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the world we live in.

—Simeon Koroma from Sierra Leone

The Justice Initiative Fellows Program provides educational and work opportunities for young lawyers and human rights activists, and supports capacity-building at leading human rights NGOs. The program offers fellows the tools to bring human rights theory and practice together; the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the field; important firsthand experience abroad; and a network of individuals who share a commitment to justice.

Launched in 1996, the program combines a year of classroom study at Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, with a year of work experience at a human rights NGO. As of 2008, more than 170 fellows from 36 countries have graduated from the Justice Initiative's fellowship programs. Nearly all remain involved in human rights and many have achieved leadership positions within the global rights movement.

The Justice Initiative maintains an active network of graduates and provides ongoing peer learning, including organizing international and regional meetings.

HOW IT WORKS

Applicants for the Justice Initiative Fellows Program are nominated by local human rights NGOs. Applicants must have a university degree and a strong proficiency in English, in addition to a demonstrated commitment to human rights. (The Justice Initiative offers a separate fellowship program for Portuguese speakers, in partner-

ship with Conectas Human Rights in Sao Paolo, Brazil.) Criteria for selection include the applicant's experience, his or her potential to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights, and the applicant's ability to contribute to the work of the nominating NGO. In addition, preference will be given to applicants nominated by NGOs working in the priority areas of the Justice Initiative: access to justice for the poor, anticorruption, citizenship and statelessness, clinical legal education, counter-terrorism and national security, criminal justice, freedom of information and expression, mass atrocity crimes, and, racial and ethnic equality.

Fellows spend the first year of the program in Hungary, studying in the CEU Legal Studies Department, and undertaking a degree program (MA or LLM) that fulfills the requirements of CEU's Human Rights Program. During that year, fellows spend January to March completing a three-month internship with a leading European NGO. Financial conditions are identical to CEU policies for full scholarship students.

During their second year, fellows return to their nominating NGOs where they spend at least one year working in human rights on a nonprofit basis, providing legal services, human rights advocacy, or training and education. The Justice Initiative pays a salary comparable to that of a local employee doing equivalent work at the nominating NGO.