



## PEOPLE FOR EQUALITY AND RELIEF IN LANKA

1629 K Street, Suite 300 | Washington, D.C. 20006 | [pearlaction.org](http://pearlaction.org) | [contact@pearlaction.org](mailto:contact@pearlaction.org)

### Legal Fellow (Summer 2022)

Remote

Deadline: March 6, 2022

People for Equality and Relief in Lanka (PEARL) is a Tamil women-led, volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2005 by Tamil activists concerned about the situation in Sri Lanka. Our mission is to achieve justice and self-determination for the Tamil people in the North-East of Sri Lanka through policy, public, and legal advocacy. Please visit [our website](#) for more information.

PEARL is seeking a full-time (35 hours/week) Legal Fellow to support our global Legal Team's objectives to explore options for justice and to increase awareness of Sri Lanka's wartime crimes and the ongoing need for justice. The Legal Fellow will work at least 10 weeks starting in May or June, depending on the candidate's availability. Although the Legal Fellow can be based anywhere, their working hours must have *some* overlap with EDT.

Due to limited financial resources, this is an unpaid fellowship. PEARL highly encourages candidates to seek funding from their law school or other sources to fund their work.

### Responsibilities

The Legal Fellow will gain knowledge and practical skills in:

- Managing discrete human rights projects.
- Conducting factual and legal research on genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations as well as alleged perpetrators.
- Supporting efforts to investigate international crimes.
- Drafting a Universal Periodic Review submission and related advocacy materials.
- Drafting media pieces, such as op-eds and blog posts.
- Conducting comparative analyses between the Tamil genocide and other genocides.
- Supporting advocacy with states to bring a case at the International Court of Justice.
- Working and being sensitive to the needs, demands, and rhetoric of a victim-survivor diaspora, all of which may be political and politicized at times.

### Qualifications

#### *Required Qualifications*

- Current law student.
- Interest in and knowledge of international human rights law and transitional justice, particularly international justice.
- Strong factual and legal research, analysis, and English-language writing skills.
- Ability to work proactively, independently, and remotely.
- Passionate about PEARL's vision and mission.

### *Preferred Qualifications*

- Completed coursework in international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, or transitional justice.
- Knowledge of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka as well as the mass atrocities and human rights violations against the Tamil people in the North-East.
- Knowledge of genocide law and interest in genocide recognition.
- Knowledge of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and related issues.
- Experience working with victim-survivor communities and/or victim-survivor diaspora communities.

### **How to Apply**

By 11:59pm EST on March 6, please send PDFs of the following:

- Cover letter,
- Resume, and
- Unedited 5-page writing sample/excerpt, preferably from a paper or legal scholarship on a human rights issue

to Ms. Anjali Manivannan, Legal Director, at [careers@pearlaction.org](mailto:careers@pearlaction.org) with the subject line:  
[First name & Surname] - Legal Fellow (Summer 2022)

Short-listed candidates will be contacted by March 10, and a final decision will be made by March 21.

**PEARL is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-oppression in all aspects of our work. We encourage applications from members of racial and ethnic minority groups, women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and all other equity-seeking groups.**

**Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Please email any accommodation requests to [careers@pearlaction.org](mailto:careers@pearlaction.org) with the subject line:**

**Accommodations request - Legal Fellow (Summer 2022)**