

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 the rights of protected groups, promote climate and environmental justice, and provide thought leadership and responsive expertise on pressing human rights issues.

An internship with the Human Rights Program involves substantive contributions to various aspects of the program's work, including research, analysis, writing, and coordination in support of human rights protection. Interns work closely with program staff and gain exposure to both global and country-specific human rights initiatives in a dynamic, mission-driven environment.

Number of Interns per Semester: two to three

Internships are available in the following areas:

Human Rights Defenders Initiative

An intern with the Human Rights Defenders Initiative 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, 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
- Track global human rights trends, civic space developments, and best practices related to the protection and support of human rights defenders
- Assist in the development 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



Preferred Qualifications:

- 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
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
- Strong interest in and commitment to human rights, particularly the support of human rights defenders
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and independently in a team-oriented environment with minimal supervision
- Flexibility, adaptability, and willingness to take on new challenges in a dynamic work environment
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including experience drafting reports or briefs

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Program

The Carter Center has been engaged in the DRC since 2006, working to strengthen civil society, promote democratic governance, and protect human rights. Our work is grounded in deep partnerships with Congolese civil society organizations and local actors and is carried out through three complementary projects: Human Rights House, Citizen Observation, and Natural Resource Governance.

We work across a range of human rights issues, with a particular focus on women's rights and gender equality, the protection of human rights defenders, and positive youth engagement in public life. We also promote transparent and accountable governance of the mining sector — turning mineral wealth into public benefit — and support civic engagement, building on a long-standing history of citizen election observation in the DRC. Interns support this work by tracking developments in the DRC, contributing to analysis, and assisting with the drafting of program materials.

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 attendees
- Translate documents (French)
- Engage in diverse tasks ranging from complex problem-solving to basic logistics, ensuring the smooth operation of program activities



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