

Evaluating the impact of human rights in limiting or improving responses to public health crises

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Project summary

This research is part of the initiative "Advancing human rights in legal preparedness for public health emergencies in the Global South," aimed at disseminating the Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies. These Principles offer updated guidelines on integrating human rights considerations into prevention, preparedness and responses to public health emergencies, emphasising the need to balance rights in a proportionate manner and placing State positive obligations at the centre of public health concerns.

The project aims to produce evidence-based and legally robust materials to facilitate better policymaking and legal readiness for public health crises, with clear and easy-to-follow resources. The researcher will contribute by identifying representative case studies and conducting literature reviews, focusing on providing examples of patterns or common conflicts between human rights and public health measures during crises or epidemics. Priority will be given to cases where judicial review has impeded or severely limited the implementation of public health measures, as well as instances showcasing effective adoption of a rights-based approach in such emergencies.

Various outputs are planned, including a website, an educational handbook, and workshops involving participants from the Global South to provide practical guidance on how to implement those standards in policies. Additionally, a side event at the Global Health Security Conference in Sydney, Australia, is scheduled for June. The research conducted will likely be incorporated into one or more of these outputs and may contribute to the legal commentaries of the Principles and other planned academic publications, in collaboration with project partners from the University of Ottawa and the Max Planck Institute.

Specific skills and experience required for this project

Please also refer to the advert on our jobs pages for the person specification for these internships

- Ability to analyse extensive volumes of literature.
- Critical thinking and analytical skills to evaluate and interpret complex legal and academic text.
- Familiarity and interest in topics such as international human rights, judicial review, access to health, and the ramifications of pandemics.
- Strong organisational skills to manage and prioritise research tasks effectively.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills for conveying research findings and insights.

- Competence in utilising legal or social sciences research databases((e.g. HeinOnline) as an independent researcher
- Attention to detail to ensure accuracy and precision in research work.
- Experience in systematic and scope reviews would be an advantage.
- Knowledge of foreign languages (particularly Spanish, Portuguese and French) is an asset.

Project location

City Campus and Collegiate Campus

Home working may be available.

Project delivery

This project should be preferably undertaken on a full-time basis.