



JOB ADVERT - LAWYER

Project "Samos Legal Centre", Greece

Base: **Samos, Greece**

Closing date for application: **January 15th, 2020**

Brief Presentation of Avocats Sans Frontières France

Avocats Sans Frontières France (Lawyers Without Borders France or ASF France) is a French INGO established under 1st July 1901 French legislation.

Its missions are to:

- 1) Promote access to the law and fair justice for vulnerable persons who are removed from it, arbitrarily detained or tortured;
- 2) Defend any person deprived of a free and independent defense as well as human rights defenders threatened or violated in the performance of their duties;
- 3) Strengthen the capacity and the autonomy of local actors in the defense and promotion of human rights (civil society and actors in the judicial system).

ASF France mission in Greece

Europe is in the midst of the greatest mass movement of people across it since the Second World War. Millions have made the long, arduous and often dangerous journey to Europe by land or sea from the Asian and the African continents to flee from the effects of war in those regions. By virtue of its geographical position and the rules of the so-called "Dublin" regulations (requiring that the examination of asylum applications be the responsibility of the first country of entry), Greece has been at the forefront in terms of arrivals and responsibility for examining asylum applications. Since 2016, the political agreement concluded between the European Union (EU) and Turkey, aiming at controlling migratory flows, has led to the appearance of "hotspots", identification centres for migrants who arrive on the Greek islands. The reception conditions in these camps are insufficient and may have reached the threshold of inhuman and degrading treatment (due to overpopulation, violence, hygiene problems, access to water, etc.).

To date, however, arrivals have not stopped and 7,300 migrants live on Samos island (the hotspots capacity is only 648 people) as at December 1st 2019 (UNHCR); living conditions are extremely difficult and denounced regularly by present NGOs). The need for legal assistance on these islands is both dense and multiple: preparation for interviews prior to granting refugee status, accompaniment in complex procedures, assistance in judicial appeals, assistance in the recognition of person status vulnerable giving entitlement to special protection, etc.

In order to respond to those needs, ASF France has opened a Legal Centre on the Island of Samos. The Samos Legal Centre is open since January 2019 and provides free legal advice and assistance for asylum seekers. To date, the Samos Legal Centre has assisted over 850 beneficiaries in their procedures. The support and assistance of specialized lawyers is a key issue for the effectiveness of the fundamental right of asylum.



Job description

ASF France is looking for a lawyer / Attorney at law registered to the bar in Greece with strong interest in human rights and more specifically in asylum law to join the Samos Legal Centre team (already composed by: a Project Coordinator, a Lawyer, and several volunteer legal caseworkers). The role will involve direct responsibility for delivering results in accordance with the objectives of the project: supporting the asylum seekers residing in the Samos hotspot by, among other activities, providing them with:

- Information on the asylum procedure;
- Protection of fundamental rights;
- Preparation for interviews and accompaniment to interviews;
- Identification of most vulnerable persons and referral to relevant structures;
- Assistance for calls for refusal of asylum applications.

In close cooperation with the Project Coordinator, the **Lawyer** will fulfil the following tasks:

Provide legal advices and interview preparations (with the other European volunteer jurists);

- Obtain information from Reception Information Center (RIC) about the cases from Greek Asylum Service (GAS), European Asylum Support Office (EASO) or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- If necessary, accompany asylum seekers during their interview before the Court or at the police station (for the most vulnerable ones);
- If necessary, writing of memorandums to support beneficiaries' claims (for the most vulnerable cases);
- Sporadic participation to ASF France's meetings with other relevant stakeholders on the island.

This position is based in Samos (Greece). Travels to Athens may be necessary upon request from the Samos Legal Centre Coordinator.

Required profile and qualifications

- A Greek Lawyer with at least a 3 years post call experience;
- A good knowledge of the Greek legal system and judicial / asylum law and procedures;
- Experience in the coordination of legal aid services;
- Experience in collaborating with non-governmental organizations;
- Very strong interest and experience in human rights;
- Technology literacy, both in using tools such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and in adopting new collaboration tools such as Instant Messenger and web conferencing.

Profile of the ideal candidate

The ideal candidate will have an interest and passion for human rights law issues, experience in asylum procedures, and the ability to find solutions to legal issues.

The candidate must be an enthusiastic, organized self-starter who is a positive team player with the ability to work both independently and to collaborate effectively with teams.

The candidate must possess superior skills in both written and verbal communication, and in problem-solving.

This description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by the employee within the position. The actual duties, responsibilities, scope and qualifications may vary to some degree. The candidate must respect the principle of confidentiality and the ethics of the project.

Languages: fluent in Greek and English; French would be a plus



Conditions

- Full-time job (35 hours a week), six-month contract, renewable
- Housing provided by ASF France

How to apply

Send a CV and cover letter before **January 15th, 2020** to:
samos@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org and projets@avocatssansfrontieres-france.org

Kindly indicate “**Application – Lawyer Samos Legal Centre**” in the subject of the email, applications not so stated will not be reviewed.

Only candidates whose applications have been selected will be contacted.

ASF France reserves the right to close the recruitment before the deadline of the advertisement.
Thank you for your understanding.