



Vacancy – Legal Enquiries Lawyer (women-only*)

Job Title: In-House Barrister or Solicitor

Department/Area: Enquiries team

Salary: £39k-£41k per annum

Reports to: Lead Enquiries & Policy Development Lawyer

Location: Hybrid working, (split between 'work from home' and office in Bethnal Green, London)

Contract details: Permanent, 37.5 hours per week (M-F flexible timings)

We have an exciting opportunity available for a feminist lawyer with a proven track record of advice and representation in actions against the police or criminal law.

About Us:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) is a thriving and rapidly expanding legal charity which has undertaken a wide range of highly publicised strategic legal challenges and collaborative projects through partnerships with women's sector organisations. CWJ is a registered charity 1169213.

Our Mission: *To hold the state to account to challenge discrimination in the justice system around male violence against women and girls.*

Our areas of work include:

1. **Strategic litigation** – we bring legal challenges which have the potential to effect broader changes in society
2. **Training and empowering frontline women's sector** organisations – we improve confidence and legal knowledge of those working directly with survivors of male violence
3. **Facilitating access to justice** – working collaboratively with women's sector organisations and lawyers with expertise in violence against women
4. **Monitoring and challenging trends in policy**, practice and men's use of the law as it impacts on violence against women and girls.
5. **Raising awareness** – we have fast become the go-to organisation for advice and media comment on legal issues around male violence



Values:

We believe that:

- All women have an equal right to access justice and to be safe
- Male violence is not inevitable: it can be eradicated
- Women resist male violence but are blamed for it
- All women and girls can be subject to male violence regardless of their socio-economic and cultural position
- Male violence may take different forms in different contexts, so opportunities for resistance may differ

Key principles underlying our approach:

- Work with the client not for the client, by listening and responding to each woman's individual experience
- Work collaboratively with frontline organisations and campaigns
- A commitment to anti-oppression politics

Role Purpose:

Providing legal advice to survivors of sexual offences, domestic abuse and other violence against women and girls, predominantly via frontline women's services, on issues relating to their experience of the criminal justice system and remedies for failings within the criminal justice system. Providing training to frontline women's sector on using legal tools.



Key responsibilities:

The role will include the following components:

- Providing legal advice and support to frontline women's services on criminal justice law and procedures and civil remedies for police and prosecution failings.
- Providing legal advice directly to vulnerable women.
- Drafting legal representations and submissions in the form of Victim's Right to Review requests, police complaints, judicial review pre-action letters and representations to other public bodies.
- Identifying and monitoring systemic issues relating to state failures around violence against women and girls to feed into CWJ's wider policy work
- Delivering and creating bespoke training on legal remedies to frontline women's sector workers.
- Preparing bespoke talks for external organisations such as schools on domestic/sexual violence and criminal law
- Identifying legal issues in other areas of law relating to violence against women and girls including criminal law, employment law, prison law, defamation, education law, negligence claims and other issues and liaising with members of our Legal Reference Panel.
- Supporting with the monitoring and evaluation process of our response to enquiries.
- To assist in other aspects of the work of CWJ as and when required.



Person Specification:

- Proven track record of legal advice and representation in actions against the police or criminal law
- Awareness of current political, social and legal issues as they relate to violence against women and girls
- Understanding of, and commitment to, the aims of the Centre for Women's Justice
- The ability to communicate complex legal issues clearly, both orally and in writing, to other lawyers, voluntary sector groups and individual clients in a way that is both professional and appropriate to the audience
- Self-motivation and ability to prioritise, meet deadlines and work under pressure
- Ability to work flexibly in a small team
- Willingness and ability to contribute to the longer-term strategic direction of CWJ.
- Commitment to challenging injustice and assisting those subject to state neglect and abuse
- Commitment to equal opportunities and understanding of the experience of disadvantaged groups; ability to apply this to the job.

Please email your cv and covering letter (of no more than 500 words) to Nic Mainwood n.mainwood@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk with 'Enquiries Vacancy 2023' in the subject



line by 9am on 9th October 2023.

If you want to have an informal chat or have questions about whether you meet the person specification, please email Nogah Ofer n.of@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

No agencies please.

**We deal directly with victims of sexual violence, therefore it is a genuine requirement that this role is carried out by women only - Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR), Schedule 9 (Work; Exceptions), Part 1 (Occupational Requirements), of the Equality Act (2010) applies.*