

Laidlaw Scholars Programme

Leadership-in-Action Project Outline

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The University of Hong Kong

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Title of Project: Summer Volunteering

Organization: Frontiers Rights (Ruwad Al Houkoug)

Supervisor: Ms. Samira Trad, Director of Frontiers Rights

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Period: 22 May 2023 – 20 July 2023

Location: Beirut, Lebanon

Introduction

This is a volunteering project over summer in Frontiers Rights, a non-governmental organization in Beirut, Lebanon, which specializes in providing legal assistance to marginalized communities, such as refugees, stateless people and migrant workers. I will be conducting a baseline study on the issues of childhood statelessness and illegal status of the children of immigrants/migrants in Lebanon. Fieldwork and legal casework will be conducted for this study. Fieldwork consists of interviews with the target population (immigrants and their children) to understand their situation, as well as discussions with support groups, international organizations and foreign missions in Lebanon to understand how to better support the target population. Legal casework consists of studying and analyzing nationality and registration legal frameworks in the countries of origin, to understand the causes of childhood statelessness and to develop the team's capacity to provide legal assistance in these matters. The deliverables include a detailed report on the fieldwork and legal casework conducted, as well as a procedural manual on the legal and policy framework of nationality and registration in the countries of origin.

Vision / Goal

The findings of this project are expected to serve as a basis for future action concerning the issue of childhood statelessness of immigrants in Lebanon, for Frontiers Rights. The deliverables may be submitted to international organizations or circulated among non-governmental organizations as open information to enhance the understanding of this issue in the field. The importance of this project lies in the fact that there is currently scarce open information on this topic. This project would hence help shed light on the topic for all parties in this field.

Objectives:

1. Develop legal analysis skills by conducting issue-based analysis for 5 different countries.
 2. Develop legal interview skills by conducting 20 interviews and compiling 20 case briefs.
 3. Develop field research skills by reaching out to interviewees in communities or daily life.
 4. Develop networking skills by liaising and interacting with other organizations or parties.
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Potential Challenges:

1. Time: 2 months is a short period for a deep study.
 2. Lack of substantial local background knowledge.
 3. Lack of Arabic language skills in an Arab country.
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Potential Solutions:

1. Time: work diligently, effectively, and keep regular work hours in order to finish on time.
 2. Actively speak with people and ask questions to understand the local situation.
 3. Learn basic technical terms in Arabic commonly used in legal fields.
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Weekly Milestones:

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| Week 1: | Develop an understanding of the organization's work and the legal system in Lebanon. |
| Week 2: | Carry out literature review on the topics of immigrants and migrant workers in Lebanon. |
| Week 3: | Draft project outline and proposal. Plan detailed timeline and specific steps of the study. |
| Week 4: | Reach out to target population and various stakeholders for interviews. Compile findings. |
| Week 5: | Conduct legal analysis on country of origin frameworks as required. Compile findings. |
| Week 6: | Reach out to target population and various stakeholders for interviews. Compile findings. |
| Week 7: | Conduct legal analysis on country of origin frameworks as required. Compile findings. |
| Week 8: | Draft final report and manual. Revise and finalize deliverables. Wrap up the project. |