



## **The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness**

### **Social Connectedness Fellowship Application**

### **Research Project #3 - Human Rights Watch**

The Social Connectedness Fellowship provides students and recent graduates with the opportunity to carry out research, writing, analysis, and outreach related to overcoming social isolation and building social connectedness. Fellows are paired with partner organizations that work to build belonging and social inclusion across a variety of thematic areas—climate change, disability and older people’s rights, refugee integration, inclusive education, placemaking and urban design, and much more.

#### **Project Details:**

**Partner:** Established in 1978, [Human Rights Watch](https://www.hrw.org/) (HRW) is known for its accurate fact-finding, impartial reporting, effective use of media, and targeted advocacy, often in partnership with local human rights groups and others. Each year, HRW publishes more than 100 reports and briefings on human rights conditions in 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media. With the leverage this brings, HRW meets with governments, the United Nations, regional groups, financial institutions, and corporations to press for changes in policy and practice that promote human rights and justice around the world.

**Location of Fellow:** Remote

#### **Project Description:**

*Are you interested in exploring the linkages between climate change, people with disabilities, and older people?*



People with disabilities and older people are at increased risk of the adverse impacts of climate change, including threats to their rights to life, health, food, water, sanitation, and livelihoods. Governments have an obligation to monitor and prepare for these foreseeable risks and ensure that people with disabilities and older people are included in any planning. Climate change risks undermine the social connectedness and belonging of these key groups through displacement, dissolution of communities and social networks, unemployment, and other negative consequences.

The Fellow would work closely with Disability Rights Division Senior Researcher Emina Cerimovic to advance research and advocacy on climate change and these populations in support of HRW's first report on climate change, people with disabilities, and older people. The Fellow will collaborate closely to identify the most pressing human rights concerns, the impacts on social connectedness and belonging, specific legal and policy actions taken by governments, as well as good practices in laws, policies, and planning that are inclusive of people with disabilities and older people, including in the development and implementation phases.

### **Key Deliverables:**

1. A matrix of academics, activists, representatives of organizations and others to provide expert interviews on good practices of inclusion of people with disabilities and older people in country-level mitigation and adaptation strategies
2. Questionnaire on documenting good practices of inclusion in country-level mitigation and adaptation strategies
3. Interviews with organizations working on climate change, experts on climate change, people with disabilities, and older people
4. A memo/analysis based on desk-based research and interviews on good practices of inclusion, including research on laws and policies in select countries



5. Two joint SCSC blog articles on climate change, people with disabilities, and older people
6. Presentation, together with Emina Cerimovic, to Human Rights Watch Disability Rights Division staff and other HRW staff on findings

#### **Key Skills/Competencies Required:**

- Enrolled in graduate level studies in law or policy or environment.
- A background or interest in climate change, particularly as it affects marginalized groups.
- Strong research and writing skills in English are essential.
- Strong initiative, time management and project management skills.

#### **How to Apply:**

All applicants must fill out the [Google Form application](#) by March 7, 2021 at 11:59 pm EST. Applicants can apply for 1 or 2 projects. In addition to answering the standardized questions, applicants must also answer a specific question or two for each project that they are interested in. Specific questions for Research Project #3 - Human Rights Watch:

1. Please share any experience you have conducting research interviews, particularly with members of marginalized groups. (Max 200 words)
2. How could we use the research you conduct on the impact of climate change on people with disabilities and older people in advocacy to improve human rights protection for these groups? (Max 200 words)