

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed Fellowship

for Follow-up of Recommendations of Cases

As a tribute to Elizabeth's lifelong commitment to human rights, emphasizing her profound impact on the Inter-American System and her enduring legacy as a mentor and guide to future generations of human rights advocates, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the US Permanent Mission before the OAS have established the ***Elizabeth Abi-Mershed Fellowship on Following Up and Monitoring Cases***.

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed was born in Maryland, USA. She had a B.A. in Art History from the University of Maryland, a J.D., with honors, from American University and a LL.M., with distinction, specializing in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University. As a professor at the Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., she taught international law and human rights, as well as the inter-American human rights system (IAHRS). Her work, numerous publications and presentations significantly contributed to the inter-American human rights doctrine.

Elizabeth joined the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in 1992. Thanks to her solid legal background and personal integrity, she held various positions in the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR throughout her professional career. She stood out as a country officer during the difficult years of democratic recovery in the region. Since 2007, as Legal Director of the Commission, she was responsible for coordinating and overseeing the preparation of all case, thematic and country reports. She was also in charge of coordinating the work of the Rapporteurship on Women's Rights and the group specialized in litigating cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). Finally, she served as Deputy Executive Secretary since 2007 until her retirement on May 27, 2018.

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed was a forerunner in the development of standards related to the promotion and protection of the rights of populations in conditions of vulnerability or situations of historical discrimination, including women, LGBTI persons, human rights defenders, journalists, children and adolescents, persons in conditions of human mobility, persons deprived of liberty, and Indigenous Peoples, among others. In addition, she promoted the development of inter-American standards applicable to cases involving multiple human rights violations, including cases of torture, discrimination, and gender-based violence, as well as standards related to essential notions of international human rights law such as access to justice, the right to truth, due diligence and comprehensive remedies. Further, she was a tireless mentor to hundreds of young people, dedicating herself to their professional training on the IAHRS.

Throughout her 26-year career as a specialist, coordinator, legal director and Deputy Secretary, Elizabeth left a broad and lasting legacy in the legal field, in her passion for furthering the development of human rights, and in being an example and mentor. She was an exceptional professional, tirelessly committed to the defense of fundamental rights and the values of the IACHR. In deep recognition of her distinguished work, the Elizabeth Abi-Mershed Fellowship is established for the follow-up of recommendations issued in the IACHR's published merits reports. Through this fellowship, the Commission seeks to continue her valuable legacy and contribute to the training of young professionals in the IAHRs.

About the fellowship:

Objective:

The fellowship offers the opportunity for young professionals to work to strengthen the follow-up of recommendations made by the IACHR in the framework of its petition and case system.

Program:

The fellow will support the work of the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact Section of the ES/IACHR, under the supervision of the area coordinator during the fellowship period. At the conclusion of the program, the fellow will submit a detailed report to the ES/IACHR on the activities carried out.

Expected results:

- Collaboration with the team of the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact Section of the ES/IACHR in the implementation of the activities of its operational plan;
- Research and analysis of information to analyze the follow-up the implementation of recommendations issued by the IACHR in the published cases and the impact of them;
- Preparation of summaries and other documents for IACHR hearings, working meetings and visits;
- Collaboration in initiatives aimed at the promotion and dissemination of the inter-American human rights system and actions to follow up on recommendations and impact;
- Support for the implementation of the objectives and programs of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 of the IACHR in the area of follow-up of recommendations and impact;
- Other assigned activities related to the subject of the fellowship.

Requirements:

- Be a citizen of a member state of the OAS.
- To have the necessary technological equipment and services to carry out remote work, including a stable Internet connection that allows for video calls.
- Fluency in Spanish and English (attach a certificate attesting to an intermediate-advanced level); knowledge of Portuguese or French is desirable.
- Social sciences degree from an officially accredited university (send a copy of the degree and qualifications obtained).
- Having received the university diploma within the last seven years.
- Demonstrable professional or university experience in monitoring and follow-up of recommendations of international organizations and human rights; and
- Submit an essay of up to five pages, not edited by another person, on a topic of interest to the applicant, related to the follow-up of recommendations of the inter-American Human Rights System or other international systems or organizations. The written work should be presented half in English and half in Spanish, using any format. If this is not possible, please explain (no cover page or bibliography is required).

Required Documents: The following documents are required for consideration of fellowship applications.

- Cover Letter, explaining the applicant's interest in the fellowship;
- Two letters of recommendation (academic or professional);
- Curriculum vitae;
- Certificate accrediting the second language (if you do not have it, attach an explanatory note);
- Copy of the degree and grades obtained;
- Certificate accrediting English as second language, if applicable.
- Written work of up to five pages, not edited by another person, on a topic of interest to the applicant, related to the follow-up of recommendations of the inter-American Human Rights System or other international systems or organizations. The written work should be presented half in English and half in Spanish, using any format. If this is not possible, please explain (no cover page or bibliography is required).

Note: All supporting documents required for the fellowship - with the exception of the essay - may be submitted in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese. Only simple copies of the original documents are required; they do not need to be translated or legalized.

Letters should be addressed generally to the INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

Subject to the discretion of the ES/IACHR, the finalists will be asked to answer additional questions and meet with the team of the Section.

Benefits:

- The ES/IACHR provides a stipend of US\$3,200.00 per month during the period covered by the fellowship. With said stipend, the fellow is responsible for and required to purchase health coverage of their choice for the duration of the fellowship and must formally accredit said purchase to the Executive Secretariat of the IACHR.
- In addition, during the fellowship period, the fellow will participate in person in one of the IACHR's period of sessions, for which travel and living expenses will be covered for five days. The purpose of this participation is for the fellow to participate directly in public hearings on cases, working meetings on the follow-up of recommendations issued in cases and in general on the functioning of the Follow-up of Recommendations and Impact mechanism of the IACHR.
- The ES/IACHR will award a certificate of participation in the fellowship program to those who satisfactorily complete the full period of the fellowship.

Responsibility of the selected candidates to begin the Fellowship:

- The selected person must formally accept the fellowship in writing to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, confirming that they are fully available to begin the fellowship remotely, with full-time dedication. By formally accepting the fellowship, the selected person must also accept the commitment to work in their home country for the purposes set forth above.
- If the fellowship has been accepted, but for any justifiable reason cannot be completed, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights must be notified immediately so that it can decide on the appropriate actions and make the necessary arrangements.
- It is the responsibility of the selected person to have the necessary technological means to begin the fellowship remotely on the date established by the IACHR.
- In case of resignation, cancellation, or termination of the fellowship after the program has begun, without presenting sufficient evidence of the cause to the ES/IACHR, the ES/IACHR must be reimbursed for all expenses incurred on the person.

Modality: Remote or In-Person
Number of Vacancies: 1
Deadline for applications: January 23, 2024
Start date: March 2024
Duration: 11 months

Call for applications closed.

The IACHR is fully committed to equal opportunity, based on individual merit, without discrimination against any applicant based on ethno-racial origin, disability, marital status, family status, religion, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, or sexual characteristics, among other reasons.

To complete the electronic fellowship application form, [click here](#).

The result of the selection will be informed by e-mail to each applicant before the start date of the fellowship. Any questions can be directed to: CIDHSeguimiento@OAS.org

The Organization of American States does not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, marital status, family status, religion, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation or sexual characteristics, or status as a parent.

Funding:

This fellowship is offered thanks to the financial support of US Mission of the United States before the OAS

The U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS) welcomes the opportunity to support the establishment of the 'Elizabeth Abi-Mershed Fellowship for Follow Up and Monitoring of Cases.' This fellowship, initiated in honor of the late Elizabeth Abi-Mershed, a passionate human rights advocate, recognizes her substantial contributions during her more than 25-year tenure at the OAS, including her role as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The fellowship, with the approval of Elizabeth's family, is integrated into an existing U.S.-funded IACHR

grant. The fellowship pays tribute to Elizabeth's lifelong commitment to human rights, emphasizing her profound impact on the Inter-American System and her enduring legacy as a mentor and guide to future generations of human rights advocates. This fellowship is a lasting and fitting tribute to her warm, respectful demeanor and dedication to justice and equity for all. The U.S. Mission shares the commitment of the IACHR in upholding the principles championed by Elizabeth and looks forward to continuing her legacy in creating a more just and equitable world.

Question or more information: cidhseguimiento@oas.org