



## Senior Protection Assistant

### At UNHCR the Netherlands in The Hague

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an intergovernmental organization with a mandate to protect refugees and stateless persons worldwide. UNHCR works with States, civil society organizations and other actors to address issues of concern which fall under its mandate.

The Netherlands has ratified and incorporated into their laws the provisions of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. The Immigration & Naturalization Service (IND) is in charge of receiving applications and conducting status determination in first instance. Administrative law courts with specialized chambers handle appeals in the asylum procedure.

UNHCR's core mandate is to protect refugees and to find durable solutions to their plight. To fulfil this responsibility UNHCR is charged with overseeing the efforts of States to provide protection for refugees at or within their borders. Overseeing the quality of the asylum process is directly linked to UNHCR's supervisory role pursuant to Article 35 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Refugee Convention) and Article II of the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of Refugees (1967 Protocol). UNHCR's supervisory responsibility has also been reflected in European Union law, including by way of a general reference to the 1951 Convention in Article 78(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU'), as well as in Declaration 17 to the Treaty of Amsterdam, which provides that 'consultations shall be established with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ... on matters relating to asylum policy'. Secondary European Union legislation also emphasizes the role of UNHCR. For instance, Recital 22 of the Qualification Directive (recast) states that consultations with UNHCR 'may provide valuable guidance for Member States when determining refugee status according to Article 1 of the Geneva Convention'. The supervisory responsibility of UNHCR is specifically articulated in Article 29(1)(c) of the Asylum Procedures Directive (recast).

UNHCR the Netherlands is looking for a talented professional to strengthen its Protection Team to carry out its core mandate, notably in the field of quality of decision making in the asylum procedure and all related aspects thereto.

#### Selection Criteria

In order to be considered eligible, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- University degree in law (preferably with a focus on asylum/refugee/migration);
- One to two years of work experience in the field of asylum and refugee law/policy in the Netherlands;
- Work experience with UNHCR would be an asset;
- Knowledge of the Dutch asylum system;
- Legal knowledge of Dutch as well as European and International asylum and refugee law;
- Fluency in Dutch and English.

Key competencies:

- Sound analytical skills;
- Excellent drafting skills in Dutch and English are essential;
- Familiarity with the work of UNHCR and its Guidelines relevant for the implementation of this assignment would be an asset;
- Excellent communication and negotiations skills;
- Ability to work both in a team and independently and on own initiative;

- Sound reporting skills;
- Sound computer skills (able to operate MS Office software);
- Complies with UN core values

### Work Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of the Senior Protection Associate, the Senior Protection Assistant shall assist the Protection Team in their Quality Initiative work; and where necessary assist in UNHCR's litigation efforts. In addition, the Senior Protection Assistant shall also assist in the management of individual cases.

### Work Dates & Conditions

Full-time, starting 1 March 2020 until 31 December 2020. Contract is renewable subject to satisfactory performance and organizational needs.

### How to apply

Please send your CV and motivation letter to [barrrau@unhcr.org](mailto:barrrau@unhcr.org) by **05 February 2020**.

**Important:** please mention in the subject line: **NETTH UNOPS-Protection + your First Name and Family Name**.

For more information, please check UNHCR's websites ([www.unhcr.nl](http://www.unhcr.nl), [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org))

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