



About Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is a calling that demands both personal dedication and sacrifice. Service in the cause of peace offers real opportunities to help peoples and countries recover from conflict, rebuild their societies, and enjoy the benefits of peace.

United Nations peace operations offer opportunities to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Working and living conditions in the field vary. If you serve in a peacekeeping or political mission, or in a humanitarian field operation, the country or region that you work and live in is likely to be emerging from conflict or an emergency situation where the conditions are more arduous; the infrastructure is weak and electricity and clean water are often in short supply. In addition, most peacekeeping, political or humanitarian missions are categorized as “non-family” duty stations, and therefore family members are unable to join the staff member at the relevant location.



Human Rights

The Human Rights Occupational Group is part of the Political, Peace and Security Network. Based throughout multiple duty stations, a global network of Human Rights Officers work tirelessly in the field, often in challenging circumstances and remote locations, to promote human rights as well as monitor, investigate and report violations. Work in the field of human rights is guided by the Office of High Commissioner of Human Rights, which is based in Geneva, Switzerland.



Nature of our Work

Human Rights Officers integrate human rights principles across mission activities. They support transitional justice efforts, reforms to the rule of law and build capacity to protect and promote human rights. Officers assist in bringing those who violate international human rights and humanitarian law to justice, helping to end impunity. They support victims, human rights defenders and actors from civil society, as well as peacekeepers and police contingents.



Working in the Field

United Nations peacekeeping and political missions have evolved over time to respond to different conflicts and changing political landscapes. Civilian peacekeepers work as administrators and engineers, police officers and legal experts, economists and electoral observers, specialists in civil affairs and gender, as well as experts in information technology and public information among other specialized functions. International positions have two categories, Professional and Higher and Field Service, which are distinguished by levels of responsibility as well as education and work experience requirements.



Gender

The United Nations fosters gender equality and encourages applications from suitably qualified and experienced women across the full range of career opportunities.



Education

Human Rights functions range from entry level to management roles. Experts in this field are expected to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and experience of human rights principles and issues from the protection of civilians to the rule of law. A master's degree is required in human rights law, political science, international relations or a discipline related to human rights. A Human Rights Officer will have empathy and excellent communications skills; demonstrate sensitivity to the political and social environment; have good analytical and research skills and an ability to integrate human rights perspectives into other mission components as required.



Related Careers

There are various career opportunities related to Human Rights, such as the following:

- Human Rights Investigator
- Human Rights Researcher
- Human Rights / Humanitarian Advisor
- Women Protection Advisors
- Protection of Civilians Officer



Helpful Links

- careers.un.org
- hr.un.org
- inspira.un.org
- point.un.org

Emilya CERMAK
Human Rights Officer
Bamako, Mali



Present

Human Rights Officer, MINUSMA, Bamako

2013

Human Rights Officer, UNMISS, Juba

2011

Associate Human Rights Officer, UNMIS, Khartoum

2008

UNV Human Rights Officer, MONUC, Kinshasa

2005

Master of Laws in Human Rights, University of Nottingham

2004

Non-governmental Organisation roles in Human Rights, Geneva & Armenia

2003

Masters in International Relations, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva



Global Workforce

Over time, the United Nations has increased its presence in locations all over the world. There are over 130 field offices, which include peacekeeping and political missions and humanitarian field operations, and they play an essential role in identifying, highlighting, and responding to emerging challenges. While the work may vary greatly, the one unifying factor is the opportunity to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Together with its partners, the UN is tasked with a variety of responsibilities, such as providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance; promoting and protecting human rights; promoting the wise stewardship of the global environment; assisting countries to combat the supply of illicit drugs, crime and corruption and; providing information on the Organization and its activities in the various locations in which it operates.

Missions Directed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations*



UN Field Careers

Before you navigate through the existing job opportunities available online, we strongly advise that you read carefully the description of each current UN operation through the links to the mission website.

Please apply for the positions that best match your expertise, qualifications, experience and aspirations. The necessary education background/training, experience and skills to perform a specific job are explained in the qualification section of each vacancy announcement.

If you are interested in working for Peacekeeping Operations, please send your resume to Outreachforpeace@un.org and write "WRUD4P" in the subject line of your email.

* Source: Map No. 4259 Rev. 20(E), Cartographic Section, Department of Field Support, UNITED NATIONS, April 2014
** political mission
Disclaimer: due to the mobile and dynamic nature of field careers, profilees may not necessarily feature in their current positions.

What are you doing for peace?

Field Personnel Division,
United Nations
Department of Field Support

Human rights
is the backbone of a
peaceful society
and my work in this field
makes every day a challenging
and exciting experience.



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