



**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, PROJECT 39A  
SECTOR 14, DWARKA -110078**

**December 18, 2020**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - INTERNS**

The National Law University, Delhi ('University') through Project 39A is seeking to remotely engage, on a contractual basis, interns for managing the written communications with prisoners represented by Project 39A, primarily those sentenced to death. The contract will be for one year initially and can be extended on an annual basis at the discretion of the University.

**ABOUT PROJECT 39A:** Project 39A draws inspiration from Article 39-A in the Indian Constitution on equal justice and signals the broadening of our work on the criminal justice system in India. We undertake litigation, research and communications relating to forensics, torture, legal aid, mental health and death penalty (for more information, visit [www.project39a.com](http://www.project39a.com)).

**AREA OF WORK:** The litigation team at Project 39A provides pro bono legal representation to prisoners on death row. For effective legal representation, it is a key to regularly communicate with the clients. The litigation team at Project 39A strives to keep all prisoners updated about the progress of their case and involves family members in the preparation of the case. The team also engages with the prisoners in a manner which could assist them in making their prison life more productive. For all these reasons, the team regularly exchanges letters with the clients in the regional languages they understand along with sharing reading materials of their interest. This internship program is looking for interns proficient in at least one of the regional languages listed in the 'Eligibility' section.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. The interns will study basic case materials and prior correspondence with the respective prisoners and their families. Under the supervision of Project 39A litigation and mitigation associates, interns will draft personalised letters to prisoners and their families on a monthly basis, in their respective languages.
- B. To accompany the letters, the interns will identify suitable reading material in the respective regional language for each client.
- C. The interns will provide translations of the letters received from the clients or their families into English language.
- D. Any other tasks that may be necessary to further the aims of Project 39A's communication program with prisoners or any other work.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- A. Students of law, humanities, social sciences, social work, management or media enrolled in bachelor's or master's programs

B. Reading and writing proficiency in at least one of the following regional languages, along with English:

- 1) Bengali
- 2) Gujarati
- 3) Hindi
- 4) Kannada
- 5) Marathi
- 6) Malayalam
- 7) Punjabi
- 8) Tamil
- 9) Telugu

**DURATION & PLACE OF INTERNSHIP:** Minimum 1 year internship period. The internship can be undertaken remotely.

**INTERNSHIP STIPEND:** Maximum Rs.3,000 per month, subject to case allocation per language.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Interested persons must email the following to [p39arecruitment@nludelhi.ac.in](mailto:p39arecruitment@nludelhi.ac.in):

- A. Resumé
- B. A statement of purpose of not more than 500 words explaining your interest in this internship. The statement should clearly state the candidates proficiency in at least one of the regional languages mentioned in the eligibility criteria.
- C. In at least one of the regional languages listed in the eligibility criteria, provide translation of the excerpt from the Death Penalty India Report 2016 provided below as Annexure A.

The subject of the email should be “Project 39A - Application for Internship (Communications with Prisoners)”. Please note that the subject line should be exactly the same as mentioned above. Applications will be rejected for non-compliance with this requirement.

**APPLICATION TIMELINE:** Last date to submit the application is 15 January 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be called for further rounds of assessment and interview which will take place between 22-30 January, 2021. Only applicants selected for interview rounds will be informed.

**NOTE:**

1. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted via email. If you do not hear from us within 3 weeks after the deadline, please assume that your application has not succeeded. Unfortunately, we cannot reply to individual queries about the status of applications.
2. National Law University, Delhi reserves the right not to fill these internship positions.
3. National Law University, Delhi is an equal opportunity employer and Project 39A works on behalf of all prisoners sentenced to death, regardless of the offence involved.
4. National Law University, Delhi reserves the right to conduct additional rounds of interviews or written tests.
5. This internship programme is supported by grants received by Project 39A.

## ANNEXURE - I

### **DIFFICULTIES IN PRISON VISITS - ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL**

In order to meet prisoners sentenced to death, families incurred substantial costs travelling to the prisons. In most states, prisoners sentenced to death are incarcerated in central prisons. Due to the vast distance between the residence of the families and these prisons, families are often compelled to travel for several days each time they visit the prisoner. Further, some prisoners in our study were incarcerated in prisons in states different from those to which they belonged, making it even more difficult for families to visit the prisoners. In some cases, these financial and geographical difficulties substantially impacted the frequency of family visits.

Chetak has had just one visit from his mother in the 11 years of his incarceration. His mother leads an extremely impoverished existence in a neighbouring state, and does not speak the language of the state in which Chetak is lodged. The one time she undertook the long journey to meet her son in prison she had to rely on a neighbour travelling to meet relatives of their own in the same town as the prison.<sup>63</sup> Prajay had left his family behind in North-Eastern India and had moved to South India in search of work. Convicted and sentenced to death for dacoity with murder, Prajay has been in prison for five years and eight months and no one from his family has been able to visit him due to prohibitive travel costs and difficulties of the long journey. Although Prajay is deeply saddened by the fact that he has been unable to meet his family, he believes that it would break his heart even more to meet them once and watch them leave. He said he'd rather not meet them at all.

In certain instances families were initially able to maintain contact with the prisoners but as the years went by the families found it increasingly difficult and stopped meeting the prisoner. Devnath, sentenced to death for the rape and murder of a minor, had already served 14 and a half years in prison and recalled the initial years when his mother used to visit him regularly. However, no one had come to meet him in the past eight years and Devnath did not know the reasons for his mother no longer visiting him. Devnath gave the address of his mother to researchers on the Project, but when researchers reached the given address, they found the house deserted with no trace of his family.

KAPIL AND PINKY lead an ordinary life in a town in Central India. Since they had no children of their own, they adopted the youngest daughter of Kapil's elder brother, and felt that their family was complete. Upon their arrest for the murder of their own child, they were both incarcerated in the district prison, where they could meet at least once a week. At the end of their trial, the sessions court sentenced Kapil to death while Pinky was sentenced to imprisonment for life. Because of his death sentence, Kapil was transferred to the central prison while Pinky continued to remain confined in the district prison. Consequently, they no longer have any way of contacting each other. The central prison does not have barracks for women prisoners, and so repeated petitions made by Kapil to get Pinky transferred to the central prison have been ignored. Pinky feels that with her daughter gone, she would have no reason to live if her husband is executed. Torn apart, they wait for the law to take its own course, hoping to be reunited someday.