



Job Title: Programs Assistant (Civic Space Strengthening Project)

Location: Abuja, Nigeria

Duration: 1-year renewable contract

Employment Type: Full-Time (Hybrid)

ABOUT HOPE BEHIND BARS AFRICA

Hope Behind Bars Africa is a social enterprise working to close the justice and reformatory gap using technology, evidence-based interventions, and strategic legal support. Our core programs include the *Access to Justice Program*, the *Gender and Criminal Justice Program*, the *Civic-Space Strengthening Program*, the *Death Penalty Program*, and the *Inside-Out Reformation Program*. We aim to drastically reduce rights violations across all arms of the criminal justice system, from entry to exit points within the criminal justice system.

Deadline for Applications: May 30, 2025.

Compensation: Competitive and commensurate with experience. The full-time roles include a benefits package covering health insurance, flexible hybrid work options, pension, paid leave, and professional development opportunities.

Hope Behind Bars Africa is an equal opportunity employer. **Women and candidates from underrepresented backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Note: *Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Early applications are encouraged. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. If you do not hear from us by **June 10**, please consider your application unsuccessful.*

About the Role

The Programs Assistant role will contribute to HBBA's work on strengthening the civic space. The ideal candidate will have a background in law, demonstrated interest in civic and political rights, and strong research skills.

Qualifications & Competencies

- A degree in Law, Political Science, Human Rights, or a related field.



- At least 2 years of experience in human rights advocacy, civic space programming, or legal reform.
- Familiarity with SLAPPs and Nigeria's legal framework for civil and political rights.
- Excellent legal writing, policy research, and documentation skills.
- Strong communication and advocacy skills.
- Proven ability to draft reports and organise events
- Passionate about social justice, freedom of expression, and civic engagement.

Key Responsibilities

1. Project Implementation & Coordination

- Support the execution of activities under the Civic Space Strengthening project.
- Provide legal analysis, case tracking, and strategic litigation support related to SLAPPs.
- Support coalition-building and stakeholder engagement with media, CSOs, Bar associations, and policymakers.
- Organize advocacy campaigns, workshops, and public awareness events.

2. Research, Legal Documentation and Policy Influencing

- Contribute to the development of policy briefs, position papers, and legislative recommendations.
- Document SLAPP cases and analyze their legal, social, and economic impact.
- Support advocacy for the enactment of the Human Rights Defenders Bill and similar reforms.

3. Communication & Visibility

- Collaborate with the communications team to design and disseminate campaign materials.
- Support the creation of podcasts, blog posts, and digital content to promote awareness of SLAPPs.
- Represent the organisation in meetings, media engagements, and civil society platforms.

How to Apply

This is a 1-year contract position, renewable based on performance and funding availability.

To apply, please send your resume and a one-page cover letter outlining your interest and relevant experience to hello@hopebehindbarsafrica.org with the subject line: **Application – Programs**

Assistant (Civic Space Strengthening)