



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (UNA-USA)
Leo Nevas Program on Human Rights**

HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOW

BACKGROUND

As expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the protection of human rights by the rule of law is essential to the preservation of peace and thus to the *raison d'être* of the United Nations. Recent years have brought dramatic expansion of human rights norms and mechanisms in the UN. The engagement by the US in the Human Rights Council and other UN-related bodies may create new opportunities to advance protection of human rights world wide.

UNA-USA focuses on the UN and its subsidiary bodies as the primary vehicle for the realization of international human rights in institutionalized form. Within the framework of its Leo Nevas Human Rights Program, the mission of the UNA-USA Fellowship for Human Rights is to engage a new generation of journalists, advocates, diplomats, and civil servants in fostering more effective policy through which the United States can promote human rights through the United Nations and to explain these policy choices in a way that gains national attention. The Fellow will inform, educate and help UNA-USA members and supporters mobilize public support for human rights.

THE FELLOWSHIP

The UNA-USA Human Rights Fellowship will provide a one-year immersion in UN human rights activities for an aspiring professional with a demonstrated interest in law, diplomacy and/or journalism. In partnership with other civil society groups and non-governmental organizations, the Fellow will work with UN staff and advocates in New York, stakeholders on Capitol Hill in Washington DC, and the UNA chapters across the country to advance the work of the UN's human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the various human rights treaty bodies within the UN. S/he will provide informed analyses and opinions to the UNA-USA Human Rights Task Force; organize roundtables and panels on timely and relevant issues; contribute to UNA-USA publications; write white papers and articles for policy-oriented publications; and attend and participate in conferences, panels and other forums. The Fellow will also be responsible for managing the UNA-USA Human Rights Task Force meetings, which will include the preparation of agendas and of background materials. The Fellow will expand UNA-USA's capacity to furnish to its chapters and members reliable and current information on the UN's human rights activities. In addition, the Fellow will be expected to engage UNA-USA's constituents in human rights education and advocacy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates for the UNA-USA Fellowship must submit the following materials:

1. Resume
2. Statement of Interest – In no more than 750 words, outline the nature of your interest in international human rights, the United Nations and how your work as a UNA-USA Human Rights Fellow will contribute to your future career. Specify ideas and questions you wish to explore, along with any policy proposals you might wish to put forward and how they would advance the human rights work of UNA-USA. You may choose to answer the following questions in your statement: What role(s) can private individuals and organizations play in advancing human rights protection through the UN? What role if any can UN bodies play to integrate human rights policies and practices into its peacekeeping and development activities? How do UN' treaties and conventions contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights and how can they advance U.S. interests?
3. Name and contact information of three references
4. Writing Samples – please provide two, preferably *published*, writing samples, such as articles, op-eds, essays or papers that represent your work alone. Submissions should not exceed 20 pages.

The above materials should be e-mailed to:

Human Rights Fellowship Search
UNA-USA
801 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
E-mail: humanrights@unausa.org

The application deadline is September 24, 2010.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications and selection criteria include an advanced degree and two to seven years of professional experience in government, international organizations, NGOs, journalism, or academia; knowledge of the United Nations and US policies on human rights; originality of thought, analytical ability, the strength of the statement of interest; and a proven talent to articulate ideas and opinions to a broad audience. The selection committee will be composed of members of the UNA-USA Human Rights Task Force and will include the program director.

The Fellow must be eligible to work in the United States and will be based full-time in UNA-USA offices in New York, with some national and international travel expected. The Fellow will be eligible for benefits. Compensation will be based on skills and experience.

The fellowship is a grant funded position. UNA-USA has been awarded an initial grant. The final decision on the fellowship appointment will depend on the availability of funding. The fellowship is for an initial period of 12 months with the possibility of a second year based on performance and available funding.

Note: UNA-USA is in the final stages of arranging an alliance with the UN Foundation. Under the alliance the management of UNA-USA programs will be transferred to the Better World Fund, a UN Foundation sister organization. The UNA-USA name and legacy will be preserved under the alliance.