



## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

### **Preamble:**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, UN Volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with coworkers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, UN Volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.]

### **General Information**

- 1. Country of Assignment:** Sri Lanka
- 2. Agency Name/ Host Institute:** United Nations Development Programme
- 3. Volunteer Category:** National Specialist
- 4. Number of Volunteers:** 3
- 5. Duty Station, Country:** Colombo and outstation travel as required
- 6. Duration (in months):** 6
- 7. Expected Starting Date:** Immediate

## 8. Living Conditions:

Colombo is situated on the Western Province of Sri Lanka and is the commercial capital of the country. Colombo is located on the west coast of the island and adjacent to the administrative capital, Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte. The climate is fairly temperate throughout the year but humidity is usually high. From March to April the temperature averages around 31 degrees Celsius (88 degrees Fahrenheit). The only major change in the Colombo weather occurs during the monsoon seasons from May to August and October to January when heavy rainfall occurs. Sri Lanka became a member of the United Nations on 14 December 1955. *(Please complete with the required information as per country Living Conditions)*

## 9. Assignment Type: Family Assignment

### Assignment Details

## 10. Assignment Title: Researcher – Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Prison Study

## 11. Organizational Context & Project Description:

Following many changes in context in Sri Lanka since 2015, and the universal commitment made in September 2015 to ensure the achievement of sustainable development by 2030, UNDP embarked on a process of re-defining the alignment and strengthening the design of its access to justice/ rule of law, human rights, Parliamentary support and peacebuilding portfolio.

UNDP from 2017 will support Sri Lanka with innovative programmatic and operational design and implementation of priority actions identified in key policy frameworks and plans. To this end, UNDP will work in collaboration with several stakeholders, including government, semi-government, civil society, private sector, UN agency and development partners and through increased engagement with the people of Sri Lanka, on the above mentioned inter-linked and complementary thematic areas of focus, to provide integrated and high quality technical advisory and support services.

Against the above-mentioned backdrop, continuing its support to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRC), UNDP Sri Lanka seeks to recruit Researchers to assist the HRCSL and the Consultant in a study related to prison reforms. The objective of this study is to evaluate prison conditions, practices and legislations related to the rights of prisoners in Sri Lanka and make recommendations for reform.

## 12. Sustainable Development Goals: 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



**13.UNV Focus Area:** Peace building

#### **14.Task descriptions**

The UN Volunteer will perform the following tasks under the direct supervision of the Commissioner - Human Rights Commission. The UN Volunteer will be accountable to the Programme Manager UNDP on obligations stemming from the placement of the UNV by UNDP at the Human Rights Commission for the performance of the said functions.

- Provide assistance to the Consultant and HRCSL in the above study as required. • Undertaking visits to required prisons as guided by the consultant and HRCSL
- Preparation of relevant documentation and reports to support the study.
- Comprehensive analysis of gathered data (quantitative and qualitative).
- Efficient delivery of tasks assigned to facilitate the study Coordination with relevant partners/ institutions as required

#### **15.Results/Expected Outputs**

- High quality and effective documentation is produced as a part of the research study.
- Required visits are undertaken adhering to the parameters of the study.
- Effectively analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data.
- Efficient coordination with external parties
- Support to the effective completion of the study.
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed.
- The development of capacity through coaching, mentoring and formal on-the-job training, when working with (including supervising) national staff or (non-) governmental counterparts, including Implementing Partners (IPs);
- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) perspective is systematically applied, integrated and documented in all activities throughout the assignment
- A final statement of achievements towards volunteerism for peace and development during the assignment, such as reporting on the number of volunteers mobilized, activities participated in and capacities developed

#### **Qualifications / Requirements**

**16. Education** – Required Degree Level: Bachelor's degree

**17. Type of degree:** Law, Attorney-at-Law, Sociology

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**18. Required Experience:** Minimum of two years

**19. Experience Description:**

- Work experience in social research
- Experience in the field of human rights or litigation in the field of law would be preferred.

**20. Language Skills:** Strong spoken and written English skills are essential; Sinhala and/or Tamil would be an advantage.

**21. Areas of Expertise:** Democratization, elections and governance

**22. Need Driving License:** No

**23. Competencies and Values:**

- Integrity and professionalism: demonstrated expertise in area of specialty and ability to apply good judgment; high degree of autonomy, personal initiative and ability to take ownership; willingness to accept wide responsibilities and ability to work independently under established procedures in a politically sensitive environment, while exercising discretion, impartiality and neutrality; ability to manage information objectively, accurately and confidentially; responsive and client-oriented.
- Accountability: mature and responsible; ability to operate in compliance with organizational rules and regulations.
- Commitment to continuous learning: initiative and willingness to learn new skills and stay abreast of new developments in area of expertise; ability to adapt to changes in work environment.
- Planning and organizing: effective organizational and problem-solving skills and ability to manage a large volume of work in an efficient and timely manner; ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor (own) work; ability to work under pressure, with conflicting deadlines, and to handle multiple concurrent projects/activities.
- Teamwork and respect for diversity: ability to operate effectively across organizational boundaries; ability to establish and maintain effective partnerships and harmonious working relations in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and gender;
- Communication: proven interpersonal skills; good spoken and written communication skills, including ability to prepare clear and concise reports; ability to conduct presentations, articulate options and positions concisely; ability to make and defend recommendations; ability to communicate and empathize with staff (including national

staff), military personnel, volunteers, counterparts and local interlocutors coming from very diverse backgrounds; ability to maintain composure and remain helpful towards the staff, but objective, without showing personal interest; capacity to transfer information and knowledge to a wide range of different target groups;

- Flexibility, adaptability, and ability and willingness to operate independently in austere, remote and potentially hazardous environments for protracted periods, involving physical hardship and little comfort, and including possible extensive travel within the area of operations; willingness to transfer to other duty stations within area of operations as may be necessary;
- Genuine commitment towards the principles of voluntary engagement, which includes solidarity, compassion, reciprocity and self-reliance; and commitment towards the UN core values.

### **Conditions of Service and other information**

**24. Conditions of Service:** A six- month contract; with subsequent contract extensions subject to availability of funding, operational necessity and satisfactory performance. However, there is no expectation of renewal of the assignment.

Travel to duty station (if applicable) and a Settling-In-Grant will be provided in the event duty station is not within commuting distance from the place of recruitment. A Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA) of LKR 77,366 is provided monthly to cover housing, utilities and normal cost of living expenses. Life, health and permanent disability insurance are included (health insurance for up to 3 dependents), as well as final repatriation (if applicable) and a resettlement allowance for satisfactory service.

### **25. How to Apply**

These posts are open only to Sri Lankan nationals.

Interested candidates should submit their CV with a cover letter (in English) and telephone/email contact information by email to [info@unvlg.org](mailto:info@unvlg.org) clearly indicating the post title “Researcher” in the subject line of the email, or by post to the address below clearly indicating the post title on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and ensure it reaches the address below by Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018.



United Nations Volunteers

202 – 204 Bauddhaloka Mawatha

Colombo 07

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for an interview.

*Disclaimer*

*The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) is an equal opportunity programme which welcomes applications from qualified professionals. We are committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture.*

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