

2023 SPBF Summer Fellowship Nomination Instructions

The School of Law will nominate a student for each of the following Squire Patton Boggs Foundation fellowships: the Sustained Impact Racial Justice Fellowship, the Sustained Impact Veterans' Justice Fellowship, and the Human Rights Watch Fellowship. More information about the fellowships can be found on the [School of Law's website](#) and on the foundation's [website](#). A description of the Human Rights Watch Fellowship, which is new this year, is attached.

If you would like to be nominated for one of these fellowships, please upload all the documents listed below to the Drop Box on the [2023 Summer Public Service Fellowship Program TWEN site](#) no later than **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2023**. Please contact [Professor Sara Gosman](#) if you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of these fellowships.

1. The completed SPBF Summer Fellowship Nomination form, including the Character and Fitness Disclosure
Note that having character and fitness information to disclose does not preclude a nomination
2. A current resume
If possible, the resume should be reviewed in advance by Career Services
3. An unofficial law school transcript
A printed grade report is acceptable
Note that high academic achievement is not a nomination requirement
4. A personal statement answering each question below in 300 words or less:
 - Why do you want this fellowship?
 - What knowledge, skills and attributes make you a strong candidate for the fellowship?
 - How will this fellowship further your long-term career objectives?
 - The Foundation plans a number of carefully thought-out Zoom calls during the summer and into the school year on a variety of subjects often chosen by the fellows. How do you envision contributing to these calls and what would you hope to gain from them?
 - Is there anything else you would like us to know and consider in evaluating your application?

- **For the Sustained Impact Racial Justice Fellowship only:** Would you accept a position with any of the three partnership organizations? If you have a first choice, tell us which agency and why.
 - **For the Sustained Impact Veterans' Justice Fellowship only:** Tell us about the reasons for your interest in working with a veterans' organization.
5. Proof that your student account is in good standing
This can be a print-out stating that you do not have an outstanding balance with the University of Arkansas



2023 SPBF SUMMER FELLOWSHIP Nomination Form

Directions: Please fill out this form and upload it to the 2023 Summer Public Service Fellowship Program TWEN site by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2023, along with the other materials listed in the 2023 SPBF Summer Fellowship Nomination Instructions.

Applicant

Full Name: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Pro Bono Hours (as recorded in GivePulse): _____

Have you previously applied for or received a Summer Public Service Fellowship from the School of Law or SPBF? YES NO

Do you have outstanding debt to the University of Arkansas? YES NO

Do you expect to transfer to another law school for 2023-2024? YES NO

Do you plan to enroll in courses during the summer of 2023 or have any other obligations for the period during which you would work for the employer? YES NO

If yes, please describe: _____

Fellowship

Which SPBF Fellowship would you like to be nominated for? (Choose one.)

Sustained Impact Racial Justice Fellowship:

Sustained Impact Veterans' Justice Fellowship:

Human Rights Watch Fellowship:

Acknowledgements

Initial to acknowledge that this fellowship cannot be combined with an externship:

Initial to acknowledge that this fellowship is a full-time position for at least an 8-week period:

Initial to acknowledge that you are expected to accept a fellowship offer from the SPBF within 3 days:

Initial to acknowledge that supplemental funding from external sources is limited to \$2,500:

Character & Fitness Disclosure

If you answer "Yes" to any of the following questions, please attach a full explanation(s) on a separate page. If you have any questions about whether information should be disclosed, it is preferable to include it.

Have you ever been <u>arrested</u> for a felony or misdemeanor?	YES	NO
Have you been or are you currently under investigation for Honor Code violations, or are you or have you been the subject of any academic probation or suspension as a law student?	YES	NO
Have you had any license, privilege, or authorization revoked by any court, agency, licensing board, or other organization?	YES	NO
Have you been the subject of any claim, investigation, or action involving allegations of cheating, dishonesty, lack of competence, or breach of an ethical or fiduciary duty?	YES	NO
Are you aware of any fact or circumstance that might cause a reasonable person to question your moral character or fitness to serve as a Fellow?	YES	NO

Signature

Date

Human Rights Watch Fellowship Proposal:

Advancing the Emerging Right to Data Protection in Humanitarian Contexts

Overview

In partnership with the Squire Patton Boggs Foundation, Human Rights Watch's Crisis and Conflict Division (CCD) hopes to work with a law school student fellow on a project looking at the human rights risks and harms associated with the collection of considerable personal data, including biometric data, in humanitarian contexts. While this data may be collected primarily to facilitate and streamline the delivery of essential aid and services to communities fleeing war and famine, the risks are very real for refugees when their data is then shared with repressive or abusive governments and other actors. Humanitarian organizations established and funded to protect these communities are often collecting their data without putting in place the kind of protections required under international, and in some cases national, law. This has created a situation where personal data protection and privacy rights are weakest for the most vulnerable people in the world.

The fellow will help us develop the legal argument that data protection has emerged as a human right, distinct from the right to privacy. We hope to establish the substantive elements of this right, building on the numerous regional and national instruments that have emerged over the past 20 years, including regarding informed consent and the right to erasure. We would also like to develop the legal argument that United Nations agencies and other humanitarian institutions are bound to respect the right to data protection.

The fellow will also support research into the impacts of biometric data collection of refugees and asylum-seekers in specific country contexts, which may include the collection of biometric data of Venezuelan refugees in Colombia. The fellow will also contribute to our broader advocacy initiatives on this work.

This fellowship will be an opportunity for a law student to be involved in the development of a cutting-edge human rights legal issue, while also gaining exposure to the work of Human Rights Watch's Crisis and Conflict Division.

Background

Biometric identifiers, such as fingerprints, DNA, facial geometry, retina, and iris patterns, have been used increasingly for identification and authentication of individuals. Similarly, centralized digital identity systems and programs are being rolled out by governments and international organizations around the world. The international humanitarian sector has followed this trend by gathering mass amounts of personal data, including biometrics, of beneficiaries (typically fingerprints and/or iris scans).

Humanitarian organizations and United Nations agencies are carrying out this data collection largely at the behest of donors convinced that the use of biometrics is the most effective way to reduce fraud and increase efficiency in humanitarian contexts. Many organizations are bound by donor agreements to process biometric data and will not receive donor funding if they do not. Some states make data sharing a prerequisite for an organization that wants to operate on its territory, giving the organization little choice to refuse if it wants to meet the urgent needs of the population it is trying to assist.

Humanitarian crises – wars, other forms of violent conflict, natural disasters, famine – often take place in countries that have no meaningful data protection laws in place, or where humanitarian agencies ignore their data protection obligations in practice. Many organizations and entities like the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) – established and funded to protect these communities – have collected the biometric data of millions of people without putting in place certain protections required under international and national law.

This rise of personal data collection without informed consent poses threats and challenges to the right to privacy enshrined in Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Humanitarian organizations and United Nations agencies are collecting, storing, and sharing this data in ways that also carry inherent risks for cybersecurity and data breaches, and can lead to human rights impacts far beyond the right to privacy, in some cases leading to people's physical well-being being put at risk.

Since 2020, Human Rights Watch has conducted research on the risks associated with data collection in several contexts, including in [Afghanistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), and [Greece](#).

The humanitarian sector is beginning to have more principled discussions around informed consent linked to data collection and the data protection rights of beneficiaries. Our research can inform these discussions and help push institutions to put in place and implement robust data protection policies. We also hope to change donors' attitudes towards demanding the collection of mass amounts of data.

About the Organization and Team

Human Rights Watch investigates and reports on human rights abuses happening in all corners of the world. We are roughly 500 people of 70-plus nationalities who work to protect the most at risk, from vulnerable minorities and civilians in wartime, to refugees and children in need. The Crisis and Conflict Division documents, exposes, and advocates to end violations of human rights and the laws of war during armed conflicts, terrorism and counterterrorism operations, and severe social or political unrest.