



# THE NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY

Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal- 462044 (M.P.), India

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9<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SOCIAL WORK FELLOW

### PROJECT NYAYA SEWA FELLOWSHIP

The National Law Institute University, Bhopal, under the Project Nyaya Sewa Fellowship Programme, NLIU, Bhopal for Legal Aid to under-trials and Continuing Legal Education, invites applications from interested and eligible candidates for engagement as:

<b>Position</b>	: <b>Social Work Fellow</b>
Nature of Appointment	: Contract Basis
Number of Vacancy	: 5 (2 Female and 3 Male)
Contract Period	: 3 Years (renewable on an annual basis based on performance appraisal and project requirements).
Consolidated Salary	: Rs. 40,000/- per month.
Preferable Age	: Under 35 years as on 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026.
Location	: Bhopal/Sehore (M.P.)

**Note:** The Fellow may require field visits to the project areas as and when required.

**The last date for receipt of application: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

#### **About Project Nyaya Sewa:**

Project Nyaya Sewa is a legal action and intervention initiative dedicated to strengthening access to legal aid, promoting fair trial rights, and ensuring justice for undertrial prisoners and marginalised communities within the criminal justice system. The project seeks to bridge systemic gaps between law and lived realities, particularly for those who remain unheard and unrepresented.

The initiative operates at the intersection of legal research, policy advocacy, capacity building, and grassroots engagement, with a focused commitment to improving both access to justice and the quality of legal representation.

#### **About the Programme:**

**Project Nyaya Sewa Fellowship Programme** ('the Programme') is an opportunity for young lawyers and social workers to provide quality legal representation to undertrial prisoners.

The Programme mentors a group of young professionals to collaborate with the Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority to ensure fair trials for undertrial prisoners at both the pre-trial and trial stages.



The Programme's twin goals are to reduce the undertrial population in prisons and to strengthen the legal aid system in Madhya Pradesh. To this end, the programme includes both training and litigation components.

#### **About the Position:**

This is a project position on a contractual basis exclusively for the Project Nyaya Sewa undertaken by NLIU, Bhopal in collaboration with Azim Premji Foundation. The maximum duration of the position will be commensurate with the duration of the project. The initial appointment will be for a period of one year and further extendable on yearly basis for a period of 03 years, subject to continued project requirements and satisfactory performance. The incumbent on this project position will not be entitled to claim any employment with NLIU, Bhopal or Azim Premji Foundation under any circumstances. There will not be any employer – employee relationship with NLIU, Bhopal for any purposes. The incumbent will report to the Programme Director of this project for all purposes. The employee has to submit an affidavit to this purpose and sign an agreement of services. The services may be discontinued with a one-month notice at any point in time without assigning any reason.

The Social Work Fellow will be expected to reside within the municipal limits of the city, but may be required to travel frequently to other districts as per programme needs. The responsibilities of the Social Work Fellows will include:

- A. Assess the socio-economic context of prisoners who are supported by Legal Fellows.
- B. Refer cases to Legal Fellows.
- C. Guide families of prisoners about legal procedures.
- D. Explore the documentation needs of prisoners towards filing bail applications and accessing government schemes.
- E. Co-ordinate between prisons, police, DLSA and welfare departments to explore support to prisoners and families.
- F. Make regular visits to the male/female section of the designated prison to establish rapport with staff and inmates and identify clients/beneficiaries to provide socio-legal support.
- G. Along with Legal Fellows, organize legal awareness sessions for inmates.
- H. Coordinate with Legal Fellows to create a sustainable model for legal aid services in the prison.
- I. Establish & promote links between the prisoners and their families/relatives through home visits and phone calls.
- J. Provide information and facilitate linkages to government schemes for inmates and their families.
- K. Arrange for *Mulakats*.
- L. Prepare regular reports and documents about their work and progress.

#### **About the Role:**

- A. Visiting the prisons, interacting with under-trial prisoners, identifying individuals who need legal aid from the DLSA and writing applications to the DLSA on their behalf.



- B. Identifying under-trial prisoners entitled for bail/early release and referring such cases to the legal fellows / DLSA / UTRC / Prison Authorities.
- C. Socio-legal interventions with under-trial prisoners through the legal proceedings at both pre-trial and trial stages.
- D. Home visits and working with families of under-trial prisoners in gathering information/documents relevant to their case.
- E. Co-ordinating with authorities if required for gathering relevant documents like age proof, address proof, medical certificates, etc.
- F. Identifying special needs of under-trial prisoners, including pregnancy, claims for juvenility, disability, terminal illnesses, mental health issues, situation of children left outside or living in institutions, etc.
- G. Organising awareness camps within and outside the prison from time to time in collaboration with DLSA.
- H. Organising training of PLVs within and outside the prison from time to time in collaboration with DLSA.
- I. Organising workshops and meetings for training and capacity building of the DLSA staff, panel lawyers and duty counsels on legal aid, bail, PR Bond and probation-related issues from time to time in collaboration with DLSA.
- J. Collaborating with law colleges for activating Legal Aid Clinics working under the NALSA Scheme on Legal Aid Clinics.

**Qualifications & Requirements:**

- A. Post-graduate qualification in Social Work (M.A. in Social Work/MSW) or Criminology or any other Helping Professions/Social Science/Humanities subject or related areas from a Central/Deemed/State-recognised University.
- B. Familiarity with the use of MS-Office, emails and the internet.
- C. Preference may be given to social workers with a minimum of 2 years of experience or work experience in the criminal justice system.
- D. Proficiency in reading, writing and speaking Hindi will be given preference.
- E. Ability to work effectively in teams as well as independently.
- F. During the contract period, Fellows shall not take up any other employment without the Prior permission of the employer.

**Application Process:** Interested persons are required to fill out the **Google Form** via Google Link: <https://forms.gle/eBirKdMQUbznz6yxP7>

**Selection Process:**

Shortlisted candidates will be called for the selection process, which will be held in Bhopal. The selection process will include a Written Test (to assess the knowledge and application of social work and managerial skills) and an interview. The shortlisted candidates shall be informed of the next round in the selection process via email.

**Deadline:**

Applications received after 11:59 PM on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 will not be considered.



**Note:**

1. National Law Institute University, Bhopal, is an equal opportunity employer.
2. Programme ensures access to legal representation for prisoners regardless of the offence.
3. National Law Institute University, Bhopal, reserves the right to conduct interviews and not fill these positions.
4. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted via email.
5. No TA/DA will be paid to the candidates for the selection process.
6. This is not an advertisement for regular government service.
7. The Programme Director has the right to remove a person in case of his/her work and conduct are not found satisfactory after due approval of the Vice Chancellor of the University.

These positions shall be paid under the grant received from the Azim Premji Foundation.

**Registrar  
NLIU Bhopal**

