

## **Description of your organization**

The [Open Society Justice Initiative](#), a litigation and law center housed within the [Open Society Foundations](#), strives to ensure that the law, too often an instrument of power alone, is shaped and employed in the service of justice.

Unlike the rest of the Foundations, we do not give grants; we take action in our own name. Our lawyers have represented scores of individuals and groups before domestic and international courts and tribunals around the world. These cases seek not only to vindicate individual claims, but to establish and strengthen the law's protection for all.

Working with partners, we also document violations, propose and pilot solutions, engage policymakers, and offer assistance that draws on our global legal experience, including supporting efforts to extend access to justice to all. With offices around the world, we work in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe on a wide range of issues, including:

- national security and human rights
- citizenship and equality
- criminal justice reform
- climate justice
- combatting corruption
- protection for migrants
- economic justice
- freedom of information and expression
- international justice for grave crimes
- access to justice
- strengthening international human rights institutions.

## **Overview of the research topic and scope**

Hundreds of billions of dollars of private and public investment are being channeled into energy, infrastructure, transportation and other projects in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America that have negative impacts on the climate, and disproportionately on marginalized populations.

### **Research questions:**

Project 1: Climate-related disclosure at SEC

This project covers research on possible litigation before state courts, challenging anti-ESG state laws, as well as misrepresentation procedures under SEC.

Project 2: Reparations at UN Treaty Bodies

This project covers research on UN Committees' concluding observations regarding reparations for slavery.

### Project 3: Human rights and environmental violations by financial institutions

This project covers research on human rights' violations connected to American and French banks in the Caribbean.

### Project 4: IACHR and ICJ

Research on the impact of the IACHR jurisprudence in the ICJ case law from 2019 to the present times.

### Project 5: South African Law

May corporate directors be held accountability for climate change risks under South Africa Law? Could Sections 29(2) and 76 (3) of the South African Companies Act be interpreted to impose a duty for directors to take into account climate risks in decision-making?

## **Relevance of the project**

This research help answer a question central to the Justice Initiative's work on climate justice: What are the most promising avenues for litigation to hold corporations responsible for the anthropogenic climate crisis? This research project offers the opportunity to apply fact and law to one of the most important issues facing your generation – climate change. It is the source of one of history's most egregious injustices (the poor paying for the safety and comfort of the rich) and the cause of many human rights abuses, from the right to life to the right to a clean and stable environment.

The results of the research will help inform the Justice Initiative's decision-making in setting litigation priorities and crafting legal advocacy strategies for its climate justice work for the next several years.

## **Links to relevant websites**

[Open Society Justice Initiative](#)

[Open Society Foundations](#)

## **Preferences for language skills and professional experience**

- Familiarity with climate issues (Projects 1, 4 and 5).
- Familiarity with financial institutions and corporate accountability principles (Project 5).
- Familiarity with UN Treaty Body system (Project 2).
- Familiarity with the IACHR (Project 4).
- Familiarity with South African Law (Project 5).