



## Volunteer Role Description Legal Fellowship Program 2018/19

### About Mother's Choice

Mother's Choice is a local charity serving the many children without families and pregnant teenagers in Hong Kong. We join hands with our community to give hope and change the life stories of vulnerable girls and babies. Our vision is to see every child in a loving family.

Each year in Hong Kong, thousands of teenage girls face crisis pregnancy with no support, and thousands of children are in need of a family for a number of reasons including neglect, abuse, abandonment, or family breakdown. We're here to help the most vulnerable in our community by providing high-quality services for children, youth and families, and actively providing ways to prevent the problem.

### Legal Fellow, Community Education

Mother's Choice seeks a volunteer Legal Fellow to support community education child protection initiatives at Mother's Choice to equip and empower front line professionals working with children and youth to be the voice for vulnerable children. Reporting to the Manager of Community Education (Child Protection), the Legal Fellow will play a key role in our mission to educate and mobilize our community so that all children can be in a safe, permanent and loving family and avoid crises pregnancy.

The Fellow will be responsible for engaging the community (including our university partners) in researching and presenting papers on proven policies and best practices at both individual and systemic level, and developing training for front line professionals to equip them with the skills and knowledge to better safeguard our children in out-of-home residential care. The ideal candidate should have a deep commitment to our Mother's Choice vision to see every child in a loving family, a familiarity with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and experience in comparative research in child rights law and issues.

The Legal Fellow will be a key member of the Community Education team, driving to educate and mobilize our community to become an agent for change in practices and policies so that all children can experience safe, permanent and loving families and avoid teenage pregnancy.

### Roles and Responsibilities

- Propose, develop, and follow through activities and events to engage key stakeholders to exchange practice wisdoms and experience on work with vulnerable children in Hong Kong to identify gaps and issues.
- In support of the Community Education Manager, work with Mother's Choice colleagues to equip them to use the law in advocating for the permanency for the children in care.
- Collaborate with partners to conduct comparative research, draft recommendations and present papers on proven systems, policies and practices that provide greater oversight and safeguards to better protect vulnerable children.



- With reference to models of best practices, develop a strategy for engaging and mobilizing community stakeholders to become role models in their disciplines and form a collaborative support system to ensure children are in safe, loving, and permanent families.
- Conduct comparative legal research: analyze relevant legislative ordinances that may impact children and compare Hong Kong legislation and practice with other countries' best practices.
- Engage in local platforms such as consultation forums, Legco (Government) sub-committees meetings and other related opportunities to be the voice for children in out-of-home residential care.

## Qualifications and Requirements

### Experience and Skills:

- LLB, LLM, JD degree or equivalent with experience in interpreting law and legislative ordinance.
- Strong analytical and research capacity
- Excellent English communication skills, particularly in writing and presentation
- Cantonese research and writing skills an advantage
- Experience in producing research papers, position papers for a varied audience

### Qualities:

- Committed to Mother's Choice mission, vision, and values
- Must share the commitment of Mother's Choice in upholding the safety and protection of children as paramount
- Demonstrated interest in and commitment to serving as a voice for children in care in Hong Kong
- Ability to work on one's own initiative and operate as part of a team
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable to a changing environment
- Excellent interpersonal skills

### Commitment:

- This role requires a minimum commitment of 9 months or more.
- Mother's Choice working hours are from 9:00am-5:30pm

### Other Requirements:

- All volunteers will be required to read and sign a Volunteer Agreement
- All volunteers will undergo a 3-month review period
- A reference check will be required

## Post Internship

### The Fellow will:

- Benefit from a unique opportunity, enriching their experience and enhancing their future employability
- Become a champion for vulnerable children

## Remuneration

This is an unpaid position, but we do provide the following benefits for full-time volunteers including:

- Housing (Dormitory style accommodation for women only)
- Food Allowance
- 5 rest days for every three months served



### Local Volunteers

Local volunteers (holding a HKID) can choose to live in the Mother's Choice full time volunteer hostel, or continue to live in their own accommodation. A food allowance will be provided.

### Overseas Volunteers

A valid entry/training visa is required for all non-Hong Kong Identity Card holders who volunteer with Mother's Choice on a full time basis. Please note that Mother's Choice will not accept any volunteer without the appropriate visa. After receiving your application and supporting documents, if you are approved, we will arrange for your visa to be approved by the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

You may have to send copies of your education certificates and other qualifications to obtain the visa. It can take up to six weeks for your visa to be approved, and there is no guarantee that your visa will be approved by the Hong Kong Immigration Department. On arrival in Hong Kong, we will arrange for you to apply for a Hong Kong Identity Card, which you are required to carry at all times. This ID card will give you access to Hong Kong's public medical system.

### To Apply

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume with the subject: Legal Fellow Enquiry to [mcvolunteers@motherschoice.org](mailto:mcvolunteers@motherschoice.org). Applicants who are invited to continue with their application will be required to undergo a Sexual Conviction Record Check or Police Check (in Hong Kong or the country you currently live in).