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Junior Lawyers Against Poverty (JLAP)

JLAP at Your University: Briefing Note

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About JLAP

JLAP is the Junior Lawyers division of Lawyers Against Poverty (LAP), a growing movement of legal activists from across the legal community, working together to take action on social injustice. Lawyers Against Poverty focuses its activities on connecting members and providing opportunities to get directly involved in projects that relieve poverty and address inequality.

JLAP was founded in 2015 to include university students in Lawyers Against Poverty projects. JLAP Groups now operate at universities across the UK and in Africa, with hundreds of students participating in JLAP projects since its inception. JLAP Groups run activities relating to increasing student knowledge of, and participation in, access to justice, the rule of law and human rights. JLAP Groups seek to provide students with the knowledge and practical experience that they need to go on to have fulfilling careers in law and connect with a wider community of lawyers committed to building a fairer world without poverty.

Setting Up A JLAP Group

We suggest that students interested in setting up a JLAP Group first speak to their university law department to inform them that they intend to set up a JLAP Group. Once you have done this **please send the name and contact information for a law department representative (an academic or law school support administrator) to JLAP HQ.**

Most JLAP Groups are official university societies, or sections of existing societies such as a law society or pro bono society. You can choose which method you would like to use.

We suggest that each JLAP Group forms a committee, which includes one individual who is the main point of contact between us at JLAP HQ and your group. **Please send us the name and contact information for that individual once they have been chosen.**

If students graduate at the end of an academic year and leave their JLAP Group, please ensure that responsibilities are handed over to new students, and their information is provided to JLAP HQ.

Running a JLAP Group

JLAP Groups can choose the activities they would like to run each year. Some suggested activities are set out below.

Please keep JLAP HQ updated on which activities you intend to run, and how these go! If you create social media channels for your JLAP Group, **please post details about your activities and photos and tag @JLAPlawyers and @LawyersvPoverty.** Attached as an annex to this briefing document is a **copy of the JLAP logo** for branding your social media channels and for any flyers or hand-outs you produce.



JLAP Activities

If you need help with designing an activity you can **contact JLAP HQ for advice at any time.**

Blog Posts and Legal Articles

We are always looking for blog posts and legal articles that can be added to our blog at <http://juniorlawyersagainstpoverity.org/>. You can find some examples on that website.

Some possible topics could be:

- Analysis of a legal issue at home (such as access to justice, legal aid, pro bono, business and human rights)
- Analysis of a legal issue with international relevance (such as an international law provision, a component of international human rights law, climate change regulation)
- Analysis of a legal issue with relevance to a particular jurisdiction (such as mining rights in India, indigenous land rights in Brazil)

There is no required word count or style requirements for blog articles but they will be reviewed by JLAP prior to being posted. Article ideas can be run by the JLAP team prior to you starting. Completed articles should be sent to JLAP HQ.

Fundraising

JLAP Groups raise funds for the Lawyers Against Poverty Justice Fund. This fund contributes towards supporting legal aid clinics and public interest litigation projects around the world. To date, the Justice Fund has made grants to partners in Uganda, Nigeria, Pakistan, Greece, Kenya and Jordan. Recent recipients of grants from the fund include: Justice Centre for Legal Aid in Jordan, the Greek Council for Refugees and European Lawyers in Lesbos.

Possible fundraising activities include:

- A sponsored run or other sports event
- A bake sale
- A collection pot at a JLAP event
- A ticketed JLAP event

We have a dedicated profile on JustGiving that can be used for your fundraising activities. **Please email JLAP HQ to be connected to that profile.**

Twinning

Twinning is connecting law students with other law students at a university in another country, to engage in knowledge sharing around contemporary legal issues, discussions of different experiences of law school and career support.

To set-up a twinning programme you should follow these steps:

- Write to JLAP HQ requesting permission to start a new twinning programme, setting out:
 - Which university you would like to twin with
 - Why you have chosen that university
 - How many students you would like to be involved in the twinning
- Once this information is reviewed, JLAP HQ will reach out to that university and ask them if they want to join the twinning programme
- Upon confirmation, JLAP HQ will facilitate connecting you with your twin university to set-up your twinning project.

Examples of projects that past twins have run include:

- Shared legal resources
- Skype 'networking' and information sessions
- Written joint articles on issues of mutual interest relating to law and human rights
- Competed in online written debates on areas relating to access to justice

Legal Textbook Exchange

We work with the International Law Book Facility (ILBF – <https://ilbf.org.uk/>) to arrange for the collection of used legal textbooks from law students and academic libraries. These are shipped out to libraries around the world, where there is a short supply of good quality legal texts. **If you would like to participate in a legal textbook exchange, please email JLAP HQ to be connected with ILBF.**

Guest Speaker Events and Panels

JLAP Groups regularly run guest speaker events and panels at their universities. These can be online through zoom/skype, or in person (subject to your university's requirements on social distancing).

Events can be on any area of law, but popular events are often those relating to environmental law and climate change, business and human rights or refugee and migration law. These events can also be career-focused with participation from law firms. We encourage you to send us a short summary of your event and any pictures or videos taken, so that these can be highlighted on the JLAP blog.

If you would like to access the network of Lawyers Against Poverty lawyers and specialists to find a speaker for an event, **please email JLAP HQ setting out the details of the activity and type of speaker you are looking for.**

Mentoring and Careers Advice



We are building a dedicated '**Careers**' page on our blog. Here you will be able to find guidance on pursuing a career in law, including **sample CV and Career Aspirations** worksheets, information about completing a post-graduate course in law or development, links to **scholarships** and **interviews** with practicing lawyers.

We are also launching a **mentoring programme**, linking our JLAP Groups with the senior network of Lawyers Against Poverty. This mentoring programme can match students with lawyers practicing in areas such as human rights law, immigration and asylum law or environmental law. Our network includes solicitors, barristers and legal academics.

When we have matched a student with a mentor from our network, we will ask the student to complete a Career Aspiration worksheet to share with their mentor ahead of their chat. We will then leave it to the student to liaise with the mentor, but we will be on hand if there are any difficulties scheduling a time to speak.

Students and their mentors will complete a **one-off 30-minute online careers advice session** where mentors can help students in a variety of ways, including: giving feedback on a CV, discussing interview techniques, helping to identify a chosen career path, answering specific questions or giving general advice.

It is up to the student and the mentor if they would like to continue the relationship through follow up conversations, feedback or shadowing beyond this initial 30-minute conversation. We do not ask mentors to commit to this but some may be happy to do so. Following the session, we will follow up with students for some feedback on how they found the session.

If you or anyone in your JLAP Group would like to express an interest in participating in the mentoring programme, **please email JLAP HQ setting out:**

- Their degree, university and year of graduation; and
- The area(s) of law they are interested in pursuing.

[Refugee Confidence Sessions - UK](#)

LAP has recently launched a new initiative offering the UK refugee community access to information about their rights in the UK, covering a wide range of themes including debt, employment, criminal justice, welfare, housing and social norms. LAP works with groups across the UK to provide the sessions in partnership with local organisations providing support to refugees.

There are opportunities for JLAP students interested in legal research to provide editorial oversight of our workshop resources. Our **Refugee Legal Confidence Sessions Handbook** contains a detailed overview of many aspects of the legal, social security and justice systems. It is important that we keep this up to date and ensure it is accessible for others to use. Research opportunities are a flexible way to volunteer alongside your studies. If you would like to get involved: **please email JLAP HQ setting out your interest and availability**



Annex

Logo:

