

UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots Coalition Coordinator

Part-time consultancy opportunity commencing in September/October 2020

Posted: 13 August 2020

Deadline: 1 September 2020

The UK-based NGO members of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, and allied organisations and individuals concerned with the ethical, moral and technical challenges posed by increasing autonomy in weapons systems, are looking for a consultant to coordinate us in our work to make the case for UK support for a global prohibition on lethal autonomous weapons systems.

As the consultant coordinator you will be building on the strong institutional and strategic groundwork laid by our current coordinator and coalition members to drive forward our planned universities campaign, UK political advocacy work, and tech-sector focused work as well as other developing workstreams.

Interviews will be held over zoom during the week commencing 7 September 2020 (please state your availability on the mornings of 7, 8 and 9 September in your cover letter). The interview team will comprise a representative each from three UK members of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots steering committee: Article 36, United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom UK.

The total fee available for 24 weeks consultancy is £9,600. From this we expect at least one full day a week of consultancy work on average from the consultant. This will include required coordination and attendance of monthly (currently virtual) meetings of the UK coalition and its working groups - otherwise the post will be results-based and hours flexible. There is a limited budget available for expenses. The contract may be extendable, subject to performance and funding availability.

The consultant will be hired by UNA-UK, a UK- registered charity based in central London. We would prefer a consultant based in or able to travel to London for in-person meetings if and when these become possible again during the consultancy period. Otherwise, the role is fairly flexible and would involve a mixture of homeworking, external meetings and desk-based work at UNA-UK (if and when the latter becomes viable).

Please email Ben Donaldson on donaldson@una.org.uk attaching a CV and short cover letter by midnight on 1 September 2020 if you would like to be considered for the consultancy.

Background

Rapid advances in technology are raising concerns about the emergence of new weapons systems with ever increasing autonomy, giving rise to the imminent prospect of the development and deployment of weapons systems which can identify targets and apply force to kill without meaningful human oversight.

As a country with advanced military capabilities and one of the first to develop and deploy armed drones, the UK is at the forefront of the drive towards increasing autonomy in military systems. There is growing concern among NGOs, students, academics, roboticists, tech workers and parliamentarians that the UK is not supporting a pre-emptive ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems (also known as "killer robots") at the United Nations, leaving the door open to the development of unaccountable and inhumane weapons systems.

Responsibilities

Coordination: Oversee, keep track of and push forward work on the UK Campaign to Stop Killer Robots' main current workstreams (universities, political, tech) and other priorities for work as identified with the coalition, working with and to support coalition members.

Coalition building: Strengthen a wider UK coalition advocating meaningful human control in weapons systems with a focus on coalition building among the tech, NGO, academic, parliamentary, finance/investment, and military sectors as well as building consensus on policy positions within and between these groups.

Advocacy: As part of the political workstream, develop relationships with major UK political parties, build a network of engaged parliamentary champions and coordinate lobbying actions within different sectors to increase pressure on the UK Government to act.

Education and communication: Act as a knowledge hub for coalition members, sharing updates on relevant international developments at the UN and elsewhere as well as proactive work at key campaign moments to raise awareness of this issue in the press and via public events. Coordinate and develop the UK campaign's social media presence at moments of focus for public communication.

Grant reporting/fundraising: Regular reporting on activities and impact and feeding into funding applications where appropriate.

The consultant

We are looking for an individual with some or all of the following qualities:

- Experience of or demonstrated ability for coalition or campaign coordination and working collaboratively and effectively with a diversity of stakeholders to achieve common goals
- Highly organised and motivated, and able to work independently
- Knowledge and strong interest in this issue area, or of UK foreign policy, international organisations and policy issues in the areas such as laws of armed conflict, human rights, international law, disarmament and new/digital technologies
- Experience working for an NGO or as an official in a relevant field
- Educated to degree level in a relevant field
- Experience organising events and meetings
- Experience working with parliamentarians, UK officials and lobbying the UK Government
- Comfortable working/communicating with representatives across different sectors

About UNA-UK

Founded in 1945, the [United Nations Association – UK](#) (UNA-UK) is the country's foremost advocate for principled UK action at the UN. We are the only charity in the UK devoted to building support for the UN amongst policymakers and have a long legacy advocating UK support for disarmament over many decades. UNA-UK is a charitable company limited by guarantee (no.1146016). We are completely independent of the UN and receive no funding from it.

UNA-UK welcomes applications from underrepresented and marginalised constituencies. Due to the high volume of applications we are only able to respond to shortlisted applicants. For questions about this opportunity please email Ben Donaldson (donaldson@una.org.uk). While we will attempt to respond promptly to all enquiries, capacity is limited at present and so please bear with us.

We are very grateful to the global [Campaign to Stop Killer Robots](#) and the [Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust](#) for making this opportunity possible.