



## Crisis Action

### Mission/History:

Crisis Action's mission is to use new models of global collaboration to avert conflicts, prevent human rights abuses and ensure governments fulfil their responsibility to protect civilians.

Working behind the scenes to catalyse and convene joint action, Crisis Action is a pioneering NGO that unites international and grassroots organisations in the global North and South to protect civilians from conflict. Our bespoke and innovative opt-in coalitions identify experts with complementary talents to create win-win partnerships able to take risks and act with urgency. As a coordinating body we seek no public profile or media spotlight, instead we act as a neutral arbiter to emphasise the voice of the coalition.

In order to effect change on the conflicts on which the organisation is working, Crisis Action's *modus operandi* is to:

- Identify who has influence over a given situation;
- Identify the action required by them to affect the positive change we want to see;
- Convince those with power of the need for action;
- Create the political space for them to take action;
- Provide a mandate for action, e.g. calls from national/regional civil society;
- Ensure action is taken through sustained follow-up.

Combining our strategic presence in global political centres with a deliberately small staff, we respond rapidly and with flexibility to situations of immediate concern and act as a catalyst for lasting social change. Our national offices (London, Washington DC, Paris and Johannesburg) focus on influencing their national governments. Our multilateral offices (Brussels, New York, Cairo and Nairobi) engage with, respectively, the EU, UN, Arab League and African Union. Our Cairo and Nairobi offices also focus on a small number of influential governments in their respective regions and building the capacity of Arab and African NGOs. We have found that the key to impact across all of these markets is the ability to work with local groups to mobilise a truly global voice. As we look to the future, we are building relationships and trialling pioneering joint advocacy techniques with civil society groups in emerging powers, including South Africa, India and Brazil.

### Notable Outcomes:

Since Crisis Action's establishment in 2004, our strategic advocacy has helped to save thousands of lives by altering the course of government policy on armed conflict. Our campaigns have helped to secure one of the largest UN peacekeeping forces for Darfur; prevent Zimbabwean President Mugabe torturing civilians by stopping the supply of bank note paper to the regime; secure a no-fly zone in Libya and prevent massacres in Benghazi; bring to justice those responsible for mass rape in the DRC; convince key governments to take decisive action to stem civilian massacres by the Lord's Resistance Army; spur international efforts to lift the Gaza blockade; secure the first ever UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Burma; intensify international action to prevent renewed civil war in Sudan; support hundreds of Arab and international NGOs to convince the Arab League and UN to respond to mass violence against civilians in Egypt and Syria; secure new EU funding guidelines, setting a precedent that will stop millions of Euros in EU aid going to institutions in the Israeli settlements; and secure a unanimous UN Security Council Resolution to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Crisis Action's receipt of the 2013 Ford Foundation grant – naming Crisis Action as one of seven NGOs to reshape the global human rights movement, 2013 Skoll Foundation Award for Social Entrepreneurship and the 2012 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions are a tremendous vindication of our innovative model and impact.

**Opportunity/Challenge to address:**

The conflict in Syria is the defining humanitarian crisis of our time and demands a proportionate public response. In April this year Crisis Action coordinated WithSyria, the largest ever public campaign to date for those affected by the conflict in Syria, bringing together more than 130 organisations from 27 countries. Crisis Action secured the contribution by Banksy of a bespoke version of his Girl with the Red Balloon image; vigils and iconic illuminations organised by partners and wider civil society in more than 40 countries around the world; an online campaign which reached nearly a quarter of a billion people; and commitments by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Prime Minister Cameron and Foreign Minister Fabius of France and others to make every effort to ensure the people of Syria do not lose another year to bloodshed and suffering. Crisis Action is now seeking to sustain and build this public coalition to give world leaders the support or the necessary pressure to make the hard decisions needed to end the bloodshed.

Crisis Action will also be working with partners to complement this public mobilisation with targeted advocacy and campaign activities aimed at ending the use of indiscriminate weapons in Syria, such as barrel bombs, and ensuring humanitarian aid gets to all those who need it. In October 2013 the Security Council unanimously agreed a Presidential Statement on humanitarian access and protection of civilians, backed up in February by a unanimously-agreed Resolution. Decision-makers have reported back that efforts convened by Crisis Action (such as an unprecedented global call by over 50 doctors from 25 countries in September for humanitarian access; and a direct appeal to President Putin in February from 47 former diplomats and foreign ministers) contributed to both these breakthroughs. After nearly three years of deadlock in the Council on the humanitarian crisis Resolution 2139 was a dramatic development but the focus now is on translating this into humanitarian progress on the ground for Syrians being denied aid and suffering appalling violence. The short-term objectives for the Syria campaign are to:

- Amplify the voice of moderate, non-violent Syrians and their hopes for their future;
- Shine a spotlight on the conduct of the fighting and increase collective efforts to stop the devastating use of indiscriminate weapons in Syria;
- Secure a radical uplift in humanitarian provision and access for Syrians in need;
- Unlock the level of diplomatic effort required to secure a political solution to the crisis.

The long-term objective is for a lasting and peaceful resolution of the Syrian crisis.

**Point of Contact for purposes of this position:** Sophie Sutcliffe, UK Director

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***THE POSITION***

**Title:** Syria Campaign and Research Assistant

**Key responsibilities:**

- Working closely with the Global Syria Campaign Lead and acting as a central coordinating point for the campaign team spread out across Crisis Action's eight offices;

- Supporting the development and delivery of the organisation's advocacy and campaigning work;
- Engaging with key partners and policymakers;
- Tracking campaign developments and disseminating intel to the wider team;
- Recording the impact of campaigning activities, working with the campaign lead to provide internal timelines for delivery and help ensure these are met and coordinating the update of central campaign resources by different offices;
- Attending events and providing research around specific elements to the crisis;
- Taking minutes on internal and external calls and in meetings with key organisations and individuals, including in Government;
- Monitoring UK and international news;
- Supporting the organisation's use of social media.

**Essential qualifications:**

- Excellent organisational and communication skills;
- Self-motivated, able to take the initiative when required;
- Ability to multi-task and prioritise workstreams;
- Excellent administrative and computer skills;
- An interest in conflict issues and/or campaigning and advocacy;
- Ability to take minutes and produce briefings on a wide variety of topics;
- Fluency in oral and written English is required.

**Desirable qualifications (non-essential but an asset for this position):**

- Experience of working closely with NGO coalitions or policy-makers;
- Experience of campaigning or lobbying;
- Working knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage;
- Experience of working in Syria or the surrounding region.

**Work Site Location:** London

**Annual salary:** National Minimum Wage (plus grant)

**Visa requirements:** Applicants must be legally allowed to work in the UK

**Possibilities for extension of one year opportunity:** Subject to ongoing priorities

**Anything more you would like to share:**

Working at Crisis Action offers invaluable exposure to policymakers and organisations working at the forefront of international crisis situations. Through working with Crisis Action you will interact across our network with these individuals and organisations on a daily basis and will have an opportunity to build a reputation with possible future employers. Recent Campaign and Research Assistants have gone on to work for Oxfam, 38 Degrees, DFID and UNHCR, amongst others.

**What others say about Crisis Action:**

*"At a critical juncture of the conflict in Syria, Crisis Action enabled me to meet with senior US government policymakers and journalists in Washington DC to report on the horrors I had witnessed taking place inside Syria. Their behind the scenes work is literally lifesaving."*

**Abdulkader Al Dhon, Journalist and Syrian activist**

*"Crisis Action plays an important and catalytic role in informing, mobilising and supporting organizations – including The Elders – to act decisively and strategically in response to emergency situations in many parts of the world. I am a strong supporter of Crisis Action's impressive work."*

**Mabel van Oranje, Former CEO, The Elders**

*"Crisis Action magnifies the diverse strengths of its partners around the world by helping them forge common, and strategic, advocacy campaigns. When NGOs work together, international policymakers are more likely to take note--and to take action."*

**Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch**