



StoptheDrugWar.org • P.O. Box 9853 • Washington, DC 20016
+1 202-293-8340 • drcnet@drcnet.org • <https://stopthedrugwar.org>

WRITING INTERNSHIPS

Hours: Flexible, Based on School Requirements or Availability

Supervisor: Writer/Editor, with Executive Director

Location: Washington, DC or remotely

Internship length: February 1, 2018 - April 30, 2018, negotiable (also willing to discuss summer or fall internships)

The Organization

StoptheDrugWar.org works for an end to prohibition (e.g. for some form of "legalization") and the "drug war" in its current form. We want to replace the illicit drug trade and criminalization with a combination of regulation, health and social programs addressing substances' risks and harms.

StoptheDrugWar.org also works on partial reform efforts that are politically feasible in the shorter term. Some we're involved in are sentencing and police reform, advocacy for harm reduction practices such as needle exchange and naloxone distribution, demilitarization of US-driven drug policy in Latin America and other regions (including the US border), availability of substances for medical use, and human rights as affected by drug policies.

We are primarily US-based, but involved not only in US policy but also foreign policy. We are part of the global community of reform-minded NGOs who advocate internationally. We are a "niche" organization, in that we focus our limited budget and staffing on a few programs for which we are able to make a unique or disproportionate impact.

Our Values

- Tolerant
- Pluralistic
- Intellectual
- Open-Minded
- Friendly
- Passionate
- Positive
- Compassionate
- Team Players

The Internships

Writing Interns will report to our Writer/Editor, Phillip S. Smith, but also work with the Executive Director, David Borden. Work will principally be related to our online newsletter, *Drug War Chronicle*, but could also involve other areas such as legislative action alerts or reports.

The Chronicle is a staple resource of the drug policy reform movement, and provides a needed flow of information to advocates, journalists, policymakers and others. The Chronicle is in its 21st year of publication and recently saw its 1,000th issue. Chronicle stories include full-length features with original interviews and reporting, news briefs that summarize other current stories, and daily roundups (the "Chronicle AM") consisting of one- or two-sentence paragraphs with links to outside stories, enabling us to cover the full range of issues of interest to drug policy reform during this very active time in the issue.

Writing interns will have the opportunity to write their own articles for the Chronicle, reporting to our Writer/Editor, and will assist with research on other articles. Writing interns will also help to follow the news, select articles to link to in the Chronicle AM, and prepare first draft paragraphs for the Chronicle AM.

Visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle> to learn more about our newsletter, and visit <https://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/testimonials> for how it gets put to use.

Responsibilities

- Tracking news about drug policy.
- Research assistance for news articles.
- Identifying news sources to improve our coverage of select issues.
- Drafting short paragraph news items for our daily roundups.
- Writing original articles.
- Proofreading articles.

Job Requirements:

- Strong writing and research skills.
- Strong attention to detail.
- The applicant must use their own computer and telephone.

Work Arrangements

- Our practice is to work with interns to find specific tasks and projects that fit with your goals and interests, while being helpful to our organization's objectives. We want people to be engaged in their work with us and to find it useful for them.
- StoptheDrugWar.org has not rented our own office since 2011, but we have use of space rented by a partner group, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). When not there, we typically meet at local coffee shops.
- Interns and the Executive Director will meet at least once per week (normally in person, when necessary by phone or videoconference) to go over work and plans. In addition to directly work-related discussions, these meetings will also provide time for the mutual sharing of insights and knowledge and experience.
- Interns are encouraged to attend coalition and working group meetings that take place in Washington on a variety of drug policy and criminal justice issues, as well as think thank forums related to the issue.
- Unfortunately we are not funded to provide financial compensation for internships this semester. We hope that will change in the future.

Contact

- David Borden, Executive Director, borden@drcnet.org, (202) 236-8620.

– END –