



2 April 2018

VACANCY NOTICE
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES OFFICE IN SRI LANKA

Title	- Head of National Office
Duty Station	- Colombo
Grade / Position Number	- UN Salary Scale - NOC / 10029142
Type of Contract	- Fixed-Term (<i>Initial contract for one year</i>)
Effective Date	- 1 June 2018

Organizational Context:

UNHCR in Sri Lanka focuses on three priority areas: protection and solutions for refugees and asylum seekers; facilitation of voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees and pursuit of statelessness related advocacy. Given that UNHCR has significantly rightsized its operational presence during last few years, strategic and focussed leadership and management is essential to respond to the needs of persons of concern in a country transitioning from the post conflict/humanitarian to development interventions. The Head of National Office will be required to lead and supervise the UNHCR teams in Colombo and Jaffna under the overall supervision and guidance of the Regional Representative based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Duties/responsibilities:

- The protection needs of populations of concern are met through the application of international and national law, relevant UN/UNHCR protection standards and IASC principles governing humanitarian coordination
- UNHCR standards concerning the treatment of asylum seekers, refugees and returnees as well as IDPs, where applicable, are maintained and the advocacy, promotion and encouragement of the concerned authorities and local opinion makers to observe and uphold such standards is pursued
- National protection capacities are improved through direct engagement, research and advocacy with all relevant external interlocutors
- Provide updates and analyse key political and legislative developments in Sri Lanka and formulate in close consultation with RR Thailand positions regarding policies related to asylum seekers, refugees, refugee returnees and stateless persons
- Advocate for and promote international legal standards and UNHCR's position concerning the treatment of asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees, stateless persons and other persons of concern
- Monitor administrative and judicial practices and promote public understanding of and support for UNHCR's work in general, including through sensitization, advocacy and awareness-raising measures and activities
- Build and maintain effective partnerships, including with Government, civil society, UN family and with the private sector as applicable
- Ensure UNHCR resources are used effectively.

Essential minimum qualifications and professional experience required:

- Undergraduate degree (equivalent of a BA/BS) in Law, International Law, Political Sciences or related field with minimum 6 years of relevant professional experience. Graduate degree (equivalent of a Master's) plus 5 years or Doctorate degree (equivalent of a PhD) plus 4 years of previous relevant work experience may also be accepted
- Good understanding of the political and legal context in the Sri Lanka
- Demonstrated ability to lead and manage an office
- Demonstrated ability to effectively represent UNHCR
- Proven communication skills
- Fluency in English, very good knowledge of local language and understanding of local institutions.

Desirable qualifications & competencies:

- Previous experience in UNHCR or with an organisation in a related field of work.

Interested candidates are invited to fill in the Personal History form which can be obtained from www.unhcr.org/recruit/p11new.doc. Completed Personal History Forms are to be submitted on or before 15 April 2018 at 4.30 p.m. to lkacohr@unhcr.org with a subject line “**Head of National Office, UNHCR Colombo**” No late applications will be accepted.

Only candidates short-listed for tests/interviews will be contacted.