

Centre for Social Justice – Job Description

Job Title:	Researcher or Senior Researcher (Social Contract)
Reporting To:	Research Director
Contract Type:	3-year fixed-term contract
Hours:	Full-time, 35 hours per week (Mon-Fri)
Location:	Westminster, London
Salary:	£26-45,000 dependant on experience
Apply:	<p>Please submit your CV and one-page cover letter as one document in pdf format here by 23.59 on 15th February 2026. If you require adjustments or a different format for your application, please email us.</p> <p>You must have the right to work in the UK, unfortunately we are unable to sponsor visa applications.</p> <p>We're looking for real-world experience and genuine voices. Please submit original applications; our interview process will explore your ideas in depth.</p>

THE ORGANISATION

Founded in 2004, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) is one of the UK's most influential think tanks. We're here to challenge conventional thinking and put social justice at the heart of politics. Our goal is to break the cycle of poverty by tackling its root causes, not just managing the symptoms.

Our work has helped shape some of the most significant welfare and justice reforms in a generation. We focus on five interconnected pathways to poverty:

- Educational failure
- Family breakdown
- Economic dependency and worklessness
- Addiction
- Serious personal debt

We don't do this from behind desks. We're powered by the lived experience and insights of frontline charities - especially through the CSJ Foundation and our national Alliance of poverty-fighting organisations. These grassroots groups are the unsung heroes tackling Britain's toughest social issues, and we want to amplify their voice in politics, media, and philanthropy.

This is a critical moment for the CSJ. We're scaling up our research, events, digital platforms, philanthropy and external engagement - and this role is central to that growth.

THE ROLE

The Centre for Social Justice is looking for an analytical individual with excellent research skills to join the CSJ's Social Contract programme.

The successful candidate will lead their own research projects in this area, with a view to building up a better evidence and knowledge base as to the values and virtues on which our system is based. This will not be a vague and theoretical role. For example, we want to understand the relationships between personal responsibility and welfare, or parenting and education. The UK government is spending more than ever before but with little evidence of better results and we want to understand how our politics interacts with our culture.

This is a new area of research for the CSJ and will demand high levels of personal motivation and drive to turn the idea into a reality. This research will be informed by close working with various external academics and institutions in this space, seeking to become a leader in this field within Westminster. The role will work closely with a Senior Fellow who has expertise in this matter, as well as other Researchers and Analysts across the Policy and Research teams.

For the avoidance of doubt, this is a single role we are recruiting for; the final decision on the job title, seniority, reporting lines and salary will be dependent on the ultimate candidate we recruit.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for this post will include:

- Writing policy reports, briefing notes, internal memos, presentations, emails to external parties.
- Researching and analysing qualitative/statistical information, including primary sources and government data sources/other third-party data.
- Compiling freedom of information requests/other requests for access to information.
- Developing instruments for primary research (e.g. focus groups, structured interviews).
- Managing working relationships with external partners and other key stakeholders.
- Helping to develop evidence-based public policy solutions to support programme goals.
- Overseeing research reports from initial idea to publication, and designing a campaign to continue pushing forward policy recommendations
- Supporting organisational initiatives to embed recommendations from our research in the mainstream policy lexicon, build support from MPs for our proposals, and sustain public interest in this policy area.

THE PERSON

- Ability to analyse, understand and synthesise complex information, and to present these findings in a concise and engaging way
- Excellent drafting skills, including the ability to tailor to different audiences
- Self-starter, able to make recommendations on the analysis of data
- Ability to communicate well with colleagues and explain complex information simply to internal and external audiences
- A strong appreciation of the need for accuracy, quality control and process control
- Ability to plan programmes of work and manage to agreed timelines
- Ability to form working relationships with a broad range of external experts
- An interest in current affairs, politics and the social justice agenda
- A commitment to the CSJ's vision, mission and values
- Meticulous attention to detail, highly organised, calm under pressure and with a high degree of personal integrity
- A collaborative team player with initiative and a positive "can do" attitude