



Careers in Social Justice

Social justice careers can be located in nonprofit and government sectors, including think tanks, religious institutions, international organizations, law firms and many others. Social justice organizations are best organized according to the issue(s) they are concerned with. Professionals working in the field of social justice focus on issues that affect individuals' or groups of individuals' rights and access to resources (e.g. civil liberties, immigration, education, economics, environment, gender/sexuality, and agriculture).

GET INFORMED

Start researching career options in social justice by accessing information through Vault. The University Career Center offers access to Vault's 80+ industry guides and 1,000's of articles to all UMD students. Access Vault by logging into your Careers4Terps (<https://careers.umd.edu/careers4terps>) account.

Review career guides on:

- Nonprofit Jobs
- Politics, Public Policy, and Activism Jobs
- Internships with Advocacy Organizations

DISCOVER ORGANIZATIONS

Review a sample of organizations who have recruited at the University of Maryland below! Log into your Careers4Terps account, to review openings and research organizations.



START WITH THESE STEPS

1. **Identify a cause.** Is there an inequality or injustice in the world that you are passionate about solving?
2. **Search for organizations** working on the issue and review their work.
3. **Identify your skill set** and preferred environment of work to identify how you can help.
4. **Talk with people working** in the field to learn more and ask about openings.
5. **Volunteer or intern** with the population or issue of interest to gain experience and make a difference.

Social Justice Career Paths

The career titles below represent the variety of job functions available within the field of social justice.

Social justice professionals work with...

Individuals as a,

- Social worker
- Counselor
- Interpreter/Translator
- Human Services Professional
- Caseworker
- Advocate

Policy Development as a,

- Attorney
- Government Affairs Manager
- Grant Writer
- Lobbying & Policy Intern
- Politician/Campaign Worker

Education as a,

- Activist
- Graphic specialist
- Health Educator
- Journalist
- Social Media Manager/PR

Data that Informs Decisions as a,

- Campaign Manager
- Data Scientist
- Economists
- GIS Specialist
- Political Scientist
- Statistician
- Survey Research Manager

Enforcing/Monitoring Laws as a,

- Agriculture Specialist
- Business & Human Rights Assistant
- Customs & Border Protection Officer
- Lawyer
- Social Responsibility & Compliance Manager
- Wildlife Officer

Talk with professionals working in your field of interest.Reach UMD Alumni with **Terrapins Connect** (<https://terrapinsconnect.umd.edu/>).

Terrapins Connect is an online platform that allows students' virtual access to UMD alumni who have volunteered to conduct industry specific resume reviews and to share the scoop on how they broke into their field.

Featured Alumni:

- Rexanah Wyse '10: Children's Rights Activist
- Harry Smythe '09, Statistical Consultant, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Lauri Sue Robertson '73, President and Owner, Disability Awareness Consultants
- Melanie Matos '14: Program Coordinator, Capital Area Food Bank
- Mira Kahn '11: Public Health Advocate
- Shawn Magnuson '08: Health Economist and Data Scientist
- Rexanah Wyse '10: Attorney
- Caitlin Quinn '17, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager
- Tracy Owusu '06: Child Forensic Interviewer
- Courtney Keirn '17: Media Research Assistant
- Phil Hannam '09: Energy Economist, World Bank Group

**RESOURCES**

The websites below may be helpful in researching jobs/internships as well as identifying organizations that operate within your interest area. Interested in human trafficking prevention? Review resources at go.umd.edu/htpcareers.



DevNet offers job information for development-related NGOs, features events, and provides a community of information.



An excellent internship search tool for non-profits is Idealist.org. Nonprofits are organizations that promote a cause or provide a public service. Nonprofits are often at the forefront of advocacy, social issues and scientific research. Some manage and promote the arts, culture or even history in communities across the nation. Political and labor groups are nonprofit organizations, as are professional and trade organizations. The broad category of nonprofits also includes non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide critical services to areas affected by war or natural disasters.



Includes links to research sectors, foundations and openings. Also includes helpful articles. <http://commongoodcareers.org/>

UMD Leadership & Community Service-Learning: engages students in leadership development and service-learning opportunities that foster transformative learning and social change. Review a list of opportunities at, go.umd.edu/lcsl

UMD University Career Center & The President's Promise: houses a job and internship database called Careers4Terps that allows students to search for positions by industry, type of job, major and other criteria at, go.umd.edu/c4t