

Title: **Country Conditions Researcher**

Purpose: Each of ASTT's clients has fled from a country outside of the U.S. It is critical that the clinical staff (therapists and social workers) have an understanding of the current conditions in the client's country and the conditions at the time of the client's trauma. Moreover, this information is needed by the client's attorney to submit in the client's legal documents. Country conditions research facilitates successful therapy and case management, and can help clients secure asylum in the United States.

Description of Duties: Using resources provided by the Volunteer Coordinator, volunteers will research conditions in countries specified by ASTT therapists and case managers and report their results to the Volunteer Coordinator.

Qualifications: Volunteers must have access to the internet and email; be able to use an internet browser and Microsoft Word (or other text program); be willing to learn about human rights abuses; be able to tailor research to specific needs of ASTT's therapists and case managers; have the analytical skills to determine what information is pertinent.

Time Requirements: Volunteers should be prepared to research 1 country per month. Researching one country takes approximately 2-4 hours.

Orientation/ Training: Volunteers receive a general orientation to ASTT at time of interview. Pre-service instruction is provided with volunteers' first assignment. Volunteers can expect on-going support contact (via telephone or email) with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Benefits: Facilitating clients' therapy, case management, and asylum proceedings; practicing research skills; learning about other countries and cultures; working with capable and dedicated staff members.

Evaluation Procedures: The therapist or case manager requesting information completes an evaluation form for results submitted by a volunteer; at the therapist or case manager's discretion, the results of forms are shared with volunteers by the Volunteer Coordinator every 3 months.

Reporting Procedures: Volunteer report hours served with results of research.