

Researcher — Transition Security Project

Location → UK → Our preference is for the role to be London-based or near to key areas of Transition Security Project's research — Manchester, the Scottish central belt and Belfast. → Common Wealth's office is in Hackney. We have a flexible working policy although attendance at the office is expected 40 per cent of the time for London-based employees.	Salary → £38,068 (rising to £41,712 in three automatic annual increments). → Common Wealth salaries are subject to our collective bargaining agreement and annual pay negotiations. This also outlines clear policies on future progression.
Start date → As soon as feasible following appointment. This could be as early as January 2026 or later depending on the candidate's notice period.	Hours → This is a full-time position, 37.5 hours per week. We are open to discussion on total hours. Contract Type → Permanent.
Responsible to → Khem Rogaly, Principal Research Fellow at Common Wealth and Co-Director of Transition Security Project. Right to work → This position requires the right to work in the UK.	Benefits → Flexible working hours. We also accommodate caring responsibilities. Please enquire further about our carers' policy. → 38 days of annual leave (inclusive of public and bank holidays). → Eight per cent employer pension contribution. We also have an employer-funded healthcare cash plan. → Parental leave significantly above statutory. → Group life assurance at 3x salary. → In London, our office building provides: free lunch once a week; free weekly exercise classes; free yoga classes and free tea and coffee.

Common Wealth and Transition Security Project

Common Wealth is a think tank focused on securing a democratic and sustainable future. From the inequalities of the asset economy to structural solutions to the climate crisis, our work is systemic in focus and ambitious in orientation.

Since 2019, we have grown to a staff team of fifteen and set up new initiatives such as the Break Down and now Transition Security Project.

Jointly founded by Common Wealth and [Climate and Community Institute](#), [Transition Security Project](#) is a centre for research and policy that investigates the US and UK military industrial complexes as economic, climate and geopolitical threats.

Transition Security Project follows the money from defence ministries to the investors that own military contractors, analyses the greenhouse gas emissions and resource demands of military spending, and commissions research on how US and UK military interventions threaten geopolitical stability.

Working alongside trade unions, grassroots movements and policymakers, Transition Security Project designs alternatives from place-based proposals for military industrial conversion to security strategies that prioritise everyday, universal safety over the profits of military contractors.

Common Wealth is a not-for-profit organisation.

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Researcher for Transition Security Project: Overview

Transition Security Project's new researcher will be part of a four-person transatlantic staff team working at the cutting edge of economic, climate and geopolitical analysis on militarisation. The precise research focus of the role will depend on the experience and background of the successful candidate.

In collaboration with the Transition Security team and its network of twenty-two fellows — all of whom are leaders in their fields — you will support the development of research and policy across our programmes. You will conduct high-quality qualitative and/or quantitative research, contribute to policy development, and produce outputs such as reports, briefings, articles, or multimedia content. You will engage with policy, political, trade union, social movement and media audiences to disseminate our work.

The ideal candidate will bring a mix of analytical rigour, creativity and political awareness, and be committed to building a more democratic and sustainable economy.

This role is at the core of our research team, offering the opportunity to help shape Transition Security Project's agenda and contribute to real-world change.

As with all roles at Common Wealth, this position involves working collaboratively and flexibly within a small team, and you may be asked to contribute across projects or areas beyond your core responsibilities.

Job Description

Research and policy development

- Undertake qualitative and/or quantitative research projects, ensuring quality and innovation in outputs.
- Produce timely and high-quality outputs such as reports, briefings, articles and multimedia contributions.
- Develop policy proposals based on rigorous, evidence-based research.
- Contribute to wider research projects led by senior colleagues, Transition Security Project fellows or partner organisations.
- Develop and maintain subject knowledge in Transition Security Project's research areas.

Public and stakeholder engagement

- Support the communication and dissemination of Transition Security Project's research and proposals to relevant audiences.
- Contribute to the development of networks with academic, political, trade union and civil society partners.
- Represent the organisation in public forums, panels, media, and written publications as appropriate.
- Collaborate with colleagues in the production team to ensure high-impact outputs.

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Fundraising

- Support funding applications and contribute to identifying new opportunities for funding or partnerships.
- Attend funder meetings or represent Transition Security Project to supporters as required by senior staff.

Person specification

Person Specification

Essential

- Strong research skills.
- Knowledge or demonstrated interest in militarisation and its climate, economic and geopolitical impacts.
- A degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant field, or equivalent research or policy experience.
- Excellent written communication skills, with the ability to convey complex ideas clearly and compellingly.
- Analytical and critical thinking skills, with the ability to design research projects and interpret data.
- Experience producing research outputs such as reports, policy briefings, essays, or articles.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively across teams.

- Organisational skills, including the ability to manage competing priorities and meet deadlines.
- Commitment to Common Wealth and Transition Security Project's mission and values.

Desirable

- Experience in a relevant think tank, policy, campaigning, trade union or academic context.
- Experience in using and developing research methods.
- Experience with quantitative research.
- Experience with interview-based research.
- Knowledge of the policy and political landscape relevant to Transition Security Project's programmes.
- Experience in public engagement, media appearances, or convening networks.
- Experience contributing to funding proposals or fundraising activity.

To apply

To apply for this role, please do the following:

- Send your CV (no more than two pages) and a brief cover letter outlining your motivations for the role and how your skills and experience align with the position to jobs@common-wealth.org, by 5pm GMT on Friday 28th November. All applications will be acknowledged within two working days. If you are disabled, please inform us and you will be offered an interview if you meet the essential criteria of the role.
- Complete our [short survey](#) for diversity monitoring. This is separate to the applications and anonymous. The survey is entirely optional.
- Interviews will take place w/c 8th December, with questions sent to candidates in advance. A second interview may be required for final selection at the end of the week.
- We are particularly keen to receive applications from people in groups underrepresented in our sector. If you have any questions about the role, please feel free to contact us.