Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe,

Director of the Institute of Criminology

University of Cambridge

 Sidgwick Avenue

Cambridge CB3 9DA

United Kingdom

Dear Professor Gelsthorpe,

**Application: Postdoctoral visiting scholar, Institute of Criminology**

I am writing to express my interest in the above position and would kindly ask you to take the following information into account in considering my application, in addition to the other documents I am submitting.

My involvement in research started during my undergraduate studies in the School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, when I worked as a research assistant to Professors Mona Khoury-Kassabri and Shalhevet Attar-Schwartz. As my interest in research intensified, I worked as a research coordinator on several studies exploring school-based violence, youth delinquency, psychopathology, and issues of compassion. In addition to this, I conducted two research projects of my own. The first was my master’s thesis, supervised by Prof Asher Ben-Arieh, entitled: “Relations between the Conception of Children’s Rights, Religion, and Religiosity among Arab Children in Israel.” My passion for research in this area led me to pursue my doctoral studies in the field of youth involvement in violence and delinquency. I have a special interest in this topic not only as a researcher, but also as a senior probation officer who has worked for almost 10 years with young Arab delinquent detainees and prisoners of both genders.

The proposed research would be mentored by Associate Professor Maria Ttofi, who has agreed to do so and whose guidance, given her prestigious research in the field of criminology, particularly youth delinquency and violence, would be invaluable to me. Working with her would allow me the opportunity to learn from her rich empirical and theoretical knowledge, along with her internationally ranked and unique expertise in systematic review analysis.

A postdoctoral position at the Institute of Criminology, acknowledged as a world-leading research centre, would be invaluable for my academic development and a great opportunity to collaborate with fellow researchers. Joining the Institute would also greatly enhance my ability to engage in the field of juvenile delinquency and violence generally through attending faculty seminars and workshops and participating in relevant conferences at the Institute, the Centre for Community, Gender and Social Justice, and the Cambridge Violence Research Centre.

I believe that there is no better place to enhance my academic career in criminology than at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. Please note that I am available to start the visiting scholar position from 1 October 2022 for a period of 12 months. Finally, may I thank you very much for considering my application and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Lana Jerries-Loulou