



YOUNG ROOTS

Helping young refugees to realise their potential



VOLUNTEERING WITH YOUNG ROOTS

Volunteers play an incredibly valuable role at Young Roots and we are grateful for your interest to spend your time volunteering with us.

In this pack we outline:

- Who we are, what we do, and where we work
- The benefits of volunteering with us
- How to apply
- Role descriptions and person specifications for our various volunteer roles
 - Language Mentor (p4)
 - Advice & Support Hub – cooking volunteer (p5)
 - Youth group – activity volunteer (p6)
 - Casework volunteer (p7)
 - Accompaniment volunteer (p8)

WHO WE ARE

Young Roots aims to improve the wellbeing and life chances of 11 – 25 year old refugees and asylum seekers in and around Brent and Croydon. We achieve this by running fun and educational activities, offering peer-led language learning, and providing one-to-one casework. Many of our activities are run in partnership with other organisations to provide holistic support and ensure young people can access other services and opportunities.

Young people's participation is fundamental to our approach. We involve young people in the development, planning and delivery of our work, as well as in the recruitment of new staff members. Our group's members consult their peers, choose activities and trips and help plan events. We take feedback and ideas from young people very seriously.

We value responsiveness, understanding, responsibility, creativity and kindness in our staff and volunteers.

"This is a very nurturing organisation - they really care about the young people and want to see them in the best possible position. They want to empower rather than solve their problems for them." – Volunteer quote from external evaluation report

WHAT WE DO

We welcome all young refugees and asylum seekers at any stage of the asylum process and regardless of their English language level. Our groups are safe spaces to have fun, develop language skills, learn about the UK, meet others from their country, make new friends from around the world and get advice.

In **Brent** we have a youth group, football activity, peer support language project, and language mentoring.

In **Croydon** we have a girls' cycling project, a girls' only youth group, and a mixed youth group.

In both locations we have a casework service and run Advice and Support Hubs. The Hubs run alongside our existing football project (in Brent) and youth group (in Croydon) and are a space where 11-25 year old refugees and asylum seekers can also access English support, casework, and advice from a range of partners, including immigration, housing, education and mental health support.

WHAT YOU'LL GET FROM VOLUNTEERING WITH US

- Experience working in a positive team environment in a dynamic organisation
- Experience of working with young refugees and asylum seekers
- The opportunity to make a real and direct difference in young peoples' lives
- Role-specific experience (e.g. teaching; youth work; facilitation)
- A reference (after 6 month commitment)
- The opportunity to take part in staff and volunteer away days and meetings

*"I really enjoy it (at YR) and there are opportunities for personal development."
– Volunteer quote from external evaluation report*

SAFEGUARDING

Young Roots is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. Successful applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service. A criminal record will not automatically prevent you from being considered for these roles.

In all roles you will have to adhere to Young Roots Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy, and take an active role in ensuring the safety and welfare of the young people we work with.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Young Roots recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. As an organisation that supports refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, we particularly welcome applications from those within these communities.

HOW TO APPLY

We have a strong team of committed volunteers so recruit for the roles outlined below as and when needed if someone leaves or there's increased demand for support.

Please check our [website](#) or contact Michele on volunteering@youngroots.org.uk to see which roles we're currently recruiting for and what the application process is.

ROLE: VOLUNTEER LANGUAGE MENTOR

	Brent	Croydon
Day:	Wednesday and/or Thursday	Thursday
Time:	5 – 8:30pm / 5 – 7:30pm	4:30 – 5:30pm
Frequency:	Weekly	Weekly

Who we're looking for: *Someone with a passion for teaching, who gets excited when thinking of different approaches, exercises and resources to help people learn English. Someone comfortable in an informal teaching environment (i.e. not a classroom) who has buckets of patience.*

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Language Mentors will help facilitate English learning sessions with young people, one-to-one or in a small group including conversation clubs, activity sheets and homework help. In Brent these sessions run at the Hub (Wednesdays) and the youth group (Thursdays), and in Croydon they run at the Hub (Thursdays)

In this role, you will also:

- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for young asylum seekers and refugees
- Help project staff to run games and welcome activities
- Assist project staff to effectively deliver, monitor and evaluate the project
- Respect confidentiality and contribute to debriefs after the session
- If interested, to volunteer on occasional trips in central London and support project staff to meet and accompany young people back (optional)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

(E = Essential; D = Desirable)

	E	D
Ability to deliver resources in an informative, informal and imaginative manner	X	
Enthusiasm and commitment to supporting young refugees and asylum seekers	X	
Good communication skills	X	
Good organisational skills	X	
Good team working and interpersonal skills	X	
A flexible approach	X	
Understanding of some of the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK, and sympathy for clients facing such challenges	X	
Understanding and commitment to youth participation principles, as outlined in Young Roots' Youth Participation statement	X	
Be able to commit for at least 6 months	X	
Willingness to take part in training	X	
Experience of working or volunteering with young people		X
Experience of teaching English as a second language		X
Ability to speak refugee community language(s) (Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Sorani, Amharic and Albanian)		X
Experience of working or volunteering with refugees and asylum seekers		X

ROLE: ADVICE & SUPPORT HUB – COOKING VOLUNTEER

Day:	Croydon Only
Time:	Thursday
Frequency:	4:30 – 8pm
	Weekly

Who we're looking for: *Someone who's confident in the kitchen and loves cooking up a (simple) storm! Someone who can facilitate young peoples' learning in the kitchen at the same time as ensuring a meal is prepared for 15 – 30 people.*

ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Cooking Volunteer will take the lead in making a meal for the Hub. They will facilitate the young people's active participation in the preparation and cooking of the meal and update project staff on food stock to ensure we have necessary items.

In this role, you will also:

- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for young asylum seekers and refugees
- Help project staff to run games and welcome activities
- Assist project staff to effectively deliver, monitor and evaluate the project
- Respect confidentiality and contribute to debriefs after the session
- If interested, to volunteer on occasional trips in central London and support project staff to meet and accompany young people back (optional)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

(E = Essential; D = Desirable)

	E	D
Confident in cooking simple, tasty meals, both with and without recipes	X	
Enthusiasm and commitment to supporting young refugees and asylum seekers	X	
Good communication skills	X	
Good organisational skills	X	
Good team working and interpersonal skills	X	
A flexible approach	X	
Understanding of some of the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK, and sympathy for clients facing such challenges	X	
Understanding and commitment to youth participation principles, as outlined in Young Roots' Youth Participation statement	X	
Be able to commit for at least 6 months	X	
Willingness to take part in training	X	
Experience facilitating young peoples' engagement in an informal environment		X
Experience of working or volunteering with young people		X
Ability to speak refugee community language(s) (Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Sorani, Amharic and Albanian)		X
Experience of working or volunteering with refugees and asylum seekers		X

ROLE: YOUTH GROUP – ACTIVITY VOLUNTEER

	Brent	Croydon
Day:	Thursday	Thursday
Time:	5 – 7:30pm	4:30 – 8pm
Frequency:	Weekly	Weekly

Who we’re looking for: *Someone who is outgoing, chatty, and equally as comfortable engaging with young people in a structured activity as over a game of table tennis. Someone able to support social or educational activities in a fun and relaxed way.*

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Activity volunteers will help at our youth club in either Brent or Croydon supporting project staff and facilitators with workshops, creative projects, and games. They will also help at the reception table when needed, and be on hand to talk to and play with young people.

In this role, you will also:

- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for young asylum seekers and refugees
- Help set up, run, and clear up the session
- Assist project staff to effectively deliver, monitor and evaluate the project
- Respect confidentiality and contribute to debriefs after the session
- If interested, to volunteer on occasional trips in central London and support project staff to meet and accompany young people back (optional)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

(E = Essential; D = Desirable)

	E	D
Enthusiasm and commitment to supporting young refugees and asylum seekers	X	
Outgoing, confident and chatty	X	
Good communication skills	X	
Good organisational skills	X	
Good team working and interpersonal skills	X	
A flexible approach	X	
Understanding of some of the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK, and sympathy for clients facing such challenges	X	
Understanding and commitment to youth participation principles, as outlined in Young Roots’ Youth Participation statement	X	
Be able to commit for at least 6 months	X	
Willingness to take part in training	X	
Experience in music, art, sports, or other skills you could lead sessions in		X
Experience of working or volunteering with young people		X
Ability to speak refugee community language(s) (Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Sorani, Amharic and Albanian)		X
Experience of working or volunteering with refugees and asylum seekers		X

ROLE: CASEWORK VOLUNTEER

Day:	Brent TBC	Croydon Wednesday
Time:	TBC	10am – 5pm
Frequency:	TBC	Weekly

Who we're looking for: Someone who is reliable, organised and friendly volunteers who will be confident engaging with stressed or anxious young people.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Casework Volunteers will support caseworkers with desk-based advocacy. This might include, hardship grant applications, college enrolment, booking health appointments, and contacting solicitors and social care providers.

In this role, you will also:

- Contact young people to remind them of appointments
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for young asylum seekers and refugees
- Assist the project staff to effectively deliver, monitor and evaluate the project
- Respect confidentiality and work within Young Roots' values
- Occasionally accompany young people to external appointments
- If interested, help on occasional trips locally and in central London (Trips Volunteer role)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

(E = Essential; D = Desirable)

	E	D
Excellent communication skills with different stakeholders (e.g. young people, professionals, statutory services)	X	
Confidence with administrative, computer-based tasks	X	
Understanding of the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK, and empathy for clients facing such challenges	X	
Good organisational skills	X	
Good team working and interpersonal skills	X	
Enthusiasm and commitment to supporting young refugees and asylum seekers	X	
Willingness to take part in training	X	
Understanding and commitment to youth participation principles, as outlined in the attached document	X	
A flexible approach	X	
Be able to commit for at least 3 months	X	
Ability to speak refugee community language(s) (Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Sorani, Amharic and Albanian)		X
Experience providing advocacy or casework support to young people		X
Experience of working or volunteering with refugees and asylum seekers and/or young people		X

ROLE: ACCOMPANIMENT VOLUNTEER

Day:	Brent Weekdays	Croydon Weekdays
Time:	Varied (likely between 9am – 5pm)	Varied (likely between 9am – 5pm)
Frequency:	Ad hoc	Ad hoc

Who we're looking for: *Someone who is friendly, sociable confident engaging with stressed or anxious young people, and with a great deal of patience and emotional resilience. Someone adept at navigating London's public transport and available on at least one weekday.*

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Accompaniment volunteers will go with young people to appointments around London, travelling to pick them up and drop them off in Croydon or Brent. The type of appointment will vary but might include going to the GP, solicitors or registering at college.

In this role, you will also:

- Work with the caseworkers to receive briefings about the appointments you're attending, and email an update afterwards.
- Check in and out with project staff before and after appointments
- Inform project staff immediately if you are unable to attend an appointment.
- If interested, to volunteer on occasional trips in central London and support project staff to meet and accompany young people back (optional)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

(E = Essential; D = Desirable)

	E	D
Enthusiasm and commitment to supporting young refugees and asylum seekers	X	
Empathetic, friendly and sociable	X	
Good interpersonal and communication skills, including responding to emails	X	
Confident in communicating with young people with very low levels of English	X	
Confident navigating London public transport	X	
Ability to work independently	X	
Reliable and punctual	X	
Understanding of some of the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK, and sympathy for clients facing such challenges	X	
Understanding and commitment to youth participation principles, as outlined in Young Roots' Youth Participation statement	X	
Be able to commit for at least 6 months	X	
Willingness to take part in training	X	
Experience of working or volunteering with young people		X
Ability to speak refugee community language(s) (Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Sorani, Amharic and Albanian)		X
Experience providing advocacy or casework support		X
Experience of working or volunteering with refugees and asylum seekers		X