



YOUNG ROOTS

Helping young refugees to realise their potential

Charity Governance Trustee Position

Opportunity to join the Young Roots Charity Board of Trustees

Young Roots is looking to add to its board of trustees an individual with expertise in charity governance, charity finance and / or charity law.

We recognise the positive value of diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds, and particularly welcome BAME candidates and those with lived experience of migration and the asylum system. Our selection procedures ensure that people are treated on the basis of their relevant merits, experience, skills and abilities. 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.

Who we are

About Young Roots

Young Roots works with young refugees and asylum seekers. We support them to realise their potential through fun and educational activities and trips. Our one-to-one casework service supports young people with issues like housing, immigration and emotional support.

About the young people we work with

The young people we work with have developed great resilience and have many talents including often speaking many languages. However, 70% are in the UK alone without family, social isolation and poor mental health are major issues, and navigating the 'hostile environment' is a daily experience.

What we do

Young Roots works primarily in London, and in partnership with a delivery partner in Lebanon.

Our **vision** is of a world in which all young refugees and asylum seekers can realise their rights and fulfil their potential.

Our **mission** is to improve the wellbeing and life chances of young refugees and asylum seekers.

Our **ambition** is to be respected and known for our innovative and participatory approach to young refugees' and migrants' self-advocacy and learning.

Projects

Young Roots delivers a wide range of youth activities and runs a one-to-one casework service working with over 600 young refugees and asylum seekers each year (11-25 years) in London (Croydon and Brent). We have a strong ethos of youth participation believing young people are central to shaping the services and activities we currently offer as well as

those we develop in the future. We work in partnership with a variety of other specialist, respected organisations through our Advice and Support Hubs. We strive for quality in all that we do.

We also run an annual summer project in Lebanon through our delivery partner, the Sour Community Disability Project.

The charity is governed by a skilled and committed group of 9 trustees who work closely with our Director and staff team of 17.

Opportunity to be a trustee

This is a great opportunity to join a charity delivering hugely important services to young refugees and asylum seekers. While trustees focus on specific areas, there will also be extensive opportunities to govern and help shape the direction of the organisation as it moves to becoming a medium sized charity. We are looking for trustees with:

- willingness to commit time and energy to this voluntary role, with a can-do attitude and the ability to work creatively with limited resources; and
- commitment to the values, mission and vision of Young Roots.

Governance Trustee

The governance trustee is responsible for offering their expertise and guidance in relation to governance, charity finance and charity law issues to the trustee board and senior staff. They are also responsible, as all trustees are, for ensuring the charity fulfils its charitable purposes, and for inputting to strategic and financial decisions. We are looking for an individual to join the board in and take responsibility for, among other things:

- ensuring, alongside other trustees, that the charity complies with its legislative and regulatory requirements, acting within the confines of its governance document;
- supporting the Chief Executive, Chair and other trustees to ensure that the organisation's operations both in the UK and with our delivery partner in Lebanon are compliant with good governance best practice and charity regulation;
- ensuring that Young Roots' policies for operations both in the UK and with our delivery partner in Lebanon are both robust and comply with charity regulation;
- continuing to develop, on a semi-annual basis, the Young Roots risk register with the rest of the board;
- supporting other trustees to develop their own expertise in charity governance issues;
- providing guidance to the Young Roots finance team on issues relating to contracts, service agreements and fundraising, where appropriate; and
- contributing to the strategic direction and transparent working of Young Roots.

We expect that this role will suit someone with extensive charity governance experience, either from a senior management perspective or having sat on other charity boards. Other backgrounds could include having worked in charity law or working as a finance director for another charity. That being said, if you think that you are able to bring the skills and experience we are looking for and come from a different background please do definitely get in touch.

What we ask of you

There are Trustee meetings every 2-3 months in central London and all Trustees will be expected to attend the majority of these, (attendance can be arranged remotely via Google Hangouts). Please note that we are currently conducting all meetings remotely. Young Roots asks that applicants consider the commitment to the role to be for at least one year. The overall time commitment varies, but we estimate that it will average 2-4 hours per week.

What Young Roots provides

Young Roots will cover all reasonable travel expenses, and if needed can provide you with a laptop to enable you to join meetings remotely and conduct Young Roots business.

How to apply

Please submit your CV and a short covering email (300 words) explaining your motivation in applying to siobhan@youngroots.org.uk. The deadline for applications is 11.59am on 12 October and we will be holding informal interviews through Google Hangouts on 19, 20 and 21 October (after 5.00pm).

For more information about the role and Young Roots, please visit our website www.youngroots.org.uk or contact: siobhan@youngroots.org.uk.