



Safeguarding Trustee Position - Young Roots

Opportunity to join the Young Roots Charity Board of Trustees

As a result of trustee retirement, Young Roots is looking for a trustee with expertise in safeguarding and/or child protection.

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.

Safeguarding Trustee

The safeguarding trustee is responsible for offering their expertise and guidance in relation to safeguarding and child protection issues to the trustee board and senior staff. They are also responsible, as all trustees are, for ensuring the charity fulfils its charitable purposes, inputting to strategic and financial decisions. We are looking for a trustee with the following skills and experience:

1. Excellent knowledge and professional experience of child protection issues and safeguarding processes
2. Knowledge of the UK asylum and social care systems for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
3. Understanding of the challenges experienced by young refugees and asylum seekers
4. Knowledge of and commitment to participatory methods of working with young people
5. Ability to advise staff on individual complex cases occasionally
6. Ability to advise fellow Trustees on policy development and strategic issues relating to child protection and safeguarding.
7. Experience of working with YRAS or young people in care (desirable)

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). Though 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: jo@youngroots.org.uk