



Voices in Exile

Supporting refugees, asylum seekers & those with no recourse to public funds

Migrant support volunteer

Background

Voices in Exile works with adult refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with no recourse to public funds in Sussex. We offer both practical and legal support to those who would otherwise be unable to access justice. We work with both individuals and families, including refugee families resettled in the UK from Syria and Afghanistan.

Purpose of the role

The purpose of this role is to support clients to feel confident settling in the UK and specifically Brighton and Hove. In this role you may be supporting someone newly arrived in the UK, or someone who has been here for some time. This role also offers wellbeing support to clients who may otherwise feel isolated.

What's involved

This will depend on the needs of the client. The role may include all or some of the following:

- Support clients to find out what opportunities are available locally and to access these, e.g. volunteering, sports, arts and community groups;
- Accompany clients to venues and appointments when needed;
- Support clients to use public transport and to get to know the city;
- Help to write a CVs and prepare for interviews;
- Support with English;
- Keep a staff member updated after each meet up; reporting safeguarding issues

We are looking for people who are:

- Friendly and empathic
- Non-judgmental
- Easy to talk to and a good listener
- Respectful of confidentiality
- Reliable and trustworthy

- Have a good local knowledge, or are willing to learn
- Able to work with an interpreter where necessary
- Able to maintain strong boundaries
- Good IT skills including word processing, email, internet and video calling

To volunteer with Voices in Exile you should have an interest in migration issues and a commitment to basic human rights.

Time commitments - This role requires a commitment to:

- Attend an initial induction and training
- Volunteer for 1 - 3 hours per week, for a minimum of 6 months

Benefits - Your role will provide you with opportunities to:

- connect with people from different countries and cultures;
- experience the working environment and gain an understanding of different careers in the migrant sector;
- share your knowledge and skills, making a difference to someone's life.

Support - You will:

- receive a full induction into Voices in Exile and your role;
- have a named staff member supporting you. This is someone you can go to with any questions and for 1-2-1 support and supervision;
- have regular volunteer support group sessions where you can meet other volunteers for peer support and learning;
- be reimbursed reasonable travel and other agreed out of pocket expenses.

Practicalities - Due to the nature of this role, we will require you to:

- attend our induction and training sessions;
- follow the policies and procedures of Voices in Exile;
- give permission for us to apply for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring check.

We welcome applications from people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and people who speak a community language in addition to English, as well as people who are native to the UK. We would particularly welcome applications from speakers of Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Dari and Ukrainian.