



Trustee Recruitment Pack

About us

Voices Welcome is a brand new registered charity (1173490). Our vision is to provide regular singing opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers, to improve wellbeing, combat loneliness and isolation, and foster community cohesion.

There is a widely recognised body of research evidencing the benefits of singing in a community choir. However, many refugees are unlikely to consider joining established groups due to barriers of inclusion. Voices Welcome will overcome these barriers by working in partnership with existing refugee support organisations and establishing regular singing groups in these centres.

Singing in our groups will provide participants with:

- A sense of **belonging and connection** - being part of a community bigger than the individual. [Recent research from Oxford University](#) has demonstrated how group singing helps to forge social bonds more rapidly than other kinds of activities, thus helping to build a sense of community and combat loneliness.
- A feeling of **cohesion and integration** - bringing people together from different countries, cultures, languages and religions;
- A sense of **enjoyment and escape** - there is no stress, pressure, or expectation, simply space to express creativity. Singing has been proven to release endorphins and boost oxytocin levels, leading to an increase in happiness and enjoyment.

Where we're at

So far we have:

- Registered as a charity (1173490)
- Established local partnerships within Southwark, where we plan to launch our initial singing group
- Delivered 2 highly successful pilot sessions at Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers
- A grant application and budget in final draft stage and nearly ready to submit
- Developed a logo and branding, and have a website in development

In the next 12 months we will:

- Secure grant funding for an initial singing group in Southwark
- Get our initial group up and running
- Continue to develop and review policies, website and organisational management systems
- Develop a fundraising plan to ensure sustainability and development of our activities beyond year 1

We are currently a team of 2 trustees (Ben Saffell and Xenia Davis) and we're now looking to recruit 1-2 enthusiastic, reliable and proactive trustees to join our existing team and help to get this new and exciting organisation off the ground.

What we're looking for

Our ideal trustee will have experience of any or all of the following:

- Fundraising - especially from trusts and foundations
- Finance
- Experience of being a trustee
- Lived experience of being a refugee

However, please don't be put off applying if you don't have any of these - most importantly we're looking for someone who will be proactive and ready to get stuck in. We don't have any staff yet so the trustee role at the moment is quite a hands-on one!

We are currently based in Southwark, and due to the stage we're in at the moment, we need someone who is able to attend regular (monthly, approx) meetings. Some of these could be via skype, but it would be helpful if the majority are face to face. Outside of meetings we anticipate trustees needing 2 hours per week (approx) to complete the practical work of running the charity.

Trustee eligibility

All trustees must meet [Charity Commission eligibility criteria](#).

If you want to find out more about being a charity trustee, read the Charity Commission guidance [The Essential Trustee](#).

How to apply

Interested? Brilliant!

Please send a copy of your CV, along with a brief statement (200-300 words) explaining why you're interested and what you can bring to the role, to:

voiceswelcome@gmail.com by **5/Mar/2018**

Applicants with the relevant skills and experience will be invited to meet the existing trustees the week beginning 12th March

If you'd like to discuss the role in more detail, contact Xenia or Ben on voiceswelcome@gmail.com. We're happy to arrange a call with you if you'd prefer to speak to us.