Expert by Experience Research Committee Member Position

**Time commitment:** one day every three months (must be a Thursday).

**Reports to:** Medical Director

**Salary:** £80 per day of work (plus expenses) involved in attending the Research Committee

About the Helen Bamber Foundation

The Helen Bamber Foundation (HBF) is a human rights charity based in London which was founded in 2005. Our specialist team of therapists, doctors and legal experts have an international reputation for providing therapeutic care, medical consultation, legal protection and practical support to survivors of human rights violations. HBF grew from the recognition that people who have suffered prolonged inter-personal violence – whether from human trafficking; war; community, domestic or gender-based violence – present with similar physical and psychological symptoms to torture survivors and experience the same complex and enduring responses to their trauma.

We offer our clients a Model of Integrated Care, providing legal, medical, psychological and welfare support, as well as an Integration Programme which includes arts-based groups, and skills-based classes such as English and IT. Through this, we help our clients to develop a sustained recovery from extreme trauma.

About the role

We have recently created a Research Committee (RC) to oversee the research that is undertaken at HBF. As well as overseeing existing projects, the RC reviews newly proposed projects in terms of their suitability and feasibility and whether they further our knowledge about the survivors we help (and what support best helps them) and falls in line with the strategic aims of the organisation. The projects that the committee oversees varies from those with a clinical focus (for example, studies looking at new types of therapeutic approaches), to projects that look at the legal or policy change aspects of our work.

The Committee currently consists of the Medical and Research Director, our CEO, one of our trustees, and the Co-Heads of Therapies. We would greatly value an individual who has lived experience relevant to the survivors we see at the Foundation. In particular, we would welcome applications from individuals who have lived experience of seeking asylum or another form of humanitarian protection in the UK.

You, as an Expert by Experience committee member, would be required to attend the Research Committee quarterly meetings (i.e. once every three months) which take place on a Thursday. You would also be required to read through proposals for new research projects, and other relevant documents in advance of the meeting. The reading in advance would not need to happen on the same day. We estimate that the total work involved equates to one full day’s work per quarter. There are interim meetings that take place at intervening six-week intervals, but these are primarily for administrative purposes and you would not be required to attend these.

Whilst we welcome applications from previous/graduated clients of the Helen Bamber Foundation, to avoid any conflict of interest we are not able to accept applications from individuals who are still clients of the Foundation or have received regular support from the Foundation within the last calendar year. Those who have never been a
client of the Helen Bamber Foundation, but have similar lived experiences to those of the clients we help are also welcome to apply. If you are a current client of the Helen Bamber Foundation and would like to get involved with research, there are other opportunities to do so. Please speak to our receptionist for more information.

Main tasks and activities

- Reviewing proposals for new research at HBF. This will involve reviewing documentation related to such projects, such as proposal overview forms, participant information sheets and background research (where necessary). These documents will all be provided to you in advance of the Committee meetings by email.
- Attending quarterly Research Committee meetings (four per year), either remotely or in person at the Helen Bamber Foundation. These dates are fixed in advance and take place on Thursday afternoons at 4pm.
- Contributing to discussions at the Research Committee to help the committee determine whether the proposed project is suitable, feasible, and in line with our values and goals as an organisation.
- Drawing on your own knowledge, experience and skills as an expert by experience to help the Research Committee to explore and understand the potential impact or benefit of this research for our clients/client group.
- Helping the Committee to provide constructive feedback to any researchers proposing to conduct research at the Helen Bamber Foundation.
- Supporting the committee in overseeing existing research projects, and providing guidance or insight where this might be necessary (for example consultation on interview schedules for research interviews).

Skills and experience needed

- Lived experience of being an asylum seeker, refugee or having sought another form of humanitarian protection in the UK;
- Understanding of, and commitment to, the objectives of the Helen Bamber Foundation;
- Empathy for the distress and mental health needs that many of our clients experience;
- A keen interest in learning more about (and contributing to) research in the areas of research of mental health for asylum seekers, refugees and victims of trafficking;
- Punctual, reliable and self-motivated;
- Computer literate i.e. have the ability to use email communication, basic Microsoft Office programmes such as Word, ability to use videoconferencing software such as Zoom/Microsoft Teams

- For this role, we require someone who speaks a good level of English (spoken and written) and who has permission to work in the UK.
- Training and support will be provided to you by the clinical team to help you in undertaking this important role.

What you will get out of the role:

- An opportunity to learn about and contribute to important ‘cutting-edge’ research
- An opportunity to meet, consult with and learn from the other professionals on the committee, and the clients and staff at HBF
- Experience of working within a multi-disciplinary team in a human rights charity

How to apply:

Please write a statement explaining why you would like to take on this role, and explaining how you meet the criteria outlined in the skills and experience section. Please email this statement to: research.submissions@helenbamber.org

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 01 September 2020.
We will be interviewing for the role in late September 2020.

If you have any queries about this role, or would like to discuss this opportunity further, then please contact Cornelius Katona, Francesca Brady or Christina Curry on 0203 058 2020 or by email reception@helenbamber.org.

We will endeavour to contact all applicants who are not successful in obtaining an interview for this role. We would also be happy to provide individual feedback if you are not shortlisted for an interview. Please contact reception@helenbamber.org if you would like this feedback once you have been notified of the outcome of your application.