Volunteer English Teacher

Ideal time commitment: 1.5 hours weekly on Thursdays 2.30-4pm, ideally 6-12 months

Reports to: Community and Integration Manager

# About the Helen Bamber Foundation Group

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.

Asylum Aid, (previously merged with Migrants Resource Centre under Consonant) is, and has long been, a leader in the Immigration and NGO sector: providing high-level legal and welfare support to ensure the protection of vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Since August 2020, Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid have combined efforts to support the vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees who need us the most, operating as two separate entities under a group structure, known as the Helen Bamber Foundation Group.

# About the role

The English Conversation Club is a part of the Creative Arts and Skills Programme (CASP), alongside yoga, photography and textiles groups amongst others. The English class is a safe space for clients to improve their English at their own pace, making friends and immersing themselves in learning to forget some of their daily challenges, whilst being continuously supported by our team of dedicated staff and volunteers throughout their journey.

The English class runs weekly. It’s a friendly space for clients of all language and literacy abilities to practice their English together and develop the confidence to later enrol in a formal college ESOL course. Some clients are already in college and use the conversation club as extra practice.

This volunteer will work with the other volunteer teacher to develop new class material, and will alternate fortnightly as the main teacher and the support teacher.

# Main tasks and activities

* Plan, prepare and deliver high quality English language teaching that meets the differing needs of our clients, taking into account individual learning styles
* Monitor progress and provide regular feedback to each student throughout the term
* Take part in education and training events or schemes as required by the programme
* Keep accurate and timely registers, plus records of travel and other expenses
* Contribute to the development, evaluation, and improvement of the English class, in order to meet learners needs by actively working as a member of the CASP at HBF

# Skills and experience needed

* Understanding of, and commitment to, the objectives of the Helen Bamber Foundation;
* A demonstrable empathy for our vulnerable clients, including asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of torture and trafficking;
* An understanding of the challenges facing our client group;
* Punctual, reliable and self-motivated with a positive, ’can-do’ attitude;
* Hold a Basic ESOL Subject Specialist qualification (e.g. TEFL, CELTA, university degree);
* Proven experience of teaching as an ESOL/EFL teacher ;
* Experience of informal and community education;
* Experience working with vulnerable people;
* Excellent organisational skills and ability to manage own time and workload, and to prioritise a range of competing demands;
* Experience of administrative systems, for example handling petty cash.

# What you will get out of the role:

* A strong understanding of how HBF’s integration programmes contribute to the well-being of our clients;
* An appreciation of the processes and systems that asylum seekers and refugees deal with in the UK;
* Increased experience and confidence in teaching English as a second language;
* Increased teamwork skills;
* An ability to multi-task between competing priorities.

# Equal Opportunities

The Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid is an equal opportunities and Living Wage employer. We are committed to attracting and recruiting diverse candidates as we are keen to make sure that our staff, trustees, volunteers and ambassadors reflect the communities we serve and the wider community we work in at every level within the organisation. We particularly welcome applications from those with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

Please note that successful candidates will be offered the volunteer position subject to a DBS check.