**Volunteer Advocate**

**Bristol Refugee Rights**

Bristol Refugee Rights was set up as a voluntary organisation in 2006 to uphold and

champion the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees.

We provide a place of welcome in Bristol where asylum seekers and refugees can meet and be supported to play a full part in the life of the wider community and also campaign for the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

**What do we do?**

The Asylum Support Project is one of our key projects and does the vital work of protecting our members from homelessness and destitution. We help to make asylum support applications, respond to Home Office reviews of support and appeal against refusals or ending of support.

Have a look at our website to find out more about us -

<http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org/how-we-help/asylum-support-project-asp/>

**The ASP volunteer role**

As an ASP volunteer you will provide one-to-one advice and casework for asylum seekers who need help with their housing and financial support. You will be dealing with a complex system and working with vulnerable people in difficult situations.

**We are looking for someone who:**

* Welcomes the opportunity to work as part of a diverse volunteer team at BRR
* Can stay calm under pressure and is emotionally resilient
* Has strong interpersonal skills
* Shares a commitment to BRR’s ethos and values and recognises the importance of working within our policies and procedures
* Has reasonable IT skills and can record their work clearly.

**Volunteers need to be:**

* Willing to embrace the challenge of learning about asylum support legislation
* Able to respect limits to their role and appropriate boundaries
* Able to offer independent and impartial advice
* Able to work with strong attention to detail
* Able to negotiate with other agencies
* Available from 9:30am till 4:30pm on Wednesdays or 9:30am till 1pm on Friday.
* Able to make a 1 year commitment to the role
* Committed to attending training and occasional meetings
* Willing to complete an enhanced DBS check

**Volunteers will get from this role:**

* Experience of 121 casework with Asylum Seekers and Refugees
* A rewarding experience of working with people in extremely difficult circumstances

**What we provide:**

* An induction and ongoing relevant training for your role.
* Regular volunteer meetings and support.
* References after a suitable period of volunteering experience
* Training in the UK asylum support systems, advocacy skills and safeguarding plus other informal training opportunities
* Expenses payments for costs incurred whilst volunteering

**Some important dates:**

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Sunday 18th of Feb.

We will carry out interviews over the week of Feb 26th to March 2nd.

Successful candidates will need to attend induction and training all day on March 8th and on the morning of March 9th.

Please ensure that you are available for the induction before you apply.

If you are not available for these dates, we will be recruiting again later in the year. You can complete an online form at…

<http://www.bristolrefugeerights.org/volunteers/volunteer-with-bristol-refugee-rights/>

and we can then let you know when our next recruitment is happening closer to the date.

**Working one-to-one in sensitive environments – Convictions and Disclosure**

Due to the one-to-one working, the sensitivity of issues discussed and the potential vulnerability of BRR members, all Advocacy and Information volunteers will be required to complete an enhanced DBS check.

BRR will request information about any unspent convictions. The disclosure of convictions will not automatically lead to the withdrawal of an offer of volunteering as the relevance and timing of convictions will be considered. The information would be seen by the Volunteer Manager and Trustees only.