**Public Speaking Volunteer**

**Bristol Refugee Rights**

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

champion the 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. We campaign for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, and provide individual rights-based advice.

The VOICE Project trains and supports asylum seekers and refugees to talk about their experiences and ideas.

**What do we do?**

The VOICE Project exists to:

a) build self-esteem, reduce isolation and depression, improve communication skills and enabling people to be work ready,

b) increase understanding of the asylum process and its impact on individual lives; to reduce misinformation, increase community cohesion, and to raise awareness of the work of the organisation and fundraise

**The Role**

You will:

* run or support the running of a 15 hours training course in public speaking 2 – 3 times per year.
* work with BRR members and interview people interested in training to speak publicly.
* You will support BRR members to develop individual speaches and accompany them to community engagement events.
* Work with the Fundraising and Communications Manager to support members and liaise with organisations requesting speakers with lived experience.

**We are looking for people who:**

* Have experience of public speaking, communications and or public relations work
* Have experience as a trainer
* Welcome the opportunity to work as part of a diverse volunteer team at BRR
* Can stay calm under pressure and are emotionally resilient
* Are helpful, patient and have a positive approach to resolving problems
* Have strong interpersonal skills
* Share a commitment to BRR’s ethos and values, and agree to work within our policies and procedures.
* Are willing and able to learn about the systems and challenges that asylum seekers face, and how we can respond
* Are able to respect the limits to their role, and keep to appropriate boundaries
* Have good attention to detail
* Can be available one day time per week and occasional evenings and weekends (approximately 4hrs/week)
* Are able to make a 1 year commitment to the role
* Are committed to attending training and occasional meetings
* Are willing to complete an enhanced DBS check

**Volunteers will get from this role:**

* Experience of work with asylum seekers
* Understanding of UK asylum systems, and the impact on people seeking safety
* A rewarding experience of working with people in extremely difficult circumstances
* Regular volunteer meetings and support.
* References after a suitable period of volunteering experience
* Induction into BRR’s work and methods, and training in UK asylum processes and rights, safeguarding, and boundaries.
* Expenses payments for costs incurred whilst volunteering

**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.