

asylum matters

Asylum Matters trustees

Role: Trustee (unpaid)

Accountable to: Chair of Trustees

Location: Flexible / Remote (occasional travel to London / other agreed locations in the UK)

Asylum Matters is looking to strengthen its board by recruiting three new trustees, each with knowledge, experience and insight into at least one of the following three areas:

- Lived experience of the UK asylum system;
- Working in a frontline organisation providing direct advice and support to people seeking asylum and/or refugees;
- Local and/or national campaigning, advocacy, influencing and/or organising.

About Asylum Matters

Asylum Matters is an independent charity that exists to create positive change for refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK. Our seven-strong staff team is based across the country, working locally, regionally and nationally with an extensive network of frontline partners and campaigners to advocate for progressive change in the asylum system.

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. Our small yet impactful team convenes partners and facilitates joint action, strengthening collective advocacy on asylum reform and ensuring it is informed by reality on the ground.

We work closely with hundreds of frontline organisations, local campaign groups and experts by experience on a range of issues that affect people in the asylum system. Currently these include the impact of the new Nationality and Borders Act, or #AntiRefugeeLaws; unsuitable accommodation; and enforced poverty. We co-lead the award-winning [Lift the Ban](#) coalition campaign, that brings together over 270 organisations calling for the right to work for people seeking asylum.

We are progressing towards becoming an actively anti-racist charity, seeking to ensure we embed anti-racist principles and actions into every aspect of our work.

About our board of trustees

Our trustees are volunteers who offer their time, knowledge and experience to oversee and guide the charity and its work. They also make sure Asylum Matters is financially sustainable, is run efficiently and professionally and operates within charitable law.

The Asylum Matters board meets at least four times a year. These meetings are sometimes face to face and sometimes remote. Trustees are appointed for an initial three-year period; and may then be re-appointed for a further three years.

We can arrange training, mentoring and support for new trustees - no previous governance experience is required. As well as skills and experience, we want to hear from candidates who also have the passion, commitment, interest and enthusiasm to fulfil this vital role.

We are fully committed to ensuring it is as easy and comfortable as possible for skilled, talented people who have never previously participated in charity governance to be welcomed onto the Asylum Matters board and make a full and equal contribution. We can cover reasonable travel and accommodation expenses, data top-up vouchers and childcare costs to enable full participation.

Our existing board has strong experience in key areas including communication, fundraising, finance, governance and community action. While the board includes lived experience of the asylum system, we want to have more representation. We also want to ensure that representatives of our partner network – the frontline organisations and local campaign groups we work with every day – have a stronger voice on our board. Furthermore, mobilising partners and influencing decision makers is at the heart of our work – we therefore wish to further strengthen the board’s strategic local and/or national policy, advocacy and campaigning experience and knowledge.

About you

We’re looking for the following personal attributes:

- A commitment to Asylum Matters, its values and its work
- Sound, independent judgement and an ability to articulate your views
- A willingness and ability to devote the necessary time
- A willingness to learn and carry out the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of charity trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a small team

At least one of:

- Lived experience of the UK asylum system
- Experience of frontline organisations working with people seeking asylum
- Strategic local and/or national advocacy and campaigning.

How to apply

If you wish to apply, please send an expression of interest of no more than 2 pages to info@asylummatters.org by no later than **9am on Monday 31 October 2022**. We will confirm dates for interviews in due course.

The expression of interest should set out clearly why you are interested in this role, and any relevant skills, knowledge and experience you can bring to the Asylum Matters board. As part of our commitment to make this process as open and as accessible as possible, we intend to email questions to shortlisted candidates in advance of interviews.

We are holding an online information session for potential applicants to ask us any questions you may have about the role or about the application process on **Wednesday 26 October at 1pm**. Register [here](#) if you wish to attend. We can pay data costs for people who need this to join the information session – please let us know if you require this.

If you have any questions, please email them to info@asylummatters.org.uk and we will respond as quickly as we can.