

# TRUSTEE ROLE PROFILE

<b>Role</b>	Trustee contributing to the development of a user-led approach in the governance of the organisation
<b>Time commitment</b>	The Board meets on a monthly/interim basis. As a minimum Trustees are expected to attend quarterly Board meetings in January, April, July, and October. Currently, these take place remotely between 5:30 and 7pm but, as COVID-19 precautions ease, face-to-face meetings may recommence with those unable to attend in person attending remotely.  Trustees may be asked for advice and expertise outside of formal meetings.
<b>Remuneration</b>	The role of Trustee is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although expenses for travel may be claimed. Any barriers to attendance, participation and communication can be addressed by the organisation.
<b>Term</b>	The charity's Trustees will serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment for additional term(s).
<b>Location</b>	One Canada Square, London E14 5AA or remotely.

## Overview

Our committed and enthusiastic Board is chaired by the organisation's President and current members include medical professionals, fundraising and PR experts and an accountant. In your role as a Trustee, you will provide expertise, advice and perspective from your competencies as well as the expert insight of a person with lived experience of migration as an asylum seeker, refugee, or undocumented migrant.

The Board meets monthly, at present remotely. It is expected that trustees will do their best to attend these meetings, particularly the quarterly reporting meeting. We are keen that we all play a real part in the governance and strategy of the charity so active participation is required. However, we recognise that the trustee role is a voluntary one and that other obligations they have will always be borne in mind when asking for help.

Where appropriate, individual trustees work with employees of the charity, supporting and mentoring them and working on matters which involve their areas of expertise.

## Role of Trustee with experience of migration:

### The legal duties and responsibilities of Trusteeship.

#### These include:

- Ensuring the charity is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
- Complying with the charity's governing document and the law
- Acting in the charity's best interests
- Managing the charity's resources responsibly
- Acting with reasonable care and skill
- Ensuring the charity is accountable

#### More information on the responsibilities of a charity Trustee can be found at:

<https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/governance/board-responsibilities/legal-duties-of-trustees#>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

#### The additional responsibilities as Trustee with migrant experience include:

- Providing the board with insight into the challenges faced by those forcibly displaced

- We are aware that migrants are frequently unable to exercise their human rights, often through lack of knowledge amongst the professionals they meet. The new Trustee will help the organisation address these barriers to fair and compassionate healthcare and advise on how the DOTW board can ensure that migrant experience is at the centre of our governance and operations.
- Contribution to initiatives that provide opportunities for people with lived experience in the governance of the organisation.
- Supporting the organisation's engagement with relevant organisations, professionals and charities who work to address inequalities experienced by migrants.
- Supporting good practice with respect to governance and probity.

Optional engagement in the international Médecins du Monde network steering groups, using personal experience as a migrant to improve the service delivered.

### Relevant Experience/Knowledge

It is essential that applications are from people with lived experience of migration or exclusion from health services.

### Person Specification

- Commitment to the vision and aims of the charity
- Willingness and ability to devote the necessary time
- Strategic vision
- Able to exercise a degree of independence and act according to the law and professional judgement
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship
- Ability to work effectively as part of multi-professional team

Doctors of the World UK is a company limited by guarantee. As a trustee, you would also be a director of the company. The two roles are synonymous.

There are a few people who cannot be trustees, for example people who are bankrupt or have unspent convictions for dishonesty. There are also some age restrictions. Do check your [eligibility to be a charity trustee](#).

### Overview of Doctors of the World UK

Doctors of the World UK is part of the global Médecins du Monde network, which delivers over 300 projects in more than 70 countries through 3,000 volunteers.

Our vision is of a world in which vulnerable people affected by war, natural disasters, disease, hunger, poverty, or exclusion get the healthcare they need.

Through our health programmes and advocacy, we work to ensure excluded people overcome barriers to realising their right to healthcare.

We work with and for:

- » People in crisis, providing life-saving humanitarian healthcare in times of war and after natural disasters
- » Vulnerable migrants, including by advocating for the right to healthcare across Europe
- » People at risk of harm, especially from HIV and AIDS or hepatitis C, such as drug users and sex workers
- » Women and girls' right to sexual and reproductive health

Doctors of the World's UK programme provides direct services and leads policy and advocacy work to help excluded people across the UK, such as vulnerable migrants, sex workers and people with no fixed address access essential healthcare.

### **Services**

Our services are run by volunteer doctors, nurses and support workers who provide basic short-term healthcare and help to get people registered with their local GP. Our clinic in Stratford offers primary care, and health and social advice from volunteer doctors, nurses and support workers for excluded people including asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, homeless people and sex workers.

We offer screening, vital for public health, and we signpost to other services, including housing advice, destitution support and specialist counselling. We run a specialist service to meet the needs of women and children.

We also run pop up clinics and have recently started operating a mobile clinic in London. Besides our work with undocumented migrants, we have broadened our focus on people experiencing homelessness through an outreach clinic in the City of London.

### **Advocacy**

We believe that every person has the right to healthcare, and we work to influence UK public policy and local implementation to reduce health inequalities and ensure access to healthcare for all.

In 2018, we ran a campaign to bring about an end to the data sharing agreement signed between NHS digital and the Home Office which resulted in the agreement being suspended and is currently under review. We will continue to highlight how this can breach fundamental principles of confidentiality, meaning those at greatest risk may be deterred from seeking health advice.

As well as providing healthcare, we support excluded people to exercise their rights to NHS services, both primary care and secondary care where clinically appropriate. In 2019, we supported around 2,000 people to access the NHS and 91 per cent of our service users had their cases resolved.

We have worked with GPs through our Safe Surgeries initiative to increase awareness of the barriers to accessing care as well as eligibility to access NHS resources for different groups.

### **Serving through the Covid-19 pandemic**

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, we continued offering services through remote GP consultations and continued our vital homeless outreach work in the streets and in hotels in which some people experiencing street homelessness were temporarily accommodated.

We continued our advocacy work and produced a comprehensive rapid needs assessment detailing the challenges and extra vulnerability to COVID19 of people experiencing street homelessness, migrants, sex workers and travelling communities.

We have continued to support people to access NHS healthcare services and helped to ensure that vulnerable people are not excluded from key public health messaging through translating COVID-19 government guidance, explaining rules including social distancing and self-isolation. These documents have been widely circulated by NHS and voluntary sector organisations, raising the profile of DOTW UK.

**Date Created**

August 2021