



Voices in Exile

Supporting refugees, asylum seekers & those with no recourse to public funds

Migrant support volunteer: ESOL

Background

Voices in Exile works with adult refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with no recourse to public funds in Sussex. We offer both practical and legal support to those who would otherwise be unable to access justice. We work with both individuals and families, including refugee families resettled in the UK from Syria and Afghanistan.

Purpose of the role

Some of our clients have little or no English. This can be a barrier to communicating need or accessing employment. They may have to wait until they are able to join an ESOL class or need extra support with their class work. The purpose of this role is to support clients to learn and develop their English language skills.

What's involved

- Able to plan and teach level appropriate English lessons that will help to improve written and spoken English skills;
- Keeping brief records and updating the caseworker after each meeting; reporting safeguarding issues.

We are looking for people who are:

- Experienced teaching English as a second or foreign language
- Friendly and empathic
- Non-judgmental
- Reliable and trustworthy
- Able to maintain strong boundaries
- Easy to talk to and a good listener
- Good IT skills, including word processing, email and internet and video platforms
- Respectful of confidentiality

To volunteer with Voices in Exile you should have an interest in migration issues and a commitment to basic human rights.

Time commitments - This role requires a commitment to:

- initial induction and training
- 1-2 hours per week

- volunteer for a minimum of 6 months

Benefits - Your role will provide you with opportunities to:

- connect with people from different countries and cultures
- experience the working environment and gain an understanding of different careers in the migrant sector
- share your knowledge and skills, making a difference to someone's life

Support - You will:

- receive a full induction into Voices in Exile and your role
- have a named staff member at Voices in Exile for 1-2-1 support and supervision
- you will receive links to resources for teaching English
- have regular volunteer support group sessions where you can meet other volunteers for peer support and learning
- be reimbursed for reasonable travel and other agreed out of pocket expenses

Practicalities - Due to the nature of this role, we will require you to:

- attend our induction and training sessions
- follow the policies and procedures of Voices in Exile
- give permission for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring check to be made

We welcome applications from people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and people who speak a community language in addition to English, as well as people who are native to the UK. We would particularly welcome applications from speakers of Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Dari and Ukrainian.