



Connecting refugees with host communities

HostNation – TREASURER

An exciting opportunity to join a refugee befriending charity as Treasurer at a key time in our short history.

Our Purpose

HostNation exists to make it easier for those of us at home in London, to be friends with those looking for a place they can call home. It's a digital means of connecting those offering friendship with those needing it. By taking refugee referrals and matching each individual to a local, screened, checked and trained befriender on our database, and then introducing them face to face in their local communities, we wish to facilitate hundreds of new and rewarding inter-cultural friendships.

Our cities are crying out for social integration projects as few of the big refugee organisations have been able to sustain initiatives aimed at the emotional well being of their service users. They focus on service provision; we focus on social provision. We connect refugee service users with friends in the community and we utilise match-making technology to help us do this at scale.

Our primary purpose (as defined in our constitution) is: the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among those who are refugees, asylum seekers or migrants. More specifically we wish to improve their lived experience of our cities by helping to reduce their social isolation, to increase their participation in life and to improve their spoken English.

What have we achieved?

We started in Spring 2017 with a small team with knowledge and experience of social provision in both refugee and host sectors, working pro bono. We crowdfunded and were awarded a Paul Hamlyn Ideas and Pioneers Fund to employ a digital architect to create a database and online registration and web referral process.

We chose to focus on Greater London where there is real need and our knowledge of the sector is greatest. By the summer of 2017 we had 150 registered, checked, screened and 'ready to go' befrienders across the capital's boroughs. We took legal advice from Freshfields and built in safeguards, privacy and data protection protocols. In the autumn we began talking to refugee organisations to build trust and to encourage the referral of their service users. 3 years on we have registered over 500 volunteer befrienders and made 300 matches. We have built referral pathways with refugee organisations, ESOL colleges, social services and the NHS. We have a management team of 4 (with 3 staff members on payroll) running the service, liaising with referrers, screening befrienders, matching, making introductions and evaluating the matches. Feedback from befrienders and befriendees is very encouraging with over 80% positive outcomes and in many cases strong and sustained friendships have been created.

In September 2018 we became an incorporated charity (CIO) and we succeeded in receiving grants from a number of sources, mainly trusts and foundations and individual donations. We are now in a position to broaden our core work in London and to take our befriending model to the north east of

England where we have just entered into a partnership with IPC (Investing in People and Culture). By scaling up refugee befriending, HostNation hopes to create sustainable inter-cultural friendships in communities and to help refugees gain social capital, inclusion and a greater sense of belonging.

Looking Ahead

In just over 3 years we have established our bespoke refuge befriending model in London , are now working with our partners in the northeast of England to take our befriending model there and have plans to expand to other regions in the UK. Our anticipated income for next year is just over £100K.

We feel that the time is right to recruit a new trustee to act as our Treasurer, joining our board of four trustees and our small team of staff led by our co-directors Anneke Elwes and Rossana Horsley. Someone with financial and accounting skills, good knowledge of charity financing and with a commitment to our work and values. We are particularly keen for our Treasurer to work closely with Anneke and to lead on financial matters at board level

Qualities

We would like our new Treasurer to have the following skills and experience,

Specific

- Good knowledge of financial and accounting systems and procedures covering UK charities
- Ability to work with our co-director to produce reliable quarterly financial reports projections and annual accounts
- Ensure that we get best value from our accountants
- Lead for the board on the production of bespoke financial reports, returns, accounts and, where necessary audits
- Experience and knowledge of current fundraising practices in the charitable sector
- Good knowledge of financial management & planning
- Ability to communicate financial issues clearly to our board and staff team

General

- A strong affiliation with our aspirations and values
- Ability to act as a distinctive team player on our board of trustees
- Willingness to act as an advocate for our work with your professional and personal networks

Our Treasurer would be expected to attend 4 board meetings a year and devote the equivalent of 5 days a year working with Anneke on our financial position

Trustees

The Charities Act 1993 defines charity trustees as the people responsible under the charity's governing document for controlling the administration and management of the charity. As we are a CIO, the trustees are the sole voting members of the organisation. All Trustees perform their duties voluntarily. They are responsible for managing the strategic, legal and financial affairs of HostNation, and to act in keeping with the charitable purposes as declared in the objects of our Constitution.

The Trustees' role is to give firm strategic direction to HostNation, setting overall policies, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets. In addition they safeguard our reputation, values and integrity and ensure our financial stability by protecting and managing HostNation's resources.

Recruitment Process

To find out more about this exciting role why not contact our chair, Daniel Silverstone for an informal chat? Daniel@dsilverstone.co.uk

We'd like applicants to submit a brief personal statement setting out why you would like to apply together with an up-to-date CV.

Please send completed applications to info@hostnation.org.uk.
The closing date for applications is **18 December 2020**