



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Haringey Migrant Support Centre (HMSC) is a charity set up in 2012, staffed by volunteers and a small number of paid workers, offering advice and support to migrants in London. The beneficiaries often have an insecure immigration status and are affected by the 'hostile environment' agenda.

Every 2 weeks, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, we run a social community space at St John Vianney Parish Centre, on West Green Road. In the space we run activities to support visitors' wellbeing, help foster connections and build community knowledge amongst visitors at HMSC. Our fantastic volunteers cook a hot lunch and there are tea & coffee, games, reading, local information, etc. It is an opportunity for everyone to relax and share in a safe and welcoming environment.

We are recruiting volunteers to support the running of this space, including setting up and closing down each session, supporting visitors to engage with activities, and generally creating a welcoming environment for all!

This role is suited to those volunteers who would like to have direct contact with visitors and connect in-person to support visitors' wellbeing. You will need to be welcoming, empathetic and have good interpersonal skills, and the ability to take initiative. An understanding of the UK's immigration system and the impact it can have on visitors' mental and physical wellbeing would be an advantage but is not essential. Most important is a desire to create a welcoming and social space that supports the wellbeing needs of our visitors.

When?

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 9.30am to 4.30 pm.

Where?

In person at our community space at St John Vianney Parish Centre, 386 West Green, N15 3QL.

Tasks

- Setting up the Community space hall at the beginning of the day and closing and cleaning at the end of the day (setting up tables and chairs and any equipment/materials for the day)
- To provide a warm welcome and engage with visitors of the community space
- Support visitors to get involved with different activities in the community space (e.g. workshops, creative activities, information sessions)
- Support the facilitation of activities and organise the use of equipment for visitors. We would welcome any volunteers who would be interested in leading activities.
- Support visitors to share ideas about what activities would benefit them.
- Signposting visitors to local services, networks and projects in the community
- Attend a briefing and debriefing at the beginning and end of each volunteering day.

- Liaise with members of staff and advisers to provide the best possible support for visitors.

Commitment

- Need to be available to volunteer **every fortnight**, on the day and times mentioned in the role description. We understand that there might be circumstances where a volunteer can't attend (e.g., holidays, illness), please try to inform us in advance so that we can organise cover.
- Need a minimum commitment of **6 months** (training and experience is gradually built up 'on the job' and through peer support).
- Need to complete ongoing training provided by HMSC.

Requirements: personal qualities

- A desire to support migrants affected by the hostile environment, including people who seeking to regularise their status.
- Willingness to listen to the concerns of visitors who visit the space.
- Patient, calm manner when engaging with vulnerable visitors.
- Able to work with a diverse range of people from different backgrounds in a sensitive manner.
- Able to take initiative and be flexible to support with the range of activities being run in the space.

Benefits

- Valuable experience at the frontline of a grassroots organization supporting migrants personal wellbeing, in a small friendly team.
- Better understanding of immigration and refugee issues, rights and entitlements of migrants, as well as ways to deliver practical support to vulnerable migrants facing the 'hostile environment'. Additional training will be provided when possible.
- Professional reference after 4 months.
- Reimbursement of travel expenses and a free lunch provided.

Contact: volunteering@haringeymsc.org