



The Migration Foundation committee is recruiting a new Chair

Would you like to make a difference to the lives of destitute refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in the UK? The Migration Foundation is looking to recruit an inspirational leader to chair our committee with in depth knowledge and experience of immigration and refugee protection issues in the UK context.

Who we are

The Migration Foundation (MF) is a restricted fund of Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) and was established to help migrants and the communities they live in, including people who are refugees and asylum seekers. MF has invested in a wide range of projects over the last decade, with a strong background in co-funding larger pieces of work. Many of the projects have a housing and legal focus, and we are very proud to provide core funding to a number of organisations, such as charities and law clinics, working to support people at risk of destitution, homelessness, exploitation and unlimited immigration detention. This is an exciting point in our history – 2020 will mark our 10th anniversary in grant making and we are currently developing a new strategy which will be implemented in April next year.

About the committee

The Migration Foundation committee provides advice and guidance on the application of the Foundation endowment (circa £16m). The Foundation is the only fund focussed on migrant destitution in the UK. The committee is formed of independent members and MTVH staff who attend three to four meetings a year on a voluntary basis and have relevant experience in migration and supporting refugees, and other relevant areas such as grant-making, social investment and housing.

About MTVH

MTVH is one of the UK's leading providers of affordable housing and care and support services for people living in London, the South East, East Midlands and East of England. A member of the National Housing Federation and the g15 – which represents London's largest housing associations – we are building more homes to address the national shortage of affordable housing. In October 2018 likeminded housing associations Metropolitan and Thames Valley Housing formally completed a partnership to form Metropolitan Thames Valley. We came together because we want to improve the services we provide and do more in our communities. Through the nature of our work, we believe we can develop ways of doing things differently that help tackle big social issues about where and how people live. We believe everyone should have a home and the chance to live well.

Chair's role

Our Chair will provide strategic leadership to our Committee, to ensure it is thriving, developing and learning to the benefit of our stakeholders. The successful applicant will have strong interpersonal skills, ambition and enthusiasm and will be able to act as an ambassador for the organisation.

Responsibilities

- Committee members are responsible for ensuring that strategy implementation reflects the needs of destitute migrants whilst aligning with wider MTVH strategy. This includes scrutiny of funded projects' social and financial outcomes and subsequent monitoring of these projects.
- Committee members assist Foundation staff and MTVH remain up-to-date with changes in immigration policy, law and the impact on communities. Committee members also facilitate relationship-building and access to relevant networks.
- Establish and build a strong, effective and constructive working relationship with Foundation staff.

In addition, the chair's duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following;

The Chair shall:

- Ensure meetings are called and held in accordance with the Migration Foundation's terms of reference.
- In consultation with Migration Foundation staff, and/or other committee members establish and confirm an agenda for each meeting.
- Officiate and conduct meetings.
- Provide leadership & ensure committee members are aware of their obligations and that the committee complies with its responsibilities.
- Ensure there is sufficient time during the meeting to fully discuss agenda items.
- Ensure that discussion on agenda items is on topic, productive and professional.
- Ensure minutes are complete and accurate, retained, included and reviewed at the next meeting.
- To represent and act as an ambassador for the Migration Foundation on appropriate occasions, internally and externally.

Requirements

- A passion for positive change on issues of migration, refugee protection and integration (Essential)
- Familiarity with the strengths of, and challenges facing, the social justice and/or migration sector (Essential)
- Familiarity with, or strong interest in, challenges faced by destitute migrants (Essential)
- Understanding of UK immigration and asylum law (Desirable)
- Experience of senior executive or governance roles (Essential)
- Personal experience of seeking refugee status or being subject to immigration control (Desirable)
- Experience of grant-making (Desirable)

Terms of appointment

- Term of office is 3 years with the potential to have this extended to 6 years.
- There are three committee meetings a year, and, when required, one strategy/away day.
- No remuneration but reasonable expenses can be claimed.
- We would like the new Chair to take up the role in January 2020 if possible but there is flexibility if the right candidate cannot start until February or March 2020.
- Most meetings take place at MTVH's new Head office, which is in Hatton Garden - EC1, London.
- Please note that most meetings take place during working hours.

How to apply

To apply for this role, please provide the following documents:

- An up to date CV.
- A supporting statement (maximum 2 pages) that outlines your interest in this particular organisation and role, and your fit against the essential experience criteria set out in the Person Specification.

Please email your application to juliana.bell@mtvh.co.uk by no later than midday on Thursday 31 October 2019.

If you would rather speak with someone about the role then please contact Juliana Bell, Programme Delivery Manager of the Migration Foundation, on juliana.bell@mtvh.co.uk to arrange a telephone conversation.

Please note interviews will take place in central London on Monday 11 November.