



TRUSTEE ROLE PROFILE

Trustee role	Legal Advisor
Time commitment	<p>The board meets on a monthly/interim basis. Trustees are expected to attend quarterly board meetings (January, April, July and October) as a minimum, which usually take place 5:30-7pm remotely.</p> <p>Trustees may be asked for advice and expertise outside of formal meetings.</p>
Remuneration	The role of trustee is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although expenses for travel may be claimed.
Term	The charity's trustees will serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment for additional term(s).
Location	One Canada Square, London E14 5AA – or via remote access/online

Overview	<p>Our committed and enthusiastic board is chaired by the organisation's President and currently comprises of medical professionals, fundraising and PR experts plus an accountant. In your role as a trustee you will bring in legal expertise and advice. Areas where this has been or is likely to be of great value include employment, medical issues, contracts and governance. It is recognised that such advice and assistance is provided on a pro bono basis without the benefit of PI cover behind it.</p> <p>The Board meets monthly via virtual meetings at present and 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.</p> <p>Where appropriate, individual trustees work with employees of the charity, supporting and mentoring them and working on matters which involve their areas of expertise.</p>
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Legal Advisor Duties include:

- **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

- **The additional duties and responsibilities as Legal Advisor. These include:**
 - Providing legal guidance and advice relating to company and charity law, and health and safety regulations
 - Helping the charity to access further information in relation to more complex questions in company and charity law and other areas of law
 - Helping the charity to ensure compliance under contractual requirements and under company and charity law.
 - Supporting good practice, for example with respect to governance and employment and personnel procedures
 - Optional engagement in the international Médecins du Monde network steering groups, such as for Governance, contributing to the international work of the organisation
 - Signposting the organisation to other sources of support and information outside of their area of expertise

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE/KNOWLEDGE

The candidate would be a qualified lawyer practicing in the UK.

Though not essential for the role, we especially welcome applications 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 their 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 particular 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 also 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 particular 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.

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