

Context:

Welcome Churches is a national organisation whose vision is for every refugee to be welcomed by the local Church. We do this by equipping and resourcing churches through learning and training and giving churches access to our national network of churches committed to welcoming refugees.

Over the last year, we have grown our refugee integration work, to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are included in the communities that welcome them, and invited to contribute their own skills and gifts. However, since the outbreak of Covid-19 it has become increasingly difficult for refugees and asylum seekers to join in with local community activities. We have seen increasing isolation of refugees and asylum seekers around the UK, due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place across the country. As the majority of activities run by community groups and churches have gone online in the last year, those that do not have access to the internet, or who are digitally illiterate have not been able to connect with friends and the community. This has increased isolation and loneliness felt by many refugees and asylum seekers - especially when we cannot meet in groups face-to-face. Many refugees and asylum seekers are experiencing digital poverty and have a higher chance of being digitally illiterate in the first place.

Our 'Refugees Online' project aims to equip refugees and asylum seekers to get online through our new 'Refugees Online' project. This project will work with local churches across the UK to empower isolated refugees and asylum seekers to connect with online activities. There are two elements to the 'Refugees Online' project - supporting local churches to respond to the hardware and software needs of refugees and identifying and training 'Digital Champions' to help refugees get online.

Job summary:

We have an exciting opportunity for a creative and enthusiastic individual, who is passionate about refugees being welcomed by their local church, to join our growing team. The Digital Champions Coordinator will play a key role in helping to write and deliver training to the 20 Digital Champions. They will also be responsible for supporting the Digital Champions throughout the year and connecting digitally-isolated refugees to them.

The Digital Champions Coordinator will be directly accountable to the Chief Operations Officer through regular supervisions. This will ensure accountability in the role, and identify any training and support needs they may have. We are a highly-committed team who work collaboratively to support one another. You will be working closely with the whole team to ensure maximum impact.

The Digital Champions Coordinator is likely to be based in Derby with the possibility of some remote-working during the week too. The role is full time at 37.5 hours/week paid at the National Living Wage of £9.50/hour. This is a fixed-term contract for one year. The successful candidate will be expected to work occasional evenings and weekends and be available to travel around the UK. This post also requires an enhanced DBS check prior to starting.

Applicants are required to be from a refugee background, have an active Christian faith and be passionate about the UK Church welcoming refugees into the church community.

Responsibilities include:

- Project management of the development of Digital Champions Training,
- Identify and support Digital Champions across the UK from different language backgrounds,
- Connect refugees with Digital Champions to receive digital support,
- Promotion of Welcome Churches,
- Providing training to churches in our Welcome Network,
- Representing Welcome Churches at exhibitions across the UK to help raise the profile of our work,
- Being willing to pray with churches, supporters and the Welcome Churches team.

Skills you will learn:

- Project management skills
- Communication and presentation skills
- Networking skills
- Leadership development
- Understanding and experience of UK work culture
- Greater understanding of the UK asylum system and the UK Church's role within this
- Access to English lessons (if required)

Experience and skills required:

Essential:

- Organisational skills
- Knowledge of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the UK
- Understanding of how different churches operate and engage with their communities in the UK
- IT and computer experience
- Strong communication skills
- MS Office and GSuite proficiency
- Experience of leading a project or activity from start to finish
- Experience of working in a team
- Strong English language skills

Desirable:

- Experience of networking and building professional relationships
- Experience of creating training resources
- Understanding of how charities operate in the UK

How to apply:

This role is subject to successful funding from the Rank Foundation's Time 2 Shine leadership programme. The prospective candidate is required to be interviewed by both Welcome Churches on Monday 25 January, and the Rank Foundation on 8 February 2021. If successful the Integration Officer will start on Monday 1 March 2021. The role is a fixed contract until 28 February 2022.

Interested candidates should email a CV and covering letter to Emily Holden by 9am on Monday 18 January 2021.

emily.holden@welcomechurches.org 07563 989543