

ASAP is looking for new Management Committee Members (Trustees)

The Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) is a small national charity. We reduce destitution amongst people seeking asylum in the UK by defending peoples' legal rights to food and shelter.

Most people who have had to leave their countries due to war or conflict are not allowed to work when they claim asylum in the UK. The only option is to apply to the Home Office for basic housing and a low level of financial support. The Home Office often gets decisions wrong, refusing or withdrawing support even where people meet the criteria. People can appeal to the Asylum Support Tribunal, but there is no legal aid available outside Scotland, so it is hard to find a solicitor.

- We offer free legal representation for people who are appealing a refusal of housing/ financial support, at the Asylum Support Tribunal. Last year we represented over 200 people, enabling over 70% of appellants to access accommodation and support.
- We build other organisations' skills in asylum support law through training, an advice line, and an online network of advisors, to increase access to high quality advice on asylum support across the UK. Last year we trained over 2000 advisors across the UK.
- We influence Home Office policy and practice on housing and financial support so that it better meets people's needs, through advocacy work and strategic litigation.

Currently, ASAP employs 12 staff and is supported by around 35 solicitors and barristers who volunteer on our pro bono legal representation scheme at the Tribunal.

ASAP's work and strategy is overseen by a voluntary Management Committee (trustees). The Committee has a broad range of skills and experience, including expertise in law, finance, HR, communications and charity management. A number of our trustees also have experience of living on asylum support in the UK. We are looking for new Management Committee members with legal expertise, particularly in relation to immigration, public or asylum support law.

ASAP is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. We welcome applications regardless of age, disability, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy/ maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation. We particularly encourage applicants with lived experience of seeking asylum and/or asylum support. Most MC meetings are held by zoom, with 1-2 per year in person.

To apply, please complete the application form and return to kat@asaproject.org.uk by midnight on **June 8th 2025**. For an informal discussion, please contact ASAP Director Kat Lorenz: kat@asaproject.org.uk

Interviews will be held by zoom on **17th June 2025**. Reasonable expenses for attending the interview (eg data costs) and any other MC meetings in future, will be reimbursed.

Job Description and Person Specification - Management Committee Member (Legal expertise)

Please note, if you are a current volunteer on ASAP's duty scheme – thank you! We are really grateful for your commitment. Please consider whether you would have time to continue on our duty scheme alongside joining the Management Committee. We really need your legal expertise on our duty scheme, and are aware that both volunteer roles take a lot of time and commitment. Please do email Kat if you'd like to talk about the commitments involved in joining the trustee board.

Job Description

In addition to the usual role of Management Committee member, MC members with legal expertise will join the legal subcommittee (which meets as required, usually max twice/yr) to:

- Give their views on potential litigation ASAP is considering
- Sign off draft witness statements produced by the ASAP team as required
- Give their views on issues related to ASAP's legal services

MC members will be required to provide strategic oversight of:

- ASAP's compliance with its Articles of Association, policies, and law;
- ASAP's compliance with all funding conditions and contracts;
- Whether ASAP is best using its resources to meet its objectives;
- The effective and efficient administration of ASAP;
- Monitoring and reporting of financial information;
- ASAP's funding and expenditure situation; and
- Implementation of ASAP's Equal Opportunities Policy in employment and service delivery.

MC members will also:

- Contribute actively to the MC by giving strategic direction, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and monitoring and evaluating performance against targets;
- Attend and prepare for MC meetings;
- Appoint MC members and officers;
- Approve accounts;
- Ensure that ASAP and the MC safeguard ASAP's values and reputation; and
- Provide any other assistance the MC or ASAP may require, as appropriate, particularly utilising any specialist skills or experience they may have.

Person Specification

Essential

- Qualified, practicing lawyer in immigration or public law in the UK (including barristers) and/or current or former ASAP duty scheme volunteers;
- Ability to fulfil the job description;
- A commitment to ASAP's values;
- An awareness of issues affecting ASAP or willingness to learn about them;
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to prepare for and attend regular MC meetings for at least 3 years;
- Integrity;
- Strategic vision and an ability to stay focused on strategic objectives;
- Good independent judgement;
- Willingness to take part in MC discussions, contribute constructively and listen to others;

- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties and liabilities of trustees of a charitable company;
- Ability to work effectively as a member of a team;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality;
- Understanding and acceptance of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy; and
- Willingness to take undertake training required on trustee duties.

Desirable

- Experience of coming to the UK as a refugee/ living on asylum support in the UK;
- Experience of asylum support law and appeals;
- Ability to use IT including Microsoft Office packages and
- Five years' experience in one or more of:
 - Working with asylum seekers and refugee community organisations;
 - Other work with the asylum sector;
 - Other work in the legal and advice sector;
 - Charitable fundraising;
 - Voluntary sector issues, such as trends for charities and partnership/network formation;
 - Organisational development, growth or change;
 - Human resources;
 - Financial management/accountancy;
 - IT;
 - Communications in relation to social justice or social policy;
 - Lobbying, advocacy and campaigning regarding social justice or social policy;
 - Legal, sociological or other research relevant to ASAP's work; or
 - Management and administration of a charity, for example as a director or trustee.