Faith to Faithless

Volunteer Role Description
In-Person Social Host

Location: Across the UK, see advert for specific location

Expenses: Necessary expenses will be reimbursed

Time commitment: Roughly 3-4 hours per month, usually on weekends

Reports to: Advocacy & Peer Support Coordinator (APSC)

This is an exciting opportunity to support Faith to Faithless by contributing to our efforts to better support people who have left controlling religions and to create a community of friends who share similar experiences.

We arrange social events for ex-religious people in several cities in the UK. These are simple events, perhaps in a cafe or pub, or going for a walk in a park. The venue, date and time of the event, as well as the frequency of them, is the decision of the volunteer host. The promotion of the event and inviting the attendees is done by the staff team.

The volunteer Host then turns up early for the event and welcomes the people as they arrive. They start up conversations with people and introduce them to the other attendees. It really is just like a group of friends meeting to chat. Most of these groups tend to build up a small number of people that will come regularly, and you will also always have new people attending, some of whom may never have met other ex-religious people before. People may, and usually do, chat about their experiences leaving religion, or they may prefer to chat about something else. These spaces enable people who may have lost connections with many religious friends and family members to meet others who share a similar past and hopefully build ongoing friendships.

Afterwards you will have a small amount of admin to do, including emailing the Advocacy & Peer Support Coordinator (APSC) to say who came and how it went, and filling in a form if any safeguarding concerns were raised.

All our volunteer hosts will meet with the APSC once a quarter for a service discussion meeting. This meeting will be remote and via video call.

Finally, volunteer Hosts also have an optional opportunity to attend a group debrief session via video call with the APSC the week after their event.

As an In-Person Social Host, you will be involved in:

- Arranging regular social events for people who have left religious groups.
- Finding a suitable venue like a cafe, museum, or pub.
- Setting the date and time that works best for yourself and attendees.
- Communicating with the APSC via email and online meetings.
- Discussing safeguarding concerns and following our safeguarding processes (you will not be expected to handle safeguarding concerns on your own).
- Checking emails and social media for updates.
- Welcoming attendees and starting conversations with them in a warm, friendly, and empathetic manner.

You might have skills from your work, studies, or volunteering that lend themselves well to this role.

To excel in this role, you should:

- Be a warm and empathetic person.
- Be confident enough to talk to new people who may feel anxious at first, introduce them to other new people, and put them at ease.
- Have lived experience of leaving a high-control religious group, or have engaged extensively with such people.
- Have some experience of arranging small social events (preferred, but training will be given).
- Demonstrate commitment to Humanists UK's values and beliefs.

As an In-Person Social Host, you will gain:

- Comprehensive induction, training, and ongoing support.
- The chance to be part of a friendly, diverse community of people who want to make a difference in the lives of ex-religious people.
- Learning about the issues of other ex-religious communities.
- Opportunities to attend annual social events with our other volunteers.
- Comprehensive IT support.
- Insight into Humanists UK's wider humanitarian and campaigning work.

We will provide you with ongoing support and training throughout your volunteering, including:

- A full role induction.
- A paid Enhanced DBS check including Adults' Barred List.
- Online safeguarding training for working with vulnerable adults.
- Faith to Faithless' bespoke safeguarding training with our Safeguarding Lead.
- Regular check-ins and support.
- Facilitated Group Reflection Sessions (Clinical Supervision): Monthly online sessions led by an external therapist specialising in religious trauma. This provides a confidential space to reflect on your volunteering, discuss any challenges that come up while hosting, and look after your mental wellbeing. Please note this focuses specifically on supporting volunteers in their role rather than offering personal therapy. We strongly encourage joining these sessions during your early months with us.
- Your own Faith to Faithless email address and online storage.

We hope this pack contains all the information you will need to decide whether the role is right for you. However, if you have any questions before you apply, you are more than welcome to contact volunteers@humanists.uk for more information, or an informal chat.