Research Assistant Volunteer

**Ideal time commitment:** 1 day per week, for at least 6 months

**Reports to:** Research Coordinator

**About the Helen Bamber Foundation Group**

The Helen Bamber Foundation (HBF) is a human rights charity based in London which was founded in 2005. HBF grew from the recognition that people who have suffered prolonged inter-personal violence – whether from human trafficking; war; community, domestic or gender-based violence – present with similar physical and psychological symptoms to torture survivors and experience the same complex and enduring responses to their trauma.

Our specialist team of therapists, doctors and legal experts have an international reputation for providing therapeutic care, medical consultation, legal protection and practical support to survivors of human rights violations. We offer our clients a Model of Integrated Care (MOIC), providing legal, medical, psychological and welfare support, as well as an Integration Programme which includes arts-based groups, and skills-based classes such as English and IT. Through this, we help our clients to develop a sustained recovery from extreme trauma.

Asylum Aid, (previously merged with Migrants Resource Centre under Consonant) is, and has long been, a leader in the Immigration and NGO sector: providing high-level legal support to ensure the protection of vulnerable refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants. Since August 2020, Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid have combined efforts to support the vulnerable people seeking asylum and refugees who need us the most, operating as two separate entities joined under a group structure, known as the Helen Bamber Foundation Group.

**About the role**

Research is an important part of our work at Helen Bamber Foundation and enables us to understand our clients’ experiences and how they can be best supported. We produce evidence, which we use alongside learning from our services, to try to change law, policy and practice across different organisations and authorities such as the NHS and Home Office. Everyone in the sector can then use our evidence to drive positive change and improve support for Survivors.

Much of our research has a clinical focus, such as exploring new types of therapeutic approaches. We also carry out systematic reviews of existing evidence about health conditions and their management and interview-based studies of the lived experience and health impact of aspects of forced migration (such as the mental health impact of detention and of quasi-detention accommodation). We conduct research addressing legal, counter-trafficking and policy issues such as the difficulties experienced during the ‘transition’ period after people gain leave to remain . We are working to increase involvement of and co-production with people who have expertise by lived experience (including our clients and former clients) in our research programme.

Research helps us achieve our goals of securing legal protection for survivors, increasing access to appropriate care and preventing re-trafficking.

**We are looking for a volunteer to support the research team to progress a variety of research projects.**

*Main tasks and activities*

* Assisting the research team with ad-hoc administrative research tasks, including data management and research project tracking
* Making research recruitment calls and speaking to clients about research opportunities
* Translating research papers into accessible summaries and creative content
* Contributing to data extraction and analysis across a number of research projects
* Editing and reviewing research papers to prepare them to be submitted for publication

*Skills and experience needed*

* Understanding of, and commitment to, the objectives of the Helen Bamber Foundation;
* A demonstrable empathy for our vulnerable clients, including people seeking asylum, refugees and survivors of torture and trafficking;
* Some knowledge of the challenges facing vulnerable clients including people seeking asylum, refugees and survivors of torture, trafficking;
* Strong interest in research and its potential to contribute to positive change for our client group
* Ability to think critically about research, and to be mindful of the ethical dilemmas and complexities surrounding doing research with survivors
* Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
* Excellent organizational skills and ability to manage own time and workload, and to prioritise a range of competing demands;
* Ability to translate complex and technical academic writing into accessible content

Desirable

* Experience analysing qualitative and/or quantitative data
* Strong writing and editing skills, and previous experience of writing academic papers or non-academic reports
* An interest in participatory research methods and co-production and in centering lived-experience within research

**Equal Opportunities**

The Helen Bamber Foundation and Asylum Aid is an equal opportunities and Living Wage employer. We are committed to attracting and recruiting diverse candidates as we are keen to make sure that our staff, trustees, volunteers and ambassadors reflect the communities we serve and the wider community we work in at every level within the organisation. We particularly welcome applications from those with migrant and refugee backgrounds and those with lived experience of the UK’s immigration systems.

**To apply, please attach you CV and cover letter below. Applications without a cover letter will, unfortunately, not be considered.**

**Due to capacity constraints, we will only respond to applicants who are being invited to interview.**

**Please note, a three-month probation period is in place across all HBF voluntary roles.**

**Successful candidates will be offered the position subject to a DBS check.**