

## **Mothers' Union International Development Opportunity**

### **Seeks a Volunteer Board member with experience in International Development**

#### **To join its Development Committee**

#### **About Mothers' Union**

Mothers' Union is a membership organisation and our members have been empowering communities to combat poverty, speak up for social justice and improve wellbeing of those around them for more than 140 years.

Family and community are at the heart of all we do, ensuring any change is relevant and lasting. We are proud that through our 4 million members acting as volunteers we are able to understand and support in the region of 1 million people each year, giving them the skills and knowledge to transform their own lives for the better. Founded by the social activist Mary Sumner in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who championed change, particularly in matters relating to women and family life continues to be part of our DNA. Our Christian values further underpin this commitment to working towards a world that ensures everyone is able to live life in all its fullness and our inclusive approach ensures we work with people of all faiths and none.

As well as addressing local short-term needs, there is a programme of transformational work which is determined by the needs identified in individual communities. Mothers' Union is just completing a conversation with over 200,000 members worldwide, which is helping to ensure that we have listened to the real needs locally, and are building our global programmes based on those needs.

We are unusual in that all of the work is undertaken by members in their own communities, making delivery highly cost-effective and sustainable.

#### **The Opportunity**

The role of the central charity in International Development is two-fold:

- 1 To build capability and capacity across the regions of the world, so they are increasingly able to both fundraise and deliver programmes which are appropriate to the local context, and which follow good governance and development practice;
- 2 To co-ordinate a number of core programmes in partnership with the regions, countries, and where appropriate, other international and local partners, to address locally identified priorities.

Currently, there are four main programmatic areas: Church Community Mobilisation (Asset Based Community Development); Literacy and Financial Education; Savings and Credit Programmes, and Parenting.

Mothers' Union programmes have evolved as the charity developed over time. We are now at a stage where we would like to establish a more structured and standardised approach to the whole programme cycle, and to Monitoring and Evaluation (MEL), both for our central programmes and developing the capability locally for their own projects.

This work has started and is now at the stage where we recognise that our work would benefit from external expertise to assess the progress made.

#### **The Development Committee**

This is a newly formed committee since February 2019 whose key remit is to set direction, and oversee the implementation of our programme work across the world.

It is comprised of a Chair and four Board members (from Canada, Sri Lanka, Madagascar and the UK), all of whom have experience of Mothers' Union projects and programmes in their local context. This role will complement their expertise and provide the professional knowledge and understanding of programme development, offering guidance and support to help us to evolve and embed systems and approaches which are appropriate for our work and consistent with best practice in international development.

A copy of the terms of reference of the committee is attached.

### **Time requirement**

Indicatively, the total time requirement over the year will be up to 10 days.

Meetings shall be held not less than three times a year, at least one of these is expected to be one which will require your attendance in person, with other meetings held by conference call.

Special meetings of the Development Committee may be convened as and when required. Each meeting will have papers to be read in advance. The teleconferences are likely to last up to 2 hours, with the personal attendance to be full day during standard working hours.

In addition, the appointed committee member will be asked to engage with staff in developing strategy and supporting and challenging implementation, and may be invited to be in attendance for major sessions of the main Board meeting (which are held in the UK) pertaining to the Development work.

### **Key skills and personal characteristics required:**

#### **Essential**

- Proven track record in developing and managing major international programmes, including monitoring and evaluation.
- A strong empathy with the Mothers' Union approach to transformational community development.
- Experience of grassroots driven programmes, and an understanding of systems that enable joint learning and development and an ability to advise on practical measures for monitoring and evaluation in this context.
- Excellent interpersonal skills—an ability to communicate effectively and connect with to a wide range of people, internally and externally both verbally & written.
- Excellent networker – has connections to access for advice, partnering or specialist skills.
- Knowledgeable practitioner with demonstrable strategic planning skills and experience.

**Desirable**

- Practising Christian.
- Understanding of working within a member-led membership organisation.
- Experience of organisational change and change management.
- Experience of academic writing or research.

**Duration of the role**

Board terms are 3 years, with a potential for a second three year term

**Travel expenses**

This is a voluntary position, but reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. The role entails no operational responsibilities.

**Key dates**

Deadline for applications (CV and a short supporting statement highlighting experience and what you would bring to the role): 10 May 2019.

Initial meetings with the Chief Executive to be scheduled within the last two weeks of May.

For more information on our work, please visit [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

For information on our Board: <https://www.mothersunion.org/our-story/our-governance/our-leadership/trustees>