

Mothers' Union is seeking Trustees for its Worldwide Board

About Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is a Christian membership organisation with 4 million members in 83 countries 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 19th century who championed change, particularly in matters relating to women and family life, this 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.

Our Governance

The Charity is governed by a Board which meets twice a year for up to one week on each occasion. There are 11 elected Trustees, 5 from Britain and Ireland and 6 from around the world, and a Chair, the Worldwide President (WWP), also elected, who is currently from Guyana.

We are seeking to appoint two Non-Executives, one with a particular expertise in fundraising and the other with a particular expertise in communications including digital communication.

This is a very exciting time for Mothers' Union as we seek to modernise and refocus the charity to increase the impact members can have on the communities in which they live, and to foster growth.

Key skills and personal characteristics required:

Essential for both posts:

- Ability to communicate clearly and work well in a multi-cultural Board, with staff and volunteers.
- Empathetic to the aims and objects of Mothers' Union.
- Willingness and ability to be able to provide appropriate support and challenge to the staff team, and to contribute to their professional development.

- An understanding of the charity sector and the business challenges and opportunities therein.
- Comfortable to operate in a Christian environment.
- Finance and IT literate.

Desirable for both posts:

- Prior Experience as a Charity Trustee.
- Practising Christian.
- Appreciation of a member-led membership organisation.
- Experience of organisational renewal/change management.
- Strategic planning skills.

In addition, specifically for:

Fundraising

- Strong, demonstrable experience in income generation
- Confident networker, able to identify and build good working relationships with potential sponsors, supporters and partners, ideally with a contact network which would facilitate this
- A thorough understanding of responsible and accountable fundraising

Communications/digital

- Proven expertise in all aspects of the communications mix, with a particular focus on digital
- Ability to provide strategic advice on all aspects of communications, particularly media and social media
- Proven ability to grow the public profile of an organisation

Time requirement

The formal Board business is conducted over up to a day and a half at the end of the Board week. Prior to that, there are in-depth sessions on key topics of strategic importance, which allow for wider ranging discussions of the topics before decisions need to be formally taken. It is recognised that it may be challenging for appointed Trustees to be available for a full week, so if necessary, the week can be structured to allow attendance for select topics only in advance of the formal meeting.

In addition, the appointed Trustees will be asked to engage with staff in developing strategy and supporting and challenging implementation in their area of expertise. Indicatively, the total time requirement over the year will be 10-15 days.

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): 15 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

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