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| **Time Commitment:** Approx 2-3 days per month  **Duration:** Flexible (see below)  **Location:**  London  **Remuneration:** Voluntary role  **Closing date: Rolling** |

# Trustees

### Woman’s Trust – helping women rebuild their lives

This role is for women only, under section 7.2e of the Sex Discrimination Act. Woman’s Trust is committed to providing equal opportunities irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, marital status, religion, sexuality, transgender status and working patterns.

### Background:

Woman’s Trust is a woman-only charity founded in 1995 to address the long-term mental health consequences of domestic violence, by providing high quality, free counselling and support services.

Domestic violence is the single biggest cause of mental health difficulties amongst women, causing depression, post-traumatic stress, and suicidal feelings. It takes many forms, and it sweeps across every social and cultural group.

According to government figures, 1 in 4 women in the UK will experience domestic violence in their lifetime – with approximately 2 women a week being killed by their partner or ex-partner.

The charity offers a counselling service that is person-centred, enabling women to make their own choices in their own way (this is crucial for victims of abuse); it is open to all women regardless of race, religion, sexuality, class or culture; and it is rooted in specialist understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence and its effects on women’s lives.

Woman’s Trust currently has a turnover of around £700,000 pa, providing services across all London boroughs, with centres in East and West London, and is seeking opportunities for growth.

**Context:**

Woman’s Trust has an active and committed Board consisting of around 12 trustees, who support a small number of paid staff. Trustees may be co-opted at any time, but are elected or re-elected at Woman’s Trust’s AGM. New trustees are asked to commit to serve for at least one year, but there is no maximum limit on the term. Woman’s Trust is currently seeking to recruit two further trustees.

### Role of Trustees at Woman’s Trust:

Woman’s Trust is seeking trustees who share the charity’s ‘client-led’, consultative ethos, and their drive and determination to make a difference to women affected by domestic abuse. Trustees use their knowledge and experience to help the Board set and oversee strategy, reach sound decisions, and provide guidance to staff on initiatives and operations where they have special expertise. The Board is the ultimate decision-making body for Woman’s Trust, and are accountable to funders and to regulators for its activities.

### Responsibilities as a Trustee:

Trustees have a number of specific responsibilities, including to:

* Review the organisation’s mission and values from time to time and as part of strategic development;
* Approve and monitor programmes, budgets and services;
* Ensure that the organisation has adequate financial resources, provide effective fiscal oversight and sound risk management;
* Ensure compliance with its governing documents, legislation and regulations;
* Act as guardians of Woman’s Trust policies, procedures, strategies and codes of practice, and to review these on a regular basis;
* Select and support the Chief Executive;
* Promote the organisation’s public image and be a good employer;
* Engage in the training and induction process, and read relevant papers, in order to understand their role as Woman’s Trust trustees and carry out that role effectively.

In addition, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience she has to help the Board reach sound decisions.

### Person Specification:

* Commitment to the Woman’s Trust ethos and client-led approach;
* Ability to provide constructive and pragmatic advice and support, rooted in relevant experience;
* Ability to work as part of a team;
* Willingness and ability to give the necessary time and effort;
* Ability to undertake the duties of Trustees.

**Essential knowledge/experience:**

* local authority or NHS commissioning or delivery oversight **or**
* Marketing, Social media, fundraising **or**
* Finance/accounting for small companies or charities or not-for-profit **or**
* Counselling, psychotherapy or mental health practitioner

**Desirable experience and understanding of domestic violence as it affects:**

* Women
* Refugees and asylum seekers
* Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender communities
* Faith groups
* BAME communities

### Time Commitment:

There are six two-hour Board meetings a year, generally weekday early evening. In addition there is one ‘Awayday’ to discuss broader strategy and governance issues. Trustees are also invited to join one of four sub-committees, which meet between 4 and 8 times a year at times to suit their members: finance; ethics and practice; fundraising, marketing and communications; and HR/remunerations.

There are other opportunities for getting involved and trustees are asked to support occasional events as well as to use their expertise to help deliver particular projects when they can.

### Remuneration:

This position is unremunerated; however reasonable expenses may be reimbursed.

### Application Process:

* Please submit your CV, covering letter (outlining how you meet the person specification) and an equal opportunity form to ceo@womanstrust.org.uk
* If you have any questions about these opportunities, please contact our Chair: Sally Field on 0208 340 7730 or email: sallyfield@blueyonder.co.uk