



Role Description:

Expert By Experience Panel Member
(EEA Nationals with experience of homelessness)

About Crisis

Crisis is the national charity for homeless people. We are determined to end homelessness. We do it person by person and by influencing policies to ensure everyone has a place to call home.

Crisis offers ground-breaking housing, health, education and employment services. We work with thousands of homeless people across the UK every year. We are determined campaigners. We draw on our research, partnerships and years of experience of working directly with homeless people to deliver change and a vision to end homelessness for good.

Role outline and the difference you will make

Crisis will launch a public campaign in late Spring 2021 to bring about policy changes from the UK government to ensure that EEA nationals living here do not become homeless because of their immigration status.

We aim to have the voice of lived experience at the heart of our work, so we are looking for nationals of EEA countries with experience of homelessness in the UK, who want to contribute to developing and delivering our policy recommendations and campaign. We will provide the support and development to help you grow into the role to become not only advisors on policy, but campaign spokespeople.

You will:

- Meet regularly as a panel of Experts by Experience to discuss and inform the work of Crisis on this campaign.
- Take part in a training and development programme to help you participate fully in the work of the campaign, including as media spokespeople if you are comfortable doing so.
- Use your lived experience to advise Crisis, give a voice to the campaign and ensure that it is relevant to the needs of EEA nationals at risk of homelessness in the UK.
- Grow into accomplished campaigners in your own right.

We are looking for **EEA nationals who were living in the UK before 31 December 2020** with lived experience of homelessness from across Great Britain to make up the Experts by Experience panel.

Meetings, training and events will take place mostly online, although we will look to support face to face meetings in the future if the situation with coronavirus makes that possible.

Timings and Commitment: This will be a 1-year programme, with the possibility of being extended. Between March and May there will be 4 – 5 half day sessions, followed by half day monthly meetings for the next 10 months. We're looking for people able to make a commitment to the year-long programme, but we do understand that circumstances can change and we can be flexible if you can't make every session.

Location: Initially online, then in London and other locations if the situation with the pandemic allows. Travel expenses will be paid. You will need to need access to email and video-conferencing. We can help with technology and provide data allowances if needed.

Responsible to: Crisis Member Involvement Team and Campaigns Team

Homelessness ends here

What you will gain

- An opportunity to be part of a team who are committed to ending homelessness.
- An opportunity to contribute to the development and improvement of Crisis policy and campaigning work.
- Experience and understanding of campaigning, communications and influencing to achieve policy change.
- Support from members of staff in the team.
- Language support (if needed)
- Induction, training and support for the role.
- The opportunity to develop new and existing skills - writing, photography, filmmaking, English language, campaigns, working with the media
- Opportunities to meet and network with staff and fellow panel members.
- The opportunity to share your life experiences.
- Additional optional opportunities to take part in Crisis campaigning meetings and other activities, including with Parliamentarians and others.

Out of pocket travel and food expenses will be reimbursed in line with our policy, and Panel Members will also receive a voucher for each session they attend.

We will support with technology and translation services where needed to enable full participation.

Core tasks and what you will achieve

- Attending regular meetings where you will be involved in informing policy development at Crisis.
- Oversight of specific projects around the campaign.
- Reviewing internal organisational activity and approaches that have the potential to affect people with experience of homelessness.
- Helping our supporters to understand the additional barriers which people from outside the UK face in accessing homelessness, housing and welfare support.
- Becoming spokespeople for the campaign in meeting with MPs, Ministers, in the media, and at events.
- Contribute to debate and influence decision making in the wider homelessness sector.
- Reading relevant meeting information in advance of the regular meetings.
- Attending other meetings and activities to contribute to the work of Crisis.

The skills & experience we are looking for

- Specific understanding of the issues faced by EEA nationals in the UK gained through personal experience of homelessness.
- Panel Members must have been living in the UK before 31st December 2020.
- Willingness to take part in meetings and contribute your opinions.
- An interest in self-development and growth into the role of an active campaigner.
- The ability to work with others, take part in constructive discussion and respect other viewpoints.
- A willingness to share your knowledge and experience and to give open and honest feedback.
- The ability to read information to prepare for meetings.
- An understanding of the importance of confidentiality.
- Reliability and good time keeping.
- Ability to communicate by email.
- Willing to travel independently to meetings when these arise.
- Commitment to Crisis values and a passion and enthusiasm for ending homelessness.

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We will also be looking for Expert by Experience Panel members to chair the meetings. Training and support will be provided. If you would be interested in taking on this responsibility, please mention this on your application.

Additional information

Panel Members are also asked to:

- Comply with Crisis policies including health and safety, data protection and code of conduct at all times
- To maintain the privacy and confidentiality of all accessible information about members and the organisation
- Be positive, productive and have the passion to help end homelessness

How do I apply?

Complete the application form and send it to livedexperience.campaigns@crisis.org.uk

For more information or a chat about the role, contact steve.lee@crisis.org.uk

The deadline for applications is 18 February 2021. Interviews will take place online week commencing 22nd February.

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