

Accompaniment Volunteer: Reporting

JRS mission and work

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation, at work in 50 countries with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. JRS in the UK has a special ministry to those who find themselves destitute as a consequence of government policies and those detained for the administration of immigration procedures. JRS UK runs a day centre, activities and hosting scheme (At Home) for destitute asylum seekers, detention outreach services to Heathrow IRC and has recently begun a legal advice service. We work to raise awareness of the situation facing refugees we accompany and serve by enabling their story to be heard.

Volunteer role: Accompaniment Volunteer - Reporting

JRS UK runs a weekly Day Centre, which welcomes and provides services for destitute refugees and other forced migrants. Many of our refugee friends are required to report to the Home Office immigration authorities at a frequency (daily, weekly, monthly etc.) and time set by the Home Office. Going to report can trigger fear or high levels of anxiety or disorientation.

These fears may be heightened when reporting for the first few times at a new centre, after an application to stay has been refused, after an appeal has been dismissed, or following perceived or actual changes in Home Office practice. For others, reporting is always a daunting experience. Often our refugee friends face lengthy queues waiting to enter the immigration reporting centre building, regardless of weather conditions. Sometimes they wait for a long time once inside the building and are subject to questioning by immigration officers. There is a risk of not being allowed to leave, of being sent to a detention centre and of forced removal from the UK. Removals may bring danger, persecution and human rights abuses.

JRS UK are looking for volunteers who can accompany, in person, refugee friends who would welcome this form of moral support. Reporting takes place at Home Office centres at London Bridge, Croydon and near Heathrow, weekdays and during office hours.

'To accompany' refugees and other forced migrants by being present and alongside them rather than 'doing things for them' is one of the core elements of the mission of JRS. As a volunteer, you will offer a reassuring presence whilst showing personal sensitivity and respect to our refugee friends.

Person specification

- Commitment and ability to relate with respect to refugee friend
- Ability to relate with sensitivity and empathy to refugees and persons experiencing anxiety or distress
- Commitment to confidentiality
- Patience and stamina – you may be required to wait for long periods in the queue and/or for the friend to be allowed to leave the reporting centre
- Flexible disposition – arrangements may be subject to alteration at very late notice
- Reliability
- Personal resilience
- Commitment to support refugees and other forced migrants
- Commitment to the values of JRS: dignity, justice, solidarity, compassion, hospitality, participation, and hope.
- Ability to travel in London

It is likely that requests to accompany a refugee friend will be made on an ad hoc basis. JRS will provide induction and support to Accompaniment Volunteers. Travel and other expenses will be paid.

Where to find us:

Jesuit Refugee Service UK
Hurtado Jesuit Centre
2 Chandler Street
London
E1W 2QT

Contact us if you are interested in the role, apply online:

Email us: uk@jrs.net
Call us: 020 7488 7310
Volunteer Webpage: <https://www.jrsuk.net/volunteer/>

Find out more about JRS UK:

Website: www.jrsuk.net