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## Women's Prayer Group Facilitator

### 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: Women's Prayer Group Facilitator

JRS UK is looking for a facilitator for the refugee women's prayer group. Each week 15-20 women come together to pray, read scripture and sing. The group began originally as an Ignatian sharing group, but has developed over the years to enable women from many different cultures, with varied languages, Christian denominations and spiritualities to express their faith in God and support one another.

JRS UK supports people who have been made destitute by the asylum system. Most of the women who attend the prayer group have been destitute for many years. Some are currently street homeless; some have been in detention; all have experienced significant trauma in their lives. But their faith in God and friendship with one another is a source of immense strength in their long arduous wait for papers.

The volunteer facilitator for the group needs a mature faith and flexible enabling approach – someone able to give adequate structure to hold a safe space for all, with planned material and good timekeeping, but who is flexible enough to accommodate many different ways of worshipping God. A willingness to be led by the needs of participants and capacity to see and kindle joy and hope in suffering is essential.

Because of the nature of the experiences of the women in the group, we are looking for a woman to facilitate the group. They must have some experience of facilitating prayer and worship with groups in other contexts and some experience of working with those who have experienced trauma. A background in Ignatian spirituality would be helpful but is not essential. Similarly, a knowledge of French would be helpful, but isn't essential.

We would particularly welcome applications from women religious.

In addition to the regular Tuesday afternoon prayer sessions for women, JRS UK organises occasional short retreats for both men and women involved in the refugee prayer groups in collaboration with various religious guest houses. The logistics for these retreats are organised by JRS UK staff, but prayer group volunteers are invited to attend to provide pastoral care for refugee participants.

**Hours:** Tuesday afternoons.

**Duration:** Minimum of 3 months.

**Where:** Hurtado Jesuit Centre, Wapping, E1W 2QT

To apply for the volunteer role or to find out more information about what is involved, please contact the JRS UK Director, [sarah.teather@jrs.net](mailto:sarah.teather@jrs.net) or Day Centre Officer, [liliane.djoukouo@jrs.net](mailto:liliane.djoukouo@jrs.net) giving more details of your experience and what attracts you to this voluntary position.