
Emilie House – Piano Tutor Volunteer

JRS mission and work

The Jesuit Refugee Service has projects all over the world. In the UK, we are a small organisation based in East London, supporting people who have been made destitute by the asylum process and those held in immigration detention. We are a Catholic organisation, but we serve people of all faiths and none. Our staff and volunteers are very diverse and many are refugees themselves.

Our mission and purpose is to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees. To accompany means literally to 'be with'. We stick with people, regardless of how difficult things get, and we try to create spaces for friendships and community to develop. Because of the importance of friendship to us, we refer to those we support as *refugee friends*, not clients or beneficiaries.

JRS UK runs a Day Centre, activities, a legal advice service and accommodation project for destitute asylum seekers, detention outreach services to Heathrow IRC and support to people who have been released from immigration detention. We work to raise awareness of the situation facing refugees we accompany and serve by enabling their story to be heard.

Role description: Piano Tutor – Emilie House

Since March this year, JRS UK has been accommodating destitute female Asylum Seekers in a 10 bedroom house in Stockwell. Emilie House, which has been kindly gifted to us by the Sisters of the Holy Family of St Emilie, is a safe space where women can recover from their past experiences of trauma and destitution, and begin to rebuild their confidence and independence.

We are lucky that the house comes equipped with a piano and one of the residents has expressed a keen interest in learning. She is currently teaching herself but we are looking for a volunteer tutor who can provide her with one-to-one lessons and accompaniment once a week. The hope is that her progress will inspire others in the house and they will be able to use music as a way to relieve stress and relax.

JRS will provide induction and support to all volunteers.

Person Specification

- Commitment and ability to relate with respect, sensitivity and empathy to refugee friends, particularly those who may be experiencing anxiety or distress
- Commitment to abide by JRS UK's policies and protocols, including those on infection prevention, safeguarding, confidentiality and data protection
- Previous experience teaching piano to beginners
- Patience, personal resilience and a non-judgmental attitude
- Ability to maintain boundaries. Any issues raised through accompaniment of the women in the house must be passed on to the Accommodation Officer
- Due to the fact that there is a strong possibility that women in the house may have experienced gender-based violence in the past, we are restricting this role to female applicants only.
- Reliability and flexible disposition
- Commitment to the values of JRS: dignity, justice, solidarity, compassion, hospitality, participation, and hope.
- An ability to speak other languages is highly desirable, though not necessary
- Agree to follow JRS COVID-19 protocols