

Role Description – Volunteer Gardener

About JRS

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) accompanies, serves and advocates alongside and for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. JRS in the UK supports people made destitute by the asylum process through advice and casework, practical support, emotional befriending and accompaniment, a programme of creative and therapeutic activities, accommodation, and specialist legal advice. JRS UK also runs a detention outreach service supporting people detained for the administration of immigration procedures at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, including befriending, social visiting, and casework support. JRS UK undertakes research for advocacy to policy makers, alongside communications and community outreach, to raise awareness of the real situation facing asylum seekers and to argue for a change in policies that undermine their dignity and a just society.

JRS' distinctive ethos of accompaniment radically alters the beneficiary–service provider relationship and affects all that we do: we place a high value on coming to know refugees as people who are not only defined by their situation in immigration law; we come to know refugees as friends, rather than 'clients', 'beneficiaries', or 'service users'. JRS' services seek to offer specialist intervention and respond to practical needs, but also to create spaces of hospitality, community, friendship, and participation, which enable refugees to heal and shape their own future. JRS' advocacy, communications and outreach are similarly rooted in accompaniment, beginning with listening to the experience of refugees, bringing opportunities for their experience and voices to be heard, understood, and create change.

JRS UK is based in the Hurtado Jesuit Centre in Wapping, East London.

ACCOMODATION PROJECT

JRS UK's Accommodation Project coordinates both hosting and housing for the people we serve.

Our houses, Amani House (for men) and Emilie House (for women), are offered to refugee friends with low-medium support needs, who are able to live independently. Staff and volunteers pay weekly visits to the houses to offer support, facilitate activities etc to build a sense of welcome and community.

We are seeking a volunteer(s) to continue our gardening project at Emilie House as well take on the exciting opportunity to set up a new gardening project at Amani House.

Role Title: Gardener		Responsible to: Accommodation Project Coordinator
Where (Location):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within London. For safeguarding purposes, the house addresses are confidential and will be shared with you upon successful application. 	
Time commitment:	Half a day or 1 day a week, once a month. Additional support may be required during the summer months.	
Role:	<p>Our gardens require year-round attention to keep them in good condition for the residents seeking respite in our houses, and their visitors.</p> <p>Purpose of the role is to lead a gardening project at the houses for refugee friends. To guide and teach refugee friends about gardening so that they can learn a new skill as well as take ownership of caring for the garden.</p>	
Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with the gardening project at Emilie House. To set up a new gardening project at Amani House. To teach and support residents with gardening. To provide year-round maintenance of overgrowth. To stay connected with the organisation and feedback any concerns, that may need addressing. 	
Qualities and Skills required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of leading workshops, teaching, or coaching. Gardening experience or strong interest in gardening Friendly, patient and a warm and friendly attitude Reliable Good communication skills Willingness to follow guidance and policies to keep yourself and others safe 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 	
Training and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete induction and essential training for the role Tools necessary to carry out role will be provided. Travel costs and any other authorised expenses will be reimbursed. Regular contact with Accommodation Co-ordinator (telephone or other) for support and guidance 	
Any other Requirements	Due to the circumstances of the people, we support we will require two references. Further details will be discussed with you at recruitment as to how these will be obtained at this time.	