

The HARBOUR Project

For Swindon Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Registered Charity Number: 1097227

VOLUNTEERING with the HARBOUR PROJECT: A Guide

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Harbour Project!

This document will tell you a bit about the project, and how to become a volunteer.

The Harbour operates a drop-in centre where we aim to:

- ✓ Help refugees and asylum seekers to access services
- ✓ Provide information or signpost onto others
- ✓ Offer users contact with both British people and other refugees or asylum seekers
- ✓ Work toward offering enjoyable and useful occupation for those not able or allowed to work.

What exactly do volunteers do?

- * You will mainly be providing a warm welcome for users.
This includes making tea/coffee, games and befriending if you wish.
- * You will also have the opportunity to use your own skills and experience creatively towards the aims of the project (in discussion with the Co-ordinator).

Here are just a few examples:

- ? English teaching
- ? Music
- ? Art
- ? Career guidance
- ? Admin/I.T.
- ? *Many more possibilities – just ask!*

How do I become a volunteer?

The first step is to register your interest. You can contact us in one of the following ways:

- * E-mail – harbouroffice1@aol.com
- * Download the application form from the website, and e-mail or post to us
- * Call the office on (01793) 611682 to request an application form or just for a chat
- * Come to the drop-in centre (map on main page of website)

We believe your volunteering should provide you with satisfying work and personal development!

Can you offer:

- * Sensitivity to the trauma that refugees and asylum seekers experience
- * Willingness to learn more about the needs of refugees and asylum seekers
- * Good listening skills
- * Tolerance and cultural sensitivity
- * At least one 3 hour session per 2 weeks

If so, we can offer you:

- * The experience of working with people of other cultures
- * The opportunity to help victims of human rights abuses
- * The knowledge that you are helping those in need to exercise their basic rights
- * The opportunity to use any foreign languages you speak
- * Experiences in teamwork with fellow volunteers
- * The opportunity to learn new skills and gain new knowledge
- * The chance to see Swindon from another's perspective
- * Training in relevant skills
- * The opportunity to use and develop your individual skills and interests
- * A reference

The Harbour is committed to:

- * Preserving a safe space for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers
- * Impartiality
- * User involvement
- * Encouraging independence
- * Confidentiality
- * Teamwork
- * Volunteers

If you want to know more or arrange to come in, feel free to get in touch!

The Office number is (01793) 611682