



VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDER

Role Description

The role of HIAS+JCORE's JUMP volunteer befrienders is to provide informal support and friendship to a refugee or asylum-seeking young person for a year and potentially beyond.

MAIN TASKS:

- To meet with the young person **fortnightly** for **at least one year**.
- To establish a warm, supportive friendship within JUMP befriending boundaries.
- To help build up the young person's self-esteem and confidence.
- To be someone to talk to.
- To be prepared to support the young person with a range of possible activities, such as:
 - developing everyday life skills
 - getting around London
 - taking part in recreational or educational opportunities
 - applying for work experience or a job.
- To be prepared to offer support with English, and where possible other types of academic work.
- To make time to travel, if necessary, within London to meet with the young person. While we try to match people who live reasonably close by, this is not always possible, and young people can often have precarious housing situations and move neighbourhoods.
- To be prepared to enjoy cultural/ sporting activities with the young person, and to take advantage of free entertainment and other opportunities in London.
- To regularly communicate with the project coordinator after meeting the young person, providing **feedback once a month** about activities undertaken and **to attend supervision face-to-face twice a year**.

- To submit monthly expenses incurred during the activities undertaken with the young person.
- To immediately alert the JUMP project coordinator or HIAS+JCORE Safeguarding Lead to any safeguarding (child and young person protection) issues.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

- Able to establish good relationships with young people.
- Able to use a non-judgemental, non-directive approach to working with young people.
- Empathy, sensitivity and patience
- Strong communication and listening skills.
- Reliable in making and keeping commitments, including arrangements to meet up
- Aware of the needs of young people.
- Sympathy for the difficulties that asylum seeking/refugee children and young people face.
- Willing to enhance own awareness of the issues facing asylum-seeking and refugee children/young people through training.
- Aware of safeguarding and child protection issues, and:
 - Willing to enhance this through JUMP training.
 - Willing to follow JCORE's safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Willing to ask for help when uncertain when befriending and to discuss the experience of befriending through regular updates and supervision.