



## VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

### **ROLE TITLE**

### **Group Facilitator volunteer for the 'Exploring the Common Ground' Project**

#### ***WHAT IS THE ROLE? – WHY DO WE NEED YOU?***

This project will pilot developing relations between specific Catholic parishes and the Makkah mosque in Leeds. Exploratory talks have already established a willingness on the part of the Makkah Mosque to be involved in such a project.

A series of managed exchange visits between the mosque and local parishes will be organised. These will focus on how social justice concerns and Catholic Social Teaching are addressed in each community. There will also be time for an exploration of the social justice activities carried out by each community, as well as some time for general socialising.

This is a time-limited project that will last 4-5 months.

#### ***ROLE DUTIES – WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN YOU EXPECT TO DO?***

- Devising a set of activities to achieve the objectives of the project
- Obtaining the support of up to 3 local parishes to participate in the project
- Facilitating the exchange visits and discussions
- Preparing a post-project report to evaluate whether it would be useful to repeat the exercise with other catholic communities in the Leeds diocese

#### ***HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT NEED TO DO THE ACTIVITIES?***

Our rough estimate of the time needed to complete this project is in the region of 70 hours of volunteer time over a 4-5 month time period.

#### ***LOCATION***

The meetings will need to take place at local church facilities and the Makkah mosque in the Burley area of Leeds

Preparation work can be carried out at any convenient location

#### ***WHAT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES DO YOU NEED TO DO THIS ROLE***

##### **ESSENTIAL**

- A commitment to social justice issues and inter-faith working
- Good inter-personal skills and an understanding of the processes to get groups working effectively
- A basic level of understanding of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- Good written communication skills for the final report

##### **HELPFUL**

- previous experience of working with groups in a community development or church setting
- Familiarity with catholic social action networks such as the SVP, StMonica's housing etc.
- Some familiarity with the main teachings of Islam



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### ***TRAINING AND EXPENSES***

The Commission will reimburse volunteers for travel expenses incurred when travelling to the Commission's office. Where agreed in advance, other travel expenses related to the volunteer role may be reimbursed.

On acceptance of a Volunteer role the volunteer will be asked to attend an Induction session. As well as addressing specific aspects of the role this will give some background information about the working practices of the Commission and how it relates to the Diocese of Leeds as well as any relevant health and safety information.

Other training may be provided, depending on the nature of the role and the willingness of the volunteer to undertake specific activities if training is required.

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### ***BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEER***

- The opportunity to develop / improve the skills needed when working with groups operating at a community level
- The opportunity to work in an inter-faith context and promote inter-faith working
- The opportunity to help a Catholic social justice action and advocacy organisation

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### ***APPLICATION PROCEDURE***

Fill out a volunteer application form for the role

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### ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

The completed Volunteer Application Form should be sent to

[jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

If you require any more information about this role then, in the first instance contact either  
John Battle

[Chair.jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:Chair.jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

Or

John McLaughlin

[Jmclj2@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmclj2@hotmail.com)