



## **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACK**

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**November 2017**



## 1. ABOUT US

Beyond the Streets is a UK charity working with women involved in prostitution and supporting local grassroots projects to provide outreach and support. Inspired by Christian values, our vision is to see a world where people are free from exploitation, and where those involved in prostitution have the option to pursue genuine alternatives, free from constraints such as drug use, abusive relationships and poverty. We do this by developing and equipping local projects to work with women in their community and by working directly with women through our own projects, of which Door of Hope is one.

The Door of Hope project was initially established in London's Spitalfields in 1994 in response to the increasing number of women involved in prostitution in the Borough of Tower Hamlets. At the time it was clear that there was little being done to support these women and limited routes out from the situation they found themselves in. From a small group of local churches, Door of Hope<sup>1</sup> was born to offer hope, support and routes out of prostitution.

Today, Door of Hope has a twenty-year legacy in Tower Hamlets and a long-standing commitment to providing effective services and support to the those selling sex in the borough. There are an estimated 250 women recorded involved in on street prostitution in the Borough of Tower Hamlets (Toynbee Hall, 2008) although with numbers of women involved in off street prostitution not known, the overall figure is likely to be far higher. Like Beyond the Streets, the borough of Tower Hamlets views prostitution as a form of Violence Against Women.<sup>2</sup>

We are committed to providing the reliable information and regular support that women need to find routes out of the challenging situations they face. We journey with women to understand their situation and the options available to them. We understand that exiting prostitution takes time; we are there for women as they take practical and manageable steps that lead to a genuine route out of prostitution. We do this through a combination of evening outreach and daytime support.

## 2. WHAT WE DO

### **Outreach**

Once a week on Friday evenings from 10pm - 2am, and Thursday mornings between 5am-7.45am staff and volunteers go out on foot in pairs to meet with women involved in prostitution. We provide a 'friendly face' and a 'listening ear', handing out sexual health resources, personal safety information, hot drinks and snacks, as well as taking referrals for follow up support.

### **Daytime support**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Community-safety-and-emergencies/Domestic-violence/FINAL-VAWG-PLAN.pdf>

During the day we provide practical support across a range of areas relevant to the women's lives. This includes providing information, advocacy and referrals to specialist organisations and agencies.

### **Practical support**

Over the years we have come to be seen as a positive presence on the streets. Crossing barriers and meeting the women 'where they are' has helped us develop relationships of trust, enabling them to feel confident and secure in seeking further support around specific issues to help them move forward in their lives, for example: housing, drug rehabilitation, counselling, and physical health.

Speaking about the outreach and support that Door of Hope offers, Sarah, a long term volunteer told us *"The women often express to us rejection by those closest to them and by the world. How precious then is their openness to us, their pleasure at chatting and receiving the support we bring with each outreach. I have discovered that a brief exchange in the pouring rain at 12am is invaluable to engage and encourage, and foundational in offering support in challenging lives or to explore opportunities and a future off the streets"*.

The women Door of Hope support speak just as highly of the volunteers. We asked several women what they appreciated about our volunteers, they responded with the following statements *"Being committed, anyone who comes out till 2 in the morning and for free", "Approachable and Friendly", "Not patronising", "The volunteers put themselves right out for us, to give out condoms and chocolate", "The volunteers have belief in us"*.

## **3. VOLUNTEERING**

Do you want to invest your time supporting marginalised women in Tower Hamlets? Do you feel passionate about social justice and want to do something about it? For 20 years we have been supporting women involved in prostitution, for many of the women they credit Door of Hope with being key to their sense of wellbeing whilst on the streets and for some their exit from selling sex.

We are recruiting new volunteers to continue delivering consistent outreach on Friday evenings and Thursday mornings.

We need volunteers to work with the women we support. We are looking for women with:

- A vision for reaching out to women involved in/affected by prostitution.
- Empathy, compassion and a non-judgmental approach.
- An ability to build trusting relationships whilst maintaining personal boundaries.

### **Eligibility criteria**

- Our outreach work is rooted in prayer, as a result we would ask that you have an active Christian faith and are able to provide a reference from a pastor or leader in your church context. (We plan to broaden our volunteer base through 2018 and will welcome all who want to volunteer and support the work of Beyond the Streets).
- Available to volunteer for a foreseeable 18 months (minimum).
- Live within Tower Hamlets, where we can cover the cost of safe transport home via Taxi.
- If you live outside of Tower Hamlets, it would be helpful to have access to a car, or if taxis are needed we would ask that you be willing to cover the cost, or ask your Church to contribute towards your travel costs.

**What we ask from you**

- A time commitment to attend outreach once or, ideally, twice a month on Thursday mornings between from 4.45am for an outreach session from 5.00-7.45am and Friday evenings from 9:30 pm for an outreach session from 10pm – 2am.
- Be available to attend training sessions on Saturday 13th January and the evening of Thursday 18th January.
- A commitment to pray regularly for Door of Hope, involving your Church where possible.
- An openness to learning and working together. Availability to attend team trainings bi-monthly on a Monday or Thursday evening.

**What you can expect from us**

- An opportunity to work together to see an end to sexual exploitation.
- A small, friendly and supportive team.
- Volunteer induction, supervision and support.

Beyond the Streets is a registered charity. We employ 7 members of staff, two of whom oversee Door of Hope, who are supported by a small team of dedicated volunteers. Rebecca Branch is the Door of Hope Coordinator and Josephine Knowles is the Co-Director of Beyond the Streets. As a Beyond the Streets volunteer on the Door of Hope project, you'll work closely with them both.

This is an invitation to join Beyond the Streets at an exciting time of development. We have recently taken on the contract to deliver the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' Prostitution Support Programme. From December 2017, Door of Hope will employ an additional two full time members of staff who will launch a daytime support service for women. This will complement the relationships built by our outreach team, bringing more capacity to the Door of Hope team to provide the practical ongoing support that women need to make changes to their life.

**4. ROLE DESCRIPTION**

We currently have volunteer opportunities for evening outreach volunteers. Please see the role description below for more information on the role.

<b>OUTREACH VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION</b>
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<b>Title</b>	<b>Outreach Volunteer</b>
<b>Supervised by</b>	<b>Outreach Co-ordinator</b>
<b>Main purpose</b>	Participate in Door of Hope's outreach to women involved in prostitution in Tower Hamlets.
<b>Key responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part in up to two outreach sessions per month, working within Beyond the Street's outreach policies and procedures.</li> <li>• Provide peer support and back up to other volunteers in the team.</li> <li>• Take part in regular volunteer supervision sessions.</li> <li>• Attend training and team meetings.</li> </ul>

- Essential requirements of the role**
- Commitment to the vision, mission, ethos and values of Beyond the Streets.
  - Particular empathy for Door of Hope's client group i.e. an understanding of the issue of prostitution and the affect it can have on those involved as well as an understanding of violence against women.
  - Be considered ready to meet with women on the street ('readiness' (time, capacity, skills etc.) is mutually agreed between the volunteer and Beyond the Streets team).
  - Ability to easily engage with client group and develop immediate positive working relationships. Willingness to work collaboratively with a range of external organisations.
  - Able to work well within a team with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
  - Responsible, reliable and consistent. Able to work with integrity and establish boundaries with women.
  - Commit to recording relevant data so that we can measure our outputs and impact.

- Additional requirements**
- Our outreach work is rooted in prayer. As a result, we would ask that you have an active Christian faith and are able to provide a reference from a pastor or leader in your church context.
  - Able to commit to the volunteer role for a minimum period of 18 months.
  - Available for Friday evening or Thursday morning outreach.
  - Proactively engage with external pastoral support.
  - If you are not a Tower Hamlets resident, a willingness to cover the cost of travel home from outreach.

## 5. ETHOS AND VALUES

As a charity inspired by Christian values, we have a number of key elements that are seen within our work. These are core to our organisational culture and shape our working practices and service delivery. This means:

1. We seek to show genuine care and be inclusive and recognize the intrinsic value in all people.
2. We see everyone as equal in diversity and work to see everyone treated in this way.
3. We believe in transformation and will work to enable people to see positive change in their lives.
4. We take a long-term approach and see the importance of persevering and celebrating progress.
5. We see the value of working together, addressing conflict and partnering to see lives changed.
6. We are sensitive to the misuse of power and recognize the importance of working alongside those we seek to serve.

Whilst these are our organisation's core beliefs, we will never look to impose them on anyone. Anyone looking to join the Beyond the Streets team, either as staff or in a voluntary capacity must respect this ethos and will be expected to work within this framework to assist the charity towards achieving our vision of ending sexual exploitation. Beyond the Streets has adopted the Faithworks Charter (see [here](#)).

## 6. ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Data protection

The Data Protection Act 1998 regulates the use of 'personal data', which is essentially any information, whether kept in computer or paper file, about identifiable individuals. As a 'data controller' under the Act, Beyond the Streets must comply with its requirements. Any information you give to us will therefore be held securely and in accordance with the rules on data protection. Your personal details will be treated as private and confidential, and will not be disclosed to anyone not connected to Door of Hope unless you have consented to its release, or in certain circumstances where:

- we are legally obliged to do so
- it is necessary for the proper discharge of Beyond the Streets functions relating to you e.g. administering and maintaining volunteer records, undertaking volunteer supervision meetings.

We will ensure that any disclosure made for this purpose is proportionate, considers your right to privacy, and is dealt with appropriately in accordance with the Data Protection Principles of the Data Protection Act.

### Genuine occupational requirements

Door of Hope reserves the right to select women only for roles working directly with female clients (exemption under section 7.2e of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975).

### DBS check

As Door of Hope supports individuals who are vulnerable, we are legally required to undergo a check for details of any conviction of a criminal offence for those who volunteer more than four days a month. Please note that we may require you to have a DBS check. These checks are free for volunteers, and we will apply for a DBS on your behalf.

### Exclusion criteria

Having a criminal record will not necessarily prevent you from becoming of Beyond the Streets volunteer except in the following circumstances:

- individuals with offences that relate to murder, threats to kill, violence (ABH, GBH, assault, domestic violence, weapon related offences), sexual offences, offences against a child, arson, supply of drug.
- individuals with unspent convictions relating to fraud, dishonesty or deception.

Two additional criteria which may exclude people from being suitable to volunteering with us are:

- individuals with certain mental health issues for which Door of Hope does not have an appropriate support structure. If you feel you might fall into this category but would still like to apply, please contact us first so that we can discuss your support requirements with you to see if we can meet these.
- An individual with a history of substance misuse, unless evidence can be provided of having been drug free for 5 years and of external support structures and coping strategies are in place to prevent a relapse.

### Review period

All new volunteers will be required to complete a 6-month review period. This is to provide you with an opportunity to reflect on how things are going and to ensure that you feel comfortable in the role that you initially applied for.

### How to apply

If this sounds like the opportunity for you, then we'd love to hear from you. Please complete the accompanying application form and email it to Beyond the Streets by 9am on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – [rebecca@beyondthestreets.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@beyondthestreets.org.uk). If you would like more information before applying please email Rebecca, Door of Hope Co-ordinator on the email address above.