



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACK

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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 our Christian faith, 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 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 Hope¹ 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.²

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 bi-weekly Thursday mornings between 4.45-7.45am 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.

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*

¹ The Door of hope name comes from Hosea 2:15 which says: *'There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor [trouble] a door of hope.'*

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

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 called to 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-judgemental 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.
- 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 4th February and the evening of Thursday 9th February.
- A commitment to pray regularly for Door of Hope, involving your Church where possible.
- An openness to learning and working together. Availability to attend supervisions each quarter on a Monday 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 6 members of staff part time, 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.

4. ROLE DESCRIPTION

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

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

Ethos and values

Beyond the Streets was founded on Christian vision, and remains rooted in the values of Jesus - whose commitment to practical social justice inspires our dedication to finding routes out for women involved in prostitution.

These values guide and influence our work:

Co-operating

We work with individuals and other agencies in a spirit of cooperation not competition. Our services seek to compliment the work that is already being done in the areas that we work in, rather than duplicate.

Learning

We positively embrace learning, change and development, we embrace new theories, models and ideas on how to partner with people affected by prostitution.

Empowering

We believe that those affected by prostitution should not be treated as passive victims. They should be treated as individuals who can take control of their own life but may want some support, guidance and information to do this. We do not perpetuate the dynamic of 'victim' and 'rescuer'.

Holistic

We work holistically and aim to help the whole person; physical, mental, spiritual and social needs are all important. We actively support the spiritual element of individuals lives, however, we take a reactive approach to faith, allowing conversations around faith to emerge organically, directed by the women we work with. We don't take a 'one size fits all' approach, instead we aim to provide tailored support based on individual needs.

Non-Discriminatory

We actively promote a non-judgmental approach; we treat everyone with respect, value and dignity regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, background, ability, culture or religious beliefs. Our faith doesn't make us exclusive, rather it encourages us to embrace difference- inspiring us to work with acceptance, inclusivity and mutual respect for all.

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 it 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, dishonestly 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 5pm on 4th January 2017 – 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.