

Chair of Trustees

About All Ways Network (AWN)

All Ways Network (AWN) is seeking to appoint a new Chair of Trustees to work in partnership with the Board and Operations Manager, with a particular interest in strengthening not-for-profits (NFPs) working with Muslim communities living in the UK.

Established in 2017 as an UK infrastructure organisation, AWN has supported over 2000 grassroots not-for-profits (NFPs) with tailored and collaborative support to access funds, become sustainable and engage with funders to develop a more equitable grant-making. The charity exists to radically change the grant making sector and remove barriers to grant funding for small not for profits supporting the Muslim community in the UK.

AWN currently has 5 Trustees whose skills include grantmaking, frontline charity engagement and strategy. Trustees' meetings are held quarterly, and to contribute to the decision-making process. Trustees are expected to attend training sessions and join sub-committees as required to gain a clearer understanding of the charity's work.

AWN is at an exciting era of growth and change, having recently introduced a 3-year strategy plan. Currently, the charity has four salaried staff, focusing on supporting NFPs, writing bids and grant management. We deliver events both online and in person such as our annual flagship Meet the Funders events across major UK cities, with mainstream funders like BBC Children in Need, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Islamic Relief and many more discussing potential grants with the NFPs working with the Muslim communities.

As part of our support for NFPs we have built successful partnerships with local authorities, grantmakers, larger organisations that engage with or want to establish a connection with Muslim NFPs.

Our current Chair Ayesha Tariq, who founded the organisation will be stepping down and we are seeking a Chair who is passionate, motivated, has excellent leadership skills, and who can commit the time to help drive the charity forward and upscale to help us accomplish our strategic objectives.

Chair of Trustees

Job Description: Chair of Trustees

Overview

Position Title:	Chair of Trustees
Organisation:	All Ways Network (AWN)
Location:	Online [and a London office]
Commitment:	4 Board meetings per year. Additionally, the Chair is also expected to have regular meetings with the Operations Manager and represent the charity at various events and meetings with key stakeholders.
Term:	Currently under review. Most likely a maximum term of 6 to 8 years.
Compensation:	The role of Chair is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although expenses for travel may be claimed.

Role Purpose

The Chair will hold the Board of Trustees to account for the Charity's mission and vision, providing inclusive leadership to the Board, ensuring that each trustee fulfils their duties and responsibilities for the effective governance of the charity. The Chair will also support the Operations Manager and ensure that the Board functions as a unit to achieve agreed objectives. He or she will act as an ambassador and the public face of the charity in partnership with the Operations Manager. This role will lead to upscaling the organisation nationally strategically.

Key Responsibilities

Leadership and Governance:

- Chairing and facilitating board meetings, bringing impartiality and objectivity to decision-making.
- Ensure the trustee board functions effectively, meetings are led inclusively, and the board carries out its duties.
- Lead the Board of Trustees in setting the strategic direction and ensuring the charity meets its objectives.
- Ensure the Board operates within its charitable objectives and complies with its governing documents, charity law, and other relevant legislation/regulations.
- Oversee the development of the board of trustees including recruitment, induction, training, appraisal and succession planning.

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Strategy and Performance:

- Work with the Board and senior management to develop and implement the charity's strategic plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the charity's performance, ensuring it achieves its goals and objectives.
- Ensure that the Board regularly reviews major risks and associated opportunities.
- Ensure that the Board annually reviews its structure, effectiveness, delegations and key policies, and implements agreed changes as necessary.

Advocacy and Representation:

- Act as a spokesperson for the charity, representing its interests and values to external stakeholders at functions, meetings, in the press or public facing events.
- Build and maintain relationships with key partners, stakeholders, and supporters.

Support and Supervision:

- Creating a positive culture within the charity and holding the Operations Manager and staff properly accountable.
- Provide support and supervision to the charity's Operations Manager or equivalent senior staff member.
- Liaising with the Operations Manager to keep an overview of the organisation's affairs and to provide support as appropriate, meet for regular 1-1s and carry out yearly appraisal
- Facilitate constructive working relationships among trustees and between the Board and the executive team.
- Ensure the Board receives professional advice when needed and secures the development and training of trustees.
- Addressing conflict within the board and the organisation

Person Specification

In addition to the qualities required of a Trustee of the charity, the Chair must also meet the following requirements:

Personal Qualities:

- Demonstrate a strong and visible passion and commitment to the charity, its strategic objectives and cause.
- Exhibit strong inter-personal and relationship building abilities and be comfortable in an ambassadorial role.
- Demonstrate tact and diplomacy, with the ability to listen and engage effectively.

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- Strong networking capabilities that can be utilised for the benefit of the charity.
- Ability to foster and promote a collaborative team environment.
- Ability to commit time to conduct the role well, including travel and attending events out of office hours.

Experience:

- Experience of operating at a senior strategic leadership level within an organisation.
- Experience of charity governance and working with or as part of a Board of Trustees.
- Significant experience of chairing meetings and events.
- Experience of external representation, delivering presentations and managing stakeholders

Knowledge and skills:

- Broad knowledge and understanding of the UK Civil Society sector and current issues affecting it and the Muslim community living in the UK
- Knowledgeable of the not-for-profit sector and in particular Muslim-led charities.
- Strong leadership skills, ability to motivate staff and volunteers and bring people together
- Expertise on financial management and a broad understanding of charity finance issues
- Good understanding of charity governance issues and Charity Commission's rules and regulations.

Time Commitment

- Attend and chair quarterly Board meetings and other sub-committee meetings as required.
- Regular meetings with the Operations Manager.
- Attendance at key events and meetings with stakeholders and partners.

Application Process

If you are interested in the role and want to discuss it further, please email, Ayesha, trustees@awn.org.uk

Interested candidates are invited to submit a CV and a cover letter detailing their suitability for the role to trustees@awn.org.uk. **The application deadline is Tuesday 20th August 2024.**