

## Volunteer Role Description

Solace Women's Aid supports women and children in London to build safe lives and strong futures, free from domestic and sexual violence and abuse.



Role Title	Volunteer Counsellor
Service	ASCENT Counselling, LB Islington Counselling, Solace Refuge Counselling
Closing Date	Applications accepted on a rolling basis
Interview Date	TBC
Work Place Supervisor	Georgia Johnson — Service Manager
Location	21 boroughs in London (Mixed delivery of remote and in person sessions)
Commitment	Minimum of 1 year commitment required
Duration	Hours: Minimum of 4 clinical hours a week + admin time
Role Description	<p>The ideal candidate will be a fully qualified dynamic counsellor who has 150 clinical hours, ideally with prior experience in providing direct and dedicated therapeutic support to women (and all genders for LBI counselling) who have experienced domestic abuse, and other forms of VAWG. The successful candidate will provide a wrap around, weekly one to one therapeutic support, which can be accessed online, over the phone and in person. You will work within a modal that consists of trauma focused, multi-modal interventions with an objective of optimising resilience, facilitating sustainable recovery and support survivors in their journey in post-traumatic recovery.</p> <p>Role Description The Volunteer Counsellor will be responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing one to one weekly counselling sessions for survivors of VAWG 16+ living in Solace delivery boroughs (21 Boroughs of London).</li> <li>2. Delivering a range of appropriate, trauma informed, therapeutic interventions</li> </ol>

3. Offering a therapeutic service that is responsive to multiple disadvantages including: Complex Traumatic Stress, PTSD, and presentations of trauma related symptoms such as depression, anxiety, self-harming, problematic use of substances and OCD
4. Working in a client-centred way whilst integrating a holistic and feminist framework
5. Offering therapeutic opportunities which elicit empowerment and personal growth
6. Working with an awareness of the process of change, and engaging clients with harm minimisation techniques and movement towards safe coping mechanisms
7. Working from a strengths-based approach with clients to facilitate resilience and recovery
8. Working within and adhering to BACP guidelines.

#### Safeguarding

1. Maintaining confidentiality in line with Solace Safeguarding Policies
2. Assessing and raising safeguarding concerns with the line manager and taking appropriate action as required
3. Supporting survivors through this process where appropriate, ensuring that they are always kept informed

#### Widening Access

1. Working within an intersectional framework, considering the diverse needs of survivors across all protected characteristics and tailoring the service to widen access and ensure individual needs are met
2. Identifying potential barriers to engagement and propose engagement strategies tailored to young women, BME women, (men for LBI) LGBTQI+ individuals and clients with problematic use of substances.
3. Using innovative and holistic approaches to engaging with survivors.
4. Strengthening Practice
5. Actively contributing to the development and creation of a trauma- informed working environment and a feminist ethos of care and support

#### General Duties

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working in line with Solace ethos, values, aims, objectives, policies, and procedures at all times, promoting empowerment and modelling anti- oppressive and anti-discriminatory practices</li> <li>2. Following procedures and protocols to ensure the health and safety of clients.</li> <li>3. Attend monthly clinical team meetings and attend twice a month clinical supervision (groups or individual) in line with BACP requirements (online)</li> <li>4. Attend the volunteer &amp; training opportunities provided by the Solace Volunteer Coordinator</li> <li>5. Developing and maintaining appropriate information, record keeping, case recording and monitoring systems; and maintain administrative and reporting systems to ensure accountability</li> <li>6. Compliance with all counselling clinical evaluations tools such as CORE.</li> <li>7. Be responsible for completing and maintaining timely individual routine clinical administration systems in relation to clinical practice</li> </ol>
<p>Values, Behaviours &amp; Competencies</p>	<p><b>Committed</b> to the purpose of Solace Women's Aid, ensuring that the service user is at the heart of service delivery and development</p> <p><b>Feminist</b> in understanding 'Violence against Women and Girls'</p> <p>Committed to fostering <b>innovation</b> and <b>continuous improvement</b> in working practice</p> <p><b>Flexible</b> and open to new challenges, ideas, and experiences, and able to be self-reflective</p> <p>Committed to understanding <b>diversity</b> and ensuring <b>anti-discriminatory</b> practice is applied in all forms of our work</p> <p><b>Non-judgemental</b> with a commitment to self-care within the team</p> <p>Collaborative, building relationships with internal and external partners.</p> <p><u>Qualifications</u></p> <p>We can only accept fully qualified counsellors, finished their training with at least 150 hrs of prior clinical hours.</p> <p>To be a BACP/UKCP registered counsellor her accredited or working towards accreditation.</p>

Benefits to the Volunteer	<p>Having the opportunity to accumulate clinical hours towards accreditation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gaining an in-depth understanding around working therapeutically with survivors of trauma</li> <li>- working within a supportive team fully supporting counsellors' professional development and growth</li> <li>- working for an organisation committed to support survivors within a holistic and empowerment framework.</li> </ul> <p>supporting survivors and Solace vision to end the harm done through gender-based violence working alongside survivors to achieve independent lives free from abuse.</p>
Skills and Qualifications Required	<p>We can only accept fully qualified counsellors, finished their training with at least 150 hrs of prior clinical hours.</p> <p>To be a BACP/UKCP registered counsellor or accredited or working towards accreditation.</p>
Training Opportunities	<p>Volunteers will be able to access Solace Women's Aid's induction and internal volunteer training programme. Full support will be given to help volunteers understand and carry out any aspect of the role as appropriate.</p>
Expenses	<p>As per our Volunteer Policy we will reimburse reasonable travel and lunch expenses. Travel expenses will be reimbursed at a maximum of £20 a day. Agreed lunch expenses up to a maximum of £5 will be reimbursed for those volunteering for over 6 hours in a single day.</p>
Lived Experience	<p>Solace recognises the expertise and perspective that women with lived experience bring to their volunteering roles. We also recognise the potential for re-traumatisation that may occur whilst volunteering. We will therefore consider each volunteer opportunity on a case by case basis, with a focus on the suitability of that individual for that specific role. Suitability for the role will be determined by the Service Manager at the point of interview and will not be solely based on the length of time elapsed since receiving a service. Women cannot volunteer for a service in the same borough as where they received Solace services.</p>
For more information contact	<p>Volunteer Coordinator  Email: <a href="mailto:volunteering@solacewomensaid.org">volunteering@solacewomensaid.org</a></p>

At Solace we are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment for our volunteers. The Service Users we support come from all backgrounds and we want to reflect that in our volunteering team.

We are happy to consider any adjustments you might need to support you in your role or in completing this application form. If you would like to discuss this further with the volunteer team, please contact us at [volunteering@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:volunteering@solacewomensaid.org). This will not affect your application.

