

Volunteer Opportunity

A History of Women's Aid in Scotland – Heritage Project

Volunteer exhibition assistants

About the project: 2016 marks 40 years since Scottish Women's Aid was created, bringing together a network of local Women's Aid groups active the length and breadth of Scotland. To celebrate and mark this important anniversary, Scottish Women's Aid in partnership with Glasgow Women's Library, University of Glasgow Centre for Gender History and Women's History Scotland, was awarded money by the Heritage Lottery Fund to gather, collect and document the history of Women's Aid in Scotland.

Women's Aid emerged out of the Women's Liberation Movement of the 1970s as a response by some activists who wanted to provide practical support to women who were experiencing violence and abuse. In doing so they created a network of refuges, contributed to policy and legal developments and were influential in helping to change views in Scottish society about the issue of domestic abuse and gender inequality. This project will document these important stories through a collection of oral history interviews, films, the creation of a project website, the digitisation of archival material, a touring exhibition and many more exciting outputs! But to achieve this, we need a group of committed and enthusiastic volunteers.

Opportunity description:

We are looking for women who are interested in or would like to develop an interest in women's history. More specifically, this opportunity is open to those who would like to develop heritage interpretation and exhibition organisation skills.

What will it involve?

You will be asked to take part in five workshops covering interpretation, content and design. Volunteers will work together to finalise the exhibition text, select objects and oral histories for inclusion in the exhibition, and contribute ideas for the design and presentation of the information. There will also be opportunities to write about your experience as a volunteer and contribute to the project blog.

In return you will receive all reasonable expenses, training on heritage interpretation and writing for an audience, an invitation to the exhibition opening, and an induction and support programme from Scottish Women's Aid led by the project co-ordinator Sarah Browne.

How much time will be involved?

You will be asked to take part in up to five half-day workshop sessions during June and July 2016. The workshop timings will be arranged to meet the suitability of the group as far as possible. The training and induction session is likely to take place in Edinburgh either on 30th April 2016 or 14th May 2016. You must be able to attend this session.

The role described above is a voluntary role only, and is not intended to signify a contract of employment between you and Scottish Women's Aid. You will always be free to stop volunteering at any time.

Do I need any particular skills?

No. We are looking for women who have an interest in women's history and who are interested in organising an exhibition. Full training will be given as well as information about the project and the history of Women's Aid. However, it would be beneficial if you had an understanding of and commitment to Scottish Women's Aid's vision and mission as a feminist organisation.

What will I gain from this experience?

As well as being able to contribute to this exciting and interesting project, you should gain and/or develop a range of skills and experience:

- Team working
- Develop communication skills
- Develop heritage interpretation skills
- Gain knowledge of exhibition design and organisation
- Gain knowledge about women's history and the history of Women's Aid in Scotland
- Gain a greater understanding of domestic abuse and campaigns against violence against women
- Become a supporter of the project and be kept up-to-date with the latest developments as well as being invited to attend project activities and events
- The opportunity to contribute to the development of the project through providing feedback and posts for social media.

Who do I speak to if I have any questions?

We are happy to answer any questions you might have. You can speak to Sarah Browne, project co-ordinator:

Sarah Browne
Scottish Women's Aid
2nd Floor
132 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3JD

E: sarah.browne@scottishwomensaid.org.uk

T: 0131 240 0315

Please note that if you have questions, we will not be able to assist after 5pm on 24th March 2016.

What do I do next?

Thank you for considering this opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the volunteer information form and submit it to the address above by **4pm on 28th March 2016.**