



Rebuilding Lives UK

## Chair of Trustee Recruitment Pack

### About Rebuilding Lives UK

#### Help and Hope for Domestic Abuse Survivors

Rebuilding Lives UK is dedicated to helping survivors and their families of domestic abuse rebuild their homes and their lives. A safe and comforting home is essential for recovery, yet many survivors are left in spaces filled with painful reminders of their trauma—shattered walls, broken fixtures, or unfamiliar accommodations that lack even basic comforts. For many, even the sound of a door knock or footsteps behind them still evokes fear.

We provide practical assistance to ensure survivors have the essential foundations needed to heal and move forward with strength and hope. Through compassion, dignity, and kindness, we create safer homes by delivering security solutions, carrying out repairs, and providing essential furnishings—transforming spaces into places of safety and stability.

Every survivor deserves to feel secure in their own home. That's why we provide personal security alarms equipped with SOS features, direct police connections, and audio recording capabilities. These alarms offer immediate protection, giving survivors a vital lifeline in moments of crisis. We also install reinforced doors, security lighting, and additional safety measures to ensure survivors feel safe where they live.

But security is just the beginning. Many survivors are forced to live in homes that hold painful memories of their abuse—walls with holes punched through them, broken doors, and rooms filled with reminders of trauma. We work with trusted tradespeople, including skilled plasterers, decorators, carpenters, electricians, and plumbers, to restore these homes, creating spaces that feel safe and welcoming. We also support families who need to relocate by helping them move into homes that are safe and fully equipped with the necessities they need for a fresh start.

This work is only possible through collaboration. We partner with domestic abuse agencies that refer survivors to us, ensuring that each individual receives support in a trauma-informed way. Companies such as British Gypsum, Weber, Toolstation, Dulux, Wickes, Howdens, Travis Perkins as well as other companies provide essential materials, allowing us to complete vital renovations. By working together with businesses, tradespeople, and volunteers, we are able to transform homes and restore dignity to those who need it most.

Rebuilding Lives UK exists to ensure that no survivor has to live in fear within their own home. Our mission is to create a safe, secure, and healing environment for those who have experienced domestic abuse. Every person we support deserves to rebuild their life with dignity, knowing they are not alone.



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## Rebuilding Lives UK

Compassion is at the heart of everything we do. We believe in kindness, empathy, and respect, recognising that each survivor's journey is unique. We are committed to delivering our services with integrity and ensuring that every project is completed with care.

Rebuilding Lives UK is deeply committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of survivors, volunteers, staff, and everyone involved in our work. We recognise that safeguarding is not just a policy, but a responsibility that must be embedded in everything we do. Our commitment is to ensure that all those we support—and those who support us—feel safe, valued and protected at all times.

Collaboration is key to our impact. By working alongside trusted domestic abuse agencies, businesses, and skilled tradespeople, we provide a wraparound service for those who need it most. Generous trade professionals from Weber and volunteers from *Build A Career* have donated their time and expertise to help renovate homes, while Dulux has provided staff for volunteer days, helping to create warm, welcoming spaces for survivors. Their contributions, along with support from other skilled tradespeople, ensure that every home we restore is a place of safety, dignity, and hope.

Above all, we believe in empowerment. Survivors deserve to feel in control of their futures, and through our work, we help them reclaim their homes, their safety, and their independence.

Our work has been widely recognised through media coverage, raising awareness of the urgent need for safe, stable homes for survivors. We have been featured on ITV, BBC Radio 2, Sky News, Channel 5, and Steph's Packed Lunch, as well as in reports from various news outlets. Comedian Russell Howard has highlighted our mission, and legendary musician Chris de Burgh even performed *Lady in Red* for our founder in recognition of our impact. One of our most recent significant moments came when Lewis Capaldi's song *A Cure for Minds Unwell* featured Naima's story, further amplifying our message and reaching audiences worldwide. The public has rallied behind our cause, and this growing support enables us to continue making a difference in the lives of survivors.

### Welcome from the Founder and CEO

My name is Naima Ben-Moussa, and I founded Rebuilding Lives UK because I know firsthand the devastation that domestic abuse, sexual violence, and childhood trauma can cause. I know what it's like to live in fear, to feel unsafe in your own home, and to carry the weight of trauma. From witnessing my mother suffer at the hands of abusers to surviving my own experiences I've seen the impact of domestic abuse, not just in my own life but in the lives of so many others. I also know how powerful it is to take back control, to turn a place filled with painful memories into a home where healing can begin. That's why this charity exists—to make sure no survivor has to face that journey alone.



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## Rebuilding Lives UK

Rebuilding Lives UK began in 2021 after I was called to a home where a survivor and her young children had endured a terrifying 10-hour assault. Even her child had been forced to call the police. When I arrived to organise some plastering work, I could feel the trauma in the house. Wanting to do more, I set up a JustGiving page to raise funds for materials. The response was incredible—it reached people worldwide and was picked up by major news outlets.

Soon after, I was invited onto BBC Radio 2's *Jeremy Vine Show* to speak about the survivor's experience, as well as my own childhood abuse and rape. It was an overwhelming and emotional moment, but I knew I had to ask the nation for help. The response was extraordinary people came together to support survivors in ways I never imagined. Jeremy himself generously paid for the plastering on the first project, and tens of thousands of pounds were raised in just one interview.

Off the back of that, Nina Hossain joined us as an ambassador, and her mother even offered to come out on projects to help paint. That first act of kindness proved just how many people care and want to make a difference. What started as one home has now grown into a nationwide movement, helping survivors regain safety, dignity, and hope.

Rebuilding Lives UK was born from my own experience of abuse. I know what it means to feel trapped, alone, and without hope. I also know the power of having someone believe in you. That's why I started this charity—to be that helping hand for others.

I've seen the fear in a mother's eyes as she wonders how she will keep her children safe. I've walked into homes destroyed by violence, where every broken door and shattered window tells a story of pain. But I've also seen the incredible strength of survivors. I've witnessed the transformation that happens when they step into a secure home, knowing they are safe at last.

We need trustees who share this passion—who understand that lived experience matters, that rebuilding homes means rebuilding lives. This work isn't easy, but it is vital. Survivors deserve more than just escape; they deserve a future filled with possibility. If you believe in our mission and can commit to this role, we need you. Together, we can continue to bring help, hope, and safety to those who need it most.

## About the Chair of Trustee Role

### Role Overview

The Chair of Trustees ensures effective governance and strategic direction for Rebuilding Lives UK. They provide leadership to the board, oversee decision-making, and act as a key ambassador for the charity. The Chair supports the Chief Executive while ensuring accountability and compliance with regulatory requirements. A key responsibility of the Chair is to ensure that all trustees are actively engaged in their roles, fulfilling their responsibilities, and participating in training.



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### Key Responsibilities

- Lead the board to ensure strong governance, accountability, and strategic leadership.
- Ensure that **all trustees actively fulfill their roles**, contribute to decision-making, and engage with the charity's work.
- Provide **mentorship and oversight** to the Chief Executive.
- Hold trustees accountable for **attending training** and participating in board activities.
- Ensure that **safeguarding measures** are implemented across the charity.
- Oversee board meetings, ensuring productive discussions and informed decision-making.
- Represent the charity externally and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders.
- Support financial oversight, ensuring sustainability and compliance.
- Be **actively involved** in the charity's operations where possible, offering support beyond governance.
- The Chair plays a key role in providing strategic direction and supporting the CEO through regular mentoring and guidance. While the board collectively oversees the charity's performance, the Chair works closely with the CEO to ensure they are supported in their role, offering insights and fostering a collaborative relationship between the CEO and trustees.

### Who We Are Looking For

#### Essential Skills & Experience:

- Experience in **chairing boards or senior governance roles**.
- Strong strategic leadership and decision-making abilities.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Commitment to **equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)**.
- Minimum of **10 hours per month** dedicated to board duties.

### What You'll Gain from This Role

Becoming a trustee with Rebuilding Lives UK is more than just a governance role—it's an opportunity to be part of a team dedicated to creating real, lasting change. As a trustee, you will:

- Play a vital role in supporting survivors and helping them rebuild their lives.
- Be part of a passionate and driven team working towards a shared mission.
- Gain valuable leadership, governance, and strategic experience.
- Develop transferable skills in decision-making, safeguarding, and advocacy.
- Expand your professional network and engage with like-minded individuals.
- Have access to training and development opportunities to strengthen your expertise.



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## Mandatory Training Requirement

All trustees, including the Chair, are required to complete **trustee governance and safeguarding training within the first three months** of their appointment. Additional training will follow as needed.

## Terms of Appointment

The Chair serves an initial one-year term, with the option for renewal up to a maximum of three years.

## Voluntary Role

All voluntary roles are subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced DBS check.

This is an unpaid position; however, reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

## Time Commitment:

- 10 hours per month, including:
  - Monthly board meetings (held via Zoom).
  - Providing strategic leadership and guidance to the CEO.
  - Annual half-day strategy session and leadership planning.
  - Regular check-ins with trustees to ensure engagement and accountability.

## How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for a trustee role, please send a cover letter and CV to Naima Ben-Moussa, CEO, at [naima@rebuildinglives-uk.org](mailto:naima@rebuildinglives-uk.org)

Applications will be accepted throughout March 2025. All applicants will receive a response by the end of March, and interviews will be scheduled for early April 2025.

Together, we can rebuild homes, restore dignity, and most importantly, create safety. Thank you for considering joining us.

