



Job Vacancy

Health Advocate

Programme: Her Health



March 2024

About Sister Circle

Sister Circle is a charity putting women's health first. We provide holistic support for women living with challenging circumstances and who are, at the highest risk of experiencing poor health care during pregnancy and accessing sexual and reproductive health services.

Every woman to have access to the healthcare services she needs to thrive through good mental, physical & social wellbeing.

For over 40 years, we have advocated for equal access to healthcare and championed women's health. We provide our holistic support through three programmes: Maternity Mates, Her Health and Healing Conversations. We recruit local women volunteers, without whom, we could not provide our holistic support.

Since 2010, we have trained over 500 volunteers, and supported over 1,500 women with emotional and practical support during their pregnancy journeys, accessing women's health and counselling services.



About the Role

We have a fantastic opportunity for someone who is passionate about women's health, empowerment amongst women, and building relations and connecting with local communities of women.

Our Her Health Programme supports local women who have experienced Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) access to practical and emotional support on a one-to-one basis, during their clinical appointments, and in a group setting.

As a Health Advocate, you will organise our women's group sessions, a space for women to connect and learn more about their health. You will encourage women to join the sessions and develop an engaging group of health professionals to lead, educate and share knowledge within the groups. You will also be providing information, practical support and advocacy to the women on a one-to-one basis, ensuring they are accessing other organisations and services.

As an organisation, we prioritise promoting equality and diversity by challenging discrimination and encouraging services to meet the diverse needs of local communities.

You will be someone who is highly motivated, personable, and committed to making a positive impact in the community.

This is the perfect role if you want to be a champion for women's health or build a career in gender equality and advocacy. You do not need to have knowledge of FGM/C but you will need to have a strong desire to learn and make a difference.

This is not a clinical role and you will not need any previous clinical experience.



Duties & Responsibilities

Health Support

- Give information, practical support, and advocacy to women who have experienced FGM/C.
- Guide women through the clinical service, our advocacy support, and accessing support at the women's health clinic at Mile End Hospital.
- Ensure women are referred to and encourage them to engage with other support organisations as appropriate (for example; for immigration, financial, housing, etc. advice).
- Build strong relationships with the clinical team to ensure women receive high quality care – providing translations or explanations of the care provided.

Community Outreach & Women's Group

- Organise the Conversation Café sessions (women's group) – inviting and briefing speakers from our health professionals networks, booking venue, creche facilities, and refreshments. Create an engaging space for the women to participate and benefit from.
- Reach out to and build relationships with community of women to motivate them to participate and to address any concerns or barriers.
- Create and distribute promotional materials to increase visibility, including leaflets and social media content.

Awareness raising

- Contribute to awareness raising and educational sessions delivered as part of the programme.
- Keep up to date knowledge on issues relevant to the programme and that related to FGM/C.
- Attend relevant external meetings and raise awareness about FGM/C, our services, and Sister Circle. Feedback to the team about relevant meetings.

Data collection and reporting

- Help amplify women's voices by collecting and recording feedback.
- Collect data and maintain records to a high standard.
- Provide information for monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Cultural Competency

- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and a trauma-informed approach in all interactions with women in the community, external stakeholders, and the team.
- Adapt engagement to meet the unique needs and preferences of different groups.

Communication and Collaboration

- Work closely with the Programme Coordinator to deliver a high quality support service for the women.
- Report any trends or issues immediately to the Programme Coordinator.
- Collaborate and cross refer to other areas of support provided by Sister Circle, such as, Healing Conversations and Maternity Mates.
- Participate in internal team meetings, one-to-one supervision, and other relevant training sessions, contributing to both the organisation's and your own development.
- Follow Sister Circle's policies, procedures, boundaries, and report any safeguarding issue.

The above is not an exhaustive list of duties and you will be expected to perform different tasks as necessitated by changing role within the organisation and the overall objectives of the charity.

Person Specification

E = Essential / D = Desirable; A = Application / I = Interview

Experience

- Proven experience of working with women from diverse communities living with multiple disadvantages. (E; A, I)
- Proven experience of outreach and community building; organising community events or groups (E; A, I)
- Proven experience of working as an advocate or similar role. (E; A, I)
- Experience or transferrable experience of developing support plans for service users. (E; I)

- Experience of supporting survivors of cutting FGM/C. (D; I)
- Experience of working within a clinical or NHS setting. (D; A)
- Experience of working with maternity and/or health visiting services. (D; A)

Education, Skills, Knowledge

- Good written and verbal English. (E; A,I)
- Awareness of the local area, communities, and organisations. (E; A,I)
- Understanding of the inequalities within women's health and maternity care. (E; I)
- Strong planning skills including attention to detail, multitasking, and problem solving. (E; A,I)
- Highly organised with a methodical and rigorous approach (E; A, I)
- Able to exercise tact and discretion when dealing with sensitive personal information. (E; I)
- Good IT and database skills including PowerPoint, Excel, and Google Sheets. (E; A)
- Good communication skills. (E; A, I)
- Good time management. (E; I)

- Good knowledge of spoken Somali/Arabic. (D; A, I)
- Knowledge of Social Media (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter). (D; A)
- Knowledge of Canva graphic design tool. (D; A)

Personal Qualities

- Very strong relationship building skills – with volunteers, beneficiaries, team and external partners. (E; A, I)
- Exceptional interpersonal skills – can demonstrate empathy and emotional resilience. (E; I)
- Values diversity and difference, works with integrity and openness. (E; I)
- Collaborative, flexible. (E; I)
- Treats others with compassion and respect. (E; I)

How to apply

We would like you to complete and submit the following:

- CV (no longer than 2 pages)
- A covering letter, letting us know why you would like to work with us in this role and the skills and experience you would bring to the position.
- Send your application to: recruitment@sistercircle.org.uk

Once your application has been submitted, shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview.

DEADLINE: Sunday, 16th June 2024 23:59

INTERVIEWS: Tuesday, 25th June 2024 (online)

Terms and Conditions

Location: Hybrid – Home and office required.

Our Sister Circle office is based at The Brady Centre, 192 Hanbury Street, E1 5HU.

Contract: Part-time, 4 days per week/28hrs

Salary: £20,800 (Fulltime equivalent £26,000)

Holiday entitlement: Pro rata of 26 days plus bank holidays + monthly wellbeing time off (pro rata)

Reporting to: Head of Programmes

DBS requirement: Appointment to this post is subject to an up-to-date, satisfactory, enhanced DBS check with a check against the barred lists for children and adults.

Our Approach

- We walk alongside each woman to support her as an individual.
- We provide advocacy, practical and emotional support with empathy and without judgement.
- We create spaces for women to think, plan, heal and rebuild their confidence, advocate for their own healthcare needs and when asked, advocate on their behalf.
- We build partnerships and learning spaces so unheard voices can be heard and women can create change.
- Everything we do is relational, culturally and trauma informed.



Our Values

- We're inclusive - breaking down barriers to reach and empower the most marginalised
- We believe in the power of trust - behaving with integrity, reliably offering a safe and supportive spaces
- We're courageous - challenging norms and exploring new ideas to create change
- We're reflective - always listening and learning to improve



Employment requirement:

The post-holder must have the right to work in the UK and will be required to provide the necessary paperwork to verify this. References will be requested with placement offer.

This post is open to female applicants only as this is deemed a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) for this role under Schedule 9, Paragraph 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

Company Information

Address:

Brady Community Centre
192 Hanbury Street
London
E1 5HU

Phone:

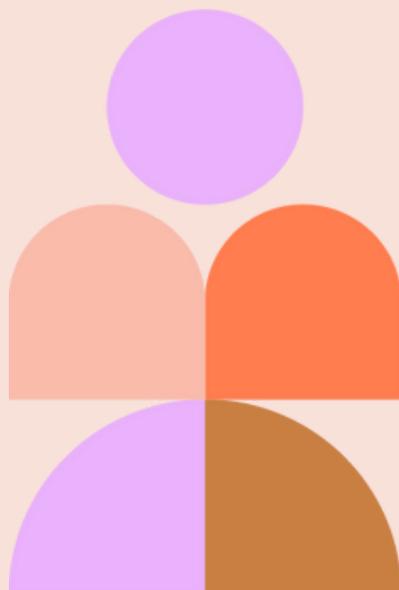
020 7377 9644

Email:

hello@sistercircle.org.uk

Website:

www.sistercircle.org.uk



Sister Circle