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**JRCT Peace and Security Committee Co-optee Vacancy**

**Background**

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) wishes to appoint a co-opted member to join its Peace and Security Committee from January 2025, to provide specialist expertise and advice to support our Peace and Security grantmaking programme.

JRCT is an independent, endowed, charitable foundation based in York, England. The Trust is governed by a board of voluntary trustees. The Peace and Security Committee comprises of three members of JRCT’s board of trustees, together with additional co-opted members. The committee currently has four co-opted members.

The Peace and Security programme makes grants to support work in four areas. These are:

1. Challenging Militarism
2. Scrutiny of counter-terrorism measures in the context of human rights and peacebuilding
3. Building support for alternative approaches to defence and security
4. Responding to the harms of systemic racism

A detailed grants policy can be viewed at <https://www.jrct.org.uk/peace-and-security>

JRCT is a responsive grant-maker and believes that the knowledge required to bring about and more just and equitable society sits with those who are already doing the work. Further information on the history, structure and work of the Trust can be found on our website [www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk).

**What is involved?**

The role of co-opted members is to complement the Committee’s expertise in the policy areas, by offering specialist knowledge and experience of one or more of the programme’s areas of focus.

The main work of the Committee is assessing grant applications. Co-opted members are fully involved in this process. This role requires a total commitment of around five days of meetings per year as outlined below, plus substantial additional time for reading and commenting on applications and reading agenda papers.

In addition, co-optees contribute to reflections on the context within which we make our grants and advise on which new applications to support and other issues that arise in our work. We are looking for someone with knowledge of the policy/practice landscape, current challenges and opportunities, and an awareness of organisations working in the field. To view the organisations that have received funding through the programme, have a look at[our recent grant awards](https://jrct.org.uk/grants-awarded).

The Committee meets three times per year, typically in February, June and October. Meetings are usually held in London or York. In addition to attending the committee meetings, co-optees are also expected to participate in assessment meetings with applicants. This commitment would typically involve one or two days per year.

The appointment would be for three years in the first instance, with the possibility of renewal for a further period of three years.

The Trust pays a standard day rate of £475 (payable either directly to the individual or to the individual’s employer) for approximately 6 days’ work per year. All additional expenses are paid, including travel, accommodation and childcare if required.

We want to ensure financial concerns are not an obstacle to committee membership, so if you are interested in the role but have any financial concerns that would deter you, please contact David Magee (Programme Manager) at david.magee@jrct.org.uk to arrange a call or zoom conversation.

**Person specification**

The Peace and Security Committee is seeking a co-optee who will be able to contribute effectively to the committee’s work. Given the current make-up of the committee, the Trust is particularly interested in attracting an individual who:

* brings subject expertise and an informed critical perspective to one or more of the policy areas, particularly scrutiny of counter-terrorism measures in the context of human rights and peacebuilding
* understands the type of organisations that the programme funds
* and has the ability to listen, engage in discussions, and work within a collective decision-making body.

Co-optees are expected to have an understanding of the programme policy areas, but could themselves be working in, or have a background in, another area. We are particularly looking for co-optees with lived experience of the issues the committee is trying to address, and particularly welcome applicants from communities that have been marginalised in the UK, including; people from racialised communities, people with disabilities, people from refugee backgrounds, poor and working-class communities, and people from LGBTQ+ communities. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified people.

Co-optees should be in sympathy with the Quaker values of the Trust, which include a commitment to equality and the worth of every individual, to nonviolence, and to honesty and integrity. JRCT welcomes applications from people of any faith or none.

Please note

JRCT operates a conflict of interest policy in respect of all its programme areas. Applicants for this role are requested to fully disclose professional associations with any former or current JRCT grantees. Ideally, the Trust seeks to appoint individuals who are not directly involved with organisations that are likely to seek funding from the Trust.

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please contact David Magee: david.magee@jrct.org.uk

**To apply**, please send us:

* Your contact details, including email address and phone number
* A written or voice statement, of no more than 300 words/4 minutes, describing what you would bring to the role
* A current CV.

Please send us this information by email to: david.magee@jrct.org.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm on Friday 6th September 2024.** All applications will be acknowledged. If we are interested in appointing you, we will arrange a meeting to discuss your application. Meetings will take place between 18-20th September.