



# Trustee and Chair of the National Advisory Committee for Scotland

## Role Profile

### About Christian Aid

At Christian Aid, we believe that poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. Christian Aid has a vision - an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. The essential purpose of Christian Aid is to expose the scandal of poverty, to help in practical ways to root it out from the world and to challenge the systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

For over 70 years, we've fought poverty and turned hope into action. Although founded by the church and rooted in Christianity, we've always helped those in need, regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality. Created by British and Irish churches in 1945, and owned by our 41 sponsoring churches, Christian Aid provides urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root cause. Our work is based on our fundamental identification with the aspirations and rights of the poor and the oppressed. We act in situations of suffering and injustice because we believe that they violate God's standards, and devalue us all.

### The Board of Trustees

The board of trustees is responsible for setting the strategy and policy framework of Christian Aid, holding the Chief Executive and other directors (senior management) accountable, providing constructive challenge where necessary, reporting to the sponsoring Churches and the wider group of stakeholders (at the Annual General Meeting) and promoting Christian Aid externally.

### The National Advisory Committees for Scotland and Wales

Christian Aid's governance structure incorporates National Advisory Committees in Scotland and in Wales. The role of the National Advisory Committees is to support Christian Aid's work locally, advising on its activities in the Scottish and Welsh national contexts. This extends to fostering its relations with churches, ecumenical bodies and sister agencies (especially church agencies), and other stakeholders in the wider community, supporting its staff and advising the board of trustees. National Committee members act either as church

advisers (representing Christian Aid's sponsoring churches in Scotland and in Wales) or specialist advisers with skills and knowledge of Christian Aid's work in the localities. The Chairs of the National Advisory Committees become members of Christian Aid's board ex-officio (by virtue of office).

### **What will I do?**

Trustees have the overall legal responsibility for a charity. The law describes charity trustees as 'the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity' (Charities Act 2011, section 117). Trustees must act and take decisions collectively to govern the charity. Trustees have no authority to act on their own as a trustee unless this has been authorised by the trustee board as a whole.

As a Christian Aid trustee, he/she will have responsibility for setting directions, governance, reviewing policies and ensuring the organisation's resources are used strategically to achieve agreed results. He/she will be expected to work in partnership with the Chief Executive and senior management and will need to recognise the value and commitment made by Christian Aid to working with and through partners overseas.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate a combination of intellect, personal presence, energy and creativity sufficient to make a contribution at board level. They will have a passion for poverty eradication and social justice, knowledge of the challenges faced in developing countries, a commitment to Christian Aid's values and objectives.

National Advisory Committee Chairs are influential, trusted and respected individuals who act as flagbearers for Christian Aid in their local context. Christian Aid is the churches' relief, development, advocacy and campaigning agency for international development and poverty eradication. Candidates must therefore be experienced and embedded within national church and ecumenical structures (i.e. in Scotland) in order that they might act as witnesses to the church in relief and development.

### **What skills do I need?**

It would be essential for candidates to:

- be an active member of [one of the sponsoring church denominations of Christian Aid](#) in Scotland
- have experience of senior leadership in church affairs
- have sympathy and support for Christian Aid as a Christian organisation, which works with: churches; ecumenical bodies; local NGOs; organisations of other faiths; and movements who have common values and competence in poverty eradication
- have knowledge of the governance obligations and responsibilities of trustees

It would be desirable if candidates also had:

- knowledge of the workings of charities in the UK
- knowledge of the social, cultural, economic and political dimensions of international relief and development

- experience in an international organisation
- experience and understanding of diversity, especially in the UK context
- experience of media work, giving interviews and acting as a spokesperson

### **How much time am I expected to give?**

The time commitment required is a minimum of 15 days a year (not including reading time), as well as other work with board members or senior staff between formal meetings as agreed. This will include chairing up to three national advisory committee meetings per year, attendance of four board meetings a year (i.e. two all day meetings and a further two that are residential requiring an overnight stay). He/she will also be expected to attend the Annual General Meeting. In addition, it has proved very valuable for trustees to be able to travel overseas occasionally to visit partners and see Christian Aid's work at first hand in the field. A core role for the board is for individual trustees to act as ambassadors and advocates for fundraising for Christian Aid, and to use their experience and personal networks to help expand the supporter base.

Appointment as a trustee will be for an initial period of four years (which may be renewed for a further period i.e. up to a maximum of eight years continuous service).

### **Are there any other requirements?**

Christian Aid values diversity in its board and welcomes people from all sections of the Christian community. Board members are expected to be active Christians so as to help lead, direct and develop Christian Aid as the Churches' agency for international development and poverty eradication.

No salary is payable, but reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

### **How can I find out more?**

For further information, see our [board of trustees page](#) and [our website](#)