

COLUMBAN FAITH IN ACTION VOLUNTEER 2024-2025

BACKGROUND

Who are the Columbans?

The Columbans, ordained and lay, have had a missionary presence in Britain for over 60 years. We believe that our experience overseas broadens our vision of the Church and we bring this important aspect to our work here. Through collaboration and networking, the Columbans have laid down deep roots in the local church. We raise awareness of the missionary dimension of faith, encouraging and listening to the church in Britain in its efforts to reach out beyond its boundaries to spread Gospel joy and invite others to participate in the mission of God. Please visit www.columbans.co.uk for more information.

What is the programme like?

The year-long programme offers a young adult the chance to put faith into action through projects connected to refugees and asylum seekers, inter faith initiatives and justice and peace education. The volunteer will be based in Birmingham, the UK's second city with the youngest urban population in Europe and one of the most lively and diverse regions.

The programme commences with a period of induction and training in which there is the opportunity to explore the areas and themes the volunteer will engage with.

During the programme the volunteer will be accompanied by two experienced mentors, offering support and challenge.

We are looking for young people who will bring their gifts and passion, and who will relish the challenge of exploring new opportunities in response to the particular needs of the Birmingham context.

ROLE SPECIFICATION: COLUMBAN FAITH IN ACTION VOLUNTEER

Role Title:	Faith in Action Volunteer
Support from:	Mauricio Silva (Columban Inter Religious Dialogue Coordinator- IRD) and James Trewby (Columban Justice and Peace Coordinator)
Hours:	35 hours per week (including some evenings and weekends which should be taken back in lieu)
Finances:	Volunteer package of covering accommodation, travel expenses and reimbursement of subsistence costs up to £90 per week
Leave:	25 days
Term:	16th September 2024 – 31st August 2025

OVERALL ROLE:

A time of personal development and growth based in Birmingham, putting faith into action through projects connected to refugees/asylum, inter religious dialogue, and justice and peace education.

KEY EXPECTATIONS

To contribute to the development of Columban Mission in Britain by:

1. Engaging in projects which offer support refugees and asylum seekers as well as programmes which promote good relations between people of differing cultures and faiths.
2. Engaging in activities to help young people and educators explore the relationship between faith and action for justice and peace, working through schools, parishes and collaborative projects.
3. Engaging in a journey of learning and reflection on faith praxis and personal development.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Engaging in projects which offer support refugees and asylum seekers as well as programmes and activities which promote good relations between people of differing cultures and faiths:

- Volunteering with projects that support asylum seekers and refugees in the city (e.g. Restore, Fatima House, St Chad's Sanctuary, etc.)
- Engaging with church and community initiatives in a diverse and multicultural area of the city (i.e. local school, parent and toddler groups, elderly clubs, youth programmes, etc.)
- Participating in interfaith programmes which promote life-giving relationships between people of different backgrounds (e.g. Faith Encounter programme, Footsteps, etc.)
- Meeting on a regular basis with the Columban IRD Coordinator in order to assess and reflect on progress made in these engagements.
- Attending relevant training.
- Participating in the IRD team meetings.

Engaging in activities to help young people and educators explore the relationship between faith and action for justice and peace, working through schools, parishes and collaborative projects.

- Creating and developing resources for young people, educators and families.
- Planning and leading workshops in schools, youth clubs, parishes and similar.
- Collaboration with a range of other justice and peace organisations.
- Supporting educators in their work activities with young people.
- Attending relevant training.
- Participating in team meetings.

To engage in a journey of learning and reflection on faith praxis and personal development:

- Keeping a record of experiences through diary-style text entries in order to process these and draw out learning during the programme.
- The opportunity to meet on a regular basis with a Spiritual Director.
- Meeting on a regular basis with the two mentors to monitor progress and reflect.
- Taking part in a retreat focused on the aims of the programme.
- Producing a number of written articles and/or short videos for Columban media.

Evaluation and Monitoring:

- Submitting monthly reports to be shared at the meetings with the mentors.
- Presenting of a summary of the programme and a reflection on their growth at a Regional Columban meeting.

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

You will receive an induction and continuing support to carry out this role.

Essential

- A sense of faith and belonging to the Christian community
- Ability and willingness to reflect on their faith and its meaning
- The ability to commit to the projects and programmes offered in the city of Birmingham
- A proven ability to relate to a wide variety of people and engage with different worldviews
- Self-motivation and the ability to take initiative
- A willingness to learn
- The intellectual and emotional capacity to successfully undertake the programme and training offered
- Ability to deal with confidential and sensitive matters and/or material
- Willingness to engage in educational activities with a range of audiences

Desirable

- Willingness to be immersed within the lives of disadvantaged people
- Commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation
- Awareness of the problems and possibilities of society today
- Experience of working with church groups
- The ability to articulate a call to participate in the mission of the church in a diverse city
- Passion for working with young people in a range of contexts (both formal and informal; school and parish contexts)
- Ability to use ICT effectively, including social media
- Ability to work flexibly on a range of tasks and to prioritise accordingly
- A sense of faith and belonging to the Roman Catholic Church

Practicalities

Over the programme the Columbans will provide:

- Finance to support accommodation in Birmingham
- A local transport allowance
- Reimbursement of subsistence costs up to £90 per week
- A retreat
- Expenses to attend relevant trainings/meetings

If you have any questions or wish to speak to a previous volunteer please email invitationtomission@columbans.co.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday 10th June 2024.



Interviews are likely to be held on Friday 21st June 2024 in central Birmingham.

The Columbans reserve the right to change and amend this volunteer description/person specification in accordance with the changing requirements of the organisation.