

**Garden Coordinator**

**Job Description**

**Job Title**:              Garden Coordinator

**Accountable to**:   Director

**Working Hours:**   upto 4 hours per week, total of 25 weeks between May - Oct (mainly on a Tuesday or Friday afternoon)

**Sessional wage**: £20/hr

**Location**:       London - Mildmay Community Centre, Woodville Road, N16 8NA

**How to apply:** Send CV and covering letterto [**elli.free@roomtoheal.org**](mailto:mark.fish@roomtoheal.org)

**Deadline for applications:** 24th May 2019

**Start Date:** ASAP

Please apply by sending a CV and covering letter, detailing your interest in the role, your relevant experience and evidence of how you meet **all aspects of the person specification to** [**elli.free@roomtoheal.org**](mailto:elli.free@roomtoheal.org)

**About Room to Heal**

Room to Heal is a human rights charity and healing community based in London. Our mission is to support people who have survived torture and organised violence to rebuild their lives in exile, through an integrated programme of therapeutic and casework assistance. We offer a range of activities including: support groups, gardening and food-growing, individual therapy and casework, theatre workshops, cooking and social gatherings, and therapeutic retreats.

At the heart of our work lies the cultivation of community, through which our members can restore meaningful relationships with themselves and others, overcome the legacy of their traumatic experiences and integrate into the UK. Our community is currently made up of over 100 members from over 30 countries: including former political prisoners; people who have been persecuted on account of their sexuality or religious belief; and those who have escaped trafficking.

Over the past decade we have established a pioneering model of work that is well respected in the field. We are supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, as well as a number of corporate funders and a range of trusts and foundations. Lloyds TSB Foundation recognised our ‘outstanding impact’ in the refugee field in 2015.

Based in Newington Green in Islington, we have 4 therapists , 2 caseworkers, a fundraiser, finance officer, director and international trainer (training other organisations in group work in two countries in Africa). All our staff are part-time or sessional. Room to Heal is staffed by a team of committed individuals, who work hard but also recognise that a friendly, nurturing environment is crucial for all of our well-being. By joining Room to Heal you would also become part of a small, close-knit, multi-cultural and inspiring community and be able to see first-hand the positive changes that your work enables in the lives of torture survivors.

**Role**: To take a lead in developing, coordinating and maintaining our small garden at Mildmay Community Centre, alongside coordinating with our garden volunteer and staff at Culpeper Community Garden. Gardening and being in nature is a key part of Room to Heal’s therapeutic work with our members. The Garden Coordinator will work with and support our members (refugees and asylum seekers, who are survivors of torture and other serious human rights abuses) to participate in gardening.

**Key tasks:**

* To encourage the participation and input of members in the gardening work, being mindful of our ethos of gardening being a therapeutic activity
* To learn from, and implement where possible, suggestions for growing from our members
* To plant easily edible crops, which can be tended and thet the harvest can be shared, by members of the community
* To develop a small garden at Mildmay Community Centre into a sensory / herb garden - mainly using planters and movable planters
* To improve and maintain the grass area
* To maintain and care for the garden - watering, pruning etc.
* To coordinate with volunteers and staff involved in the gardening work at Culpeper and Mildmay
* To liaise with relevant staff with regard to any safeguarding or support needs that arise during gardening sessions with members
* There may be occasional opportunities to visit other gardens with members in other locations
* Welcoming visitors who are interested in our gardening work.

We are looking for someone with the following personal attributes, skills and experience:

* Great communication skills - be the sort of person who wants to communicate, enjoys meeting people and has an understanding that it takes time to get to know someone, alongside having the ability to communicate effectively with a diverse range of individuals from diverse backgrounds.
* Gardening knowledge and an experienced gardener.
* A high level of sensitivity and an awareness to the individual needs of our members.
* Be patient in the delivery of activities, having the time to listen to and support individuals during a gardening session.
* Open-minded, flexible, calm and non-judgemental.
* A cheerful and enthusiastic approach to the work.
* To keep accurate records, statistics, confidential case records and ensure GDPR compliance.
* To adhere to Room to Heal policies and procedures.
* An understanding of and affinity with our core principles, including that our members are important contributors to the running of the community.
* Willingness and interest in working within a non-resident community.
* Qualification in horticulture such as Royal Horticultural Society or City and Guilds (desirable)
* An understanding of the needs and experiences of asylum seekers and refugees (desirable)
* Experience of therapeutic gardening work (desirable)

**Other requirements:**

* Subject to successful DBS checks for working with vulnerable adults;