

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit

Information for prospective Trustees/Directors

Thank you for your interest in joining the GMIAU Board as a Trustee/Director.

Our mission is to provide high-quality legal representation, support and hope to people experiencing immigration injustice. We are the leading immigration advice centre in the North West and have a team of 41 paid staff and 10 volunteers. We have around 1000 cases at any one time and support around 6000 people per year.

Here are some of the feedback people have recently shared about our work.

“Everything was good. My caseworker kept me updated. I got my refugee status. Everything has changed for the positive. I feel like being born again.”

“The outcome is I am happy that I am granted and I will be able to raise my son in peace. So grateful that my son and I are in a safe place”.

“I can start my life again now”.

Alongside our core immigration legal advice function, we also deliver quality work relating to:

- Policy and influencing
- Homelessness and Destitution
- Children and Young People
- The Windrush Legal Initiative

Our Values:

1. **We Speak Up:** We know what's right and what's fair. We are not silent when we see injustice.
2. **We Fight For Justice:** We use all the knowledge, expertise and skill we possess in order to succeed.
3. **We See The Whole Person:** We recognise the talents, humanity and potential of those who turn to us for help.
4. **We Act With Empathy:** We treat people how we'd want to be treated; with kindness, dignity and respect.
5. **We Are Tenacious:** We take on difficult cases, and we don't give up easily.
6. **We Fight For Change:** We campaign with others for improvements in immigration law and policy.

Strategic priorities

Our board lead on delivery of our strategic planning and our current strategic priorities include:

1. To deliver immigration advice and legal representation to those most in need.
2. To deliver additional services to support people we work with.
3. To develop strategic and operational partnerships to deliver greater impact.
4. To influence national and local policy strategies to make immigration practices humane and accessible.
5. To be an effective, resilient, sustainable, well-resourced organisation.

Our Board

We are currently seeking new Trustees/Directors, as GMIAU Board Members, with a passion for our community and leading GMIAU to protect the rights of those subject to immigration controls.

We are open to all applications and types of experience, particularly those with skills and experience in Finance, Human Resources and Fundraising.

We want our Board Members to come with an appreciation of the needs of our clients and their wider communities and particularly welcome those with lived experience of the UK immigration system, including as a refugee or asylum seeker.

Practicalities

Our Board meets every two months in our offices in Crumpsall, Manchester, at 4.30 pm. We require Board Members to attend regularly and we can pay travel and other expenses as required. We also operate 2 Sub-Committees, Finance and People, and require new Board Members to join one of these.

There is more information about being a charity trustee on the Charity Commission website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

Read our latest Impact Report here: [GMIAU Impact Report 2025 - GMIAU](#)

For an informal discussion about joining the Board as a Trustee/Director, please contact the Chief Executive, Neil Frackelton, at neil@gmiau.org.