

Trustee of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee.

At the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies we create lively spaces for collaboration and learning, where conventional criminal justice policy agendas are scrutinised and challenged, fresh knowledge and ideas are discussed, and transformational solutions are developed.

About our work

For nearly 100 years, the Centre has championed the importance of evidence and experience in the development of effective policy and practice in the fields of crime and criminal justice.

We believe that a creative, energetic and optimistic challenge is the antidote to the entrenched monotony of repeated policy failure. Grounded in principles of solidarity and the practices of collaboration, it can open up new possibilities for transformational change.

We work primarily through conversations, collaborative research programmes, publications and events.

Our three-year strategy, the first of three planned three-year strategies, guiding us to our 100th anniversary as an organisation in 2031, set out our vision as:

“A fair, effective and accountable justice system, in a society less dominated by criminalisation and punishment, because it has developed better ways of preventing and addressing the problems of crime.”

You can read our strategy here: <https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/our-strategy>

Becoming a trustee

The Centre currently has six Trustees, with a maximum of ten allowed for by our governing document. We are therefore looking for up to four Trustees to join the existing body.

Among the knowledge, skills and experience we are looking for in prospective trustees are:

- Experience of criminal justice as a criminalised and/or convicted person, or family member or friend.
- Systems change, organisational development and impact.
- Commercial and revenue development, sales and product design.

- Marketing and PR.
- Policy, advocacy and campaigning particularly around anti-racism, anti-oppressive practice and challenging institutional misogyny.

But more important than any of this, we are looking for individuals who demonstrate the following personal qualities:

- Intellectual curiosity and openness, and a willingness to engage with difficult questions and challenging ideas.
- A high degree of honesty and integrity, capacity for collective decision making and an ability to offer effective scrutiny and challenge.
- Excellent negotiation and debate skills, empathy, an ability to collaborate with others, and contribute to iterative planning processes and strategic decisions.
- A clear understanding of what the Centre is trying to achieve as an organisation and a commitment to helping us get there.

The main formal requirements of the role of Trustee at the Centre are as follows:

- Time commitment: Preparation for and attendance at a minimum of four, two-hour board meetings a year at the Centre's offices in Vauxhall, London (remote attendance also possible). In addition, participation in an annual away day in working groups, committees and events as appropriate (usually around 2 hours per month + preparation).

Trustee roles are voluntary and unpaid positions which come with the responsibility to ensure the Centre's legal and financial sustainability.

Applications

To apply, please email an up-to-date CV and a short (no more than 2 sides of A4) covering letter to richard.garside@crimeandjustice.org.uk

If you would like an informal conversation before applying with either our Chair of Trustees, Charlie Weinberg, or our Director, Richard Garside, please email richard.garside@crimeandjustice.org.uk.

The selection process for the role of Trustee will be by application and meeting with the Chair of Trustees and Director. The successful candidates will be invited to a short induction course with relevant staff and Board members where appropriate.

Timetable for recruitment

Closing date: Friday, 27 October

Meeting with Chair and Director: Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 November

September 2023