

PIRC Trustee—Fundraising

ABOUT PIRC

At the Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC), we believe social change requires deep shifts in society's thinking. We must reform laws and technology, but neither is sufficient to solve entrenched social problems. We need to change public narratives: the stories we tell ourselves. Around the world, we are seeing campaigns that tap into powerful narratives (about identity; belonging; a rosy future or the ideal past) win over campaigns led by cool economic facts or detailed policy ideas. It is clear: narratives have power.

Society is built on stories. Stories of our past, present and future are the scaffolding of our political systems, social structures, and our own thinking. The old stories told us things would only get better, if we work hard, we'll do well in life, and 'we' are better than 'them'. These stories have failed us. We need new stories, to bring new worlds into being.

PIRC is an independent charity founded in 1973. For over a decade we have been supporting movements for social, economic and climate justice to map, develop and strengthen compelling narratives that transform culture and policy. We work collaboratively across the UK and Europe, embedded in social movements, using participatory tools and methodologies. In this time of multiple crises, where people's beliefs and worldviews can become more open to change, where previously entrenched cultural narratives can shift, we are working to diversify, democratise and deepen civil society's crucial work in this area...

Our team (5 FTE) has experience in leadership development, facilitation, community-building, mixed methods research and resource production, working from the beautiful Machynlleth in mid-Wales. We are committed to anti-oppression education and practice, have an innovative flat management system and award-winning governance.

Our record delivering this work includes the movement-building project Framing Climate Justice, the systemic root cause research The Narratives We Need (speaking to over 200 campaigners across the UK and Europe to dig deeper into common narrative challenges), the leadership programme Campaign Lab, and our recent Pandemic Response support work. We are now seeking to consolidate our work and create long-term narrative infrastructure. Check out this overview of our new strategy, to find out more.

In 2015, the staff team moved to working non-hierarchically, whilst still relying on support and guidance from our Board of Trustees. This means that every team member has equal input into the direction and running of the organisation, and we share administration and project work. The development of our flat structure, culture and democratic decision-making is critical to PIRC's work.

We advocate an approach that can be adopted by grassroots groups with limited financial resources, who often find themselves excluded by this type of narrative work. These groups often comprise people most affected by social, environmental and economic injustice—the people who tend to hold the more systemic analysis and authentic stories that we're most in need of.

EXPECTATIONS OF A TRUSTEE

We are looking for a new trustee with experience and knowledge of fundraising, who is excited and motivated by PIRC's approach and work, willing to offer their time, experience and creativity to help us develop as an organisation, and is interested in supporting the team. It is important to us to act in line with our [values](#): we see it as important for both staff and Trustees to develop a supportive and compassionate culture in all aspects of our work.

You will be expected to attend 4 board meetings each year, one in [Machynlleth](#) where PIRC is based, and remaining meetings either remote or a mix of in-person and remote. Meetings usually last 2–4 hours.

We ask Trustees to help with specific issues or projects, and we envisage you working closely with our staff Resources Group—made up of our Fundraising and Finance Leads. We'll also invite you to talk about PIRC's work with potential project partners and funders. You might be asked to support with other tasks and play a role in liaising between staff and Trustees.

The position is voluntary but expenses will be covered (including for childcare and any other accessibility requirements). The time commitment currently works out at approximately 0.5-2 day a month, depending on the responsibilities taken on. We do understand that Trustees are likely to have competing priorities and will always be mindful of this when asking for additional support. Where possible, we ask that Trustees stay in post for a minimum of three years with a regular review of the role.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- ★ Working closely with PIRC staff members through our staff Resources Group, made up of our Fundraising and Finance Leads
- ★ Taking an active role in identifying funding opportunities for PIRC
- ★ Provide some support in specific fundraising tasks such as new fund prospecting, looking over staff-written grant applications when needed, and providing strategic fundraising advice
- ★ Promoting the organisation, potentially including occasional spokesperson duties at events
- ★ Maintaining the vision, purpose and goals of PIRC
- ★ Ensuring the Board and staff team are working and acting in line with the [values of PIRC](#)
- ★ Supporting an inclusive and healthy board culture
- ★ Advising on and helping to develop PIRC's strategy
- ★ Establishing and monitoring PIRC's organisational policies, particularly in your area of expertise
- ★ Ensuring that PIRC's work is in compliance with governing documents and the law
- ★ Maintaining proper fiscal oversight (with support from the finance sub committee)
- ★ Sitting on appointment and disciplinary panels when necessary
- ★ Respecting the role of staff and the internal flat structure of the organisation, and helping to develop leadership and wellbeing within the staff team

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for someone who:

- ✓ Is committed to PIRC's vision, purpose and culture and its way of working, and excited about communicating this to others and representing PIRC;
- ✓ Has experience of and/or skills in fundraising, and strong fundraising connections in the charity sector;
- ✓ Has understanding of—or willingness to learn about—the legal duties, liabilities and responsibilities of trustees, and is clear on the difference between governance functions and management functions (training will be provided in this);
- ✓ Has a strategic awareness of the communications and campaigning world and/or systems change, and experience of strategy development or grassroots organising, or a interest in learning about these areas;
- ✓ Is excited about joining a diverse team of trustees, with commitment to building an inclusive and anti-oppressive culture;
- ✓ Is a good communicator with strong interpersonal skills, able to both empower and challenge supportively;
- ✓ Is able and willing to devote the necessary time (0.5-2 days per month) to the role.

Don't worry if you can't tick all of these boxes. We're not expecting everyone to have all these skills. Whilst we are looking for certain skills, we also want to cultivate a board with a range of perspectives borne of different life experiences. We'd love to hear from you if you think you'd be great at the role.

REMUNERATION

As this role is for a not-for-profit, it is voluntary and will not be paid. Expenses will be covered (including childcare and any other accessibility requirements). **If finances are a barrier to your participation we would like to discuss how we could address this.**

HOW TO APPLY

Send us your **CV (max. two sides of A4) and a covering letter (max. one side of A4 page)** explaining why you are applying, and including any experience related to the Person Specification and Responsibilities listed above, to recruitment@publicinterest.org.uk, including the word 'Trustee' in the email subject line. Please also include a copy of our [Equality & Diversity Monitoring Form](#), if you are willing to do so.

Deadline: We'll keep the position open until we find the right person. But that could be sooner rather than later, so if you're keen please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Interviews: Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a remote interview, date to be confirmed.

If you are in any doubt about whether you should put in an application, or want to know more about the role, please get in touch, we would love to talk to you. Contact Emmanuelle Andrews (emmanuelle@publicinterest.org.uk) or Becky Luff (becky@publicinterest.org.uk).

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their background. We acknowledge that people from certain backgrounds are under-represented in progressive movements and we're committed to doing what we can to correct this. We are particularly keen to receive applications from: people of colour; people with disabilities; people who identify as being LGBTQIA; people with mental health conditions; people who are part of a faith group; and people who identify as working class.