

Lepra Community Advocate

Role Description

Placement	Volunteer Community Advocate, Fundraising and Communications Team
Location	Hybrid – On site in different locations. From home (using own laptop) with occasional visits to the Colchester office
Details	Flexible weekly hours
Dates of Placement	Flexible
Duration	Ongoing and flexible

About Lepra

Since 1924, Lepra has been dedicated to fostering a world devoid of prejudice and disability stemming from leprosy. Our mission is imperative, extending support not only to those affected by leprosy but also by lymphatic filariasis (LF). Grounded in three core principles—secularism, people-centricity, and evidence-led approaches—these values underpin our diverse range of initiatives. Our work spans a spectrum of care and support, encompassing three strategic areas:

1. Prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.
2. Addressing the Physical, Psychological, Social, and Economic (PPSE) needs of individuals affected by leprosy and LF.
3. Advocating for the rights and inclusion of those affected by leprosy and LF in society.

With a robust track record in India and Bangladesh, we employ a twin-track approach, collaborating with health systems and services while working in partnership with those affected. During our Centenary in 2024, we view it as a pivotal moment to launch our new global strategic plan. This brand-new strategy will guide us in accelerating progress towards the global elimination goals for leprosy and LF by 2030. Our ultimate vision is to create a world free from disability and discrimination caused by leprosy and LF.

About the Role

As a Lepra Community Advocate, you will play a vital role in spreading awareness about our organisation's mission and work within local communities. You will receive comprehensive training on Lepra, our methodologies, and effective ways to engage with various audiences. Your primary responsibility will be to deliver talks and presentations to schools, temples, churches, rotary groups, and other community gatherings. Additionally, you will assist in researching and identifying potential partners as needed.

This is a volunteer position requiring a commitment of a minimum of 2 weekly hours, dedicated to research or in-person activities. The role may involve evening or weekend events depending on scheduled talks and events. You will be part of a team of 4 or 5 dedicated volunteers, collaborating to maximise outreach and impact within the community.

What we are looking for

The ideal candidate will have the following interests and skills:

1. Engagement with diverse communities such as schools, temples, churches and universities.

2. Passion for community engagement, social causes, and global health outreach.
3. Strong communication and presentation skills.
4. Ability to network effectively and build relationships with diverse groups.
5. Willingness to learn about Lepra and effectively communicate its mission and work.
6. Reliable and able to commit to scheduled talks and engagements.
7. Local residency in Colchester or Essex.

Key Responsibilities

1. Conduct presentations and talks about Lepra's initiatives, goals, and impact to diverse audiences.
2. Engage in direct conversations and networking with local communities to raise awareness and foster partnerships.
3. Collaborate with the volunteer team to strategize outreach efforts and identify new opportunities for engagement.
4. Assist in researching and identifying potential partners within the community.
5. Participate in ad hoc activities such as bucket collections in key locations across Colchester and Essex.
6. Maintain accurate records of activities, feedback, and engagement for reporting purposes.

What we offer

1. Comprehensive training on Lepra's work and methodologies.
2. Opportunity to make a meaningful difference in local communities.
3. Travel expenses covered for scheduled talks and engagements.
4. Food expenses provided during scheduled activities.
5. Networking opportunities and skill development in public speaking and advocacy.
6. Insights and experience within the Social Development environment.
7. Public speaking training sessions.

Application process

If you are passionate about advocating for social change and interested in joining our team, please email MariaV@lepra.org.uk with your CV and a 1 page long Cover Letter. Candidates will be interviewed and shortlisted.

Join us in spreading awareness, fostering partnerships, and making a positive impact with Lepra!