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**TRUSTEE ELECTION 2020**

**Do you have passion, skills and expertise that could help The Compassionate Friends (TCF) to continue to improve and develop in the coming years?** The voluntary role of Trustee with our charity is both rewarding and fulfilling and our currentBoard of Trustees would like to invite interested applicants to apply to help run our charitable organisation which offers peer support, understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents. In November 2020 there will be 6 vacancies for elected Trustees on our Board.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the charity and as such works in a similar way to a company board of directors, in as much as each trustee often takes on an area of responsibility for the benefit of the charity.

Our charity continues to grow and develop from our base of the national office premises in London. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we continue to expand our staff and volunteer base, and to improve and develop our range of services, activities and support for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents throughout the UK. We are looking for Trustees that can help us to develop our strategic direction, continue our strong governance and to grow our organisation to be the principal national charitable organisation offering peer support to bereaved parents and their families.

The Board would be particularly assisted by individuals with skills and experience in areas such as but not limited to

\* Human Resources

\* Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

\* Communications/Marketing

\* Experience of Health Service/Mental Health Services

\* Digital Marketing/Social Media

\* Training and Events Management

This not an exhaustive list and you may have other skills that would benefit the charity.  Being a charity Trustee is a commitment and a challenging, but rewarding, role and we always look forward to welcoming new people to the Board. Typically, the amount of time that a board member might be prepared to devote to TCF would be approximately 3-5 hours per week. The Board meets together 4 times a year, usually in London at the weekend (during recent months the meetings have been online).

We are highly committed to widening the diversity of the Board and warmly encourage applications from a broad and deep range of backgrounds and experiences.

The post of trustee is not remunerated but expenses will be paid.

As per TCF’s Memorandum and Articles of Association, to qualify to stand for election you must be a Donating Member of The Compassionate Friends. If you are not yet a Donating Member please join up at [www.tcf.org.uk/join](http://www.tcf.org.uk/join) or contact the National Office below to sign up and make your donation. You should also consider whether your other activities outside of TCF could create a conflict of interest which might limit your involvement in making management decisions. Please also note that each applicant standing for election must also be nominated by another Donating Member of TCF.

If you wish to be considered for election, please complete the attached Nomination Form (including your biographical information and the details and signature of your nominee) and provide a Personal Statement detailing your skills and experience supporting your application, and why these would benefit the charity. You might like to include why you wish to become a Trustee of The Compassionate Friends. The personal statement should not exceed 300 words and will be issued to the membership, together with your brief biographical information, as part of the voting process.

Your completed Nomination Form should be addressed to The Chair of Trustees and received electronically to info@tcf.org.uk, or by post to the address below, by 4 pm on **Friday 18th September 2020**.  Any applications received after this date cannot be considered for nomination.

If there are more nominations than places available on the board, voting papers will be issued to the membership by email by **Wednesday 30th September 2020.** Final date for receipt of votes will be **Friday 13th November 2020.** New elected trustees will be announced at The Compassionate Friends AGM on **21st November 2020.**

*Andrew Miller QC, Chair
Susan Hughes, Vice-Chair
George Burn, Company Secretary*

If you would like to speak to a current Board Member about the role of a Trustee or your application please contact Andrew Miller via the telephone or email below.

*Attached: Nomination and Application Form and Company Membership Form in MsWord and Pdf formats.*

**The Compassionate Friends**
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**Helpline: 0345 123 2304**

 Charity No: 1082335     Company No: 04029535