



## TERMS OF REFERENCE - BOARD TREASURER

**War on Want is a dynamic organisation working in active solidarity with grassroots social movements around the world and undertaking cutting edge campaigns in the UK.**

We have been fighting against the root causes of poverty and oppression, as part of the worldwide movement for social justice. We believe that a better future is possible and together with thousands of other networks, groups and social movements we jointly struggle for a better world.

Tens of thousands of members, supporters and activists give their time and money to take part in War on Want's work each year.

Many hundreds of thousands join forces in the social movements, trade unions and workers' organisations that are War on Want's partners around the world. Millions more benefit from the victories we win together.

War on Want has been in existence for over 65 years. Our hard hitting Campaigns and International Programmes are foundation blocks of War on Want's fight to address the root causes of global poverty, inequality and injustice.

We work in active solidarity with grassroots social movements around the world and in the UK as part of the movement for global justice.

Through our International Programmes we have been able to develop long standing relationships with partners in the global South, specifically with social movements, worker-led collectives and grassroots movements led by indigenous people, peasants and women. Our partners are located in Latin America, Asia and Africa and are engaged in struggles for workers' rights, land rights, the right to decide on their natural and mineral resources and the right to food sovereignty.

**War on Want** has a turnover of about £2m and income is generated from a range of sources including member subscriptions, institutional donors, trusts, foundations and legacies. We are a registered charity and registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee based in London.



### About the role

**War on Want** is seeking a Board Treasurer who, as well as fulfilling the duties of a general Trustee of the charity, will also hold specific responsibility for:

**Providing** strategic financial leadership and guidance to the organisation.

**Overseeing** the organisation's financial affairs, including its financial viability, management of funds and investment strategy.

**Ensuring** that proper financial records and procedures are maintained in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**The Treasurer** will work closely with the Executive Director, Director of Finance and Operations, Senior Management Team and finance staff, and will chair the trustees' Finance Sub-Committee.

**The right candidate** will be a suitably experienced Trustee, with a strong commitment to War on Want's mission, as well the interest and ability to contribute to the development of the organisation.

## General Trustee Responsibilities

- Ensure that War on Want complies with its governing documents, charity and company law, and other applicable laws and regulations.
- Ensure that War on Want pursues its objects as defined in its governing documents and applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of those objects.
- Give clear strategic direction to War on Want, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- Safeguard the good name and ethos of War on Want.
- Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
- Serve on sub-committees of the board as may be appropriate.

## Treasurers Responsibilities

The Treasurer works in close co-operation with, and provides support and advice to, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Operations. As Treasurer, you will:

- Keep the board informed about its financial duties and responsibilities.
- Advise the trustees and the senior management team on the financial implications of War on Want's strategic plans and the key assumptions included in management's operational plan.
- Guide and advise the board in the approval of budgets and annual accounts.
- Confirm that War on Want's financial resources are sufficient to meet its present and future needs.
- Guide and advise the board in the review and approval of appropriate accounting, reserves and investment policies.
- Understand the accounting procedures and key internal controls, to be able to assure the board of the charity's financial integrity.

- Understand the charity's sources of income, to be able to ensure that restricted funds are applied only to their specified purposes.
- Formally present the audited accounts at War on Want's annual general meeting.

The Treasurer chairs the Finance and Resources Committee (FRC), which also acts as the charity's audit committee. In this capacity you will:

- Provide appropriate financial expertise to the FRC.
- Review the periodic management accounts, and scrutinise material variances between the agreed budget and actual results;
- Ensure that the annual accounts are properly audited, and that accepted recommendations of the auditors are implemented.
- Meet the auditors and discuss findings from the audit at least annually, including a private discussion in the absence of War on Want staff.

## Person Specification

- The criteria below are the minimum necessary for effective performance in this post. The applicant must demonstrate how they meet each of them in the application and at the interview
- Individual alignment with War on Want's mission, vision and values **Essential**
- Current or recent financial knowledge and experience, commensurate with the duties and responsibilities set out above **Essential**
- Board level experience - as a trustee, director or senior manager - in an organisation of at least similar size and complexity to War on Want **Essential**
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, to work effectively with people with differing financial and other experience **Essential**
- Independence of judgement, including a willingness to express minority or unpopular views if necessary **Essential**

- Recognised professional financial qualification  
**Desirable**
- Direct experience of charity accounts and knowledge of the Charities SORP **Desirable**
- Experience of working in, or dealing with developing countries **Desirable**
- Knowledge of donor compliance requirements of bi-lateral and multi-lateral donor organisations (such as EC, DFID and similar), or ability to demonstrate transferable skills from environments such as contracting or tendering **Desirable**
- Knowledge of foreign exchange management  
**Desirable**
- Ability to assess investment strategies  
**Desirable**
- **War on Want welcomes applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.**