



### **Advocacy and Campaigns Fellow, Asylum Reform Initiative**

The Aziz Foundation is partnering with the Asylum Reform Initiative to offer a twelve-month fellowship within the team behind Together With Refugees, the broad-based UK-wide coalition campaigning for deep change in the UK's approach to refugees.

**Term:** Fixed-term contract for twelve months, full-time, 35 hours per week.

**Start:** April 2024

**Salary:** £23,933

**Location:** London/hybrid. The role will include working at least two days a week with the rest of the team in the central London office, as well as involvement in other London-based meetings. Ability to come into the office, as well as work from home, is important.

#### **About the Asylum Reform Initiative**

The Asylum Reform Initiative (ARI) is an alliance of leading refugee NGOs working to secure deep change in the UK's refugee and asylum system that was founded by: British Red Cross, Freedom From Torture, the lived experience campaign network One Strong Voice, Refugee Action, Refugee Council and Scottish Refugee Council. Its Chair is Sabir Zazai, CEO of the Scottish Refugee Council.

The ARI incubated, launched and supports the public-facing [Together With Refugees](#) coalition as a united campaigning front to counter the deepest threat to refugee protection in the UK since the founding of the UN refugee convention in 1951. The coalition now has over 600 national and local member groups taking action including mobilising the public, getting its message across in the press and social media, and influencing decisionmakers to advance its goals of a better UK approach to refugees. Coalition members include grassroots, community and refugee-led groups, international development charities, trade unions, faith groups and most national refugee NGOs. Working with faith communities is central to the coalition's strategy – and building further work with Muslim communities is a key priority, which this fellowship would be closely involved in. In December 2023, the ARI launched the ['Fair Begins Here' campaign](#) calling for a fair new plan for refugees that works for everyone in the UK.

#### **About the Aziz Foundation**

The Aziz Foundation is a UK-based charitable organization dedicated to empowering British Muslims and enabling them to participate fully in society. Established in 2015 by businessman and philanthropist Asif Aziz, the foundation operates with a vision of fostering a more inclusive and cohesive society where individuals from all backgrounds can thrive.

At the core of the Aziz Foundation's mission is the belief in the potential of education to transform lives. The foundation provides scholarships and grants to support talented individuals from underrepresented communities in pursuing higher education, particularly in fields such as social justice, public policy, and the arts. By investing in education, the Aziz Foundation aims to equip future leaders with the knowledge and skills to address pressing social challenges and advocate for positive change.

### **About the ARI Advocacy and Campaigns Fellowship**

In partnership with the Aziz Foundation, the Asylum Reform Initiative is seeking candidates from a Muslim background for a twelve-month paid fellowship to provide an early career development opportunity for those seeking to work in policy advocacy, political influencing, communications and campaigning work for social change. It provides a chance to build experience at the heart of the biggest coalition campaign in the UK refugee sector and across professional disciplines in policy, influencing, communications and local mobilisation in the leadup to a General Election and the early period of a new government.

As part of the small ARI team coordinating the Together With Refugees coalition, the Advocacy and Campaigns Fellow will have the chance to work closely with highly-experienced campaign professionals and gain exposure to a range of NGOs across the coalition. They will be line managed by the Campaigns and Public Affairs Manager, be offered guided support from other team members and afforded opportunities to build connections with coalition member organisations – for example, through involvement in activities they organise as part of the coalition or placements working with their teams for periods around these, subject to agreement with the relevant parties.

### **Fellowship role**

The Advocacy and Campaigns Fellow will work with other members of the ARI core team in developing and delivering campaign, policy influencing and communications activities and outputs for the Together With Refugees coalition. They will be an integral part of a team which is small and nimble, meaning each team member is involved across organisational priorities from campaign strategy development and delivery to supporting the day to day running of the organisation and TWR coalition.

Key tasks could include:

- Helping organise public campaign activities to show support for campaign goals at national and local level – such as days of action across the UK. Supporting the engagement of key ally groups, with a particularly focus on further building work with Muslim communities and organisations. For examples of past mobilising work see [here](#).
- Helping the coalition's work to change the public and media narrative on refugees and communicate campaign messages through media promotion, digital campaigning, coalition website, events and other initiatives.
- Helping develop political support from decisionmakers in government and parliament through developing joint policy positions, lobbying decisionmakers, organising events in parliament or party conferences and other action to influence policy change.
- Building the coalition through supporting effective decision-making processes, collaborative working and action-planning. Supporting the behind-the-scenes coordination of the coalition, including its organisational structures.

- Supporting the day-to-day running of the organisation, including project management and administrative support through tasks such as note-taking, diary booking, and database management.
- Helping to build support with other key stakeholders, including funders.

### **Person specification**

The aim of the fellowship is to provide early career opportunities for learning and development. We therefore don't expect individuals to have in-depth experience of specific skills areas – though any experience in relevant areas (whether voluntary or paid) will of course be a good base to build on. However, to benefit most from the fellowship, individuals will need to show a commitment to social change, evidence of aptitudes in the key areas of advocacy and campaigns work, a real hunger to learn and develop their skills, and a demonstrable willingness to bring their skills and hard work to the service of the coalition's mission.

### **Essential**

- Lived experience of a Muslim background and knowledge of Muslim communities to draw on in developing the coalition's strategy in this area.
  - A commitment to working for social change and justice.
  - Understanding of, or proven curiosity about, politics, campaigning and communications.
  - Communication skills, both written and verbal.
  - Ability to nurture and develop excellent working relationships to draw on in coalition work.
  - Ability to work in a small interdisciplinary team.
  - Can-do attitude, energy, solutions-focused and persistence.
- An organised approach and ability to juggle work across a number of fronts, given support.
  - Hunger to learn and develop a range of new skills.

### **Desirable**

- Lived experience as a refugee - or heritage of forced migration or exile.
- Experience (professional or voluntary) working with Muslim communities and/or other faith communities.
- Knowledge of refugee or migration issues.
- Experience of writing e.g. for websites, social media channels, other publications.
- Experience in managing projects from any context.

### **Diversity**

We want our team to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, offering equal opportunities to everyone, regardless of race, religion, belief, age, disability, gender identity, or sexuality. This opportunity is part of our diversity work to widen the participation of people from communities and backgrounds currently under-represented in our organisation and in the wider refugee rights movement – and is part of a wider transformation strategy. Consequently, it is reserved for applicants from a Muslim background as a positive action measure under the Equality Act. Diversity is something we celebrate and we want you to be able to bring your authentic self to the role.

### **To apply**

Please submit your CV and a supporting statement setting out why you want to apply for the role and what you could offer in no more than two pages, taking into account the fellowship role and person specification. Submit this by noon Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> using this online platform:

1. Create an account at <https://azizfoundation.scholarshipsplatform.com/>

2. Click on Start Application
3. Choose 'Internships and Fellowships' from the Category drop down menu.
4. Choose 'Fellowship: Asylum Reform Initiative' from the Category dropdown menu. Complete all sections.
5. In the 'personal statement' section you should insert your cover letter.

**Application deadline: Noon, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.