



TRUSTEE – Human rights / media law specialist

<u>Responsible to:</u>	Chair
<u>Key relationships:</u>	CEO, Board of Trustees
<u>Location:</u>	Board meetings are held virtually and in person
<u>Salary:</u>	Unpaid
<u>Hours:</u>	Minimum four board meetings per year

Background

Media Defence¹ is a charity that helps journalists, citizen journalists and independent media defend their rights. We do this in three interconnected ways: 1) we provide grants to help cover legal fees and technical legal support, 2) we take strategic cases to improve the regulatory environment in which the media operates, and 3) we build local legal capacity through training of lawyers and grant making and practical support to organisations providing legal support to media in their countries.

We are unique in what we do: we are the only organisation in the world solely focused on providing this critical help to journalists and have established ourselves as a leader in the legal defence of journalists and independent media worldwide.

A small, specialist organisation, Media Defence is run by 13 full time staff and supported by the Board of Trustees that currently comprises nine members, but we punch above our weight. To date, we have supported 600+ cases, helping hundreds of journalists in over 90 countries. Our work has contributed to prevent 290+ years of detention for media workers and avoided £420m+ in damages. We have supported 29 partners and have trained 90+ lawyers.

Media Defence has its base in London but works globally. Its trustees believe Board diversity is an imperative. They believe gender parity is a priority, alongside ethnic and geographic diversity, as well as the lived experiences of Board members, with regard to the issues that the Media Defence seeks to tackle. The Board pledges to take the necessary measures to achieve this, and to support diverse participation. Currently the trustees are seeking to improve the representation of women on the Board, as well as Trustees with lived experience working as a journalist or lawyer in sub-Saharan Africa or Latin America. We therefore strongly encourage candidates with this background to apply.

¹ Media Legal Defence Initiative, trading as Media Defence, is a limited company registered in England and Wales (06621203) and registered charity in England and Wales (1128789) with registered office address 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR.



The position of Trustee is unpaid. However, Media Defence will reimburse reasonable expenses incurred in relation to the duties of Trustees, which will include attendance of three virtual and one in-person Board meeting in London (funding permitting) per year.

Job Purpose

The Board of Trustees is jointly and severally responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of Media Defence, and for its financial health. It is the responsibility of the trustees to further the organisation whilst keeping within its charitable objectives.

To supplement the range of skills and knowledge already present amongst its Board, Media Defence is recruiting a human rights / media law specialist, with a good knowledge of the legal challenges faced by journalists, citizen journalists and media outlets in sub-Saharan Africa or Latin America and with appropriate experience to provide oversight and guidance on Media Defence's work.

Duties of Trustees

The duties of a trustee are as follows.

- Ensuring that Media Defence pursues its stated objects (purposes), as defined in its governing document, by developing and agreeing a long-term strategy;
- Ensuring that Media Defence complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations;
- Ensuring that Media Defence applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects;
- Ensuring that Media Defence defines its goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets;
- Safeguarding the good name and values of Media Defence;
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the organisation, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place;
- Ensuring the financial stability of the organisation;
- Protecting and managing the property of the organisation and ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds;
- Following proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal and remuneration of the chief executive; and
- Attend meetings of the Board of Trustees four times per year (one meeting in person in London, three virtual meetings).

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve:



- Scrutinising board papers;
- Leading discussions;
- Focusing on key issues;
- Providing advice and guidance on new initiatives; or
- Other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

Person specification

- A commitment to the Media Defence's aims and objectives;
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to effectively support the organisation (including board meetings four times per year);
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship;
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership;
- Good, independent judgement;
- An ability to think creatively; and
- A willingness to speak their mind.

If you are interested in undertaking this role, please email your **CV** and a **covering letter** (max one page, exploring your background and interest in the role) to recruitment@mediadefence.org by **18 September 2020**.