



Abortion Talk trustee (legal)

Join our board

Role title: Trustee (legal)

Location: Virtual / Remote

Time commitment: Four two-hour virtual meetings per year, plus one in-person strategy day (held on a Saturday in London). Additional time to provide ad hoc advice to the executive director and other Abortion Talk contractors and volunteers as required.

Salary: This is a voluntary role.

Reports to: Laura Russell, chair of the Abortion Talk board.

About Abortion Talk

Abortion Talk is a small charity with a mission to destigmatise abortions, one conversation at a time.

We launched our pro-choice and pro-voice Talkline in 2021. Our volunteer-led Talkline is open four evenings a week, offering callers one-to-one support and space to talk about their abortion experiences, as well as signposting to relevant services. The Talkline is for anyone with abortion experiences. This includes people who provide abortions, those who have had or are thinking about an abortion, and those who have supported people with their abortion decisions.

We also offer facilitated workshops for people working in abortion healthcare, education and community activism. Workshops for healthcare staff and students affirm the value of abortion providers, create connections with colleagues, improve wellbeing and knowledge of abortion care. Community workshops cover the rewards and challenges of talking about abortions, and how activists can challenge stigma.

Our values

We believe **there is no right or wrong way to feel about your own abortion**. Abortion isn't straightforward for everyone. We recognise and respect that.

We are **pro-choice**. Everybody should have the right to choose whether to continue or end a pregnancy. Abortion should be safe, legal, free and accessible at home or close to home for everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, sexuality, religion, disability or class background.

We support **reproductive justice**. We recognise the economic, social, cultural, and political constraints within which people make choices about pregnancy. We are trans inclusive, anti-racist and pro-liberation. We support initiatives that highlight and tackle the impact of poverty, racism, transphobia, homophobia and other forms of discrimination on people's ability to make pregnancy choices and access the care that they need.

We are **pro-voice**. We believe that harmful stigma around abortion is reinforced when people are unable to talk about it. We recognise the benefit of enabling those who have had, or provided, abortions to discuss their experiences.



About our board

Abortion Talk is at an exciting time in our short history. We've been running for four years now, and we've successfully established our volunteer-led Talkline service, and developed a range of workshops. Now it's time for us to focus on developing our services, improving our infrastructure and growing our income, so that we can build on our early successes and do even more to challenge abortion stigma.

We've recently developed our first three-year strategy, which sets out our objectives for this next phase in Abortion Talk's history. One important thing we want to change is our legal structure, moving from a trust to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). To help us put this plan into action, we're looking to recruit **a legally qualified trustee**.

What being on the board involves

All Abortion Talk trustees are responsible for ensuring that we:

- focus on our objective to end abortion stigma, overseeing the implementation of our three-year strategy.
- comply with our governing document (i.e. our charitable objects), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulation.
- apply our resources only in pursuing our charitable objects and for the benefit of the public.
- evaluate the success of our three-year strategy against agreed targets.
- protect the pro-choice, feminist and inclusive values of our charity.
- effectively govern the charity, which includes making sure we have the proper policies and procedures in place.
- ensure financial stability.

The **legal trustee** will also advise the executive director and other contractors to make sure that Abortion Talk:

- becomes a charitable incorporated organisation, so that we have the right legal personality, liability, and administrative simplicity as we grow.



Person specification and role requirements

Essential

- Professional experience as a qualified solicitor or barrister.
- A full commitment to all of our values (set out above).
- A willingness and ability to dedicate the time and effort required to direct how Abortion Talk is run and managed.
- Good independent judgement and a willingness to speak your mind in acting as a critical friend to Abortion Talk's leadership (including the chair of the board, other trustees and our executive director).
- An ability to think creatively.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Desirable

- Experience of charity law and structures.
- Previous experience of sitting on charity boards.