

Voices of Women Panel

Are you a woman whose lived experience could help to shape our organisation and improve the rights of women?

Apply to join our Lived Experience Panel to ensure that the voices of migrant women survivors of abuse and violence are heard.

Rights of Women is a unique women-only legal rights charity that provides free legal advice to over 3000 women every year across England and Wales. We provide free legal advice services across family, criminal, immigration and asylum law and employment law (sexual harassment in the workplace). All advice is provided by women lawyers. The majority of the women we support are survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

We are seeking women with experiences of navigating the law to join our existing Voices of Women (VOW) panel to help inform our priorities and our approach to advice delivery and campaigning to improve the law.

We recognise that women with experience of the legal issues we work on have insights that can shape our work. Real life stories can help us campaign for improvements so that ultimately more women can access the equality, safety, and justice they deserve.

Our current panel has been supporting our work for the past 4 years and most of the women have experiences of family and criminal law processes. We are now expanding our panel and are grateful that current members are assisting in the recruitment and support of new members of our panel.

Who we are looking for - focus on migrant women

Perhaps you have experiences of making immigration applications or an experience of searching for a legal aid lawyer?

We will support you to share your story with us.

For this round of recruitment, we are keen to encourage more migrant women with lived experience of navigating the justice system – including but not limited to the immigration and asylum system - to join us.

Our immigration and asylum law advice services support over 600 migrant women every year, most of whom are survivors of VAWG, assisting them to secure their immigration status for themselves and any children they have.

We know that migrant women survivors of VAWG often face unique challenges, including navigating complex immigration systems, language barriers, cultural sensitivities, and fear of deportation. These challenges can make accessing justice and support even harder.

By joining our panel, you will play a vital role in shaping how we support women from diverse backgrounds and help us advocate for more inclusive, culturally aware, trauma informed legal systems and services.

What it involves

We will be supporting the panel on an ongoing basis to help shape various projects within the organisation. Most meetings will be online but also hope to hold some meetings in person, most likely in London (although women unable to attend in person could join online.) The panel will be supported by our women-only staff team. We will reimburse travel and childcare expenses. There is no obligation to continue working with us if you feel unable to do so.

The first meeting will be on **Monday 27th January 2025 at 12-1pm**. It is likely that it will take place online but details will be confirmed closer to the time.

What you'll gain

- **Being a valued change maker:** Share the expertise of your lived experience to influence change and improve access to justice for migrant women.
- **Support to participate:** We provide ongoing support to ensure you feel confident and comfortable in your role. This includes access to one-to-one therapeutic support after meetings if you wish.
- **Community:** Join a supportive network of women working together to improve the rights of survivors of abuse and violence.
- **Flexible Participation:** Your wellbeing is our priority. You may want to contribute to shaping our policy priorities, improving our advice service delivery, participating in events, or contributing anonymously; whatever your choice, we will support you so that your voice and story can be heard in the way that feels best for you.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying, simply complete our brief application form below by **5pm Monday 25th November 2024**.

Completed forms should be sent to vow@row.org.uk

You do not need any formal qualifications or professional experience—what matters most is your personal experience and your interest in making a difference. We value diversity and encourage women of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences to apply.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept all applications as we are seeking a small group to join our existing members and may receive a high volume of interest. We will select members of the network based on ensuring a diverse range of women and experiences across England and Wales. We are however grateful to all women who express an interest.

Please note, whilst we are targeting this round of recruitment at migrant women, we welcome and will consider applications from women who are not migrant women but want to join our panel.

[Link to application form](#)

[Link to equality and diversity form](#)

If you have any questions or need support completing the form, feel free to contact us at vow@row.org.uk