

# Student President 2024/25 Academic Year: Role Description

## Background

SolidariTee is an entirely volunteer-run charity led by students and young people, working to make lasting change in attitudes towards, and treatment of, refugees and other people forced to flee their homes.

We work with local partner organisations (NGOs) providing legal aid and mental health support to refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. This is because it is a country where there are many thousands of people in need of support, and effectively no state-provided services of this kind.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for our partner NGOs in Greece to secure other funding, as international media attention and donor funding has moved on to other crises, whilst the needs remain higher than ever. In many cases, SolidariTee funding really is a lifeline in enabling organisations to cover the costs that other donors won't or facilitating them to hire lawyers or psychologists. As such, effective, dependable fundraising is a huge part of the way that we make real-world impact and support people living in refugee camps, detention centres and elsewhere to access the professional support they need to regain security and safety.

The other strand to our work focuses on awareness-raising and education. By tackling harmful myths and educating people about lasting, compassionate solutions to support people who have fled persecution, we are equipping our community with the tools and knowledge to stand up for refugee rights for many years to come, and contributing to a change in public awareness and a movement which stands against inhumane and hostile migration policies.

## Role Purpose

The SolidariTee team is composed of several hundred volunteers each academic year, the majority of whom are university students. These volunteers are organised into regional (university) teams based at individual unis, who organise fundraising and awareness events, as well as selling our SolidariTee t-shirts. We also have a central team which coordinates our uni teams, organises our annual conference and other cross-team campaigns or events, and runs our main social media page.

The role of the student president/s is to lead the student central and university teams as a whole, uniting the entire volunteer community around a common goal. In doing so, you'll be

overseeing the fundraising of tens of thousands of pounds, and contributing to the provision of vital legal aid and mental health support for those who need it most.

We are open to the possibility of a single president, or two co-presidents/ president & vice-president. If two people carry out the role jointly, we would anticipate that one person takes the lead on coordinating and driving the activities across our regional teams, whilst the other person leads on our central events and social media functions. However, the selected president/s are free to share these activities as you both wish.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Regional/ University Teams**

#### **1. Building our teams**

- a. **Publicise opportunities to join the team** via social media, careers services, and other channels within universities
- b. **Interview and appoint Team Leads** at universities (goal: 30-50 teams) and support them in getting set up and building their own teams
- c. **Interview and appoint Uni Coordinators** (5-10) who will provide 1:1 support to team leads throughout the year, and provide them with support and resources throughout the year
- d. Work with other central team members (Uni Coordinators) to **ensure that Team Leads and all volunteers are effectively supported** throughout the year, and are able to carry out fundraising and educational events and t-shirt sales
- e. Organise and regular (minimum monthly) **meetings** amongst Team Leads, as well as training or discussion sessions, with support from other team members
- f. **Communicate regularly with our wider volunteer base** via email newsletters or other channels
- g. **Maintain accurate records** of all of the events that have taken place and t-shirts that have been sold across
- h. Lead efforts to coordinate **Week of Action** activities across all of our uni teams

### **Central Team**

#### **2. Social Media**

- a. Interview and **appoint social media officers** to create content for our social media accounts, including educational content (infographics, mythbusters, news summaries) and event publicity posts
- b. Host regular **content meetings** (minimum monthly) to decide which topics and posts the team would like to cover, and organise a **social media schedule**

- c. **Research and create/ edit posts** in collaboration with the social media team

### 3. **Events**

- a. **Interview and appoint events officers** to support with the organisation of events and campaigns throughout the year
- b. Lead the organisation of our **Annual Conference 2025**, deciding on theme, inviting speakers, and organising logistics such as venue and ticketing (generally takes place Feb or March)
- c. Lead the organisation of 2-3 **other educational events** throughout the year
- d. Lead the central **coordination of our Week of Action**, which often includes whole-team activities like sponsored challenges or giveaways

### General

4. Promote a culture of learning, inclusion, and support and respect for one another across the team
5. Attend weekly meetings with the CEO/Ops Manager to jointly coordinate on plans and overall vision - this is also your main point of support and backup too!

### Desired Skills

We are an organisation led by young people, and we acknowledge that there are a variety of intersectional barriers to volunteering, and to gaining work experience in general. Whilst we can't mitigate all of these by our nature, we **do not require any specific experience** in order to apply for these roles, and you are free to demonstrate that you meet these qualities using personal experiences from daily or student life in addition to, or instead of during specific volunteer or work roles.

The ideal candidates would be able to demonstrate some or all of the following:

- Ability to motivate and connect with diverse teams and support them in achieving ambitious goals
- Ability to provide compassionate, dynamic leadership
- Demonstrated interest or knowledge of issues relating to migration and displacement
- Demonstrated interest or knowledge of student activism and student charity initiatives
- Knowledge of SolidariTee and what we stand for
- Genuine commitment to improving the provision of legal aid and mental health support for displaced people
- Clear and compelling written and verbal communication
- Ability to plan and organise multi-step tasks or events

## Time Commitment

We're going to be honest here; this is a bigger role than most student society roles would be. We wish it didn't have to be the case that students had to take matters into their own hands to provide the funds needed to enable people seeking safety to access their fundamental rights, that's the reality of what it is for us to collectively run a charity in this way.

We don't set a minimum or maximum time commitment for this role, and there is **always** someone to step in and help when you need it. However, applicants should expect to be spending a minimum of 8 hours on average per week on SolidariTee, and at times (vacation time, weekends etc.) many past presidents have spent more than this.

This role would suit someone for whom SolidariTee would be their major extra-curricular activity of the academic year, and in some ways can be considered equivalent to the training time involved for elite sportspeople juggling uni and training/ competing. Being available in the evenings after uni/college at least a couple of days a week to host meetings or talk to team members is really important, otherwise it's very hard to coordinate and get things done.

We recognise volunteering in this way whilst at uni is an enormous privilege. We're committed to dismantling barriers to volunteering in general, and have a range of other low and medium commitment roles available that are much more typical of student society options and can be completed in as little as 1 hour a week, but the president role is somewhat different. We're also committed to using our collective privilege, where we can, to make really meaningful, real-world change.

All of us at SolidariTee are volunteers and know what it's like to juggle things, and we really do support and help each other out, especially around deadlines. There's also welfare support on-hand whenever any of us need it. Despite the challenges, this is an incredibly rewarding, creative role which really does change lives.

## To apply

If you're interested in applying for this role, please send an application of maximum 2 pages in Word or PDF format to [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk) by **5pm Friday 22nd March**. Please tell us:

- Why you would like to apply for the role
- How you feel you meet some or all of the desired skills listed in the role description, plus any other skills or qualities you wish to add
- About one topic relating to refugees or asylum seekers that you would be interested in raising awareness of during the 24/25 academic year, and why

If you have any accessibility requirements or would like to submit an application in a different format, please don't hesitate to reach out. We will invite applicants to an interview where we can discuss your ideas in more detail. If you have any questions, please email CEO Alexa Netty at [alexa@solidaritee.org.uk](mailto:alexa@solidaritee.org.uk), who can signpost you to speak to current or past student presidents if you would like more information.

**Thank you for your interest in applying for this role, and we hope to hear from you soon.**