

**AGENDA**  
alliance



# Chair of Trustees

## Job Pack



# Who we are

**We are the Agenda Alliance.**

We are bold, ambitious feminists, living in a world where women and girls with the most complex unmet needs are consistently overlooked and harmed. Too many women and girls are hurt; too many lives are damaged; too much potential is lost. We are a social movement, campaigning with courage and in solidarity with our Alliance members and women and girls, so that they can thrive.

**"I would like to see more women's voices listened to, more women-only spaces, women being supported and involved through all stages, more training, more opportunities for people with lived experience." – EBE**





# Our mission

We advocate and campaign for systems and services to respond appropriately to women and girls with unmet needs.

# Our purpose

We want public services to respond better to the distinct and multiple unmet needs of women and girls, including appropriately responding to gender, age, race and trauma.

For the whole system to respond better, we stand in solidarity with the voluntary sector and advocate for them to be empowered.

# Our values

**Our values are our guiding principles for our work to deliver our mission. It is who we are and how we behave.**

**We promise to be:**



## **Intersectional**

We understand that the most disadvantaged women and girls experience multiple types of intersecting trauma and disadvantage. So, we approach our work in a way that cuts across services, sectors and systems that are there to support the full breadth of issues and disadvantages that women and girls face.



## **Courageous**

We are courageous in speaking out and taking action for and with all women and girls. We stand in solidarity with all women and girls and provide platforms for their views and voices. We campaign confidently, with pride, strength and grit.



## **Credible**

We design campaigns that are grounded in robust evidence, proven good practice and the experiences of women and girls. We are committed to constant learning from the wider sector and our Alliance members – including small, specialist, front-line organisations – and learning from women and girls.



## **Clear**

We communicate with clarity and try to be as clear as possible, so that everybody can understand, contribute and join our social movement. We speak in plain English and are committed to translating into different languages when required, including BSL. We do not waffle and are impactful when we present.



## **Collaborative**

We collaborate with others in a meaningful way and stay true to our history of convening the sector. We will continue to listen to different perspectives and draw strength from diversity. We seek to develop shared understanding, to find new ways of talking, thinking and working across divides and boundaries.



# Background

Agenda Alliance was brought together in 2015 to advocate for women and girls at risk, following Baroness Corston's report into women in the criminal justice system.

Our alliance now has 120 members, who we convene to make a difference to the lives of women and girls that are at the sharpest end of inequality. We are a broad coalition doing incredible work, including large charities such as Mind, Shelter, Samaritans Women's Aid, and many specialist frontline organisations.

Our diverse membership represents our intersectional approach, working across the range of issues women and girls face today.

**"As a mum to daughters, I want them to see that women can achieve and have got a voice and when women come together magical things happen. And you feel like you're making a difference for future generations." – EBE**



# Background, continued

We collaborate with our members and partners to conduct research, to campaign, and to amplify the voices of women and girls with multiple unmet needs.

Together we've made a real impact, including:

- Campaigning with others across the criminal justice system leading to publication of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Female Offender Strategy.
- Our Young Women's Justice Project, in partnership with the Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ), leading to the announcement of a new Ministry of Justice strategy on Young Adult Women.
- The launch of a national women-only peer support programme, 'Women Side by Side', supporting over 4,000 women across England and Wales through our partnership with Mind.

As we arrive at our 10-year anniversary, we have ambitions to do so much more. In the last year alone, we have:

- Supported 14 women with lived experience to put their case to decision-makers directly
- Published 22 media pieces providing women with lived experience with a platform
- Signed 19 influencing letters in collaboration with sector partners on a wide range of issues affecting women with multiple unmet needs
- Launched our Transforming Services for Women's Futures final report, exploring how public services should be redesigned post-pandemic to better meet the needs of women and girls experiencing multiple unmet needs

We are just at the start of a new five-year strategy, with ambition for even stronger collaboration with our members, further amplification of women and girl's voices, the development of a holistic evidence-base on the harm that racism causes to women and girls accessing public services, a reduction in the number of young women and girls excluded from school; and more.

Read our full strategic plan on our website [here](#).

# The role

With a bold and renewed sense of purpose, we seek a Chair who shares the scale of our vision and can lead our Board as we embark upon our ambitious five-year strategy.

Our Chair will help Agenda Alliance to shape national policy and practice, engaging with political leaders/influencers and alliance members from the women's sector and beyond.

This is a systems-change role, with huge opportunity to collaborate with a diverse set of stakeholders, and play a pivotal part in convening our membership.

We are looking for a Chair who matches our ambition and is excited to support Agenda Alliance as we solidify our position within the sector and grow our reach.

**Board structure:** The board has a Chair and a Treasurer. Board members support the work of the Agenda Alliance outside meetings and are involved in sub committees or working groups. There are currently two sub-committees for which the membership is drawn from the board – these are the Finance, Risk and Fundraising, and HR committees.

The Chair will be appointed for a four-year term and can serve consecutive terms.

**Remuneration:** The role of Chair is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses may be claimed.

# Who are we looking for?

- You will be a confident collaborator, able to listen and lead a broad range of voices and perspectives.
- You will be able to inspire a dynamic group of trustees and be aligned to our values.
- You will be energised by change-making and are passionate about utilising your networks to do so.
- You will be forward-thinking in your approach, aiming to be inclusive and transformative across various societal domains.
- You will be comfortable in high-profile environments, and when speaking truth to power.
- You will have significant experience of operating at board level and understand how a well-led Board operates.

- You will have a track record of working to shape an organisation alongside a determined Chief Executive.

Agenda Alliance actively promotes equality of opportunity for all and encourages applications from a wide range of candidates.

To enable us to deliver our work to the best of our abilities and to live our values, **we particularly welcome applications from people from Black, Asian and minoritised communities, the LGBTQ+ community and disabled people, who are significantly under-represented on our board. In addition, we particularly encourage those with lived experience of the areas we cover to apply.**



# Job Description

## Objective

To take the lead in planning and running Trustee meetings, working closely with the Chief Executive, and to play an active role in the Agenda Alliance Board, ensuring the organisation delivers on its mission and vision and is effectively governed.

## Key responsibilities:

- Help shape the strategic direction and provide leadership to Agenda ensuring that we have maximum impact for women and girls
- Fulfil all legal duties and responsibilities of a trustee and ensure sound governance and financial health of Agenda
- Ensure that Agenda operates within its charitable objectives and that decisions taken are in the best interests of women and girls at risk.
- Be a key spokesperson for the charity
- Establish and build a strong, effective, open and supportive relationship with the Chief Executive and other staff
- Ensure that Trustees comply with their duties and the charity is well governed.
- Help plan and run trustee meetings
- Line manage the Chief Executive on behalf of the Trustees
- Acts as a link between Trustees and staff
- Support funding approaches to gain additional funds

# Person Specification

- At least one term served as a Board member, Chair, Vice Chair or Co-Chair for another charity.
- Commitment to social justice and to upholding the rights of women and girls.
- Demonstrable interest in and understanding of issues related to gender equality and social exclusion.
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- Strategic vision and an ability to think creatively.
- Good, independent judgement, able to take decisions for the good of the charity.
- Strong team player able to inspire and bring together a dynamic board of trustees.
- An understanding of and commitment to building collaborative partnerships.
- Willing and able to commit the time and energy necessary to support and develop a small and ambitious charity.
- Well-connected and willing to harness those connections to support the charity (desirable).





# How to apply

Please send a CV and a covering letter (max. 2 A4 pages), outlining your interest in the Chair role and how you meet the person specification to our Admin Officer, Teddy: [teddy@agendaalliance.org](mailto:teddy@agendaalliance.org).

**Closing date:** 9am Monday 20th November 2023.

**First round interviews** will be held online with a panel w/c 4th December.

**Final/second round interviews** will take place face to face in London (tbc) on Tuesday 12th December. The aim would be to officially appoint the new Chair at the December Board meeting, which will be online on Thursday 14th December. 2-4pm.

Please keep those dates clear if you apply or let us know in your application if there are any dates you cannot do.

If you would like an informal discussion with the Vice Chair about the role ahead of application, please email: [teddy@agendaalliance.org](mailto:teddy@agendaalliance.org)

*Agenda Alliance selects all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications, experience and ability to do the role advertised. We welcome and encourage applicants from all backgrounds and do not discriminate on the basis of age, disability (physical or learning), gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We will provide reasonable support to disabled applicants throughout the recruitment process.*

*Please contact [teddy@agendaalliance.org](mailto:teddy@agendaalliance.org) to identify any additional support that you may require to enable you to make an application.*

# Find out more

**For further information, please visit us online:**

Website: [www.agendaalliance.org](https://www.agendaalliance.org)

Read our strategy here: <https://www.agendaalliance.org/our-work/five-year-strategy/>

Read about our existing Board members here: <https://www.agendaalliance.org/about-us/our-trustees/>

Twitter and Instagram: @agenda\_alliance

Read more about the role of a Trustee and Chair here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>



# Agenda Alliance in the media

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## The urgent need for change in prisons after survey finds women face high levels of racism by staff

PRISONS | RACISM | Friday 19 August 2022 at 1:06pm

**Monifa Bobb-Simon**  
Presenter, ITV Central

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## Surge in number of women being jailed as overcrowding crisis grips prisons

'Banging a mum up for theft from shops, such as stealing nappies or Calpol for a child, is not the answer,' campaigner says

Maya Oppenheim Women's Correspondent • 4 days ago • Comments

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## Domestic abuse victims are three times more likely to try kill themselves, new study finds

One in four women will suffer domestic abuse at some point during their lives

Maya Oppenheim Women's Correspondent • Wednesday 22 February 2023 16:50 GMT • Comments



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## Cost of living crisis trapping domestic abuse victims under the control of their abusers

**BIG READ**

"The cost of living crisis is rapidly becoming a national emergency for domestic abuse victims which will only get worse"



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### Poverty

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## Rise in vulnerable women dying early in north-east England, report finds

Charity identifies 'triple shock' of Covid, austerity and cost of living as premature deaths increase

**Mark Brown** North of England correspondent  
@markbrown14  
Mon 10 Jul 2023 06:00 BST

