



**Students Organising
for Sustainability
United Kingdom**

SOS UK is seeking to recruit an additional member to our board of trustees, to progress and shape our educational charity for addressing sustainability and climate justice.

Role type: Voluntary, three-year term, expenses paid

Introducing SOS UK

SOS UK is a student-led education charity focusing on sustainability. We know environmental sustainability cannot be achieved in isolation, so our work spans across issues of climate justice and wellbeing as well. We believe in lifelong learning and work on sustainability across all forms of education from early years to workplace learning. We act as a support crew - facilitating, encouraging and mentoring people wherever they are on their journey in sustainability.

We see the power and potential in students and young people to be at the forefront of change. We work alongside them as equal partners in their sustainability leadership journeys. We believe that when students lead on sustainability, they learn about it, picking up the vital knowledge, skills and competencies they will need to help transform society into a more just and sustainable place.

Our vision is to see an education system repurposed around the climate emergency and nature crisis. We're doing this by changing the way we teach, what we learn and how that's assessed so climate and nature a priority; making sure the places where we learn show us what's possible, helping us to help nature and the climate; and ensuring students from every background can play their role in protecting and building a better world.

About the role

We [currently have seven fantastic trustees](#). We are looking to add one more external trustee with specific experience and expertise. You will need to be able to commit to a maximum of 12 days work for us a year on a **voluntary basis**, which includes preparing for, and attending, our four board meetings each year. Board meetings are a mix of online and in-person events.

You can find full details of the role in the role profile at the end of this document.

We are particularly interested in applicants who can bring specific expertise or experience in the following areas (listed in priority order):

- Human resources, personnel and trade union relations
- Strategy development
- Digital engagement and/or software development
- Corporate governance and charity law
- Safeguarding
- Finance and financial audit

You should also have a passion for taking action to tackle the climate emergency and ecological crisis and be an advocate of youth action and agency.

As an SOS UK trustee, you will gain insight into the breadth of our work, be part of a dynamic team of trustees and wider organisational staff team, all of whom bring a wealth of experience of supporting young people and transforming the education sector.

More information

For an informal conversation about becoming a trustee for SOS UK, please contact Hazel Norman via hello@sos-uk.org.

We're totally committed to equality of opportunity for all. We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, ages, ability, ethnicities, genders, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

How to apply

Please apply by sending a CV and cover letter to jobs@sos-uk.org. Please ensure to include disclosure of all current and previous paid and voluntary roles for consideration of any potential conflicts of interest.

The deadline to apply is 23:59 on Sunday 27 September 2026. There will be online interviews in the week commencing 6th October 2026. Depending on the number of applicants, you may be asked for an informal interview to discuss your application in advance of any interview.



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Trustee role profile

Location:	Must be based within the UK
Time commitment:	An average of 1 day per month
Eligibility:	The minimum age is 18, there is no maximum age.
Terms of office:	Three years
Remuneration:	The post is voluntary, although travel and subsistence costs will be covered.

Background

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Governance at SOS UK

All charities are required to have a board that is run by trustees. Trustees have responsibility for the governance of our charity, ensuring that it is run effectively and managed in accordance with our policies and charity law. Our trustee board is made up of dedicated students and experienced professionals. As part of our trustee board, you will shape our strategy, ensure we remain impactful and that we retain a positive culture. Our trustees work closely with the Senior Leadership Team and our Trade Union. The Board ensures the charity stays within its [charitable objects](#) and remains legally compliant with charity law.

As a trustee, you will care deeply about tackling the climate and ecological crises and delivering climate justice. You will share our values and have a clear commitment to [our aims](#).

You can read more about our charity and work at www.sos-uk.org.

Liabilities

SOS UK is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). CIO status offers a separate legal personality for the entity, with business being conducted in the charity's name, meaning that the charity's trustees cannot be held personally responsible for its financial losses or debts. If SOS UK is wound up, the trustees would have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Key duties
To be an active member of our Board of Trustees, together ensuring we are accountable, sustainable and highly impactful, as well as being compliant with our charitable objects and charity law.
To support the Senior Leadership Team to manage the organisation as effectively and efficiently as possible.
To contribute to the strategic direction of the charity.
To be an advocate for the charity, helping to raise our profile and attract new supporters.
Responsibilities

Attend quarterly board meetings, additional ad-hoc meetings and the annual away day or festive dinner. Our Board meetings are usually online and typically last 2.5 hours.
Actively participate in at least one sub-group of the Board (currently people and culture; finance and risk; ideas, innovation and implementation), typically meeting on a quarterly basis online for 1-1.5 hours.
Thoroughly read board papers before meetings and respond to digital communications in a timely manner.
Be part of the collective leadership of the charity and actively contribute to decisions made by the Board.
With the other trustees, support the development of our organisational strategy, and create the conditions for the Senior Leadership Team to successfully deliver it.
With the other trustees, scrutinise our organisational performance and hold the Senior Leadership Team to account.
With the other trustees, engage with the trade union on staffing matters and other relevant issues.
Demonstrate commitment to our stated values and uphold our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
With the other trustees, ensure that the charity's activities are in line with its governing document, charitable objects and charity law.
Always act in the best interests of the charity, and to declare any conflicts of interest to the Chair of the Board immediately.
Participate in Board induction and training as required.
Be a proactive ambassador for our charity, helping to grow our supporter base and increase our influence.

Last updated: 19/08/2026