



# Trustee Board Recruitment Information Pack

## Why should you consider becoming a René Cassin trustee?

René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights, is a UK-focussed human rights charity, named after the French-Jewish co-author of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We are looking to strengthen our governance through appointing up to four new trustees to join our Board.

We are proud of our work to promote and protect universal human rights drawing on Jewish experience and values. We celebrate:

- the timeless and universal nature of human rights values and protections.
- the distinctive Jewish contribution to the current landscape of international human rights within the UK and Europe.
- the historical role played by our namesake, Monsieur René Cassin, in the development of the contemporary human rights framework in the aftermath of the Jewish experience in the Second World War.

This is a particularly important time. We live in an era characterised by populism; a hostile environment towards minorities, refugees and asylum seekers; and increasing levels of attacks on the most basic principles of human rights – principles that Jewish activists and jurists did so much to secure in the years immediately following 1945.

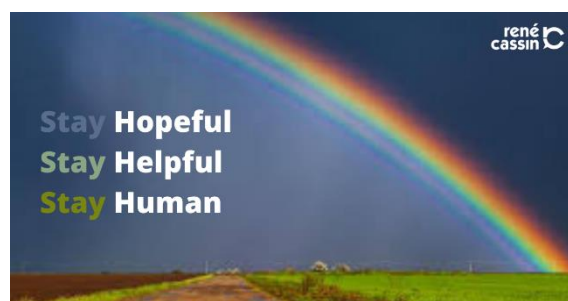
Basic human rights values and protections are being casually discarded. Human rights advocates and lawyers are being disparaged. This is a process with strong roots in the UK and Europe.

**There has never been a greater need for a strong Jewish advocate, actor, and partner making the case for the contemporary importance of human rights values and protections. There has never been a more important time to get involved in our work.**

In response to these challenging times, René Cassin is in a unique position to leverage the moral case associated with our namesake and our convening power as a Jewish human rights organisation with the authority to speak on fundamental values.

In an increasingly divided and fractured society, we can be a distinctive force for changing attitudes both inside and outside the Jewish community.

We advocate for human rights values within our community, and we form strong alliances with groups whose contemporary experiences of marginalisation, discrimination and, in the case of the Uyghurs, genocidal policies sadly reflect our own histories and experiences.



## The Trustee Role

Join us and make your distinctive contribution to:

- Shaping our strategy, impact and influence.
- Improving our reach, reputation and capabilities.
- Securing our long-term sustainability.
- Enhancing our contacts and connections both within and beyond the Jewish community

We are looking to appoint up to four new trustees. We are likely to be appointing a new Chair by 2025 so these roles could be particularly attractive if you have the ambition to become a Chair or have chairing experience.

We are particularly interested in attracting interest from candidates with the following backgrounds and experiences:

- Public policy e.g. relevant legislation such as immigration, human rights protections etc.
- Familiarity with Jewish text and teachings.
- Mobilising and engaging with the UK's Jewish community.
- Capacity to leverage your personal and professional contacts in support of our charitable purposes.
- Monitoring and evaluation including effectiveness of campaigning work and overall organisational impact.

Further information about our work is available on the [René Cassin website](#).

If you are interested in this opportunity, please a cv and one-page cover letter to [info@renecassin.org](mailto:info@renecassin.org) with 'Trustee Application' in the subject line.

You are welcome to have an informal chat with our Chair, Daniel Silverstone: [daniel@dsilverstone.co.uk](mailto:daniel@dsilverstone.co.uk).

Or feel free to email René Cassin's Executive Director, Mia Hasenson-Gross: [mia.hasenson-gross@renecassin.org](mailto:mia.hasenson-gross@renecassin.org).

The **closing date** for applications is **Friday 16 February 2024**.

## René Cassin – vision, mission and values

René Cassin – the Jewish voice for human rights – is named after the French-Jewish co-author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

René Cassin's **vision** is of a world where everyone fully enjoys all their human rights as enshrined in the Declaration, and in which members of the Jewish community are actively engaged in promoting and protecting these rights.

Our **mission** is to promote and protect the universal rights of all people, drawing on Jewish experience and values. René Cassin works:

- **within the Jewish community** – by building support for human rights values amongst British Jews.
- **in the wider community** – by bringing the authority of a Jewish perspective on issues that resonate with Jewish experience.

We aim to:

- **Remake a compelling case for human rights values** – we believe that those values, which inspired the Universal Declaration, are a direct response to the horrors of the Holocaust. For that reason, we focus on advocating for safeguarding the UK's current human rights framework – particularly the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act, which have their origins in the Universal Declaration.
- **Campaign for change on human rights issues** that resonate with Jewish experience, and which **affect other marginalised minorities**, such as:
  - **Genocide** – we are mobilising support for UK-based exiles demanding action in response to the Chinese repression of Uyghur Muslims.
  - **Immigration and asylum** – we are drawing on the parallels with recent Jewish history to challenge the current 'hostile environment' towards refugees. We campaign for a time limit on the detention of asylum-seekers and promote alternatives to detention.
  - **Discrimination and hate crime** – we use our work on discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities as a case study to illustrate the negative implications for vulnerable communities and groups of a weak human rights framework.
  - **Social justice and women's rights** – we address long-standing inequalities and the obstacles vulnerable groups experience in accessing fundamental rights with our flagship work on enshrining the right to food into UK law.
- Lead and grow **a group of committed and knowledgeable Jewish human rights advocates**.

Our **values** – underpinning all the work we do:

- *Solidarity* – human rights belong to us all, so we stand for the rights of everyone, everywhere.
- *Judaism* – we are inspired by Jewish values and experience.
- *Collaboration* – our work is not isolated, but intertwined with the efforts of others, so we nurture and mobilise partnership.
- *Empowerment* – we turn today's Jewish activists into tomorrow's leaders.
- *Legacy* – we are determined to create a legacy worthy of our namesake Monsieur René Cassin.