



# Chair of Trustee Board Recruitment Information Pack

## Why should you consider becoming René Cassin's Chair?

**René Cassin – the Jewish voice for human rights – is looking to appoint a new person to succeed our current Chair, Danny Silverstone.**

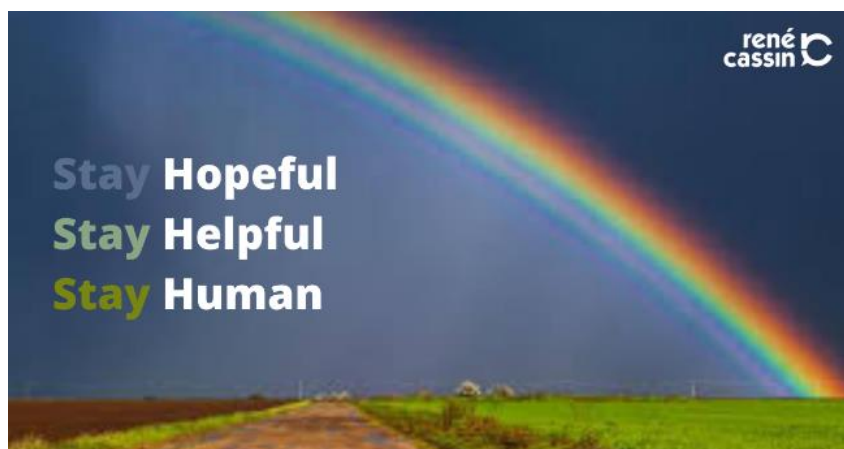
This is a particularly important time. We live in an era characterised by populism; a hostile environment towards minorities, refugees and asylum seekers; and increasing levels of attacks on the most basic principles of human rights – principles that Jewish activists and jurists did so much to secure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

The continuing reverberations internationally and in the UK of the devastating events of 7 October 2023 continue to have a major impact on our human rights advocacy both within our community and with external partners.

There has never been a greater need for a strong Jewish advocate, actor, and partner to make 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 (as co-author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and our convening power as a trusted and influential 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 Chair's Role

### MAIN FUNCTIONS

- Chairing and planning Board meetings effectively. Ensuring that all trustees' voices are heard, and that optimum use is made of trustees' skills and experience.
- Charting the long-term future for René Cassin.
- Providing active support for our Executive Director. Offering a professional appraisal experience and regular 1-2-1s.
- Actively engaging with current and potential donors and being a recognised presence with our staff team, supporters, alumni and stakeholders.
- Inputting into the planning of our events and our external communications.
- Ensuring that René Cassin has a solid and sustainable financial strategy.

### Essential experience

- Effective Chairing.
- Strong commitment to fundraising and willingness to utilise professional networks for that purpose.
- Strategising.
- Background in human rights or related fields.
- Knowledge of the contemporary UK Jewish community.
- External relations, public speaking.
- Partnership practice, willingness to leverage professional and personal networks.
- Strong personal alignment with human rights values and principles.

### Desirable experience

- Financially literate, including experience in risk management.
- Background in fundraising, confidence in approaching potential individual donors.
- Understanding of international human rights principles, mechanisms and charters.
- Relevant background work and/or engagement within the Jewish Community.
- Relevant non-executive experience.
- Background in the charity sector including funders trusts & foundations.

## Next Steps

The appointment is not remunerated, running for a four-year term renewable to a maximum of eight years.

It is hard to be specific about time commitment, however you should be thinking about committing to two days per month.

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

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit a statement of no more than two pages and your current C.V to [daniel@dsilverstone.co.uk](mailto:daniel@dsilverstone.co.uk) with 'Chair of Trustees Application' in the subject line, explaining why you would like to become René Cassin's Chair and what specific skills and experience you can bring to the role.

You are welcome to have an informal chat with our outgoing 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 **Monday 25 November 2024 at 5pm**.

## 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.
  - **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** – 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**.
- **Create a legacy** worthy of our namesake Monsieur René Cassin and his Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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.