Just Scripture Advisor (0.4 FTE)

Location: Homeworker  
Department: Fundraising and Supporter Engagement

Reports to: Church Relations Manager  
Salary Band: E

Competency level: 3

Role purpose
Christian Aid is the agency of the churches of Britain and Ireland. For Christian Aid and the churches, our impact is greatest when we share a compelling vision of justice, a clear analysis of the change that is required and an understanding of how our combined agency works to deliver that change. It is a mutually transformational process.

Just Scripture is a significant theological resource that connects communities across the world and equips and inspires churches and church members to take action for justice. The methodology is derived from Contextual Bible Study, inspired by communities in South Africa, and Intercultural Biblical Dialogue developed in Bolivia. It has truly been forged in global partnership.

Just Scripture seeks to:
• build theological literacy and confidence in action for justice rooted in faith.
• strengthen solidarity rooted in faith, between communities across the world.
• galvanise and grow the movement of people that challenge – and change – the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty and inequality across the world
• amplify our collective prophetic voice

The Just Scripture Advisor is part of and works closely with colleagues in the National Church Relationships Team. The team is responsible for Christian Aid’s denominational relationships across Britain, especially relationships with senior church leaders and senior national institutional officers.

The team works closely to advise, resource and support colleagues engaging regionally and locally with churches, teams leading on advocacy and campaigning with British churches and international colleagues.
The post holder will therefore:

- develop the Just Scripture Project including theological methodology and resources that align with Christian Aid’s theological and advocacy priorities.
- liaise closely with key external theological and denominational partners including the Ujamaa Centre in the University of KwaZulu, Natal.
- work with colleagues in Britain, Ireland and internationally to ensure Just Scripture can be used to communicate key theological underpinnings to the policy and advocacy work of Christian Aid.
- Support the delivery of Just Scripture sessions at events, conferences and church gatherings.
- coordinate and support the volunteer facilitators who will deliver the Just Scripture sessions in Britain and Ireland, including organizing ongoing training and establishing a community of practice.
- with team colleagues, identify and establish core partners and colleagues in the International Department who will participate in Just Scripture sessions.
- with team colleagues, promote Just Scripture through church media and social media channels, ensuring Christian Aid is relevant to our sponsoring denominations and wider church partners.

Key outcomes

- The faith underpinning of Christian Aid’s work is communicated externally and supporters and the wider Church are enabled to use their prophetic voice to tackle poverty.
- Partners feel supported and in genuine solidarity with churches and Christian Aid supporting communities.
- The National Church Relationships team is equipped with an innovative, digital, engagement tool that inspires growth in giving, acting and praying.
- Insights from Just Scripture sessions are shared widely through the faith communications content and so amplify the prophetic voice of our partners.

Role agility

- Expected national travel per annum: 30 days
- Expected international travel per annum: none
- On call/unsocial hours? No

Role context

- Works within Christian Aid’s Fundraising and Supporter Engagement Department, within the Nations and National Church Relations division as part of the National Church Relations team for Britain.
- The role works closely with other members of the National Church Relations Team and wider Nations and Churches division to establish effective Just Scripture sessions and support sponsoring denominations to connect directly with partners in the International Department and in turn deepen our church engagement, campaigning and fundraising work in the UK.
• The post holder will bring their diverse understanding of British church structures, denominations and the post-church Christian landscape to deliver on key outcomes.

Relationships

External

• Liaises with external theological institutions with expertise on contextual bible reading especially in South African and Latin America.

• Liaises with church leaders, international and national denominational church partners and Christian Aid supporters to set up Just Scripture partnerships.

• Develops appropriate strategic partnerships with organisations committed to biblical education and literacy to engage a wider church and potential supporter base.

Internal

• Works collaboratively with the National Church Relationships team to deliver Just Scripture.

• Works with the theology advisor in the International Department to set up partner connections for Just Scripture sessions.

• Works with media colleagues to promote Just Scripture through relevant channels.

• Works with the Insight team to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of Just Scripture sessions in helping deliver growth for Christian Aid’s work.

• Works with campaigns and advocacy colleagues to ensure Just Scripture sessions engage and mobilise supporters around key strategic priorities.

Decision making

Budgetary/savings responsibility

• Budget responsibility with team colleagues, for the delivery of Just Scripture sessions, including volunteer training and participation costs, technology requirements, the publication of supporting resources and publicity and promotion.

Overall people management responsibility

• The postholder should be a self-starter, able to seek out and develop contacts and to make judgments on how best to take Christian Aid’s work forward effectively.

• The postholder must be able to support and guide facilitators in their approach to delivering Just Scripture sessions.
Person specification

Essential

- Degree or post graduate qualification in theology
- Good understanding of British churches, ecumenical structures and wider church networks
- Significant experience of the churches in the Britain and Ireland and ability to relate well to faith leaders from a range of traditions
- Good knowledge and understanding of the range of theologies within British and Irish churches
- Experience of creating theological and or biblical resources for church audiences
- Good knowledge of and a creative approach to adult learning and training
- Good understanding of development and justice issues
- Good understanding of and sensitivity to contexts of poverty and inequality and ability to work with marginalized people, including those without literacy.
- Excellent facilitation skills
- Good interpersonal, networking and influencing skills
- Team skills and the ability to inspire colleagues and stakeholders outside the team.
- Commitment to collaborative working
- Able to travel regularly within the Britain and Ireland and occasionally abroad
- Fluency in written and spoken English

Digital/IT competencies required

- Word, PowerPoint, Internet based collaboration tools and video calling Social Media

Further information:

- If you would like to discuss any aspect of this role to assist an application, please contact John Plant: jplant@christian-aid.org