

Children and Young People's Activism Lead

JOB PACK

- **Salary: £35,000 per annum plus 6% employer's pension contribution**
- **Hours: 35 hours per week**
- **28 days annual leave per year plus Bank Holidays and an extra day for your birthday**
- **Home-working (in England)**
- **Duration of contract: 12 months initially from April 2022. We are committed to this becoming one of our core posts, subject to impact and continued funding**

Article 39 works with others to fight for the rights of children who live in institutional settings. We are a small, independent charity which focuses on impact and putting children and young people first. Always.

This is a vital, expanded role within our charity leading partnerships and activism with children and young people, and providing excellent support to our Expert Group on Mental Health, whose members are aged between 16 and 23 years and have direct experience of being detained as children in mental health hospitals.

Working within a small, supportive team, you will bring energy and expertise in working alongside children and young people to bring about positive changes in law, policy and services. If you are looking to improve your campaigning skills and impact, and want to join forces with others passionate about children's rights, this is the role for you!

Article 39 works for equality and values diversity. Disabled applicants who meet our person specification are guaranteed an interview. We support family-friendly working.

1. About us

Article 39 fights for the rights of children living in state and privately-run institutions, a population of around 90,000 in England. We take our name from the part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which entitles children and young people who have been abused or neglected the right to recover in environments where their health, self-respect and dignity are nurtured.

We formed in 2015, achieved registration with the Charity Commission in March 2016 and secured our first funding in July 2016.

Information about our work and the impact we have is available on our main website. In addition, our rights4children website gives accessible information to children and young

people about many aspects of their rights. We strongly encourage you to visit both sites before making your application:

www.article39.org.uk
www.rights4children.org.uk

2. Children and Young People's Activism Lead – job description

Specific responsibilities

A) You will lead our Expert Group on Mental Health, which includes co-delivery of our new training course for independent mental health advocates and others

You will support our Expert Group on Mental Health, whose members are aged between 16 and 23 years and who all have experience of inpatient mental health care as children. You will recruit new members under the age of 18 and work with the Group to jointly develop and co-deliver a new training course for independent mental health advocates and others. This will communicate children and young people's experiences of inpatient care and promote the implementation of new legislation which seeks to reduce the use of restraint.

B) You will inform children and young people of their rights and work alongside them to bring about positive changes in law, policy and services

You will lead Article 39's partnerships and activism with children and young people (up to the age of 25) who have experience of living in institutional settings in England.

You will disseminate information about our rights materials, training courses and events to children and young people; and provide encouragement and practical support so they can fully participate in our work. You will recruit and support children and young people to quality assure information and resources Article 39 produces for children and young people.

You will actively promote our *rights4children* website to children and young people living in institutional settings and have lead responsibility for curating further content for the 'real-life stories' and 'results' sections of this unique resource.

As your workload and capacity allows, in addition to your work with our Expert Group on Mental Health, you will support children and young people's right to be heard at a national level, through seeking opportunities for children and young people who live, or have lived, in institutional settings to contribute to the development of laws, policies and significant service developments affecting them. This will include making arrangements for children and young people to share their views and experiences on matters of concern to them with national public bodies, civil servants, parliamentarians and government ministers.

You will co-deliver and lead on the evaluation of our unique new children's rights training course for children and young people.

C) You will support children and young people's active engagement in our Children and Young People's Advocates Network

Our Children and Young People's Advocates Network supports 320+ independent advocates to give the best help possible to children and young people across social care, health, education and custodial settings in England. You will support children and young people's active engagement in Network activities, including online events, thematic projects and Network

publications, and maintain dialogue with children and young people (including through consultations) to ensure their concerns and priorities inform the work and the strategic development of the Network.

D) You will support Article 39’s national campaigns and advocacy

Working with Article 39’s Director, you will support national children’s rights campaigns through the use of digital technology (for example, using short videos and graphics to communicate key messages to children and young people). You will keep abreast of government consultations, parliamentary business and opportunities to promote and protect children’s rights through the passage of legislation, select committee inquiries and the work of All Party Parliamentary Groups.

Additional responsibilities

Working with Article 39 colleagues, you will also:

- Develop internal policies to ensure we always work respectfully with children and young people, and that their contributions are properly acknowledged, including through remuneration, gift vouchers and certificates.
- Develop relationships with government, parliamentarians, human rights bodies and other non-governmental organisations and groups (especially those representing the views and interests of children and young people living in institutional settings).
- Represent Article 39 at external groups and networks connected to children and young people’s activism, and mental health law and policy.
- Help Article 39 report to funders, keeping them updated of our work and impact.
- Undertake any other activities in fulfilment of the charity’s objects.

3. Person specification

1.	Proven track record of promoting and protecting the rights of children and young people (this can be professional and/or personal experience).	ESSENTIAL
2.	Able to demonstrate respect for children as having equal worth to adults, and commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	ESSENTIAL
3.	Significant experience of working in partnership with, and supporting the activism of, children and young people. This includes reasonable flexibility around evening and weekend working.	ESSENTIAL
4.	Passionate about protecting the rights of children and young people in mental health inpatient care; and readiness to learn about mental health law and policy in England to become Article 39’s lead in this policy area.	ESSENTIAL
5.	Significant understanding and working knowledge of good safeguarding practice, including awareness of the challenges inherent in keeping children safe in institutional settings.	ESSENTIAL
6.	Excellent communication skills – oral and written – and demonstrable experience of communicating effectively and sensitively with both children and adults.	ESSENTIAL
7.	Experience of using digital technology in campaigning and awareness-raising (for example, communicating campaign goals through video).	ESSENTIAL
8.	Self-motivated, able to work alone and with others as part of a small team.	ESSENTIAL

9.	Able to prepare successful funding applications and to monitor and communicate impact to funders.	DESIRABLE
10.	Prior experience of home working and being part of a campaigning charity.	DESIRABLE

4. Application process

If you would like to apply for this post, please send us:



An up-to-date CV with the names of two referees covering the past five calendar years (maximum 3 pages, 12 point font). Please account for any gaps in your employment history. Gaps arising from caring responsibilities or illness will not be viewed negatively.



A supporting statement which succinctly sets out (maximum 2 pages, 12 point font) how you meet each of the 10 elements of the person specification (both essential and desirable criteria). Please number each of the criteria as above.

Important: please make sure your writing is accessible for all ages and do not use professional jargon or acronyms.

Article 39 employees are required to have a satisfactory enhanced DBS check. Any offer of employment will be conditional upon this.

This post involves working with children and young people outside of school/college times. This will entail being available early evenings and some weekends. However, this will always fit within your 35-hour working week and be planned.

Please send your application to carolyne.willow@article39.org.uk, with 'Children and Young People's Activism Lead application' in the subject heading by **3pm, Friday 4 February 2022**.

We will contact you by the end of the following week to let you know whether we would like to invite you to interview. Interviews will take place by Zoom on Saturday 19 February 2022.

Due to our limited capacity, we are very sorry that we will be unable to offer feedback on applications which are not shortlisted.

If you have any questions about this post, or Article 39, please contact our Director, Carolyne Willow, on the email above. She will endeavour to respond quickly.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING WORKING WITH US.

Article 39
December 2021