Arabic or Farsi Speaking Group Therapist

Location: Remote
Contract Length: 12 months (2 months' probation period)
Contract type: Consultancy

WHO WE ARE

Refugee Trauma Initiative is an NGO working in Greece to provide collective healing, trauma-sensitive, identity-informed psychosocial programming for young refugee children and their families, and for refugee and local youth, all while working to set a new benchmark in mental health support for refugees worldwide. After four years of testing and refining our direct delivery approach, in the main, we now focus on training local partner organisations to deliver & adapt these approaches as suited to the context.

RTI supports two main lines of psychosocial and educational programming: Baytna, which targets young refugee children with specialized early childhood development (ECD) programming; and Dinami, which targets refugee and local youth with skill-building interventions built around a project-based learning (PBL) approach. In addition, RTI provides training and capacity-building support to local NGO partners training partners to embed trauma-informed, identity-informed and value-based practices.

The 'ROLE PURPOSE

In order to respond to refugees exacerbated mental health issues reported during research undertaken by RTI during the first Coronavirus lockdown in April 2020 (read the report findings here: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/577646af893fc0b5001fbf21/t/5ef0bb675598594c56fca7/1592835023114/2020-06_RTI_COVID19_REFUGEESGR.pdf) Since May 2020 – present, RTI Clinical Lead Gabriella Brent in partnership with Consultant Therapist Romy Wakil have piloted delivering a therapeutic psychoeducation group online for 8 male refugees. This has proved to be a very powerful space, with two cohorts regularly attending, despite their changing and challenging circumstances. Based upon the feedback from the group, and with the aim of bridging the gap between mental health and human rights, RTI intends to establish more therapeutic, trauma-informed psycho-education groups for asylum seekers and/or refugees living in Greece. Each group will consist of 6 – 8 members who will meet weekly on zoom, facilitated by a group therapist and members will be provided with a therapeutic, trauma-informed space.
To begin with, the groups will either be all male.

We are seeking qualified therapists who can facilitate one of these groups, with a view to facilitating more groups, as this movement grows.

Therapists will be supported by and report back to RTI’s Head of Programmes and Clinical Lead – Gabriella Brent (https://www.refugeetrauma.org/the-team) and Romy Wakil, a Consultant Trauma Therapist working with RTI.

Training & Supervision

RTI will provide induction training ahead of starting facilitation of therapy groups. Additionally, therapists will be required to attend monthly group supervision with the team of therapists undertaking this work. The post holder will be expected to attend all supervision groups, unless on leave or there are extenuating circumstances.

RTI will hold safeguarding and clinical responsibility for anything emerging in sessions, and work with the relevant parties to manage any concerns.

Creating collective healing spaces and facilitating group therapy with asylum seekers and refugees is an under-researched field. The role holder will be expected to reflect on emerging themes in therapeutic supervision with RTI to help shape our future programming and support to provide collecting healing spaces with and for refugee communities.

Hours

2 hours Weekly : 1.5 hours for group, 30 mins for prep, debrief & notes
Monthly: 1 hour group supervision

Fee

In the first instance we are seeking honorary therapists (volunteers).

However, if you are interested in applying to this post and cost is an issue, please let us know on a sliding scale from 0-40GBP per hour how much you would need to get paid.

Therapists with lived experience are encouraged to apply.

Location

Zoom group (set up by RTI): All group members are currently living in Greece, however in different locations. The group will be conducted online via zoom for 1.5 hours. RTI provides data to support group members to attend, as needed.
Language
The group will be conducted in Arabic or Farsi in order to allow group members to communicate in their mother tongue. Fluency in English is also required for the role as group members may choose to speak in both languages.

That said, if you feel you are a good fit for this role and speak another language, please do still apply.

KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

• To provide a weekly, online therapeutic group space to a group of up to 8 members according to RTI’s trauma, identity and values informed approach
• To write summary session notes following each session and to keep notes in accordance with RTI’s data protection and GDPR policies
• To participate in shaping RTI’s therapeutic programming design
• To attend regular supervision facilitated by RTI
• To liaise with the RTI clinical team re group progress and group needs

Person specification

• Fluency in English and Arabic and/or Farsi. Fluency in other languages are also welcome.
• Once committed, applicants must be available to complete a year’s work
• All candidates must have an enhanced and up-to-date DBS check. If this doesn’t apply RTI will arrange one for you
• Successful candidates will be requested to provide references from a recent employer and personal supervisor.
• Qualified from or in a recognized and ethical training accredited by UKCP, BACP, BABCP, HCPC, BPC or BPS (UK) or country specific equivalents
• Trained in trauma-informed practice
• Ability to work reflexively regarding antiracist practice and within a culturally competent framework.

Essential experience

• Qualified supervisor/counsellor/psychotherapist/clinical or counselling psychologist
• A minimum one year experience of facilitating therapeutic groups
• A minimum of 450 client facing hours (not including befriending)
• At least one year consecutive of personal therapy
• A thorough understanding and openness towards social justice identity issues including race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, class, immigration status and more
• Awareness of safeguarding and data protection issues
• In professional supervision
Desirable experience

- Experience participating in social justice work either professionally or personally
- Knowledge of liberation psychology or radical pedagogy – e.g. healing justice, decolonised education, pedagogy of the oppressed

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send a CV & the below application to Gabriella Brent on gabriella@refugeetrauma.org and Romy Wakil on romywakil@gmail.com. Maximum length of the application should be 2 sides of A4.

Application deadline is open/rolling.

In your application, please:

1) Tell us about you, your qualities and skills that make you suited to this role
2) Briefly, tell us why you would like to work with RTI
3) Details of your theoretical approach including dates you trained, course(s) attended, theoretical approach(s) studied, and reasons for you choosing said approaches
4) Details of your approach to working in a trauma informed way, and your experience of working therapeutically with asylum seekers and/or refugees.
5) What values would you bring to RTI?
6) Describe your current supervision, its format, approach, frequency, length with current supervisor (if less than six months please include previous supervisor)
7) Tell us what understanding someone holistically means to you
8) How do you marry social justice and mental health work?
9) What is your relationship to self-care?