



## **Friends at the End SCIO**

### **Registered charity SC048875**

#### **Invitation to prospective charity trustees**

Friends at the End's (FATE) board is currently made up of 7 Trustees. Our Trustees bring a wide range of experience, all from diverse backgrounds. We are currently recruiting for a Trustee with finance/treasury/accountancy experience who will shape and undertake the role of Treasurer.

The Board meet four to six times per year to shape FATE's strategy, whilst advising and supporting our Chief Executive and staff. Meetings are normally held on a weekend, although this is flexible. At present, there are a few Board SubCommittees who meet according to their own availability.

All of FATE's Trustees are volunteers, however travel and other expenses relating to the role of being a Trustee are fully reimbursed.

FATE was formed as a voluntary society in 2000 and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in November 2018. The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Overall governance and strategic direction.
- Developing the organisation's goal in accordance with its constitution.

Trustee's responsibilities include:

- Furthering FATE's objectives and Strategic Ends.
- Being subject to charity law, FATE's constitution, and good governance.
- Supervision of, and support of our Chief Executive.

This means that Trustees would be expected to:

- Regularly attend our Board Meetings.
- Be committed to participate in the Board's work.
- Prepare for Board meetings.
- Get to know the Board and the organisation.
- Where possible, attend FATE events.

#### **Charitable basis**

All FATE Trustees are subject to the obligations and duties of Scottish charity trustees, as set out in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. See OSCR's guidance on this: [www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/guidance-and-good-practice-for-charity-trustees](http://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/guidance-and-good-practice-for-charity-trustees)

FATE's governing document is our SCIO Constitution as effective from 28 November 2018 when the SCIO was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). For our entry on the Scottish charity register see [www.oscr.org.uk/aboutcharities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=48875](http://www.oscr.org.uk/aboutcharities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=48875)

Under the SCIO Constitution, the charitable purposes and the means by which they are carried out are:

- a) The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution, and/or reconciliation

- b) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage, and
- c) The advancement of health.

The means which the SCIO adopts in furtherance of its charitable purposes are:

- a) The promotion of knowledge about end-of-life choices and dignified death;
- b) The support of those concerned about end-of-life choices and dignified death and to support those suffering from distress, especially that associated with end of life;
- c) The advancement of medical education relevant to the processes of death and terminal illnesses;
- d) Research into causes, cures, and prevention of distress in the dying and those caring for them and the public dissemination of the outcomes of such research; and
- e) Acting along with others in pursuit of the above and doing all things conceived to bring about or advance the foregoing.

At the time of writing, FATE has yet to file its first set of charity accounts with OSCR – the first Trustees Report and Accounts, for the period to 5 April 2020, are currently in preparation. (However, the final report and accounts of the former unincorporated association are available).

### **About our work**

Friends at the End SCIO works to advance human rights (especially of those in need by reason of age, ill health, and other disadvantage) by increasing public knowledge concerning end-of-life choices and dignified death and supporting those suffering distress at and towards the end of their lives. This includes the promotion of knowledge relevant to the processes of death and terminal illness and research into the causes, cures and prevention of distress in the dying and those caring for them.

Our long term aim is to see the passing of assisted dying legislation, until this happens we work to ensure that every UK citizen has a Good Death within the current legal framework.

We believe that medically assisted dying should be available to all mentally competent adults with either a terminal illness or an incurable condition, causing hopeless and unbearable suffering with no reasonable alternative to relieve it, provided this is their own persistent request.

### **What do we do?**

- Support our members and the wider public to have a good end of life within the current legal framework
- Provide comfort and support to those distressed at the end of their life and assist with the preparation of end of life documentation including Advance Directives, Advance Statements, Powers of Attorney etc.
- Host various events throughout the year across the UK
- Sponsor the Cross-Party Group on End of Life Choices in the Scottish Parliament
- Provide reliable and recent information and advice on the campaign for assisted dying. We use our wealth of knowledge and international contacts to take this work forward
- Support legal cases taken forward by individuals
- Provide legal advice on legislation. We have helped MSPs in the Scottish Parliament bring forward two Bills. We are currently involved in the current Consultation process ahead of a renewed effort to pass legislation in the Scottish Parliament
- Invest in academic research to increase knowledge and awareness.
- Facilitate local support and campaigning groups.
- Work with partnership organisations in the third, private and public sectors.

**Skills required**

At this time we would very much welcome applications from anyone who shares the ethos of our organisation and who is eligible to be a Trustee of a Scottish charity, but especially those with Finance/Treasury/Accountancy experience.

Applications to join the Board of FATE are now open until 19th November 2021

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by Tuesday 23rd November 2021, with short, informal interviews to follow.

Successful candidates would be invited to join the Board at the next meeting or nominated for election at our AGM in November.

Trustees will be selected by the skills, knowledge and experience that people demonstrate on their application forms.

If you are interested in applying, you should send us a CV and a short covering letter (no more than 800 words) outlining why you would like to join the Board of Friends at the End, what you would bring to the Board and why you think you could help us meet our aims as a charity. You should email this to Dr Sorcha Hume CEO of FATE at [Sorcha.hume@Fate.scot](mailto:Sorcha.hume@Fate.scot)