

ForcesWatch Education Campaign Worker

Job description and person specification

Overview

Post:	Education Campaign Worker
Purpose:	To develop and deliver the Military Out Of Schools project which seeks to challenge military access to young people within the education system
Hours:	16 hours (2 days) a week, six month initial contract (possibility to extend subject to funding).
Fee:	£26,138 p.a. pro-rata

About ForcesWatch

ForcesWatch is a non-profit UK organisation campaigning on ethical issues concerning the military, young people and society. We support groups and individuals challenging military recruitment practices and work for changes in recruitment policy and human rights issues within the military. We question the climate of uncritical national pride in the armed forces and their role in society. Uncritical support for the armed forces stifles concerns about how young people are recruited and limits debate on alternatives to war.

ForcesWatch was established in April 2010. It is an unincorporated association, overseen by a Steering Committee. There are currently three members of staff including the Education Campaign Worker.

Whereas in the U.S. there are many networks and organisations working in this area, ForcesWatch is the only project focused on challenging the effect of militarisation in British society. We build critical awareness of the issues, and capacity for making social change happen both at the grassroots and through policy change at a national level. We seek to involve a wide spectrum of interested parties, including veterans, young people, parents, teachers, youth workers and peace and human rights activists. We foster relationships with those with military experience as their voice is critical in shaping our work.

Currently our main areas of work are:

- challenging the military presence in education
- advocating for raising the minimum age of recruitment to 18 inline with international standards. We will shortly be publishing a report on this with support from a number of parliamentarians. In 2011 campaigning by ourselves and other interested groups led to a change in policy giving under 18s the right to discharge themselves from the forces if they are not happy.
- observing and responding to ways in which the military is being promoted as a normal part of everyday life. In 2013 we will be producing a publication on this theme and organising a networking event for academics, campaigners and others on aspects of militarisation.

For more information about ForcesWatch, see <http://www.forceswatch.net>

About the Military Out Of Schools project

The Military Out Of Schools project seeks to challenge the level of access the military is given to young people within the education system.

The UK armed forces visit thousands of schools each year. They offer presentations about their work, activities leading towards recruitment, and free activities and resources. Additionally, Government initiatives to promote the armed forces, such as Armed Forces Day, and the expansion of cadet forces in state schools, promote an idea of widespread and uncritical support of the military. The Department for Education is promoting military-led activities in schools on the basis that 'military skills and ethos' can provide a solution to educational or social problems.

ForcesWatch Education Campaign Worker

Job description and person specification

While there are claims that school involvement is not about recruiting young people, the Ministry of Defence has itself stated that visits to educational establishments are a “powerful tool for facilitating recruitment” and that it gives an opportunity to “provide positive information to influence future opinion formers”.

ForcesWatch are concerned that this reduces the political space to raise legitimate concerns about how young people are recruited and limits debate on alternatives to war. For young people, critical awareness of the risks, legal obligations and ethical considerations of an armed forces career is essential if they are to make an informed, responsible choice about enlistment.

The Military Out Of Schools project aims to:

- create a public debate around whether the armed forces, as an institution working to its own long-term agenda, should be given access to children within education
- inform, support and empower groups and individuals to challenge military activities in schools and colleges
- promote a more balanced view to young people of what life in the armed forces involves
- change attitudes and policies that allow and encourage engagement of the military with young people within the education system
- influence debate around new government initiatives aimed at increasing armed forces engagement with schools and colleges

The project has been running for a year. It has established a critique of the presence of armed forces in schools and developed a number of resources. The next phase will build on this, developing the network of those challenging military-led activities in their local communities, the resources available to them, and furthering the work of questioning the policy at national level.

The project's main activities will be to:

- gather information and research on military engagement in schools through publicly available sources and other sources such as surveys, freedom of information requests etc
- network with educationalists, teaching and young people's organisations, and others concerned with this issue
- develop information resources for those affected by this issue – parents, students and teachers
- develop resources to create wider interest in the issue
- create opportunities for public debate and respond to opportunities to influence public opinion and decision makers within Parliament and the media

Main functions and responsibilities of the role of Education Campaign Worker

The Education Campaign Worker will play a leading role in continuing to develop the project and delivering its programme of activities. You will develop the project strategy jointly with the Co-ordinator and in liaison with the ForcesWatch Steering Committee. You will manage the work of any project volunteers and work with them to deliver the project's activities.

The successful candidate will be an energetic and experienced campaigner eager to act on their concerns about the military activities in schools and colleges. You will be able to demonstrate strong networking and communication skills, sound political judgement and be motivated to create debate and influence policy and practice.

You will be developing and supporting groups and individuals concerned with these issues in order to raise the level of awareness of, and challenge to, military activities in schools and colleges. The role will involve re-framing debates and communicating the issues to a range of audiences, representing ForcesWatch when necessary. The role will also involve research, writing articles and developing informational resources of different kinds.

The Education Campaign Worker will be responsible for managing their own work, in liaison with the Co-ordinator, and will report to the Steering Committee. They will be expected to assist with some routine office duties.

ForcesWatch Education Campaign Worker

Job description and person specification

Person specification - required skills and experience

Essential

Candidates must be able to adequately demonstrate each of the following skills/experience in order to be shortlisted

- Experience working in a responsible role within a campaign environment
- Substantial experience of communicating within different constituencies and building networks
- Good presentation and communication skills (written, verbal, social media) for campaigning purposes
- Ability to work with others in an inclusive and transparent way and encourage participation across a wide variety of individuals, groups and organisations
- Good organisational skills and ability to manage own workload and the ability to prioritise under pressure and carry out a number of different tasks within a given period
- Good computer skills including word processing, email and internet research
- Ability to work effectively alone and in liaison with other members of the team
- Commitment to the concerns of ForcesWatch relating to military engagement with the education system
- Commitment to the aims and principles of ForcesWatch as outlined in this document

Desirable

Candidates should be able to adequately demonstrate some or most of the following skills/experience in order to be shortlisted

- Experience of utilising campaigning opportunities presented in Parliament, the press and other media
- Strong research skills including accessing, assessment of, and presentation of, information
- A proven record of campaigning achievements
- Knowledge of the UK education system
- Experience of dealing with the media and acting as a spokesperson
- Experience of campaigning on political or human rights or related campaigns
- Familiarity with the issues that concern ForcesWatch

How to apply:

Please send us:

1. Your CV
2. A covering letter explaining:
 - why you want this job
 - why you would like to join ForcesWatch
 - where you saw the job advertised
3. A supporting statement (not more than 2 sides of A4) telling us how you meet all the points listed under the Person Specification.

Email your application to office@forceswatch.net by 6pm on Monday 6 May 2013, using the subject heading 'Education Campaign Worker'.

You may also post your application to:

ForcesWatch, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY

If you would like to discuss the role informally before applying, please contact Emma Sangster on 020 7837 2822 or email office@forceswatch.net to arrange a time. Please note that as the office is not staffed full time, there may be a delay in getting back to you.

ForcesWatch Education Campaign Worker

Job description and person specification

Equal opportunities and our values

The work of ForcesWatch is underpinned by the concern that enormous damage is done to all those caught up in armed conflict. It is vital that there is wide critical debate about the military and its recruitment practices and its role in wider society.

ForcesWatch is committed to:

- respect for all people, including those we disagree with
- honesty in how we approach and present the issues
- fostering critical awareness of the issues among the public and ourselves
- including and involving a diversity of people, including a range of views and skills

We oppose all forms of unlawful or lawful discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, class, religion, marital status and where they live.

The successful candidate will be selected on the basis of how well they fit the person specification, as judged by their application materials and their interview performance.

Unfortunately the ForcesWatch office has only limited access and facilities for those with restricted mobility. Please contact us if you would like further information.

ForcesWatch is unable to arrange work permits for applicants without UK residency.

Terms and conditions

Duration: The initial contract will be for 6 months. After this time the contract will be extended for a further period depending on the availability of additional funding. There will be a 3 month probationary period.

Contract type: Employee

Reports to: The ForcesWatch Co-ordinator through fortnightly meetings.

Schedule: In liaison with the Co-ordinator, the project worker will organise their own work timetable with the possibility of working more hours/days in one period as necessary and correspondingly less in another. It may occasionally be necessary to attend events during the evening or weekends.

Location: Based at the ForcesWatch office in Kings Cross, London. Some working from home may be possible, by negotiation. Some travel within the UK is likely.

Holiday: 30 days per calendar year (pro-rata)

Notice of termination: One month from either side.

April 2013