

23 July 2019

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TIGRINYA-SPEAKING CULTURAL MEDIATOR (Service Contract)

1. General Background

Over the years Malta has experienced a steady influx of asylum seekers, through irregular and regular means. In Malta, UNHCR has two core mandate functions:

- To provide legal protection activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the relevant bodies of law, namely human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law. UNHCR engages with persons of concern on a regular basis through outreach activities both in the open centres and the community, and individually. This approach provides the necessary information needed for UNHCR's advocacy work in protecting refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.
- To seek and secure a durable solution for refugees through:
 - voluntary repatriation: usually the preferred solution, when possible, by referring to IOM;
 - local integration: assisting refugees in integrating into the host community.

2. Purpose and Scope of Assignment

The function performed by Cultural Mediators that of overcoming the barriers of language and culture, is vital in any international context. It assumes an added dimension when practiced in an effort to assist UNHCR in its core work: protecting and seeking durable solutions for refugees. Cultural Mediators are essential to UNHCR in fulfilling its core mandate functions, including registration, counselling, community outreach which may also involve discussions on sensitive issues. Thus, Cultural Mediators perform a key role in many UNHCR offices. A correct and culturally-sensitive understanding of refugees' statements is essential in enabling UNHCR to understand refugees' concerns and make appropriate interventions.

The selected applicant will work with UNHCR **and** third parties (namely government agencies) **for four (8 hour) days a week**.

The Cultural Mediator will carry out the following activities:

- a) Provide **interpretation and translation services** as required in the different activities carried out by UNHCR and/or third parties;
- b) **Secure mutual understanding** between UNHCR and/or third parties and the asylum seekers and refugees, ensuring that main diversities regarding culture, traditions, religion, age, gender and other attributes are given adequate attention and consideration in order to build necessary trust with the beneficiaries and maximize the effect of the counselling/information activity;
- c) Respect the **confidentiality** of any sensitive information and adhere to the UNHCR Code of Conduct;

- d) Carry out any other related service, as required and on the basis of an evolving context.

3. Qualifications Required

- Fluency in English and Tigrinya
- Secondary level of education. Relevant training on interpretation and cultural mediation is considered an asset.
- Minimum one year relevant experience
- Knowledge of UNHCR mandate and work
- Strong communication and teamwork skills

Duty Station: Hamrun, Malta

Envisaged starting date: As soon as possible

End date: 31st December 2019

Closing Date for Applications: 13th August 2019 at 23:59

How to Apply: If you wish to apply, please download the Personal History Form (PHF) and Supplementary Sheet at <http://malta.unhcr.io/land.php>. Then complete it and send the signed document to mtava@unhcr.org. Please write 'PHF for cultural mediator' in the email subject line.

Only the present PHF and Supplementary Sheet (s), if any, will be considered as valid application documents. No CVs, old P.11 forms of other UN agency application forms will be accepted.

PHFs must be signed for an application to be considered as valid.

For application-related queries, please write to mtava@unhcr.org.

Please note: Candidates must be in possession of a valid residence permit, work permit, bank account and VAT number (if applicable) in Malta. Only candidates under positive consideration will be contacted for an interview and written test.

UNHCR is committed to diversity and welcomes applications from qualified candidates regardless of disability, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, race, colour or ethnic and national origins, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. UNHCR does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing, training or any other fees).