

# Advocacy Rep Role Description

## VISION AND PURPOSE

We want to make our advocacy work even more strategic and dynamic by raising up volunteers to represent Open Doors to their MP(s) at a local level across the UK. The more Advocacy Reps we have, the more MPs we can engage, and therefore our influence in the UK government to advocate for the persecuted church will increase. This is a great opportunity to be part of God's plan for your persecuted family, and working to ensure that the voices of persecuted Christians around the world are amplified to those in authority in the UK.

## SUMMARY

The role of an Advocacy Rep is simply to be a local representative of Open Doors to your MP. MPs love to hear from their constituents, so whether you are highly experienced in advocacy or not, it is your passion and leverage as a constituent that is most important. So don't be intimidated! Activity wise, the minimum we ask of an Advocacy Rep is to ensure your MP gets an Open Doors World Watch List report and you meet them a few times a year to discuss new Open Doors reports and recommendations. But, of course, there are many more ways to engage them further, as you see below.

## RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

- To be an active Christian and committed to praying for this work
- Represent the cross-party and non-partisan advocacy work of Open Doors to your MP and, if possible, other regional MPs
- Galvanise a church in the MP(s)' constituency to invite the MP(s) to the Parliamentary launch of the Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) every year – and, subsequently, thank MP(s) or meet to give them a WWL report if they didn't attend
- Whenever the Open Doors advocacy team publish a report, meet your MP(s) to give them a report, and discuss the findings and recommendations with them. To help you to prepare for this meeting, the Open Doors advocacy team will provide you with an online webinar to ensure you feel confident in talking about the report
- Every year, the Open Doors advocacy team will create an event template that you can use to organise an event which you can invite your MP(s) to. This will allow you to engage your MP(s) further and communicate the specific challenges faced by the persecuted church
- Undertake ad hoc requests by the advocacy team, when opportunities arise, which would be benefitted by the assistance of an Advocacy Rep at a local level. This would not be a requirement, so you can decide each request separately
- Report back to the advocacy team after every engagement with your MP(s), in order for the advocacy team to follow up if needed and review relationships with MPs
- Receive advocacy emails and take action during campaigns
- Attend an induction session on the ministry of Open Doors and the specific work of the Open Doors advocacy team, so you can represent our current work
- Represent Open Doors in such a way that reflects biblical principles of leadership and service
- Keep personal and Open Doors representation separate when engaging your MP(s). This means no personal matters should be discussed when meeting your MP on behalf of Open Doors
- Agree to and sign all required volunteer agreements and policies, including our Statement of Faith, Safeguarding Policy, Confidentiality Agreement and Code of Conduct

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Characteristics:

- Passionate for God and the persecuted church
- Willing to commit to Open Doors' values and non-partisan approach to advocacy, in order to be a trusted ambassador for persecuted Christians
- Self-motivated and committed to arrange the various meetings with your MP(s) and church throughout the year
- Respectful and friendly manner when discussing the plight of the persecuted church and freedom of religion or belief more widely with both MP(s) and constituents
- Good standards of personal presentation
- Reliable and organised in corresponding with people by phone, email and letter.

### Competencies:

- Able to communicate the specific campaigns of the Open Doors advocacy team to MP(s)
- A relational person who can build good rapport with their MP(s)
- Capable of working with others well in order to organise local events.

Enhanced disclosure information may be requested from the DBS in the event of a successful applicant.

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESOURCES

Advocacy Reps are ultimately accountable to the Advocacy Campaigns Officer who will be the primary contact. Open Doors will provide ongoing support and encouragement through:

- An initial induction to brief Advocacy Reps with Open Doors' core values and advocacy work
- Support through a toolkit and webinar before presenting a report to MP(s) and organising any events
- Up-to-date news, resources and information to assist you with your meetings
- Contact by phone and email to offer advice and support
- Contact with other local Advocacy Reps, when possible
- Refunds for any reasonable expenses such as travelling costs upon presentation of proof of expenditure.