

Support for Charity Leaders

Opportunity to partner with IVAR (www.ivar.org.uk)

Could you convene a group of up to 10 voluntary sector leaders? We're offering sets of up to three facilitated 90-minute peer support sessions – with an opportunity to feed into our wider work, influencing our network of over [80 funders](#).

Overview

Since 1 April 2020, we have been supporting voluntary sector organisations and their funders to respond to the evolving Covid-19 context through online peer support sessions for charity and social enterprise leaders. Participants have told us about the benefit of having space to offload, the sense of solidarity, opportunities to hear practical ideas about how other leaders and their organisations are adjusting and managing, and a sense of being part of a community that is trying to adapt, innovate and learn.

We've seen how active encouragement from membership organisations and funders can help leaders to prioritise space for themselves – we'd love you to be part of this.

*'The encouragement from my funder gave me the permission to do it and it was so timely. I was feeling very isolated and making decisions around redundancies, furlough, funding for the future, whether there was any pivoting to be done ... it was a **great relief to find out that I was not alone.**'*

*'I struggle to make time for myself but I'm so glad I did because the sessions have been such a great help, **putting things into perspective** and helping to use your own experience to support others.'*

*'It is great to get out of your own head and hear what is important for others; I learnt a lot about how other leaders approach their work and its pressures from these conversations. It prompted me to **reflect on my own priorities and approaches.**'*

Our offer

We (IVAR) are offering to run **up to three free, 90 minute peer sessions for leaders** of voluntary sector organisations within your network and to share **a summary/output** guided by you (e.g. [Perfection was never achievable](#); [Planning in Uncertainty](#)). The sessions can either be with different groups, or three sessions for the same cohort.

The exact shape of the session can be determined by the need and preference within each group we support – examples of possible delivery models include an open peer support space, through to a session with more content input. For example, a group of funders in Yorkshire and Humber

commissioned us to run some sessions with leaders of marginalised groups in the region, to understand how funders could better support their work. We also ran a series of sessions about planning and strategy with Corra Foundation grantees in Scotland where we shared insights from our wider conversations with leaders and funders. We then heard their suggestions on where and how the Scottish funding and support system could be strengthened.

We are looking for partners that can help us proactively reach out to communities that may not feel included – or who may be facing specific challenges. We may be able to provide modest financial support to enable outreach and participation.

If you are interested, please complete [this short form](#) by 17:00 on 5 November, which will ask:

- Your name
- Organisation
- Email address
- **Who are the sessions for?** Please tell us a bit about the group of charity leaders you would like to convene.
- **What are your thoughts about the sessions?**
 - Do you have a preference for the number of sessions you'd like IVAR to facilitate? (E.g. 3 sessions for 1 cohort of 10 leaders).
 - Are participants likely to have any specific requirements in order to make the sessions as accessible and inclusive as possible? (For example, requirements of the facilitator and/or how the session is set up)
 - Would you require any financial support in order to enable outreach and participation to fill the spaces for the peer sessions?

If the form is a barrier in any way, please do get in touch with us by emailing or calling Annie Caffyn at the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR): annie@ivar.org.uk / 07826 848559.

Our aim is to make a decision about these sessions around 6th December but we will reply to you within a week of hearing from you and may want to set up a call with you to discuss the partnership.

Our team

Meet some of the people who could be facilitating sessions for the voluntary sector leaders in your network.

We are from the kinds of organisations and communities that we seek to serve. Having worked in and around the VCSE sector as volunteers, paid staff, leaders, trustees, teachers and researchers – we understand and care about the distinctiveness and independence of the sector.



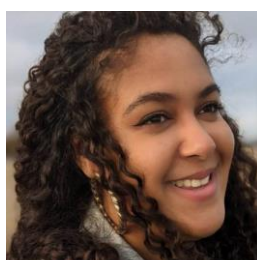
**Annie
Caffyn**



**Charlotte
Pace**



**Sonakshi
Anand**



**Keeva
Rooney**



**Miranda
Taylor**



**Katie
Turner**