

Job Description

April 2025

JOB TITLE	Press Officer
WORK BASE	Aid to the Church in Need UK, UK National Office (Sutton)
RESPONSIBLE TO	Head of Press & Public Affairs
CO-ORDINATING WITH	National Director Fundraising & Marketing Team Research & Communications Manager Parliamentary and Public Affairs Officer Community Outreach Team ACN International Press Team

Why work at Aid to the Church in Need?

ACN is a Catholic charity bringing spiritual and practical help to Christians – especially those who are persecuted for their beliefs. We carry out our mission of reconciliation and love through local Church partners: supporting priests, Sisters and catechists, building churches, providing transport, training seminarians, and providing religious literature and media - as well as supplying emergency aid for Christians struggling to survive or fleeing persecution. ACN also advocates on behalf of suffering Christians denied a voice. Through prayer, information and action we are keeping the Faith alive in a troubled world.

Working as part of a dynamic and growing team, this post would enable the successful candidate to deliver on ACN's strategic objective to raise the charity's profile in the media by means of increased coverage of Christian persecution-related issues both in traditional and digital platforms.

The post involves expanding ACN's media output – both traditional and digital media – thereby increasing public recognition of Christian persecution issues and raising the charity's profile, helping it to become the go-to organisation for all media inquiries on the topic.

Responsible for

Areas of Responsibility will include, but not be limited to:

- Working with the Head of Press & Public Affairs and others on plans to
 - * Review our current media outreach
 - * Develop a revised strategy to meet current media needs - providing more instant and accessible materials for online and traditional media consumption
- Working with colleagues to develop the relationship between ACN (UK) and ACN (International) regarding media
- To act as a principal point person for ACN (UK) media relations
- To source news stories and other editorial material drawing on contacts within a number of selected countries where ACN has projects/Christians suffer significant religious freedom violations
- To offer a regular supply of press releases and media materials for journalists, media outfits and other related parties to provide copy and other materials for ACN digital media platforms and publications e.g. the ACN website
- To help support the advocacy objectives of the charity through media outreach

- Working with colleagues, to advise on and implement a much-expanded programme of ACN media outreach, assessing options including regular audio (radio) output
- Working with colleagues to devise and implement a programme harnessing evolving digital media opportunities including podcasts and blogs
- To lead on the provision of regular media outreach – press releases, using email, Twitter etc. – working in close liaison with the ACN digital media team
- To develop relations with key journalists and other media professionals, keeping ACN contacts' book and media database up to date
- To work with colleagues to encourage journalists and others in public life to receive ACN media releases and other up-to-date materials
- To implement and improve media monitoring programme
- Working with colleagues, to create opportunities and develop bespoke articles for ACN or associated individuals for individual media outfits both local and national
- Involvement in ACN podcasts, presenting and commentating topics as required
- Research work on Christian persecution, drafting texts, media inquiries and other materials for fundraising purposes
- Periodically to deputise for the Head of Press and Public Affairs and the Research & Communications Manager and attend meetings on their behalf
- On occasions participate in fact finding trips to project countries, for the purpose on reporting back on the situation there and the ongoing ACN work
- Other duties that may reasonably be required in line with your role

External and Internal Relationships

The role will also develop strong working relationships and liaise with individuals both within and outside Aid to the Church in Need. Internally, these include the rest of the Press and Public Affairs team, the Fundraising and Marketing team, the Senior Administrator and the Community Outreach team. Working with ACN (International), Head of Press is also an important aspect of the role.

The role will also develop strong external working relationships with Editorial departments of external media interested in the charity's work such as *Catholic Herald*, *The Tablet*, *Independent Catholic News* and *the Scottish Catholic* and key journalists within secular as well as Christian broadcast media.

At a time when there is an urgent need to raise the media profile of persecution of Christians and the importance of religious freedom, the role will help foster relations with individual politicians, groups and committees in support of key objectives to help highlight the specific problem of Christian persecution and the wider issue of religious freedom.

Person Specification

Technical Competencies:

- Significant and demonstrable experience of writing copy – both online and hard copy – hard news and feature-writing.
- Experience of networking and liaising with stakeholders at all levels.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- An eye for detail.
- IT literate: Microsoft Office suite including Excel, Word and PowerPoint essential.

Personal/Interpersonal Competencies:

- Excellent inter-personal skills.
- Strong organisational skills – able to prioritise and willing to “own” distinct areas of work.
- A self-starter, able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Tenacity, persistence and flexibility.
- Ability to work well under pressure.
- Committed to learning and implementing the ACN house style and follow in-house training provided.

Strategic Competencies:

- Motivated by the cause supported by Aid to the Church in Need, sympathy with the mission and values of Aid to the Church in Need, and good knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church, its teachings and practices.
- Ideally some knowledge of persecution of Christians and other minorities.
- Ideally experience of or an interest in the charity sector.