



Congo Now Coordinator

P/T – 2-3 months
F/T – 4-5 months
(Subject to negotiation)

Suggested consultancy fees: £8000 - £15000
(Subject to negotiation)

An exciting opportunity has come up to project manage a substantial public campaign – **Congo Now** – aimed at raising awareness of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo and increasing pressure for effective international action.

Congo Now

Congo Now is a month long series of events focusing on the DRC, spanning June and July 2010. A number of these events have already been agreed in principle, including major evenings at the Southbank centre on July 9 and July 28, 2010, and a launch/teaser event with the global movement V-Day on November 19, 2009. The overall campaign will raise awareness about the continuing and unacceptable crisis in the Congo, call the British public to action, and pressing for specific action on policy issues, while simultaneously celebrating the diversity and creativity of Congolese culture and spirit.

Congo Now unites a diverse coalition of major UK NGOs, the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region of Africa, Congolese civil society and members of the Congolese community in the UK. A significant number of the UK's most prominent NGOs and charities will be involved, combining their voices to shout out loud about Congo. This is a celebration of Congolese culture and spirit – but it's also a cohesive call to focus public attention on one of the world's most tragic, and most forgotten, conflicts in one of the world's poorest countries.

The role

This is a challenging role, combining high level campaigning with policy lobbying and a demanding and action packed schedule of events organisation.

Essential

- Experience of project managing at least one other high profile public campaign.
- Excellent organisation and communication skills.
- A creative and innovative individual who can adapt to many situations – whether writing to A-list celebrities or working closely with members of the Congolese diaspora.
- Excellent coordination and negotiation skills and comfortable representing Congo Now to a wide range of audiences using both written and broadcast media.
- Energy and vision to coordinate a diverse range of stakeholders and create a hard hitting and eye catching campaign that will place the Congo firmly in the eye of the British public.
- Proactive and imaginative with a proven track record for innovation. Able to respond to the requests of coalition stakeholders whilst thinking independently to create and respond to campaigning opportunities

Desirable

- An understanding of Great Lakes region and specifically and understanding of, and interest in, the DRC
- The ability to speak and write in French highly desirable and would be an advantage for applicants to this role

Key duties and responsibilities

1. Coordinate the Congo Now coalition

- Negotiating, planning and coordinating Congo Now events in collaboration with coalition members and making the events happen, including planning and organising venues, writing joint press releases, contacting attendees and organising contributors
- Contribute to overall strategy to ensure the campaign is shaped so as to achieve its goals and have the maximum practical impact
- Ensuring that the concerns of each coalition member are represented within the campaign under the banner of Congo Now
- Building and maintaining links with the Congolese civil society, parliament, and the Congolese community in the UK to ensure their engagement during the campaign, guaranteeing that the Congolese voice is well represented and clearly heard throughout without compromising the non-political nature of the campaign.
- Working closely with volunteers, members of the Congolese diaspora, and APPG staff who are associated with the coalition
- Generating ideas and event suggestions to make the campaign effective and engage the public, in a way that represents and compliment the campaigns and concerns of individual coalition members
- Working with and building upon existing networks within the NGO coalition and developing these further to broaden the outreach of Congo Now

2. Project Management

- Contacting artists, celebrities, writers, academics and other key targets and facilitating their buy-in to Congo Now 2010
- Timetabling and coordinating events during the anniversary period
- Taking charge of campaigning on behalf of coalition members including creating and distributing campaign materials and increasing Congo Now's online presence
- Building new contacts with civil society, academics and other interested stakeholders
- Liaison with the US Congressional caucus on the African Great Lakes and with key partners in French, Belgian and German and European parliaments
- Liaise with and generate buy-in from NGOs and other stakeholders in Europe and the USA to widen the scope of the coalition and the associated campaign.

3. Press/media

- Lead on media liaison – including press releases, maintaining and developing networks and ensuring media coverage of all events
- Letter writing and article writing – advertising and representing Congo Now using a wide variety of written media
- Maintaining and updating the Congo Now website, creating and coordinating online communication media and using these to their full potential to create the greatest possible online Congo Now presence and impact

To Apply

Please send CV and brief covering letter by **18h00 on Friday 13th November 2009** outlining how your experience suits you for the role, to Congo Now, c/o Sophia Pickles, Room 514, Portcullis House, House of Commons, London SW1A 2LW. Email submission preferred to pickless@parliament.uk Candidates invited for interview will be asked to suggest two ideas for events or initiatives to make the campaign effective.