

Christian Aid, United Kingdom

Ms. Jane Backhurst

Organisation Profile

Christian Aid has worked with partners in up to 37 countries for over 70 years through humanitarian response, development and advocacy. We have provided practical support to meet the social and economic needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised; responded to the emergency needs of people and communities displaced by conflict and disasters; exposed and challenged the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised; and supported the building of local agency. We have done so standing in solidarity with others across the world, alleviating suffering, saving lives and restoring dignity, and building a movement for justice for all.

We are a member of ACT Alliance, an alliance of 150 organisations working together in over 100 countries.

Christian Aid has a long history of working before, during and after emergencies. We have been committed to locally led response since our formation. This way of working has been recognised across the sector as critical in responding effectively to humanitarian crises. We have played a leading role in the Charter for Change movement, and in working within the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream, as well as the Grand Bargain Participation and Cash Workstreams. We have been at the forefront in developing innovative ways of working in emergencies, pioneering practical models of implementing localisation commitments through Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships, Survivor and Community Led Response, and assisting communities by improving their emergency preparedness and resilience. We have played a leading role in the development of accountability to affected populations over the past 10 years; this is central to our belief in putting the agency of people at the centre of our work. We were one of the first organisations to be certified by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership and, in line with the Core Humanitarian Standard.

Nominee Information

Ms. Jane Backhurst



Gender: *Female*

Job title: *Senior Adviser*

It has been a privilege to serve the ICVA network within ICVA's Board these past six years, helping to set a reinvigorated direction through the 2030 Strategy and lead the strategy through the first three of its nine years, completing a process of change, consolidation and focus. In the last three years as Chair, Jane has worked with the Board and Executive Director to lead the organisation through multiple responses, set a vision for diversity, equity and inclusion, represent ICVA on the UN IASC Principals, support leadership transition, including the design and launch of our recruitment process for a new Executive Director prior to maternity leave, pursue localisation, and promote collective action and commitments to tackle escalating hunger and climate change. As a Board we adjusted to Covid, and Christian Aid seconded dedicated staff to ICVA to support localisation during the Covid response. Prior to this Jane served as Vice-Chair of ICVA,

supporting the Chair, and serving on the IASC Deputies Group. In her first term on the ICVA Board, as Chair of the ICVA Board's Programmes, Policy and Advocacy Committee Jane worked with the Board and staff to help strengthen mutually reinforcing action across ICVA's work, and optimise the collective and timely response across members to crises by developing a Proactive Positioning Model to support local and national NGOs to collectively raise the alert. At that time Jane also represented ICVA on the GP20 Steering Group comprised of State and NGO representatives leading the global campaign on internal displacement.

As the 2030 Strategy sets out, ICVA members will need to continue to operate within restrictive spaces: tackling impediments to humanitarian access; issues of over-assertive sovereignty and shrinking civic space; the politicization of aid; the lack of impunity; and the impacts of climate change.

However, three years into the 2030 Strategy, in Palestine, Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan, and elsewhere, we are yet again witnessing an escalation in extreme impunity, further politicisation and disrespect for international law, and attacks which question our basic humanity.

Alongside this, the humanitarian community has not made adequate progress on commitments to address systemic gaps in humanitarian financing, resilience, climate resilience, and anticipatory action.

Working with the rest of ICVA's Board, we would serve the interests of all ICVA members to:

increase ICVA's global reach and influence to help collectively and robustly tackle the fundamental challenge to humanity and humanitarian principles which we all face;
reinvigorate our joint efforts for joint, ambitious and proactive responses to address vital practical issues during responses, including continued global action to tackle impunity and uphold international law, hunger, and pursue mechanisms and funding for climate resilience, anticipatory and early action;
promote the critical role and value of an eco-system of diverse NGOs in humanitarian action rather than a trend of resources favouring large agencies;

the leadership of humanitarian response by national and local NGOs, including principled faith-based actors, and the agency of affected populations in the driving seat of response;
the value of cash-based responses, and approaches that take advantage of an appropriate nexus of humanitarian and development aid.

We would do this by:

Continuing to pursue proactive and robust collective action in response to attacks on civilians, and our common humanity;
Continuing to promote and pursue robust good governance and ICVA's values;
Reinvigorating our Board's vision and action plan for diversity, equity and inclusion;
A renewed focus on our collective 2030 Strategy as we approach the half way point;
Supporting stability as we come out of a transition for the secretariat.

Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for

- ***Chair – No***