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THE UK REFUGEE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS > 4 TIMES HIGHER THAN THE BRITISH POPULATION. WE NEED TO ACT NOW.

The refugee unemployment rate in the UK is 18%; this is more than four times higher than the British population (3.9%). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation is now far worse than it has ever been. This is one of the greatest issues affecting people with refugee status in our country.

Sona Circle Recruitment co-founder, Archibald Troko states, "Right now, more needs to be done to enable refugees to support themselves, their families and their livelihoods. This is why Sona Circle is seeking the support of the public".

Sona Circle Recruitment is a non-profit social enterprise which connects socially conscious employers with the skilled and dependable refugee workforce in the UK. The company strives to promote workplace equality by creating employment opportunities for refugees through targeted internship and employment programmes.

"By creating paid employment and a route into the UK job market for refugees, Sona Circle programmes directly benefit the > 150,000 refugees in the UK", Mr Troko states.

The mission of the programme is to give refugees the chance to experience innovative working environments, which they otherwise might not have the chance to experience, and to combat the largely elitist work placement system that exist currently in our country.

One of the key issues faced by refugees in the UK is integration; both culturally and in the labour market.

"Employment programmes enable refugees to gain and perfect essential skills, build confidence while also improving language and communication skills, as well as benefiting from cultural exposure and inclusion", says Mr Troko.

To date, Sona Circle has placed over 100 refugees in opportunities (including employment, internships, apprenticeships, volunteering and skills development). They have partnered with over 30 refugee related organisations in the UK while building an online community of over 35,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the UK alongside mentors, volunteers, aid organisations and employers.

Sona Circle's mission in 2020 is to create 100 new employment opportunities for refugees in the UK. It will require the combined efforts, donations and support of the public and private sector to achieve this ambitious target.

You can contribute by making a donation on Just Giving to the Sona Circle Refugee Employment Fund where all donations go directly towards facilitating refugee employment in the UK.

Mr Troko adds, "Your taking action now, will have a truly long term impact and life-long implications for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK".

"In this time of crisis, we all need to come together and do our bit to promoting equality and inclusiveness in this wonderful country of ours".

*** End of press release***

For more information, visit Sona Circle Recruitment website at www.sonacircle.com.