

# fact sheet 03

## charter for effective volunteering

valuing volunteering

### Volunteers' rights

- To know if, and how, they are being selected
- To be given meaningful work to do
- To know what is expected from them
- To be offered appropriate training
- To be thanked and to have their voluntary contribution recognised
- To receive supervision and support
- To get something out of the work for themselves
- To know who to go to if there is a problem
- To be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred when volunteering
- To make mistakes and learn from them
- To be made aware of any disciplinary and grievance procedures
- To be treated fairly and not to experience discrimination
- To have safe working conditions, including insurance cover
- To be informed about, and given the opportunity to play an active part in the organisation as a whole
- To be able to say 'no' and to leave without feeling guilty

### Volunteers' responsibilities

- To respect the values and aims of the organisation
- To be committed
- To be reliable and give the organisation sufficient warning if unable to turn up
- To be punctual
- To attend essential training and support sessions
- To undertake the work to a high standard
- To be honest if there are problems
- To respect confidentiality
- To leave when asked and/or when no longer enjoying the volunteering experience

### Organisations' responsibilities

- To ensure the volunteering experience is a rewarding one
- To ensure equal access and not to discriminate
- To define clear, meaningful roles for volunteers
- To have policies and procedures for volunteers
- To provide all necessary information to volunteers
- To be available for volunteers
- To provide training where necessary
- To thank and value volunteers
- To provide insurance cover
- To inform volunteers of any legal liabilities
- To supervise and to provide support
- To reimburse out-of-pocket expenses
- To provide a safe working environment

### Organisations' rights

- To look for certain qualities and skills in volunteers
- To select only volunteers who are suitable for the work
- To draw up a volunteer agreement or 'contract'
- To ask for tasks to be done in a particular way
- To ask for commitment
- To ask for reliability
- To ask for punctuality
- To deal with disciplinary and grievance matters
- To ask volunteers to leave if their involvement hinders the organisation achieving its goals

### volunteering ireland

18 Eustace Street,  
Temple Bar  
Dublin 2  
t (+353 1) 636 9446  
e [info@volunteeringireland.ie](mailto:info@volunteeringireland.ie)  
w [www.volunteeringireland.ie](http://www.volunteeringireland.ie)