



Humanist
Chaplaincy
Network





What is a Humanist Chaplain?

Humanism is the belief that you can lead a good life without god. It is the belief that we only have one life and that we should make the most of it, for ourselves and for our fellow human beings. Humanists make sense of the world by means of reason and evidence while rejecting superstition. It is a positive outlook that focuses on the importance of human cooperation and compassion for solving problems.

The Humanist Chaplain provides pastoral care based on Humanist principles. The Humanist Chaplain gives information, advice, and consultation about existential questions.

What is a Humanist Chaplain for?

Typically, a Humanist Chaplain works within an organisation, and within that organisation provides a Humanist perspective for those who want it. That can be anybody who just wants a friendly chat, education about Humanism, or discuss more difficult issues. We believe that our chaplaincy can increase the well being of individuals, but we would like to stress that chaplains are not health care professionals or professional counsellors.



Volunteering as a Chaplain

Do you consider yourself a Humanist? Do you want to support people who need help? Then why not consider becoming a volunteer Humanist Chaplain. Our network supports people such as yourself in providing the much needed Humanist perspective in organisations and society as a whole.

What does it involve?

Humanist Chaplains are there to offer a friendly ear and advice from a Humanist perspective. You need to have an understanding of Humanism and a desire to help people when they need someone to talk to.

If you want to take the role further there is plenty more to get involved in too – providing drop in sessions, consulting on ethical issues with local government and other authorities and much more.

What support will I get?

We will be there to support you all the way! We provide training,



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information and a support network including a mentoring scheme to make sure you get all the support you need. To find out more about the support we offer, see our website.

Why should I volunteer?

Being a Humanist Chaplain is incredibly rewarding. One of the tenets of humanism is to improve people's life through human compassion and friendship. A chaplain is there to provide compassion and friendship for fellow people in an organisation such as a university or hospital.

We provide training which comes with its own certification and such experience is one of the best ways to bolster your CV as more and more employers are looking to people who can work well with and support their colleagues.



Becoming a Humanist Chaplain

To become a Humanist Chaplaincy Network recognised chaplain, the application process works as follows:

1. You are a humanist and active member of your local humanist group.
2. You complete the application form, supported by references from your local group and character references.
3. We verify your application and, if suitable, accept you into the network as a chaplain in training.
4. You study the educational material we provide.
5. You complete an online exam to show you have the skills and knowledge to act as a Humanist Chaplain. You also need to sign up to the code of conduct.
6. We welcome you as the newest member of the network!



About the HCN

The Humanist Chaplaincy Network is run by the Chris Worfolk Foundation, a charity based in Leeds, United Kingdom. We are registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales, and our registration number is 1137220.

www.humanistchaplaincy.org
www.chrisworfolkfoundation.org

Who coordinates the network?

Dr. Gijsbert Stoet is originally from the Netherlands, where he grew up and studied for his undergraduate degree in Psychology. He received his summa cum laude doctoral degree in Psychology at the Munich Ludwig–Maximilians–University



Gijsbert has been active in local and national humanist groups for many years. Currently, he serves as a Humanist Chaplain at the University of Leeds (UK).