

We are excited to be looking for an individual with experience of leadership and senior management who can chair our board of trustees.

Irise International is committed to creating a world where no girl is held back by their period and over the last five years has been working to bring an evidence based approach and perspective to menstrual health. It is only in recent years that the issue has been recognised as a neglected girls' rights and health issue and much work is needed to inform policy and practice in the UK and East Africa.

We are completing the process of developing our strategic priorities for the next five years and have recruited a number of new trustees from different backgrounds and disciplines to support the charity as it enters its next phase of development. The chair will bring together this new team and senior staff to build a shared vision and strong foundation for future success.

Over the last five years Irise has conducted some of the first research in east Africa to develop school based menstrual health interventions and measure their impact. As part of this work we have developed a locally manufactured reusable pad now being supplied to communities across eastern Uganda by a network of 200 entrepreneurs, a tried and tested menstrual health curriculum and resource set that has been accessed by over 50 organisations and have directly supported over 100,000 girls to stay happy and healthy during their periods. We have also worked with the Ugandan government to integrate this issue into policy and curricula.

We are now working with a wide range of partners to understand and dismantle menstrual stigma and taboos in recognition that these social norms are an overlooked barrier to effective and sustainable intervention. We believe that a multidisciplinary, multisector approach is essential to building an evidence base on this issue and are positioned at the intersection between research and practice. This enables us to bring together researchers and practitioners to respond to the needs and challenges identified by girls and their communities. Our current DFID funded project tests the added benefits of community leadership as part of delivering a menstrual health intervention in Ugandan schools with support from academics at the University of Leeds.

In recognition of the challenges girls in the UK face during their periods we recently extended our work to this context, starting with open, participatory workshops with young people in order to better understand their needs and experiences in keeping with our core values to place girls' voices at the centre of everything we do. We were thrilled to recently receive a grant from the Let's Talk Period Project, which is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through the Tampon Tax Fund and delivered in partnership with Brook Charity and Plan International UK.

Irise brings together individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds and cultures creating a dynamic and passionate team who are committed to building innovative and sustainable solutions to the challenges girls face during their periods whilst supporting women's leadership at all levels of the organisation.

We are looking forward to meeting our next Chair- if you think it could be you, please get in touch at emily@irise.org.uk

Please visit <http://www.irise.org.uk/job-and-volunteer-opportunities.html> to download the full role description.