

Portland

The Portland Trust is an internationally-renowned NGO that has worked for almost 20 years on Palestinian economic development to aid a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Portland works both to influence policy in Tel Aviv, Ramallah, and Washington, and to deliver projects and programmes on the ground with tangible impact. Often working behind the scenes, Portland has been instrumental in IT training programmes solving the skills bottleneck in the Palestinian digital ecosystem, enabling projects that have brought Druze and Bedouin women into the skilled workforce for the first time, and the founding of the first new planned Palestinian City, Rawabi, in the West Bank, now home to 5,000 households and Palestine's premier tech hub.

Portland's Chairman is Sir Ronald Cohen, who founded one of the world's leading private equity and venture capital firms, is chair of the G7's Global Steering Group on Impact Investment and a leading global thought leader on social impact investment and other social finance mechanisms. Other Trustees include Sir Mick Davis, CEO of X2 Resources, formerly of Xstrata, Sir Harry Solomon and Nicola Cobbold. Our Chief Executive is Baron Frankal. The Trust is based at Portland Place in London and has offices in central Ramallah and Tel Aviv.

You will be joining Portland at a time of change and evolution, as we approach the end of our first twenty years with a major international event to celebrate the Trust's successful impact and open a new chapter of our development you will be key to forming and delivering.

The Role

Ambitious candidates are invited to apply to become the Trust's Head of Policy and Communication. This highly-prestigious post is core to the small strategic team in our London headquarters and will have a role and remit spanning all areas of policy and communication. Working directly to the CEO, as postholder you will manage all aspects of the Trust's internal and external communications across all our operations and be central to stakeholder relations, CRM, fundraising and a wide range of policy development issues, on which you will lead. You will advise on and be a direct part of all large Portland projects, including the rollout of a ground-breaking nationwide private sector pension scheme in Palestine and the scaling up various programmes for Palestinians, Druze, and Bedouin in both Palestine and Israel.

As the strategic and operational lead in communications, you can expect to be working at the highest level on these projects, as well as other day-to-day activities of the Trust, involving exposure to Ministerial level in the UK and the region, high-ranking civil servants and the C-suite private sector counterparties that form the core engine of Portland's work, as well as bodies such as the US State Dept, the World Bank, the European Commission, Gulf country counterparties and the United Nations. The successful candidate will regularly visit the region and other locations, such as the US, as and when relevant. You will be part of a wide variety of high-level discussions and considerations, including generating ideas, situation analysis, business case development and institutional governance.

We support our people's development. This is a career accelerator role designed for a motivated and aspirational professional who punches above their weight.

Candidate Requirements

- Evidenced ability to communicate complex issues and ideas with precision and clarity and to communicate effectively at all levels
- Several years' experience of public or private sector policy development or external affairs, showing capability to develop reasoned, evidence-based positions through analysis of policy, legislation or regulation, with concrete examples of impacting policy agendas
- Experience of building and maintaining stakeholder relations and networks
- Experience of communications strategies and messaging that influence and shape organisational and external narratives, and cutting-edge knowledge of multiple media distribution channels
- Passion for what you do, and what Portland does
- Self-motivated and results-oriented individual who demonstrates the ability to deliver clear objectives and excel under tight deadlines, delivering quality results within agreed timetables
- A collaborative team player, capable of matrix management and working across teams internationally
- Ability to produce and curate high-quality written work to publication standard, including writing, editing and commenting on research publications, web content and other materials
- Excellent command of English; abilities in Arabic or Hebrew an advantage
- Experience of stewarding donors, fundraising management systems/CRM and developing partnerships, collaborations and proposals is an advantage
- Experience in economic development, finance, investment, enterprise, employment, skills, infrastructure, transport and regeneration is an advantage
- Experience of working internationally, especially in the region, are advantages
- Demonstrating the highest professional levels of ethical conduct, and integrity; able to deputise for the CEO where appropriate
- Legally able to work in the UK and travel to Israel, Palestine and more widely

Benefits

Portland offers a vibrant and dynamic working environment and the opportunity for leadership across the whole area of policy and communications at an established and influential player with a track record of impact in a highly-sensitive area of major global concern.

We also offer a competitive salary, above average for the sector, together with a pension scheme, travel and personal development opportunities.

The role is full-time, permanent, and based in London. Like most businesses we are adapting our working practices to the current circumstances.

Further information about the Portland Trust is available at www.portlandtrust.org

Candidates should send a CV (of no more than 3 pages) and a brief covering letter to: Simone.Gerlis@portlandtrust.org before 26 January 2022.