**Communications Employment Job Description**

**Rate: Living Wage**

**Hours: 5hrs/week guaranteed**

**Reporting to: Sarah McCulloch**

**Who we are**

Autistic people are a minority among the global population, and we have been so marginalised and maltreated that the idea that autistic people are really just deformed neurotypical people who must accept what they give us has become part of our own understanding of ourselves. This is not acceptable.

The Autistic Empire is a vision of a society built by and for autistic people, who may enrol as citizens with all the freedoms and rights of citizenship. We will create autistic-majority spaces in which we are the dominant culture, and form a community of citizens who confront and solve our challenges as a people, together. Regardless of our size, we will invert the language used to enforce hierarchies over us and create a proud, imperial self-identity and sense of communal belonging.

The Autistic Empire was founded by Sarah McCulloch and supported by multiple volunteers. Sarah graduated with a BA in Theology and Religious Studies from the University of Manchester and an MSc in Occupational Therapy from London South Bank University. Sarah’s highly negative experiences of being an adult with autism interacting with the mental health system strongly influenced her career plans and in 2013 she embarked on the path to becoming an occupational therapist in order to change the way our society treats autistic people and how we view ourselves.

1. You can read more about our vision on our website: <http://www.autisticempire.com>. We are currently building our capacity and aim to start enrolling citizens in the final quarter of 2018.

**What we need**

We are looking for someone to take on a communications role to promote our vision and our work to the public and support the development of an online community to share and build on our ideas.

We already have Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest accounts, in descending order of importance.

We have limited resources and anticipate this being more of a curation and maintenance role rather than a particularly creative or demanding one at this time. We have an existing strategy from the previous communications officer that we can supply. We already have much material in various forms and will be very responsive to producing it in different forms as necessary.

**Who we are looking for**

The Autistic Empire is being run on dreams, goodwill and someone who works a full-time job to pay for it all. To make this possible, you need to be able to work by yourself with support and direction to execute a strategy and not require validation of every decision – equally, you must be aware of the limits of your role and the way in which it coordinates with the programme of work for the Empire.

This role will suit someone looking to return to work, or perhaps as part of a portfolio career with other contracts, or who is receiving ESA. The Autistic Empire is being privately funded and thus has limited resources. As it grows, we can allocate greater funds to the communications budget.

**Essential criteria**

* Understanding and knowledge of what it means to be autistic.
* Entrepreneurial spirit and ability to work independently from home.
* Ability to work to deadlines and effectively communicate.
* Familiarity with or ability to learn to use, Whatsapp, Facebook pages, and Twitter.
* Commitment to the vision of autism as a neurological reality and not an illness, impairment or matter for pity.
* Demonstrable communication or marketing skills (the nature of this is very flexible given the high rates of unemployment in the autistic community, but essential).

**Desirable criteria**

* Previous communications or marketing experience.
* Effective team-working skills.
* Experience with graphic design software.
* Ability to use phones.
* Ability to attend monthly Council meetings on Sunday afternoons 4-6pm.

Please email [Sarahi@autisticempire.com](mailto:Sarahi@autisticempire.com) with CV and covering letter.

Interviews will be arranged in person or by Skype.