

Online editor

Three days per week, £25,750 per annum pro rata

Could you help Red Pepper thrive at a time of great challenges for the left? We're looking for a motivated and innovative activist-journalist with a knack for spotting stories and a commitment to independent leftwing media.

Red Pepper is a radical media project built around a bimonthly print magazine. Established in 1994 as an accessible, independent publication with socialist, feminist and ecological politics, we seek to provide a space for reflection, debate and education for the left and social movements.

While the project is mainly volunteer-run, the online editor is a new position we are creating to be able to keep up a daily pace of relevant and informative articles on our website, and promote them effectively on social media. The website is the main source of new subscriptions to the print magazine, so your work would play a vital role alongside the subscriptions coordinator in keeping Red Pepper viable.

It is also a chance to make a journalistic impact out of proportion to the magazine's small size, as 'hit' articles on the website have drawn in very large numbers of readers in the past. To be clear, we don't want to produce clickbait, instead aiming to employ someone with a keen eye for what a must-read article would look like on a given day.

Key responsibilities

- Commission, sub-edit and publish articles on the Red Pepper website
- Keep an editorial calendar of upcoming events and articles to ensure publication of at least one relevant article per day (including some articles taken from the print edition), working with our volunteer editorial collective
- Maintain Red Pepper's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, including not only sharing articles but posting other material, eg. topical tweets
- React fast to topical political developments
- Help build a network of volunteer writers beyond the magazine's existing contributors, to make Red Pepper a platform and resource for important debates and campaigns
- Respond to submissions sent to the magazine, working with writers to improve those with potential
- Write headlines and standfirsts designed to boost an article's shareability, and select images to go with them
- Send out 'Pepperista', our email update, on a regular basis
- Work with the subscriptions coordinator to ensure the website and social media drives new subscriptions to the print magazine
- Manage basic technical aspects of the website, eg. tags and categories within the Wordpress system
- Where possible, pursue any opportunities that arise to produce low-cost audio and video content
- Where possible, commission and promote online articles that may be newsworthy to progressive parts of the mainstream press

- Be accountable to the management committee for week to week work
- Organise and report to quarterly board meetings
- Any other tasks which may be required by the board from time to time

Person specification

Essential

- Previous journalistic experience, whether voluntary or paid
- Good communication skills, especially the ability to write clearly and persuasively
- A good understanding of UK politics, especially on the left, including regional and national differences
- Experience of campaigning, activism or organising, with knowledge of both the party-political left and social movements, and ability to make new connections
- Ability to work independently but in a consultative manner
- Experience of using social media to promote events, organisations or causes
- 'News sense' for topicality, 'eye' for potential virality and 'flair' to commission beyond Red Pepper's existing pools of writers
- A commitment to Red Pepper's political outlook, and to pluralism on the left
- Experience using online publishing systems such as Wordpress

Desirable

- Formal training in journalism, eg. NCTJ or university
- Knowledge of international left politics and organisations
- Experience of working in publishing or marketing
- Experience of managing volunteers
- Basic knowledge of HTML and potential pitfalls of text formatting online

Terms of employment

Red Pepper's staff structure is non-hierarchical, with pay parity – currently set at £25,750 pro rata. Staff are line managed through a management committee made up of the staff themselves and two members of the board.

Holidays are 25 days a year plus bank holidays, all pro rata. In addition the office is closed between Christmas and New Year. Evening and weekend work is sometimes required, for which time off in lieu is given. Red Pepper offers flexible working.

Applying

Please send a CV and covering letter explaining why you would like the role and how you meet the points of the person specification to tom@redpepper.org.uk

Closing date: 1 September

Interviews: early September

Red Pepper welcomes applications from everyone, but as a socialist-feminist magazine we particularly encourage applications from women. Appointment will be on the basis of merit.