

**IT'S GOOD TO**

*talk*

**SO WE'RE HERE  
TO LISTEN**



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**Non-Religious Pastoral  
Support Network**

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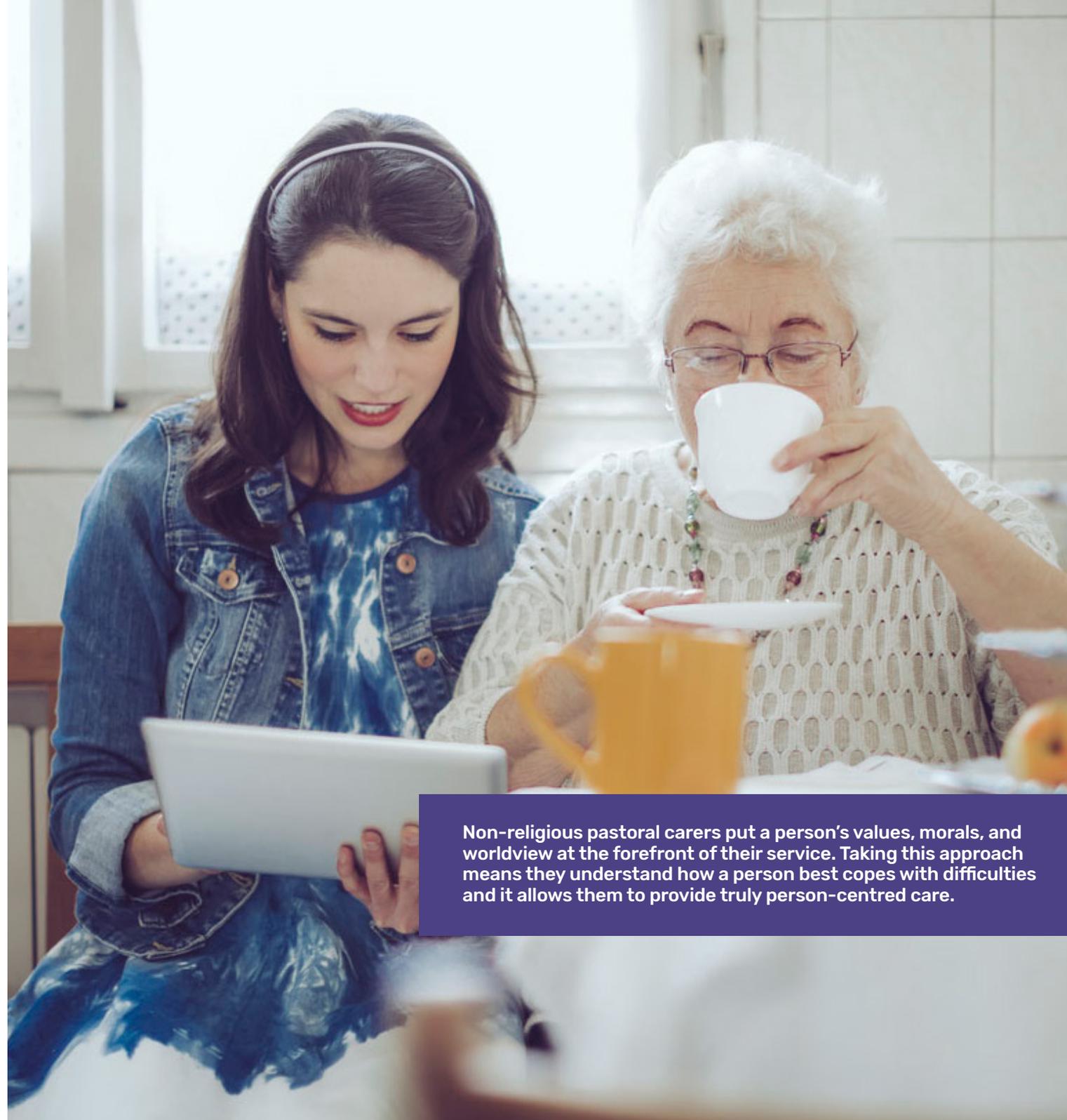
## WHO WE ARE

We are a network of trained and accredited pastoral carers who provide support to everyone regardless of religion or belief, and specifically offer like-minded support to non-religious people.

We ensure the highest standards from our members by sustaining a supportive community of practice. We also highlight the need for non-religious pastoral support within organisations across the UK, making sure people have access to the care they need when they need it.

We believe that equality of provision matters. People in need of support should be able to choose to speak to someone who shares their worldview. Until recently, public institutions looked to people from religious communities to be the sole providers of this kind of service.

With over half of the UK population now identifying as non-religious, we believe it should be a top priority for institutions to increase the number of non-religious carers within pastoral, spiritual, and religious care departments. We are working to increase the availability of care in the forms that people need across all sectors and services.



**Non-religious pastoral carers put a person's values, morals, and worldview at the forefront of their service. Taking this approach means they understand how a person best copes with difficulties and it allows them to provide truly person-centred care.**



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## OUR WORK

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We train and develop a highly effective network of pastoral carers to support people who need help. Through our bespoke induction programme, we are able to train, assess, and endorse non-religious pastoral care providers and ensure the highest quality of care.

We also offer ongoing support to our members through clinical supervision and continuing professional development. We work with strategic bodies like the NHS and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service as well as various chaplaincy groups involved in the provision of pastoral, spiritual, and religious care.

Our aim is to make sure these bodies better understand the pastoral care needs of non-religious people and cooperate with us in implementing policies, plans, and practices so that those needs are met.

Currently, we have volunteers operating in healthcare, prisons, and universities. We are now looking to expand this offering to the armed forces, residential care homes, the emergency services, and community settings that would benefit from pastoral support services. Our members meet people in an environment where they can feel comfortable, providing an important alternative to religious support.

# HEALTHCARE AND PRISONS

Spending time in a hospital or in a hospice can be a difficult experience for patients, carers, their friends, and their families. At times it can also be emotionally challenging for staff too.

We believe it's crucial that everyone who enters these institutions is given the choice to speak to someone who shares their worldview. We're able to offer like-minded care to people who are non-religious, but we provide care to everybody regardless of religion or belief.

In prisons, non-religious people can also request and be provided with a non-religious pastoral carer in the same way that a religious person can request care. Non-religious prisoners can become isolated by the lack of like-minded support available to them, choosing not to engage with the religious provision on offer.

Often they have issues which are designated as legal or health-related, but are also in need of supplementary pastoral care, especially in cases involving bereavement or other personal difficulties. Similar to the provision in hospitals, family members and prison staff are able to access our service and receive support.



**Our person-centred approach has ensured that many patients, families, and staff with a wide range of religious and philosophical beliefs have received support, who before now would have missed out.**



Our volunteers come from all walks of life but they share a number of common qualities: a personable disposition, a non-judgemental attitude, a keen commitment to helping others, a strenuous work ethic, patience, and a desire to work collaboratively with team members of other religions and beliefs.

Humanists UK accredits members to the Non-Religious Pastoral Support Network and endorses them to work and volunteer in various institutions including healthcare, prisons, and universities.

Our endorsement procedures are maintained by a thorough recruitment process, an induction training programme, and a careful assessment of the competencies and capabilities required to provide care to a high standard. Accreditation is subject to members successfully completing further training provided by the relevant institution.

**To find out about training and how you can become a member of the NRPSN contact: [info@nrpsn.org.uk](mailto:info@nrpsn.org.uk)**

**To arrange for a non-religious pastoral support volunteer contact: [jessica@nrpsn.org.uk](mailto:jessica@nrpsn.org.uk)**

Humanists UK is a registered charity no. 285987 and limited company no. 228781 in England and Wales. Humanists UK, 39 Moreland Street, London, EC1V 8BB, 020 7324 3060

[nrpsn.org.uk](http://nrpsn.org.uk)