

Introducing START's new chairs

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Viv Horton and Daniel Steel as the new co-chairs of START trustee board. They are passionate about START's values and way of working and they have the full confidence of the team and the board.

Viv has been a trustee for START since 2003 and is honoured to take up a new role of Co-Chair. Her background is in social work, education, and community development in the UK and internationally.



Daniel joined START's Board of Trustees in October last year. He is a Plymouth-based Civil Servant who has lived and worked in Colombia, Egypt and Afghanistan. He has worked on refugee-related issues both domestically and internationally.



This new system of co-chairs is one that aligns with the non-hierarchical structure of the organisation and will, I believe, support its continuing growth and development as circumstances change. As the founder, I have chaired the board for over 20 years and am aware that my continued presence is a source of vulnerability. I am committed to promoting the longevity and resilience of this fantastic organisation, and history tells us that healthy organisations do not depend on individuals. We have been supported to review our governance by Lloyds Enhance programme and most recently by the Charities Aid Foundation. With their support we have managed a careful transition to this new robust structure which will carry START forward to whatever challenges lie ahead.

I will continue to offer my support as a volunteer in whatever way is helpful. The team have asked me to continue to act as research co-ordinator and professional supervisor for international students for the time being and I will come to Cultural Kitchen and other events. I feel fortunate to be associated with all the people that make START such a force for good and am confident that it will grow from strength to strength.

Thank you
Avril Bellinger