

## BIEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### PERSONAL STATEMENT – AOIFE HEGARTY

I wish to stand for the position of Fundraiser for the BIEN Executive Committee.

Since hearing about the idea of Basic Income some years ago, I have been interested in the concept and in bringing the idea to a wider audience. Given that I have spent several years moving countries, I felt that helping out on a global level was the best choice for me to assist the vision of BIEN. For this reason, around 18 months ago I contacted BIEN to volunteer and I would like now to become more involved, because I would like to use my abilities in service ideas I believe in.

I believe that in an age where employers, especially large, global employers can exercise a lot of power and influence, and where many livelihoods are being replaced by automation, that Basic Income offers the best chance at redressing the balance of power between labour and capital - for all workers and especially the most vulnerable – and to allow citizens in all areas of the world to consider and choose how they may best use their interests, talents and energies to serve their countries, communities and families. Basic Income is a natural extension of the social net provided in many countries by governments, and in some cases by non government organisations.

My personal and professional network is wide and varied, having worked in many industries, and across two different continents. I hope to be able to use the power of this network for BIEN and that my experience with strategy can assist in shaping the fundraising vision and implementation for BIEN. I have experience with managing volunteers in self organising structures through my work with Vipassana in Africa and in Burn events in Europe.

I have operated in vastly differing contexts and I am equally at home in the boardrooms of Europe as in the street markets of East Africa. I welcome diversity of opinion in working groups and have an interest in listening to opposition to BI to understand the challenges of its acceptance.

The next steps, were I to be elected, would be to spend some time to better understand the immediate and longer term needs of the organisation regarding fundraising, to finalise the strategy for fundraising so that volunteers can work with us easily, and to open a dialogue and working processes with BIEN marketing so we can support each other's activities.