



COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 3480722

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1075163

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE
(a company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CONTENTS

Company information	Page No. 2
Report of the trustees	3
Structure and governance	3
Objectives and activities	4
Achievements and performance	5
Key achievements	
1. Specialist services for Latin American migrant women in the UK	6
2. Speaking up: working for social justice	11
3. Migrant women as agents of structural and systemic change	14
4. Supporting Latin American Migrant Women's Integration	15
5. Training in the Community	18
Plans for 2025-2026	19
And a big thank you	19
Financial review	19
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	20
Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of the Latin American Women's Rights Service	22
Statement of financial activities	25
Balance sheet	26
Statement of cash flows	27
Notes to the accounts	28-40

COMPANY INFORMATION

Trustees	Vanessa Gabriel-Robinson (resigned 30 November 2024) Renata Neuwirth Peppl Sandra Hayne Andrea Bustamante Vivas (resigned 26 February 2025) Fernanda Munhoz Isabel Graefin Von Medem Maria Rosa Torres Sejin Silvana Grossi Sofia Condes Diaz-Martinez Mariana Brandenburgo (appointed 15 July 2024) Sara Cristina Zavala Gutierrez (appointed 30 November 2024)
Secretary	Gisela Valle
Chief Executive Officer (known as Director)	Gisela Valle
Registered office	Tindlemanor 52 - 54 Featherstone Street London EC1Y 8RT
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank four Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2JB
Auditors	Knox Cropper 65/68 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2AD
Company registration number	3480722
Registered charity number	1075163

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are directors of the company for Companies Act purposes, present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. This is a directors' report required by S417 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Governing instrument

The Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS) is a charitable company incorporated on 15 December 1997 and registered as a charity on 19 April 1999. The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

Recruitment and appointment of directors

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the company's Articles they are known as company directors.

LAWRS is a membership organisation. Members (98 as of 31 March 2025), are entitled to vote and to stand for election to the Board of Directors at the AGM. Directors are elected to serve for one year at a time. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association, one third of the Board members, specifically those who have been longest in office since the last election, shall retire from office. A retiring officer shall be eligible for re-election. Directors are entitled to appoint new directors for vacancies on the Board to ensure it has a range of skills and competences.

Organisational structure

The Board of Directors is responsible for strategic direction, policy-making and overall control of the charity. Members bring a variety of backgrounds and skills relevant to their governance roles and LAWRS' work. The Company Secretary attends Board meetings but has no voting rights. In addition to office holding posts (chair, vice chair and treasurer), individual trustees support specific areas of the work as lead trustees for specific projects, and are accountable to the full committee.

The Board meets every one to two months. The Board of Directors makes decisions on strategy, compliance, accountability and monitors risk, budget, and operations. As part of its work, the Board approves the charity's business plan, annual work programmes, annual budget and receives quarterly financial reports to control the charity's performance against budgets. Day-to-day operations, staff management and operational decisions are delegated to the Director who receives supervision from the Chair.

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Directors' induction and training

Following election/appointment each new director receives a Trustee Information Pack detailing roles and responsibilities, legal and financial information of the company, its business plan and its operational policies. A trustee induction is delivered following election of new members, which may include spending some time at the offices of the charity to acquaint themselves with everyday operations, staff and services. The company secretary shares opportunities of external training with Board members.

Risk mitigation

The trustees reviewed their risk assessment on 28th April 2025. The trustees at various meeting during the year have examined likely risks of constitutional, financial, governance, management, operations, fundraising, external influences, human resources and health and safety and agreed measures to reduce and mitigate risks. Agreed actions, systems and procedures to mitigate risks have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

Policies and legislation affecting migrant women, cuts in the welfare system, reduced avenues to access justice, the increase in cost of living crisis, and the demonisation of migration coupled with increased demand for services, against a reduction in funding continue to present risks to the financial sustainability of the organisation. Despite good results this year, the Trustees continue to consider measures to mitigate risks associated with dependency on grant funding and continue attempting to diversify funding streams and secure financial sustainability.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary of Charitable Objects

The purposes of the charity as set out in the Memorandum of Association are: "To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of Latin American women and their children living in the UK by providing advice, information and support in the areas of welfare benefits, health, housing, education, employment and training, immigration, family and the relief of poverty and distress".

LAWRS' mission is "to pursue equal rights and social justice for all Latin American women and migrant women in the UK". The work of LAWRS is guided by three strategic drivers which are: combating poverty; tackling gender-based violence; and nurturing full participation in our new communities. These drivers are underpinned by a common thread which is to contribute to creating an environment that protects migrant women's physical integrity and security and provides us full and equitable economic, social and political rights.

Public benefit

The trustees have received briefing and training to ensure that the work of LAWRS adheres to the Charity Commission's guidance on "Charities and Public Benefit" and strictly furthers LAWRS' charitable purposes for public benefit. In implementing their duties under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees considered the restrictions to benefit a section of the public, based on ethnic/national origin, and gender, to strictly fall within our charitable objects. No other restrictions apply in terms of access to facilities, degree of need or any other factors, and our services are free.

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Who used and benefited from our services?

Latin Americans are the second fastest growing Non-EU migrant groups in the UK (Towards Visibility, 2016), and approximately a quarter of a million in the UK.

Most Latin American migrant women (LAMW) are in employment but are seriously affected by "in-work poverty" surviving on incomes below the official poverty line. Despite being highly skilled, most of our service users (SUs) work in low-paid/low skilled jobs as domestics, cleaners, in catering, hospitality as well as in outsourced sectors that are gender segregated, over-exploitative, and unregulated. Most experience housing problems and "hidden homelessness" living in insecure and overcrowded, sub-standard private rented accommodation. Access to public services is low; and fewer than 20% access welfare support. Affected by intersectional discrimination on the basis of race, gender and migration status, most of our service users are also subjected to gender-based abuse.

Despite heightened vulnerability to abuse, factors such as - but not limited to - legal status, age, class, race, disability, lack of English skills and of system knowledge, make it harder for Latin American women to assert their rights. By offering specialist services with a holistic and women centred approach, LAWRS offers a much-needed response to women's complex and multiple needs; while continuing to uphold, promote and extend Latin American migrant women's rights.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

When engaging with our services our clients must complete an equal opportunities form. This helps us keep track of the composition of the women we support. Over the last year we supported a total of 1258 Latin American women, with the majority of women being from Colombia (26%), Brazil (21%), and Ecuador (17%). Most of them were aged between 25 - 54 years old (77%). The women we supported identified with the varied ethnic identities that make up Latin America in the following ways - mixed Latin American (46%), white Latin American (27%), indigenous Latin American (19%) and black Latin American (5%).

We are a trans-inclusive, women-only organisation. Only 0.80% of the women we supported identified as trans. Most women we supported identified as heterosexual (94%), with 2.46% identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Additionally 31% of our beneficiaries experience disabilities including mental health conditions, physical impairment, sensory impairments and learning difficulties.

The majority of the women we supported were single (38%), followed by 34% married or in a civil partnership, and 25% divorced or separated, with 52% as the primary carer of a child/children under 18.

Language is one of the biggest barriers for our community and 72% of the women we supported indicated they needed an interpreter.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Introduction

This year, our work has taken place against a backdrop of growing uncertainty and hostility for migrant communities in the UK. We have seen an increase in the number of undocumented and asylum-seeking women in need of our support, in the midst of a political climate that continues to marginalise and endanger those without secure status.

Although a change in government marked the end of 14 years of Conservative rule, the legacy of harmful immigration policies remains firmly in place. Instead of a shift toward inclusion, we have witnessed the

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

continued use of divisive and dangerous narratives that push the national discourse further to the right—fuelling fear, deepening social divides, and undermining the rights of migrants. For example the changes introduced by the Nationality and Borders Act, the Illegal Migration Act and the Migrant Victims Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC) have been maintained regardless of their negative effects on the access to safety and justice for survivors of human trafficking and domestic abuse.

At the same time, the cost-of-living crisis has persisted, hitting precarious communities hardest—particularly those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), who face daily challenges in accessing housing, healthcare, food, and basic dignity.

In this climate, LAWRS' role remains as vital as ever. We continue to stand alongside Latin American migrant women and girls, advocating for their rights, amplifying their voices, and offering essential support in the face of structural exclusion, institutional violence, and deepening social inequality.

1. Specialist services for Latin American migrant women in the UK

LAWRS has continued to successfully deliver its frontline services—including general advice, VAWG prevention and support, and counselling—through a holistic and intersectional approach. Our work integrates multidisciplinary casework, crèche services, peer-to-peer support, and access to empowerment and social change programmes, all while recognising the diverse identities and social positions of the women and girls we support.

We remain committed to a hybrid model of support, offering both in-person and remote services to ensure flexibility and accessibility. For many women, remote support offers convenience and reduces travel costs; for others, the office creates a safe space to engage with our services—particularly those with young children who benefit from our on-site crèche.

Our approach empowers women and girls with critical information about their rights, provides safety and support after experiences of violence, and offers a community of peers and counsellors to help them heal from trauma in all its forms.

In the reporting period April 2024 - March 2025, **LAWRS supported 1258 Latin American women, 243 of whom had no access to public funds (NRPF)**. The following key figures illustrate the many ways in which we provided support:

Helpline

Our helpline, running from Tuesday to Friday 11 am - 1 pm, remains a vital gateway to our services, with agents delivering exceptional support rooted in their dedication to the community and their drive to grow professionally. Many of our volunteer agents have transitioned into employment, reflecting the program's mutual value—LAWRS' investment in their development is matched by the high standard of service they provide. However, rising demand—spurred by word of mouth and LAWRS' strong reputation—continues to provide challenges. As expectations grow, agents increasingly face frustration from service users when service capacity falls short.

Helpline	
Women supported	588 women
Sessions	1,030 sessions

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Generalist advice

Over this reporting period there has been a considerable rise in immigration and housing cases. Many users are facing challenges related to the cost of living, with some being forced to leave their homes as they can no longer afford rent, which has had a serious impact on their stability. In immigration, we saw a spike in inquiries from September onwards regarding e-visas, citizenship and passport applications (particularly for children), and the transition to Settled Status with the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

Operationally, the team has faced significant challenges as applications for funding have become more competitive, making it more challenging to increase capacity to support our beneficiaries. For most of the year, the service was maintained by a reduced team of 2 caseworkers, amid high demand. Additionally, caseworkers have also been supporting the VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) team, with each caseworker taking on one appointment per week in that area. They also assist with complex processes such as applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain, which must be done within three months of an initial application and requires securing a solicitor each time.

Attendance to workshops was surprisingly low this year in comparison with previous years, with only 6 participants attending the first 3 workshops on welfare benefits and housing. The team decided to cancel all remaining workshops as service users were showing a preference for face to face individual sessions. In response to this development, we will continue monitoring workshop attendance and collect more detailed data to understand the situation better in order to inform future planning.

Generalist advice	
Total number of women who accessed GA services	442 women
Total # of GA sessions	1,001 sessions
Welfare Benefits	201 women
	394 sessions
Employment Rights	54 women
	113 sessions
Housing	183 women
	259 sessions
Other sessions	19 women
	30 sessions
Immigration	91 women

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Generalist advice	
	205 sessions

Legal surgeries	
Access to legal surgeries	308 women
Immigration law support	132 women
Family and children rights support	172 women

Mental Health

Due to difficulties in finding sustainable funding for mental health support, the Counselling and Psychotherapy team faced major staffing challenges throughout the year, operating with reduced capacity from May 2024 to March 2025, significantly affecting service delivery—resulting in an estimated loss of 50 therapy sessions per month. To mitigate this, the team increased staff caseloads and engaged volunteer counsellors, though volunteers were limited to low-risk cases. This led to increased pressure on permanent staff, a growing waiting list for Spanish-speaking clients, and the temporary closure of Emotional Support Sessions (ESS) in November 2024.

In response to the emotional needs of mothers in the community, such as isolation resulting from language barriers and limited support networks, a Mother's Group was launched, offering monthly sessions in Spanish and Portuguese. Despite low attendance (averaging fewer than five participants per session), feedback was highly positive. The group moved online in October 2024, and the team plans to develop a dedicated therapeutic group for Latin American women in the coming year.

By early 2025, the team grew with new volunteers, including administrative support, improving operations. Referrals for Spanish-speaking clients reopened in April 2025, and future goals include reopening the external waiting list and resuming ESS, marking a strong step toward restoring full mental health service provision.

Counselling	
Access to all services from Counselling team	165 women
Sessions attended	928 therapy sessions
Initial assessments	122 initial assessments
One to one therapy	111 women

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Emotional support sessions	68 emotional support sessions
Mother's group sessions	6 sessions in Spanish (2) and Portuguese (4) 10 women attended

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

This year brought major changes to the VAWG team, with a new manager and several new caseworkers joining. These transitions led to periods of reduced capacity, but the team remained dedicated to delivering trauma-informed, high-quality support to Latin American women and girls.

A key strength of the team continues to be its culturally tailored approach. Our training to professionals on harmful practices, for example, has evolved to reflect the lived experiences of Latin American women—covering issues such as marital rape and coercive control—supported by improved data collection and case studies from our frontline work.

The ongoing immigration crisis has significantly affected survivors this past year. The closure of our partner's referral pathway left many without legal representation, forcing caseworkers to spend more time seeking support, delaying access to safety and increasing survivors' risk.

Most women supported by LAWRS arrive without documentation and are subject to NRPF. Their cases are becoming increasingly complex, compounded by growing institutional violence and discrimination, particularly from statutory services. Other survivors are navigating complex routes such as the Spouse Visa Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC). This process places a heavy burden of proof on survivors, often deterring them from applying and pushing some to return to abusive situations.

Institutional barriers also persist. Survivors face increasing discrimination from statutory services, with unreasonable evidence demands and delays in support. In one case, a survivor and her three children faced losing all support despite a pending immigration application—highlighting the instability survivors face even after fleeing abuse. Such cases are increasingly common, with survivors' support at constant risk of being withdrawn. Our team is often forced to reopen cases simply to re-establish basic protections.

VAWG	
Access to VAWG advice	238 women
New cases opened	260 new cases
VAWG sessions attended	851 sessions
Unsuccessful attempts of contact & non-attended sessions	125 unsuccessful attempts of contact & non-attended sessions
Peer support sessions	Accessed by 14 Spanish-speaking women, with total of 42 attendances across all sessions

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

	9 sessions (Spanish only)
Survivors on NRPF	81 (34%)
Survivors who are seeking asylum	11
Peer support group	8 women
Workshops - How to help a friend experiencing domestic abuse	4 workshops 26 women
Training to professionals on Harmful Practices	88 participants

Trafficking and modern slavery support

LAWRS has been providing specialised support to survivors of trafficking and modern slavery since 2020, steadily strengthening our expertise and expanding the scope of our support. Over the years, our approach has become increasingly holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive. In this reporting period, we supported five survivors—four of whom were trafficked for domestic servitude and one for sexual exploitation. These cases highlight the ongoing need for tailored, long-term support for Latin American women facing extreme forms of exploitation, particularly in contexts where immigration status and language barriers increase vulnerability.

Case Study: Mariela's story

Mariela, an EU national with Pre-settlement Status, first contacted LAWRS through our Helpline in August 2024. A single mother to a four-year-old child, she had recently separated from her partner—the child's father—due to ongoing physical, emotional, and financial abuse. Mariela was referred to our VAWG team, who assessed her case and provided tailored support to ensure her immediate safety. The case was closed in May 2025 when it was determined she was no longer at risk.*

Alongside this, Mariela was assessed by our Counselling Team in September 2024 and began therapy in March 2025. She continues to receive emotional support, helping her process trauma and begin her recovery journey.

Mariela's situation has been made more difficult by ongoing financial instability. Although she had previously established a small business in 2019, she has had no income since January 2025 due to low profits. As the primary caregiver of her child, she was supported by our Generalist Advice Team to apply for Child Benefit, which remains under consideration. Her attempts to access Universal Credit were rejected on the basis that she does not have a "right to reside" under welfare rules. LAWRS is currently supporting her through the process of requesting a mandatory reconsideration of this decision.

To improve her long-term stability, we have also assisted Mariela in applying for Settled Status, as she has now completed five years of continuous residence in the UK. She was advised not to wait until her Pre-settled Status expires in April 2026 to make the application. The Home Office has requested additional residence evidence, and her application is still under consideration.

Mariela's case illustrates the intersectional barriers migrant women face after escaping abuse—navigating complex immigration systems, inaccessible welfare support, and financial hardship—all while rebuilding their lives and caring for their children. Through holistic and sustained support, LAWRS continues to stand alongside women like Mariela, ensuring they are not left behind.

**Name has been changed to protect the woman's identity*

2. Speaking up: Working for Social Justice

WHY DO WE RESIST?

We resist for a fairer life
We resist for the most oppressed and the less privileged
We resist to fight against the status quo, and against all that we have been taught
as the truth when it's in fact not the reality
We resist so other Latin American girls have the chance to grow up in a better world
We resist for our mothers and their mothers, for our children and for yours
We resist for a world where our identity doesn't affect our safety
We resist because resistance is in our blood,
because our ancestors fought for freedom in the colonies,
because our ancestors weren't passive,
because our ancestors knew that the master's tools would not, and never will,
dismantle the master's house.
We exist because we resist.

LAWRS' Young Women's Advisory Board (YWAB) members.

This reporting period has brought significant political change, but unfortunately falling short of the shift in direction we had hoped for. The new Labour government, which many in the sector had looked to for a break from the policies of the past, has instead proven equally committed to maintaining the hostile environment that threatens the lives of migrant people.

Where once there were sympathetic voices within Labour who provided space for engagement and accountability, we are now seeing those avenues close. The party's pivot toward an anti-immigration discourse—mirroring the divisive narratives of the previous government—has made it increasingly difficult to influence policy or advocate meaningfully for the rights of migrant communities.

This tightening political space has meant fewer opportunities to challenge harmful legislation or propose progressive alternatives. Despite these setbacks, LAWRS continues to raise the voices of migrant women and girls, defending their rights and pushing back against narratives and policies that criminalise and dehumanise them. Our commitment to advocacy for migrants' rights remains unwavering—even as the landscape becomes more hostile.

Step Up Migrant Women campaign

The [Step Up Migrant Women](#) campaign continues to be at the heart of LAWRS' policy and advocacy work, with a central focus on establishing safe reporting mechanisms for migrant women victims of crime. We remain committed to ensuring that survivors can seek protection and support without fear of immigration enforcement. Throughout this reporting period, we have worked closely with partner organisations,

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

survivors, and allies to push for legislative and policy changes that separate access to safety and justice from immigration control.

Victims and Prisoners Bill

The Victims and Prisoners Bill became law in May 2024. While the long-anticipated Bill aimed to improve access to justice and support for all victims of crime, it notably excluded migrants in general and migrant women specifically. We worked closely with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner to introduce a firewall amendment and leveraged her influence to put the needs of migrant victims of VAWG and modern slavery on the agenda. Although the firewall amendment was not, in the end, enshrined in legislation, it was an opportunity to further our message on the specific needs for protection for migrant women. Additionally, it helped us strengthen our presence in Parliament and our relationship with key Parliamentarians in both Houses.

In the [final debate](#) of the Bill in the House of Lords, backbencher Baroness Meacher supported us by tabling the firewall amendment and stating the following when addressing the Lords: *"we have a wealth of evidence that, for victims with insecure immigration status, the fear of data sharing between the police and immigration services constitutes one of the most severe barriers to accessing the criminal justice system. Research by the Latin American Women's Rights Service and the Step Up Migrant Women campaign found that fully 62% of migrant women had specifically been threatened about their immigration status if they reported abuse."*

Crucially the firewall amendment received support from the Labour frontbench during its Report Stage debate in the House of Lords. So when it was put to a vote, [peers voted 214 - 208 in favour of its inclusion in the Bill](#). This is a huge win for our firewall campaign and its evolution to include victims/survivors of modern slavery.

Even though the amendment was finally not included, our work with the Victims and Prisoners Bill was key to strengthening our presence in Parliament, influencing the agenda for this issue's discussion and continuing to enhance our relationship with key Parliamentarians in both houses.

Employment Rights Bill

In continuation of our work on the Victims and Prisoners Bill, LAWRS partnered with ILPA and FLEX to table an amendment to ensure that migrant survivors or witnesses of labour abuse are able to report the crime to the Fair Work Agency without risk of having their information shared for immigration enforcement purposes. The bill is currently going through Parliament.

Home Office's policy on safe reporting

Shortly after the change in government, LAWRS was contacted by the Home Office to support the development of a firewall model that would increase migrant survivors' trust and increase reporting of VAWG-related crimes. Along with Southall Black Sisters, we have been engaging extensively with this process and advocating for the implementation of a full external firewall.

While at the end of this reporting period we are still awaiting the decision from the Home Office on which model is to be developed, we are concerned about the possibility that Immigration Enforcement will still play a role in crime-reporting. We believe that in order to truly dismantle the barriers migrant women face when reporting abuse to the police, the proposal needs to go much further. We have sent a [letter](#) to ministers about our concerns and alternative proposals, supported by 75 organisations from the ending violence against women and girls sector.

Secure Reporting¹ for Migrant Londoners

LAWRS, as chair of LEAG, is part of a collaborative project aimed at answering the question: *What is needed to ensure a successful secure reporting model for victims and survivors of all crimes, regardless of immigration status, in London?* The project seeks to develop a blueprint for a holistic secure reporting pilot for survivors of modern slavery. As part of our contribution, LAWRS conducted interviews with two survivors of domestic servitude to help shape the recommendations.

Case study: Catalina's story

Catalina was brought to the UK from Latin America in early 2023 to work as a live-in housekeeper and look after two children. She was paid £850 a month. Catalina would wake up at 5 am to start work and never had an end to her working day, often going without food. The house had camera surveillance in most of the rooms, so Catalina was watched all day. She was not allowed to leave the house. The bathroom was the only room with no cameras, and this is where she would go to take a break, but even her time there was controlled. Her employer also took her passport away.*

Catalina was unaware of her rights in the UK or where to find help. When she said she wanted to leave, her employer said that Catalina could not leave until the employer could go to her home country and bring someone back to replace her. When Catalina threatened to call the police, her employer told her that because she did not speak English, no one would believe her. She was told to remember that she was at the bottom of the pile in the UK.

Catalina is undocumented, and these threats made her terrified of the police. Catalina got in touch with LAWRS after a former victim of the employer gave her our number. Catalina did not want us to report her trafficking and exploitation to the police as she was undocumented and just wanted help to get back home. LAWRS eventually supported her to make a report to the police so she could escape and be taken to a refuge.

**Name has been changed to protect the woman's identity*

UK Covid-19 Inquiry

This year, LAWRS was selected as a core participant in Module 10 of the UK COVID-19 Inquiry, which focuses on the Impacts of the Pandemic on Society. Our inclusion as a core participant reflects our role as a key frontline organisation representing migrant and minoritised women, and our sustained efforts to highlight how public health emergencies exacerbate existing inequalities.

LAWRS is part of the Domestic Abuse Group, alongside Southall Black Sisters and Solace Women's Aid. Through this group, we are contributing evidence and insights on the specific impact of the pandemic on women experiencing gender-based violence, with a focus on those from marginalised communities, including migrant women and survivors with insecure immigration status.

Our participation ensures that the lived experiences of the women we support — particularly those who were excluded from mainstream support due to language, immigration status, or institutional discrimination — are acknowledged in the national conversation on the pandemic response.

¹ Organisations working in the immigration, women and labour rights sectors use both *safe reporting* and *secure reporting* to describe a mechanism to ensure that victims and workers with insecure immigration status can report crime without facing negative consequences in regards to their legal status. This is relevant for all parties involved in the protection of vulnerable victims and workers, such as police and labour market enforcement agencies.

Strategic litigation

This year, LAWRS partnered with Public Interest Law Centre and Southall Black Sisters to launch a legal challenge against the UK government, arguing that current protections for migrant survivors of domestic abuse — particularly those excluded from the Migrant Victims Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC) — are insufficient. LAWRS played a key role in preparing the case, drafting a literature review, supporting legal strategy, and helping coordinate a crowdfunding campaign to cover legal costs. Due to delays in the Home Office's response, a judicial review was filed protectively. However, following a change of legal counsel and a reassessment of the case's strength in light of the change in government, the organisations ultimately decided to discontinue the legal proceedings and pursue other forms of influencing.

Despite not proceeding with the case, the experience marked LAWRS' first engagement in strategic litigation and offered valuable lessons. The collaboration helped strengthen relationships with Southall Black Sisters and the Public Interest Law Centre, leading to new opportunities such as LAWRS' participation in the COVID-19 Inquiry and securing legal advice funding. While litigation may remain a future tool, LAWRS will continue to prioritise other avenues to influence policy and ensure migrant women's experiences are represented in key legal and political spaces.

New policy project: Health and VAWG

In partnership with SafeLives, we launched a new project which aims to secure long-term positive change in access to healthcare for migrant women in London experiencing domestic abuse. By improving London's healthcare settings response to these survivors, we can greatly improve the support and protection available to them.

LAWRS leads on engaging migrant survivors in the project: establishing a panel of experts and co-developing resources, such as policy briefs and recommendations, to influence decision makers and inform new training and guidance for healthcare professionals.

3. Migrant Women as Agents of Structural and Systemic Change

In this strand of our work, we also continue strengthening the opportunities for women from the Latin American community to organise and act as agents of social change through the Sin Fronteras and the Volunteer programme.

Sin Fronteras

"The project has made a genuine positive contribution to so many areas of my life. I've enjoyed learning, making friends and feeling like we're making a collective difference."
Participant of Sin Fronteras - LAWRS.

Sin Fronteras, the LAWRS project for girls and young women, is designed to empower participants to create the change they wish to see in their lives, communities, and society at large. This project has been collaboratively shaped by and for them, earning high praise from participants for its relevance and impact.

Over the past two years, the Sin Fronteras project has evolved, with a growing emphasis on policy and advocacy work. We are now hosting two groups: the Sin Fronteras group, which operates the critical thinking, well-being, and educational advice components, and the Young Women's Advisory Board, which

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

is a new co-production body for our organisation and a space for policy and campaigning participation for young Latin American migrant women.

Throughout the year, the project facilitated a total of 27 activities, engaging 21 Latin American girls and young women. These activities included 5 activism events, 1 university access session, 7 Sin Fronteras group sessions, and 15 YWAB sessions. The group sessions focused on a range of areas including mental well-being, critical thinking through arts and campaigning, support for higher education journeys, and the development of peer support networks. Some of these sessions were delivered in partnership with other organisations. In addition, the project offered 24 one-on-one appointments, 5 internal and 3 external referrals, and 6 youth therapy processes, among other services.

Activities were delivered both virtually and in person, enhancing accessibility and engagement. A key highlight of the year was the publication of the peer-research report '[Voices of Young Latinas: Peer Research into Sexual Harassment at London Universities.](#)'

Sin Fronteras	
Total sessions	18 sessions, 111 attendances
Total participants	36 participants in total (26 young people + 10 family members in educational advice session)
One-to-one appointments	9 sessions
Educational advice sessions	1 session, 10 participants
YWAB Board meeting sessions	7 sessions, 55 attendances
YWAB Leadership & advocacy training	4 sessions, 31 attendances
Wellbeing sessions	2 sessions, 3 attendances
Critical thinking sessions	4 sessions, 12 attendances
Activism actions	1 activism event, 1 participant - South London Latin American Community Forum

4. Supporting Latin American Migrant Women's Integration

Southwark Outreach Project

The Southwark Outreach Project, delivered in partnership with the Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation (IRMO), aims to improve Latin American migrant women's access to local services, wellbeing resources, and volunteering opportunities within the borough. IRMO leads on volunteering support, while LAWRS focuses on direct engagement and tailored service delivery.

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

This year, the project engaged 1,208 Latin American women through various channels, including 240 referrals, 108 events and workshops, 462 wellbeing sessions, 25 healthy weight programme sessions, 30 yoga classes, 7 energy advice sessions, and 481 one-to-one appointments and inquiries via phone, text, and email. Regular outreach and information sharing via social media and WhatsApp keep the community informed and connected.

Service users accessed individual support through appointments with the Outreach Coordinator or specialist advisors in VAWG, Welfare Benefits, Housing and Debt (WBHD), and mental health. In total, 32 workshops were delivered in collaboration with internal teams and external partners such as Citizens Advice Southwark, IRMO, NHS South East London, Cancer Research UK, and others. Topics included mental and physical wellbeing, employment and tenants' rights, VAWG and healthy relationships, access to the NHS, digital inclusion, and the cost-of-living crisis.

In addition to direct service delivery, the project actively engages in local advocacy to raise awareness of community needs and LAWRS' role in addressing them.

The Language Café—our weekly informal English conversation class—remained the most attended activity, with 97 women participating, highlighting the persistent demand for accessible English learning. Espacio Mamá, our support group for Latin American mothers, covered topics such as mental health, energy advice, motherhood, employment rights, and managing stress.

This year also saw the successful implementation of two NHS pilot programmes aimed at addressing health inequalities. These included a 25-session Healthy Weight Programme and 4 vaccination and NHS access sessions, all delivered in Spanish to overcome language barriers and ensure better access to healthcare information.

Outreach in Southwark	
Total number of women supported by Southwark Outreach	1208 women
One-to-one advice through email, messages and phone calls	481 women
Women referred for further support casework	240 women
Workshops & events	79 women
Wellbeing sessions	462 women
Women who accessed information through whatsapp	1,690 women
Professionals in Southwark who received info about LAWRS services	31 professionals

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Women who accessed information through social media	6,740 women
Women receiving debt & energy advice through surgeries	50 women
Espacio Mamá	4 sessions - 1 vaccination workshop, 3 healthy mother, healthy baby workshops.
	14 women, total of 38 attendances
Language Café	46 sessions
	97 women
Yoga sessions	28 sessions
	45 women with total of 151 attendances

Volunteers Programme for Latin American Woman

Our Volunteers Programme continues to play a vital role in supporting the delivery of our services, particularly in areas such as Generalist Advice, VAWG, Counselling and interpreting. As of April 2024, we have welcomed 66 volunteers, many of whom stayed with us for an average of 6 to 8 months. The majority are highly engaged, and we consistently receive positive feedback. Volunteers often move on to paid employment within their areas of interest, return to their home countries, or pursue higher education—many of them, especially students, initially join us to strengthen their CVs. A notable example is our helpline, where 9 volunteers have made a crucial contribution to maintaining this essential support service.

We are proud to see that much of our recruitment now comes through word of mouth—a testament to LAWRS' reputation as a trusted and well-structured charity. The commitment shown by both supervisors and volunteers reflects the programme's professionalism and strong foundation. We continue to invest in training, both in-house and external, to address evolving needs such as safeguarding, confidentiality and cybersecurity, and continue to improve our tools to monitor volunteer hours and provide quality supervision. There is a growing interest in more in-person volunteering opportunities, which we plan to develop further. To meet this increasing demand and maintain the programme's quality, we have added an additional day to the Volunteers Programme Manager's role.

Volunteers Programme	
Number of volunteers	65 volunteers
Hours of counselling	837 hours

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Hours of case and admin support	2,908 hours
Hours of helpline volunteers	2,989 hours
Hours of interpretation	2,976 hours
Volunteers who secured employment at the end of their volunteering opportunity	15 volunteers
Volunteers who pursued further education	6 volunteers

5. Training in the Community

Ascent Prevention Project, a London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Consortium Delivery

This project aims to prevent domestic and sexual abuse by supporting school settings to discuss healthy relationships, signs of abuse and where to find help when a person is in an abusive relationship. The project takes a whole school approach by delivering workshops, seminars, webinars, assemblies, and training on healthy relationships to children, teachers, school staff, parents, and safeguarding professionals, looking at issues such as types of abuse, consent, and sexual harassment.

This reporting period we had to overcome some important changes. During the first two quarters, we were allocated two new boroughs to deliver our workshops - Bromley and Kingston -, as well as our previous ones - Lambeth, Southwark, Croydon, and Lewisham. LAWRS delivered workshops to 149 students up to 18 years old.

Women and girls continue to be more aware of the effects of sexism, racism, other discrimination, and VAWG, in contrast with men and boys, from whom we see a demand for more education on healthy relationships. With school teachers and staff reporting concern on the rise of misogyny among male students, this project is more important than ever.

Prevention	
Students trained in Healthy Relationships workshops	149 students
Professionals trained	65 professionals
Adults/professionals engaged through community outreach activities	110

PLANS FOR 2025-2026

Our plans for the new year are the following:

- Continue helping Latin American women through the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and its combined effects with the increase of cost-of-living crisis.
- Increase our capacity to provide specialist immigration advice services by achieving OISC Level 2 accreditation.
- Continue our work with the Latin American Young Migrant Women's advisory board to advocate for the needs of young migrant women and girls.
- Scale up our policy work to advocate for the rights of young migrant women and girls through a dedicated policy role.
- Scale up our policy, advocacy and campaigning capacity to better respond to the challenges facing black and minoritised migrant women in a context of increased hostility towards migrants in discourse and in policy.
- Increase our capacity to respond to emerging threats to human rights protections and increased normalisation of far-right anti-migrant public rhetoric.
- Open new services aimed at older Latin American women to increase their access to specialist services and counter the effects of isolation for this age group.
- Increase our capacity to continue deepening our understanding of the barriers that migrant survivors of domestic abuse face when attempting to access healthcare services.
- Continue our policy and campaigning work to advocate for safety and access to justice of migrant women in Parliament, Government and with Local Authorities and police forces.
- Continue our work to bring to the attention of the Covid-19 Inquiry the multiple intersecting inequalities that affected migrant women during the pandemic and in its aftermath.
- Continue our work to increase our donor base to enhance the long-term sustainability of the organisation.
- Continue the implementation of our collective care strategy to promote a preventative approach to wellbeing.

AND A BIG THANK YOU:

- To our committed team of staff and volunteers for their enthusiasm and resilience in the face of multiple challenges to deliver our work for the safety of women and girls.
- To the women who attend our services and to the Latin American community for their trust in our work.
- To the trust placed in us by our wonderful funders, donors and supporters who enable our work and our pursuit of more equitable and just systems for all.
- To our partners and supporters for helping amplify our message, for opening doors and for their contributions to the organisation.
- To the policy and decision makers who have opened their doors to us and who have listened to our concerns and our proposals to help bring about change.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of fundraising activities

We derived income from various funding sources to which we are very grateful for their contributions that made our work possible and effective during this year. In recent years LAWRS has been partly dependent on short term funding, and during the year substantial progress has been made in transitioning to more multi-year grants of 3 to 5 years, and in diversifying our sources of funding.

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Financial results

Income in 2024/25 totalled £1,077,867 and expenditure was £947,705, resulting in a surplus of £130,162. This compares to a deficit of £122,643 in 2023/24. Restricted funds increased by £10,723, and unrestricted funds increased by £119,439. This demonstrates the impact of our fundraising during the year.

Income was £233,053 higher than in 2023/24. Expenditure was £19,752 lower than in 2023/24. Expenditure continues to be substantially higher than prior to Covid-19 – the increase in the needs of services users for advice and counselling has continued and the ongoing cost of living crisis has further impacted needs. The deficit in 2023/24 demonstrated this but recent fundraising has now enabled us to meet these needs from current income.

Strategy for 2025/26

In recent years LAWRS has been very successful in securing funds to support its work during and after Covid-19, and this has allowed LAWRS to increase its capacity to meet the increased demands from service users during this difficult period. Much of this funding has been short-term, typically one-year grants.

Since 2023/24 the strategy has been to apply for significant multi-year grants and at the same time endeavour to diversify our sources of funding. While much success has been achieved in 2024/25, further multi-year applications and new sources of funding are planned for 2025/26. In particular, LAWRS now has recognition of impact in our Policy and advocacy work that is unusually high for an organisation of its size, and we hope use this recognition to secure further funding for this work to consolidate on our successes in this area.

Reserves policy

The trustees are committed to maintaining an adequate, justified and reasonable level of reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the Trustees' aim to ensure that reserves are available equivalent to three months' running costs. The target amount at the balance sheet date is £238,000.

In addition, the trustees have identified the need to designate funds to cover potential staff sickness (£5,000); a deferral fund (£70,614); a contingency fund (£80,000) and a growth fund (£52,000). Further information is set out in note 11 on page 34.

Overall, the target unrestricted funds above amount to £445,614. Unrestricted funds at 31 March 2025 are £460,572. So the level of reserves is regarded as adequate but not excessive. The trustees will continue to monitor reserves closely to ensure that LAWRS holds adequate funds to cover its future needs.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of Latin American Women's Rights Service for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

So far as each of the trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees on 8th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Mariana Brandeburgo (Nov 10, 2025 14:08:29 GMT)

.....
Mariana Brandeburgo - Co-Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Latin American Women's Rights Service (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee

LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS SERVICE

that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The charitable company is required to comply with both company law and charity law as applicable in England and Wales and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.
- We gained an understanding of how the charitable company complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charitable company's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that the income from donations, grants, advice service and accommodation were properly identified and restricted income was separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. We also examined that expenditure complied with the control procedures and was appropriately charged. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Shoaib Arshad ACA, FCCA
Senior Statutory Auditors
for and on behalf of Knox Cropper LLP
65 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3A 2AD

Date: 8th November 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income:							
Grants, donations and legacies	2	312,089	359,970	672,059	215,932	251,943	467,875
Charitable activities	3	10,068	387,214	397,282	8,384	364,096	372,480
Investments - Bank Interest		8,526	-	8,526	4,459	-	4,459
Total income		330,683	747,184	1,077,867	228,775	616,039	844,814
Expenditure:							
Cost of raising funds	4	21,478	-	21,478	21,971	-	21,971
Expenditure on charitable activities	4	189,766	736,461	926,227	336,392	609,094	945,486
Total expenditure		211,244	736,461	947,705	358,363	609,094	967,457
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		119,439	10,723	130,162	(129,588)	6,945	(122,643)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		341,133	72,638	413,771	470,721	65,693	536,414
Total funds carried forward		460,572	83,361	543,933	341,133	72,638	413,771

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	4,298	6,483
Total Fixed Assets		4,298	6,483
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	151,658	142,284
Cash at bank and in hand		563,865	442,601
Total Current Assets		715,523	584,885
LIABILITIES			
CREDITORS: Amount falling due within one year	10	(175,888)	(177,597)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		539,635	407,288
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES/NET ASSETS		543,933	413,771
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds - General		252,958	280,133
Unrestricted funds - Designated	11	207,614	61,000
Restricted funds	12	83,361	72,638
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		543,933	413,771

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

They were approved by the Board on 8th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mariana Brandeburgo

Mariana Brandeburgo (Nov 10, 2025 14:08:29 GMT)

.....
Mariana Brandeburgo - Co-Chair

Sandra Hayne

Sandra Hayne (Nov 10, 2025 14:26:46 GMT+1)

.....
Sandra Hayne - Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	<u>Notes</u>	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	18	<u>113,842</u>	<u>(26,472)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest income		8,526	4,459
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,104)	(922)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>7,422</u>	<u>3,537.00</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>121,264</u>	<u>(22,935)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		442,601	465,536
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>563,865</u>	<u>442,601</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The date of transition to FRS102 was 1 April 2015.

1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The expenditure budget for 2025/26 is almost fully funded. Significant funds have been raised for 2026/27 and beyond, with a busy fundraising programme continuing. A number of grants end in March 2026 but funds have been designated to provide a safety-net in the event that one or more are not renewed (see note 11 for further details). This should ensure viability beyond 2025/26 and demonstrate that LAWRS is a going concern.

1.3 Incoming resources

Donations, grants and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement. Income is shown net of VAT where applicable. Latin American Women's Rights Service is not registered for VAT.

1.4 Investment in associated undertakings

Unlisted investments are included at the best estimate of their market value where it is practicable to obtain this. Where no reliable valuation can be obtained or it is considered that the cost of obtaining one outweighs the benefit to the users of the financial statements, the investments are included at cost and reviewed for impairment at each year end.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated in accordance with the charity's accounting policy. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the asset less any estimated residual value over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% straight line
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Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

1.6 Fundraising costs

Fundraising expenses relate to costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute towards the charity's work.

1.7 Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities of an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across categories on the of staffing on each project.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purposes and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are wide and varied in pursuance of the charity's main objectives.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

1.9 Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.10 Corporation Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. INCOME FROM GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Oak Foundation / Global Dialogue	129,342	-	129,342	83,114	-	83,114
Access to Justice Foundation	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	82,500	5,000	87,500	41,250	-	41,250
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	86,000	86,000	-	87,000	87,000
Trust for London	-	56,250	56,250	-	47,500	47,500
Unbound Philanthropy	40,000	-	40,000	40,000	-	40,000
London Borough of Southwark	-	33,215	33,215	-	19,610	19,610
Firebird Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
A B Charitable Trust	22,000	4,000	26,000	22,000	-	22,000
London Legal Support Trust and City Bridge Trust via IRMO	-	25,645	25,645	-	18,538	18,538
The Disrupt Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
S-H-E-D	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
A&O Shearman Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
NHS South East London Integrated Care Board	-	4,610	4,610	-	-	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	2,500	-	2,500	-	37,329	37,329
Comic Relief	-	34	34	-	29,061	29,061
Small grants for service users	-	10,102	10,102	-	-	-
Capital Group	-	-	-	14,000	-	14,000
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	11,064	11,064
Anonymous	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Davis Peace Prize	-	-	-	-	1,232	1,232
John Ellerman Foundation	-	-	-	-	609	609
Donations	15,747	114	15,861	5,568	-	5,568
	312,089	359,970	672,059	215,932	251,943	467,875

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Mayor Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)	-	217,003	217,003	-	188,073	188,073
London Councils	-	153,730	153,730	-	143,149	143,149
Greater London Authority / Refugee Action	-	16,481	16,481	-	32,874	32,874
Healthwatch Islington	6,450	-	6,450	-	-	-
Other	3,618	-	3,618	8,384	-	8,384
	10,068	387,214	397,282	8,384	364,096	372,480

LAWRS benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in our annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Cost of Raising Funds 2025 £	Charitable Activities 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Cost of Raising Funds 2024 £	Charitable Activities 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Salaries	5,541	775,719	781,260	15,215	802,511	817,726
Consultancy / Supervision	15,400	18,202	33,602	5,250	20,402	25,652
Event costs and room hire	-	15,277	15,277	-	16,204	16,204
Grants to partners	-	6,577	6,577	-	6,330	6,330
"Sin Fronteras" project activities	-	8,624	8,624	-	7,856	7,856
Publications and videos	-	-	-	-	1,295	1,295
Quality Assurance	-	2,297	2,297	-	1,350	1,350
Training staff and volunteers	-	9,497	9,497	-	4,956	4,956
Crisis payments to service users	-	12,391	12,391	-	1,550	1,550
Volunteers expenses	-	2,585	2,585	-	3,206	3,206
Support costs (see below)	537	75,058	75,595	1,506	79,826	81,332
	21,478	926,227	947,705	21,971	945,486	967,457

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Cost of Raising Funds 2025 £	Charitable Activities 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Cost of Raising Funds 2024 £	Charitable Activities 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Rent, rates and services	276	38,538	38,814	658	34,899	35,557
Audit and accounting	48	6,672	6,720	120	6,360	6,480
Bank charges	2	339	341	7	381	388
Cleaning	15	2,145	2,160	41	2,164	2,205
Currency losses	-	-	-	108	5,727	5,835
Depreciation	23	3,266	3,289	63	3,342	3,405
Equipment	10	1,462	1,472	25	1,306	1,331
Insurance	18	2,522	2,540	55	2,920	2,975
Membership fees	26	3,609	3,635	32	1,702	1,734
Printing, postage and stationery	17	2,309	2,326	30	1,589	1,619
Publicity and promotion	13	1,825	1,838	38	2,017	2,055
Recruitment	12	1,740	1,752	10	541	551
Telecommunications & IT	31	4,318	4,349	222	11,747	11,969
Website	9	1,203	1,212	6	324	330
Sundries	37	5,110	5,147	91	4,807	4,898
	537	75,058	75,595	1,506	79,826	81,332

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6. NET EXPENDITURE

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure is stated after charging or crediting:		
Depreciation	3,289	3,406
Auditors remuneration	6,720	6,480

7. STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries	712,219	744,644
Social security costs	53,732	57,086
Pension costs	15,309	15,996
	781,260	817,726

The average monthly head count was 33 staff (2024: 35 staff)

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Support and advice services	20.3	22.7

No employees earned over £60,000 in the year (2024 - nil).

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2024: nil). No trustee received expenses during the year (2024: no trustees; £nil). No trustee or any other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2024: none).

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £105,485 (2024: £105,132).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures, fittings and computers £
COST	
As at 1st April 2024	20,328
Additions	1,104
Disposals	(3,017)
As at 31st March 2025	<u>18,415</u>
DEPRECIATION	
As at 1st April 2024	13,845
Charge for the year	3,289
Disposals	(3,017)
As at 31st March 2025	<u>14,117</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
As at 31st March 2025	<u>4,298</u>
As at 31st March 2024	<u>6,483</u>

9. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants receivable	137,023	138,131
Prepayments and other debtors	14,635	4,153
	<u>151,658</u>	<u>142,284</u>

10. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	30,615	35,552
Sundry creditors	8,069	6,215
Tax and social security	16,731	13,216
Deferred income	120,473	122,614
	<u>175,888</u>	<u>177,597</u>

Deferred income of £122,614 was released during the year. Income of £120,473 was deferred during the year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance as at 1.4.2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Funds as at 31.3.2025 £
General Fund	280,133	260,069	(211,244)	(76,000)	252,958
Designated Sickness fund	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Designated Transition fund	56,000	-	-	(56,000)	-
Designated Deferral fund	-	70,614	-	-	70,614
Designated Contingency fund	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
Designated Growth fund	-	-	-	52,000	52,000
	<u>341,133</u>	<u>330,683</u>	<u>(211,244)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>460,572</u>

The Sickness fund provides some cover for longer-term staff sick leave; previously it also included some cover for maternity leave but this is now regarded as a routine cost.

The Transition Fund earmarked some funds to allow LAWRS to budget some planned work in 2024/25, notably supporting the needs of service users, while LAWRS secured more longer term funding. Fundraising over the last year has resulted in this fund no longer being required.

The Deferral Fund has been created to put earmark unrestricted funds receivable 2024/25 and recognised as income in 2024/25 but which are intended to cover expenditure between April and September 2025 and so should not be regarded as part of the general unrestricted funds.

The Contingency Fund has been created to recognise that six grants come to an end in March 26. While all the funders have renewed funding at least twice in the past, it has been considered prudent to put aside some funds to cover the risk that one or more of these grants are not renewed.

The Growth Fund recognises that LAWRS expenditure will increase in 2025/26 and so at March 2026 the need for unrestricted general reserves will also increase in accordance with the LAWRS Reserves Policy. Funds have therefore been earmarked for this purpose.

ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN UNRESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance as at 1.4.2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Funds as at 31.3.2024 £
General Fund	234,721	228,775	(358,363)	175,000	280,133
Designated Sickness and maternity fund	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Designated Premises fund	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Designated Transition fund	216,000	-	-	(160,000)	56,000
	<u>470,721</u>	<u>228,775</u>	<u>(358,363)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>341,133</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance As at 1.4.2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers	Funds As at 31.3.2025 £
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Prevention and Action Through Community Engagement and Training	-	39,935	(39,935)	-	-
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Delivery of London-wide Advice and Support for Survivors of VAWG	-	50,226	(50,226)	-	-
Comic Relief No Recourse No Safety	10,128	34	(10,162)	-	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation evidence-based policy and campaigns work	30,015	-	(30,015)	-	-
London Councils Advice & Counselling	-	83,922	(83,922)	-	-
London Councils Ending Harmful Practices	-	35,372	(35,372)	-	-
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Ascent NRPF Project	968	70,243	(71,211)	-	-
Trust For London (2022/25 grant)	-	763	(50,677)	-	4,810
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (2023/26 grant)	8,174	86,000	(75,621)	-	18,553
Greater London Authority / Refugee Action (2023/24 grant)	14,578	1,500	(16,078)	-	-
London Legal Support Trust and City Bridge Trust via IRMO	9,538	25,645	(15,082)	-	20,101
London Borough of Southwark Latin American Weight Management Grant	-	12,840	(12,840)	-	-
London Borough of Southwark Community Capacity Programme (2024/25 grant)	-	20,375	(20,375)	-	-
Access to Justice Foundation Improving Lives Through Advice	-	100,000	(88,261)	-	11,739
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC) LWSHP Project	-	56,599	(56,599)	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation wellbeing support	-	5,000	(2,561)	-	2,439
NHS South East London Integrated Care Board	-	4,610	(4,610)	-	-
Istanbul Convention campaign	-	114	(114)	-	-
Whole Health London Project	-	-	(7,896)	-	(7,896)
Survivor Flee Fund	-	1,850	(1,850)	-	-
Survivor Future Fund	-	6,500	(6,500)	-	-
Greater London Authority / Refugee Action (2024/25 grant)	-	14,981	(8,855)	-	6,126
Survivor NRPF funding	-	1,752	(1,752)	-	-
A&O Shearman Foundation Access to Justice grant	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Firebird Foundation Step up migrant campaign	-	30,000	(6,511)	-	23,489
AB Charitable Trust Solidarity Fund	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
London Councils Prevention (2024/25 grant)	-	34,436	(34,436)	-	-
	72,638	747,184	(736,461)	-	83,361

The deficit on the Whole Health London project will be covered by a grant receivable in 2025/26.

Section 37 Statement

As can be seen from the above analysis of movements, the grants from The London Councils were expended for the purpose for what they were awarded.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN RESTRICTED FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance As at 1.4.2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers	Funds As at 31.3.2024 £
Comic Relief comprehensive programme of support	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC)					
Prevention and Action Through Community	-	39,935	(39,935)	-	-
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC)	-	47,834	(47,834)	-	-
Comic Relief No Recourse No Safety	8,498	29,061	(27,431)	-	10,128
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	- 3,120	11,064	(7,944)	-	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation evidence-based policy	34,357	37,329	(41,671)	-	30,015
London Councils Advice & Counselling	-	82,277	(82,277)	-	-
London Councils Ending Harmful Practices	-	35,372	(35,372)	-	-
London Councils Prevention	-	25,500	(25,500)	-	-
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC)	510	48,604	(48,146)	-	968
Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC)					
LWSHP Project	1,000	51,700	(52,700)	-	-
Trust For London (2022/25 grant)	4,314	47,500	(52,577)	-	(763)
John Ellerman Foundation	354	609	(963)	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (2023/26 grant)	-	87,000	(78,826)	-	8,174
London Borough of Southwark Community	-	19,610	(19,610)	-	-
Greater London Authority / Refugee Action	-	32,874	(18,296)	-	14,578
London Legal Support Trust and City Bridge Trust	-	18,538	(9,000)	-	9,538
King's College London	4,780	-	(4,780)	-	-
Davis Peace Prize	-	1,232	(1,232)	-	-
	65,693	616,039	(609,094)	-	72,638

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. Purposes of restricted funds

Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC): Prevention and Action Through Community Engagement and Training.

Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC): Delivery of London-wide Advice and Support for Survivors of VAWG.

Comic Relief No Recourse No Safety: Changing Narrative & Evidencing Impact of No recourse to public funds ('NRPF') on Violence against women and girls.

Lloyds Bank Foundation evidence-based policy and campaigns work: - on migrant women's exclusion from services and justice focused on support for the establishment of safe reporting mechanisms.

London Councils Advice & Counselling: provision of specialist advice and counselling to survivors of violence against women and girls in key London boroughs as part of the London VAWG Consortium.

London Councils Ending Harmful Practices: provision of specialist advice and counselling on harmful practices to women survivors in key London boroughs as part of the London VAWG Consortium.

Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Ascent NRPF Project: provision of floating support for Latin American women in refuge accommodation.

Trust For London 2022/25: policy project bringing visibility to the poor working conditions experienced by Latin American migrant women workers, calling for increased enforcement of employment rights and appropriate responses to victims of modern slavery.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation 2023/26 grant: Supporting Young Migrant Women and Girls in fighting for a fairer society.

Greater London Authority / Refugee Action 2023/24 grant: Migrant Justice Greater London partnership increasing the capabilities of community-led organisations to provide immigration advice.

London Legal Support Trust and City Bridge Trust via IRMO: Project name: Propel - Workforce Development Programme. The purpose of this Project is to deliver a workforce development programme to attract and train advisors from underrepresented communities, and develop capacity within community-based organisations, in order to address the skills and labour shortage in the advice sector.

London Borough of Southwark Latin American Weight Management Grant: Engagement with the underrepresented Latin American community on strategies to lead healthier lives

LB Southwark Community Capacity Programme 2024/25: supports community development work to ensure that local services address the needs of Latin American women and their families and that they are in turn informed of available local services. Delivered in partnership with IRMO that supports the volunteering project.

Access to Justice Foundation Improving Lives Through Advice: Better access to legal advice for marginalised communities

Mayor's Office on Policing and Crime (MOPAC) LWHSP Project: provision of floating support for Latin American women in supported accommodation.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation wellbeing support: Grant to support wellbeing activities for the benefit of LAWRS' team

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

NHS South East London Integrated Care Board: Support to reach underrepresented communities requiring information on healthcare services and how to access them

Istanbul Convention campaign: Advocacy for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention for the benefit of migrant women

Whole Health London Project: Research on the barriers experienced by migrant survivors of domestic abuse to access healthcare services and support

Survivor Flee Fund: Funding to assist survivors of domestic abuse to cover essential expenses as they seek safety

Survivor Future Fund: Funding to assist survivors of domestic abuse in establishing a stable, independent future

Greater London Authority / Refugee Action (2024/25 grant): Migrant Justice Greater London partnership increasing the capabilities of community-led organisations to provide immigration advice

Survivor NRP Funding: To enable victims without access to public funds to access a refuge or safe accommodation in order to escape gender-based abuse

A&O Shearman Foundation Access to Justice grant: Support for Latin American women to access legal advice

Firebird Foundation Step up migrant campaign: Evidence-based policy and campaigns work on migrant women's exclusion from services and justice focused on support for the establishment of safe reporting mechanisms

AB Charitable Trust Solidarity Fund: Grant to respond to the harms and threats related to the violence experienced by migrant and refugee communities in the UK

London Councils Prevention (2024/25 grant): providing specialist training on violence against women and girls and healthy relationships to young people and children in primary and secondary schools across London as part of the London VAWG Consortium.

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	4,298	-	-	4,298
Current assets	424,548	207,614	83,361	715,523
Creditors falling due within one year	(175,888)	-	-	(175,888)
	<u>252,958</u>	<u>207,614</u>	<u>83,361</u>	<u>543,933</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PREVIOUS YEAR

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	6,483	-	-	6,483
Current assets	451,247	61,000	72,638	584,885
Creditors falling due within one year	(177,597)	-	-	(177,597)
	<u>280,133</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>72,638</u>	<u>413,771</u>

17. OPERATING LEASES

Total commitments under operating leases were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
For leases expiring:		
Within one year	39,692	39,123
Two to five years	-	2,244
Over five years	-	-
	<u>39,692</u>	<u>41,367</u>

18. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	130,162	(122,643)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3,289	3,406
Interest from investments	(8,526)	(4,459)
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	(9,374)	42,581
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	(1,709)	54,643
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>113,842</u>	<u>(26,472)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity leases its main office premises from Tindlemanor Ltd, a company in which LAWRS holds a share as part of its leaseholder arrangement in the building. The Chief Executive Officer ("Director") of LAWRS is also a director and shareholder of Tindlemanor, solely to meet the leaseholder requirements. The Director receives no personal benefit from this position.

20. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

Subsequent to the year end, legal proceedings were initiated against a staff member in relation to work undertaken on behalf of the charity. LAWRS is not a named party to the proceedings. The trustees are advised that any potential liability would be covered by the charity's professional indemnity insurance. No provision has been made in these accounts.