

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

England & Wales · Charity number 1079042

Details

Other names	STAR
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03902118
Registered	2000-01-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	C/O Warner Wilde Ltd 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Woking Surrey GU24 9SF
Phone	07783335058
Email	info@star-network.org.uk
Website	www.star-network.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) TO RELIEVE SICKNESS, HARDSHIP, POVERTY AND DISTRESS PARTICULARLY BY THE PROVISION OF A TRAINED STUDENT NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS TO ASSIST IN ALL ASPECTS OF REFUGEE ASSISTANCE (11) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THE ROLE OF STUDENTS.

Activities: STAR is a national charity building a society where refugees are welcomed & can thrive. We do this by building amovement of welcome, empowering young people to be changemakers; providing localsupport to refugees through community projects; challenging the structural barriers people face seeking protection and building new lives; sharing information to shift the narrative.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£167,259	£210,951	-	-
2024-06-30	£172,549	£198,118	-	-
2023-06-30	£223,670	£181,312	-	-
2022-06-30	£226,109	£176,564	-	-
2021-06-30	£177,483	£216,445	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexandra McAssey		2026-03-18
Annam Khalid		2026-03-18
Christine Bacon		2022-04-25
JAMES OSBORNE		
Maryam Taher		2020-02-11
Matthew Peter Grenier		2022-04-25
Tim Seal		2026-03-18

Accounts

Charity registration number 1079042 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 3902118

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Osborne M Taher M Grenier C Bacon M Altaras Z Bonnett	(Appointed 20 November 2024)
Charity number	1079042	
Company number	3902118	
Registered office	4 Marigold Drive Bisley Woking Surrey GU24 9SF	
Independent examiner	Linda Dunford FCCA CTA Warner Wilde Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ The Co-operative Bank P.O. Box 250 Dell House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

Our values

Inclusive: Our movement brings together people from all backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming and respectful place for all and continually strive to be more diverse and representative, particularly of those with lived refugee experience.

Student-powered: Students are the driving force of STAR with the power to bring about positive change in their local communities and the UK.

Collaborative: We are stronger together. Change happens because we work collectively and share learning across our network, in our communities and alongside partners locally and nationally.

Dynamic: We have the energy to drive social change and the adaptability and flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to the changing environment.

Expert: Our network has the support of an experienced and knowledgeable staff team, and our work is informed by those with lived refugee experience.

Who we are and what we do

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) is the national network of students building a society where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed and can thrive.

At STAR we know that refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK experience multiple forms of adversity while seeking protection. As well as the difficult and traumatic experiences people who are forced to flee their homes because of war and persecution must live through, their journey to safety is often long and dangerous. Once they arrive here, the difficulties are far from over, as they face many challenges in claiming their right to asylum and building new lives. This is due to an increasingly hostile policy environment, negative media narrative and public attitudes, and limited access to services. We want to change this. Set up by students at Nottingham University in 1994, STAR is creating a more understanding, just and welcoming society by:

- empowering students to be changemakers;
- providing practical support for refugees by volunteering;
- challenging the structural barriers that refugees and asylum seekers face when seeking protection and building new lives in the UK;
- sharing information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

We have a small expert staff team who work to build our movement, train and support the network and lead on national campaigns and advocacy work for refugee rights, specialising in improving access to higher education. Our movement is an inclusive one with UK students, students from refugee backgrounds and international students working together to make change. For almost 30 years our vibrant national student network has impacted on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, making a difference that has reached far beyond the walls of universities and colleges. For many of our student leaders and activists, their involvement with STAR sparks the beginning of a lifelong commitment to social action and refugee and migrant rights.

Here's how STAR made a difference in 2024/25:

"Being part of STAR has been one of the most empowering experiences of my life. It's taught me the power of student activism, the importance of community, and how collective action can drive real change. I've learned to lead with empathy, to advocate with courage, and to never underestimate the impact of a small group of committed individuals." - **Shehany, Plymouth STAR**

Introduction

This past year has been possibly the most challenging year to date, as refugee rights have come under significant threat in terms of both asylum applications, as well as settlement, citizenship routes and integration into our communities.

These included the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, which sought to overhaul the asylum and border arrangements, which although removed the Rwanda Act 2024, it also proposed changes which would lead to increased removals and reduced pathways to refugee status, and the "Restoring control over the immigration system" White Paper, containing proposals and policy direction likely to change refugees' entitlements and procedural protections: e.g., changes to family reunion rules, asylum support eligibility and appeal processes. In addition to these, the winding down of the Afghan resettlement schemes, which mean more restrictive access to resettlement for new applicants; changes to age assessments, which may make it harsher and affect the long-term leave of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), all signal an even bigger tightening of safe routes and hostility towards those seeking sanctuary in the UK.

In addition, this year has seen an 90% increase in anti-migrant and anti-refugee rhetoric and populist movements, compared to last year, according to research by ISD Global. This year has also seen a rise in organised protests, violence and widespread anti-migrant mobilisation. The narratives have become increasingly toxic, claiming that migrants are a threat and cannot integrate, with a lot of these ideas having become normalised in the media and online.

If our mission has never felt more urgent last year, this year it feels both urgent, as well as imperative to counteract discourses of hate and continue to build communities of belonging and cohesion.

To add to the difficult environment, funding has become more limited than ever and the competition to secure it has become fiercer. A particular feature of the funding environment this year has been that the larger charities (with income over £1 Million) have been more successful at securing larger funding pots, whilst smaller charities have had to compete over a much smaller share. This, combined with rising operational costs have put a lot of strain on smaller charities leading to reduced capacity to support those most vulnerable, or to offer reduced support.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Despite the growing pressures facing refugee-support organisations, from tightening resources to an increasingly hostile political climate, STAR has continued to draw strength from the resilience and commitment of students across the UK. Their work has been vital: organising powerful campaigns, challenging harmful narratives, and creating welcoming, informed and inclusive spaces for refugees on campuses and in communities at a time when such solidarity is needed more than ever.

This report highlights achievements we are deeply proud of, made possible by the determination of our student volunteers, staff and supporters who have held firm despite rising uncertainty within the wider sector. Together, we are sustaining a movement built on hope, justice and collective care, and reaffirming our belief that everyone deserves safety, dignity and the chance to flourish.

Thank you for standing with us through a year of challenge and change, and for continuing to help build a future in which refugees are welcomed and supported to thrive.

Our impact – the highlights

The Student Action for Refugees (STAR) network

We continued to develop our movement across the UK, welcoming new members and developing STAR as one of the largest youth-driven networks advocating for refugee rights in the country.

- 42 affiliated groups - 8 new groups
- 246 STAR leaders and 2046 members
- 26565 Instagram followers
- 15 potential developing groups
- 379 student-led events with 8871 total attendees

"I joined STAR because I wanted to take action, but I didn't know where to start. I found a welcoming, empowering space that gave me the confidence to get involved and make an impact." — STAR member, Glasgow

Empowering and training the network

Through national and local training events and one-to-one support, STAR developed a network of informed and passionate student leaders who are equipped to advocate for change on their campuses, communities, and nationally.

Over the course of the year, the STAR national team delivered :

- 11 training sessions to STAR leaders and STAR members.
- 126 one to one or small group student leader support meetings throughout the year.
- Numerous support meetings and training sessions for English conversation Club leaders and volunteers

Through monitoring and evaluation, we obtained valuable feedback about the efficacy of our work and how to improve it, which is currently informing our work.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Community volunteering projects

This year, STAR volunteers ran dozens of projects supporting nearly 1,000 refugees and asylum seekers, working with 30 partner organisations to foster community, friendship, and meaningful intercultural connections.

This year STAR volunteers organised and led:

- 43 regular volunteering projects including 23 STAR-led projects.
- 38 one-off volunteering projects
- 654 STAR volunteers supported 974 refugees and people seeking asylum through their regular volunteering projects
- STAR groups worked with 30 partner organisations and regular volunteering partners, which were: Migrant Help, Bath Welcomes Refugees, Sport 4 Life, Bristol Community Learning, Jacari, Cambridge Women's Resource Centre, Space4U, City of Sanctuary, The Welcoming, Edinburgh Global, St Sidwells, Maryhill Integration Network, Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, Love to Learn, St Thomas' Church Lancaster, Leeds Refugee Forum, PAFRAS, CARAS, Nottingham Women's Centre, Red Cross, Asylum Welcome, START, Union Chapel, Plymouth Christian Centre, Coventry Council, P'tits Dejs Solidaires, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre and REUK.

"Joining star has been the best part of my uni experience- I tell everybody new I meet about Cardiff STAR and how much community, friendship and positivity is at our conversation classes. I have learnt how to interact with people from all over the world, from all walks of life, and my favourite memories have been chatting and getting to know so many different people who are all stars" - Maryam, Cardiff STAR

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the lottery community funding, our M&E consultant Shehnaaz held 4 workshops to develop and trial new tools to collect more targeted and relevant data from STAR student-led projects. The workshops covered:

- the basics of what M&E is
- why it is important
- what to focus on when collecting data
- how to interpret and report on collected data.

We trialled new and existing tools and collected data, supported by our ESOL consultants and met groups to provide training on how to use the new tools at their projects.

These tools developed include volunteer, leader and participant feedback forms and both volunteer and participant focus groups.

The use of the tools, particularly the discussion/focus group led to insightful discussions and feedback which highlighted the impact and importance of the student-led projects for everyone involved. The aim of data gathering was to better understand and map the skills and knowledge developed by STAR leaders, volunteers, and participants and will continue to inform both our strategic delivery, as well as our funding applications.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Campaigning for refugee rights and changing minds

Over the current year, STAR has actively supported and developed campaigning skills across its groups, via training sessions and events. Changing narratives and building empathy are central to STAR's work. This year, STAR groups organised 379 student-led events, with 8879 total attendees. This included:

- 33 Campaigning activities
- STAR groups involved in 19 campaigns
- 80 awareness raising events, including panel discussions, book clubs, academic talks, open mic nights, film screenings
- 6 Training sessions.

Advocating for Equal Access to University

Access to higher education remains at the heart of STAR's mission. This year we've provided support through mentoring, access to university and to scholarships information sessions, and further developing the Displaced Students Opportunities portal. We have also brought the Higher education sector together and promoted good practice to support displaced individuals to pursue their academic goals.

- 332 people seeking asylum and refugees attended 3 online information events and over 200 individuals were provided with individual signposting & advice
- 46 people were supported to apply to university & scholarships through our one-to-one mentoring project
- 121 providers and 148 access to HE opportunities were recorded on the Displaced Student Opportunities portal and it had over 15,000 unique users
- Our university staff network has over 100 members and continues to meet regularly
- Our Access to Higher Education Working Group has grown to include more relevant organisations from the HE and refugee charity sector
- We participated in and presented at a number of conferences and events, including UNICEF on Campus, the SCAPP Conference

Achievements of the STAR charity and network in 2024-2025

This has been yet another busy year across the STAR network; we welcomed 8 new groups, bringing the total by the end of the year to 42 STAR groups. We were also very pleased to welcome Queen's University Belfast STAR to the network meaning we now span all four UK nations. The groups were run by 266 STAR student leaders and had a membership of over 2000 students.

"STAR has been amazing for building my confidence, support & learning, and accessing resources that will ultimately help me to make my campus a more understanding and welcoming place." - **Ornait, QUB STAR**

Training and empowering students to build the movement and be changemakers

"I think the trainings are great; interactive, down to earth, and practical"

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

At the heart of STAR's impact is our vibrant national network of student leaders, activists, and volunteers. The role of the national charity is to equip these students with the skills, confidence, and support they need to drive meaningful change on their campuses and in their communities.

Throughout the year, the STAR national team offered tailored one-to-one guidance, training, and opportunities for peer connection, helping 8 new groups get up and running and ensuring existing groups had the tools to thrive. We held 126 individual support meetings with student leaders and delivered 11 online and in-person training and networking sessions attended by 285 students. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including an introduction to the UK asylum system, effective group and project management, event planning, campaigning skills, media and social media engagement, and navigating sensitive conversations about race and immigration.

"I think they were really useful and I also appreciated the chance to talk to other STAR chairs."

"Good way to network and get ideas from other STAR members across the country."

"All committee members found it really useful."

"I thought it was very helpful to help give me my bearings for the year."

"it was informative yet suitable for a non-specialist audience"

Our ESOL specialists also played a crucial role, offering both national online training and hands-on local support to English Conversation Club coordinators and volunteers. Across the year, they delivered numerous meetings, site visits, and training sessions to strengthen the quality and impact of these projects.

Providing a community welcome through volunteering

Through our national network, STAR mobilises hundreds of student volunteers to provide essential support and friendship to refugees across the UK. Working alongside 30 local partner organisations - Migrant Help, Bath Welcomes Refugees, Sport 4 Life, Bristol Community Learning, Jacari, Cambridge Women's Resource Centre, Space4U, City of Sanctuary, The Welcoming, Edinburgh Global, St Sidwells, Maryhill Integration Network, Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, Love to Learn, St Thomas' Church Lancaster, Leeds Refugee Forum, PAFRAS, CARAS, Nottingham Women's Centre, Red Cross, Asylum Welcome, START, Union Chapel, Plymouth Christian Centre, Coventry Council, P'tits Dejs Solidaires, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre and REUK -, our volunteer-led projects combine practical assistance with a welcoming environment. Initiatives include English conversation clubs, women's groups, kids' homework clubs, book clubs, bike projects, film nights, and university open days, all designed to reduce isolation, improve language skills, nurture cultural understanding, and help new arrivals settle into their communities.

Over the past year, STAR groups led 43 ongoing community projects, including 23 STAR led projects, engaging 654 volunteers who directly supported 974 refugees and 38 one-off volunteering events, including food and clothing drives, conversation clubs, community gatherings, and university open days.

Through these initiatives, STAR continues to create meaningful connections, foster community integration, and ensure refugees feel welcomed and supported in their new surroundings.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Conversation Clubs - A Case Study: For refugees in the UK, developing English skills is essential for participating in society, reducing isolation, and enhancing wellbeing. Many learners in our clubs aim to return to their previous professions, continue their education, or retrain, yet they often face limited access to classes that provide practical conversation practice or everyday English. STAR's English conversation clubs address these gaps by offering informal, social spaces where refugees can practice English, build friendships, and connect with welcoming members of their local communities.

Bristol Conversation Club

Twice a week, the Bristol STAR Conversation Club transforms the Central Library into a warm, welcoming space where refugees and asylum seekers practice English through conversation, connection, and community.

Held in collaboration with **Bristol City Council** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, each session has an average of **10-15 learners** and **5-7 student volunteers**. Over **20 themed sessions** were designed and delivered about to suit varying levels of English. Learners are grouped based on language ability, and volunteers adapt materials on the spot to make sessions as inclusive as possible.

"One learner told me it was the first time they felt confident enough to speak in a group setting."
- STAR Volunteer

Topics often spark cultural exchange. Learners share childhood stories, family traditions, and career dreams. One learner even requested a business-themed session to support their ambition of becoming an entrepreneur. The group responded by creating a pitch session, where each learner needs to pitch a product they choose, and it was described by attendees as *"inspiring and empowering."*

The conversation club at Bristol builds bridges. Word games, storytelling, and music discussions turn into moments of laughter and friendship. Volunteers report that learners mostly did not want the conversations to end.

"We stayed after the session ended because we were enjoying the games and learning so much from each other." - Learner

"Watching learners go from shy introductions to confidently presenting their ideas is incredible."
- STAR leader, Conversation Club Coordinator

Inclusivity is core to the club. When a few learners with lower English levels joined for the first time, the group flexed, creating a fifth group focused on everyday speaking skills like giving directions or booking appointments. As Teigan lives in Bristol, she has been able to visit the project a couple of times over the year and has seen how welcoming the space is and how thoughtfully the project is run.

"It's not just about grammar or vocabulary. It's about helping someone feel like they belong here." - STAR volunteer

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Case Study: Leeds STAR walk in Saltaire

On a sunny Wednesday in March, 16 learners and student volunteers from the Leeds STAR Wednesday Conversation Club boarded a train to Saltaire, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a nature-themed outing. With train fares covered by Sustrans, the group enjoyed a relaxed, outdoor experience away from the city. Guided by two Sustrans staff members (including a former STAR volunteer), participants explored the canal, park, and nearby nature reserve. The highlight was a tree-identification trail prepared by Sustrans. Using buds, bark, and branch patterns, learners enthusiastically searched for tree types. The shared curiosity sparked storytelling about outdoor experiences and cultural connections to nature.

- *"This is very good for me - to go outside..."* — Learner

The day strengthened the community and boosted learners' confidence using English outside the classroom/club. One attendee remarked that knowing Saltaire could be reached by bike was *"inspiring for future trips."* Though Ramadan meant a low-key approach to food sharing, the trip left a lasting impression and inspired ideas for replicating art projects seen in the park at the Leeds Refugee Forum.

STAR's volunteering projects play a vital role in building community by providing refugees with practical support, reducing isolation, and fostering social connections, while offering students opportunities to engage meaningfully, develop empathy, and strengthen local networks through collaborative initiatives with partner organisations.

Case Study - Warwick STAR

Warwick STAR held multiple one off volunteering projects across the academic year and are a great example of a group which regularly engages in new ideas, led by the demands of their local community. With these, they integrate their Equal Access work, regular volunteering projects and socials in a brilliantly effective way.

- In September they hosted an Open Day in collaboration with REUK and the Widening Participation Team, welcoming more than 50 people from sanctuary seeking backgrounds to campus.
- In December, in collaboration with their SU President, they collected, wrapped and distributed 70 gifts for individuals seeking asylum staying in hotels in Coventry.
- In January, they wrote messages of welcome which were then sent to Conversation Over Borders and distributed to those starting a new life in the UK. They said "together, we're offering hope, warmth, and a reminder that they are not alone".
- Also in January, they ran a donation drive for children's toys to distribute at their Conversation Club. They said "The kids were full of laughter and creativity – they even surprised us with a beautiful drawing of one of our amazing volunteers!"
- In May they ran a Family Open Day. The day began with a campus tour and an ice cream treat, then a picnic and BBQ. A Warwick student even volunteered to dress up as a dinosaur and a wolf to help make the day even more fun and welcoming for the children. Later, they held a creative session with i , where participants had the chance to draw and paint. They were also joined by the Warwick Islamic Society, which delivered a great presentation on student life. And finally, ended with talks from REUK and university staff on applying to university and scholarships.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

STAR's volunteering projects are essential in building welcoming, connected communities, with hundreds of student volunteers supporting countless refugees through projects and events across the entire UK, that reduce isolation, strengthen local networks, and help new arrivals settle into life here. Working alongside partner organisations, STAR groups deliver a wide range of initiatives including women's groups, homework clubs, film nights, bike projects, and university open days, that provide both practical support and meaningful social connection. Conversation Clubs are a cornerstone of this work: they give refugees the vital opportunity to practice everyday English in supportive, informal settings, boosting confidence, enabling participation in society, and helping learners pursue goals such as employment, education, and community involvement. Case studies from Bristol and Leeds illustrate how these clubs build friendships, foster cultural exchange, and create transformative learning experiences that empower participants and volunteers alike.

Campaigning for refugee rights and changing minds

"Being part of STAR has been one of the most empowering experiences of my life. It's taught me the power of student activism, the importance of community, and how collective action can drive real change. I've learned to lead with empathy, to advocate with courage, and to never underestimate the impact of a small group of committed individuals." - Shehany, Plymouth STAR

Over the years, STAR has actively supported and developed campaigning skills across its groups, via training sessions and events. Our staff visited and held discussions with several groups - including Durham, Leeds, Sussex, Stirling, Glasgow, Edinburgh, KCL, and Brunel - to support strategy and knowledge development, while online calls extended guidance to Bristol, Sheffield, Lancaster, Cardiff, Plymouth, LSE, and Cambridge. Capacity-building activities included our staff attending the People & Planet Powershift conference and a campaigning skills workshop, and engaging with the Together with Refugees Campaign Organisers Network to provide ongoing training and support. STAR groups themselves participated in a wide range of campaigns, from social media actions and petition signing to organizing events, research reports, and films, focusing on issues including Palestine, Families Together, Equal Access, Lift the Ban, detention, and local initiatives like Refugee Bus Travel, with some groups developing their own initiatives such as Cardiff STAR's participation in demonstrations and Durham STAR's work on the No to Hassockfield campaign and Equal Access advocacy.

In 2024–25, STAR groups organised student-led events attended by thousands of participants, including campaigning, awareness-raising, fundraising, recruitment, planning, and training activities. Central to this work has been changing narratives and building empathy, with panels, films, workshops, reading groups, and podcasts helping students critically engage with refugee issues. Resources like the "Changing Minds Event Ideas" and "Engaging in Conversations Guide" supported this focus. Some examples of the activities held by our STAR groups:

- Bath STAR delivered a workshop at the One Young World conference *"Challenging Media Bias: Reframing the Narrative on Refugees"*, giving students the tools to critically assess harmful media portrayals and speak up with confidence.
- Our long time partner Ice&Fire delivered powerful theatre pieces based on refugee testimonies for 5 STAR groups, followed by facilitated discussions.
- Warwick STAR hosted a Charity Summit on campus inviting local, national and international organisations including SOS Mediterranee, Safe Passage, REUK, Danish Refugee Council, British Refugee Council, Prisoners of Conscience and Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre. It provided a space for students to learn about career paths, new causes and knowledge and

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

meet professionals in the field. They reported that it was very successful and they made a lot of connections with organisations that they hope to build on throughout the year.

- LSE STAR held a talk and Q&A session with Mathilda Della Torre the author of *Conversations from Calais*, a book that documents conversations between migrants and volunteers in Calais. The event covered topics from how to get involved in humanitarian aid volunteering in Calais and how to get active in advocating for refugee rights.

Changing narratives and building empathy are central to STAR's work. This year, STAR groups organised 379 student-led events, with 8879 total attendees. This included:

- 33 Campaigning activities
- STAR groups involved in 19 campaigns
- 80 awareness raising events, including panel discussions, book clubs, academic talks, open mic nights, film screenings
- 81 fundraising events, including craft sessions, club nights, music performances, quizzes, yoga workshops
- 66 recruitment events, including freshers stalls, meet and greets
- 10 Planning events, including first meetings and planning meetings
- 6 Training sessions.

Improving Access to University for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

Access to higher education remains at the heart of our mission. In 2024-25 we've provided support through mentoring, information sessions, further developing the Displaced Students Opportunities portal, bringing the sector together and promoting good practice.

"We were honoured to be named "Changemakers of the Year" by The Big Issue, and have successfully established new partnerships with both local and national charities. Through this, STAR has become the main voice for advocating for Warwick Sanctuary Students, creating a platform to represent and amplify their voices on campus. Advocating for the wellbeing of our sanctuary peers has become one of STAR's core commitments." — Sam Pordale, Warwick STAR Leader and Equal Access Activist

We have provided accurate and regularly updated information on higher education opportunities for forcibly displaced students. Our website scholarship list continues to be visited by thousands of people and in partnership with REUK we relaunched the Displaced Students Portal in January with improvements to enhance user experience such as better search functionality, a map, language translation and a resource bank for providers. It now has 120 registered providers and has showcased over 150 opportunities.

"I was an asylum seeker in 2023, and I'm one of your newsletter subscribers. First, you have no idea how much Star Network changed my life, and how much the information you provide is very helpful to me, through your network I was able to know and get into the University of Warwick and also awarded the sanctuary scholarship, so thank you for that. Second, I also had the chance to secure a part-time job, which is very crucial to sustaining myself. So I just want to say a huge thank you to all of the team, and hopefully, I got the chance to contribute to your work in the future, and please continue doing this impactful work, and sharing those amazing opportunities with those who really need them."

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

We have helped hundreds of people understand the process of applying to university in the UK. We delivered 3 online information sessions for 332 people covering the UK HE systems, UCAS and scholarship applications.

"I really liked the personal experiences shared to us by the current university students who have been through a similar journey as me." — Attendee

Our one to one mentoring sessions supported 46 people with their applications. Many of our student groups organised bespoke open days and outreach in the community.

"The session helped me understand each part of the scholarship application — and it felt safe to ask questions and share ideas." — Mentee

The key initiatives we continue to deliver support the implementation of our ongoing commitment to make access to HE more equitable for those forcibly displaced, by continuing strategic partnerships and collaborations with universities, refugee charities and other relevant agencies, with the support our lived experience group, the Equal Access Advocates, who co-conceptualise, co-create and co-deliver all our initiatives.

Major Achievements This Year

Expanding and Improving Scholarships and Support for Displaced Students STAR's advocacy continues to help increase the number of dedicated scholarships for refugees and people seeking asylum, providing critical financial support and integration opportunities. Scholarships enable recipients to access resources, build networks, and feel supported within a welcoming campus environment. The university staff network has now grown to over 100 staff with all UK nations with representation from across the four UK nations. We continue to host monthly network meetings with Universities of Sanctuary. These sessions have created a collaborative network where staff share best practices, gain insights, and strengthen support for sanctuary scholars. As one staff member noted, the sessions have become "the space that had been missing." This network fosters a more inclusive academic environment, ensuring that scholarship programs adapt to meet refugee students' unique needs. It has also led to a number of sub-working groups that work collaboratively to resolve issues that arise for sanctuary scholars, and share good-practice. STAR has shaped this into a true community of practice which collaborates on knowledge sharing and praxis expansion.

STAR groups continue to champion sanctuary scholar support at their universities, with many having developed close linked relationships with the university staff which work in sanctuary initiatives. Warwick STAR is an excellent example of a STAR group that works successfully with staff to deliver on their University of Sanctuary initiative.

Case Study: Warwick STAR – Collaboration with the Widening Access and Participation Team

Warwick STAR held a Family Open Day in collaboration with the University of Warwick Widening Participation Team and Refugee Education UK Education UK. The day began with a campus tour and an ice cream treat. They then enjoyed a picnic and BBQ in Westwood. (With special thanks to the Warwick student who volunteered to dress up as a dinosaur and a wolf to help make the day even more fun and welcoming for the children.) Later, they held a creative session with *craftinghappiness*, where participants had the chance to draw and paint. We were also joined by the Warwick Islamic Society, which delivered a great presentation on student life. Lydia Nyachio from Refugee Education UK gave

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

an insightful presentation on how to apply to university and how families can support their children in accessing higher education. To end the day, Baljit Gill from the Widening Participation team shared valuable information about the scholarships available at Warwick for people seeking sanctuary.

Warwick STAR said *"It was an amazing day. Thank you to everyone who helped make it so special!"*

Our lived experience co-creators: The Equal Access Advocates (previously Equal Access Activists) The Equal Access Advocates (EAA) group continued to grow in 2024–25, beginning with an Autumn 2024 recruitment drive that brought the group to 19 members, with a few later leaving due to other commitments. A new EAA was also recruited in Northern Ireland, expanding the group's reach.

In November 2024, members came together in London for an in-person planning day. Originally scheduled as a two-day meetup, it was condensed to one day due to funding constraints. The event combined strategic planning—such as conducting a SWOT analysis, reviewing campaign goals, and discussing engagement and leadership roles—with visits to university groups to integrate EEAs into broader STAR activities. A key outcome was a strengthened understanding of University of Sanctuary work, which will inform future STAR group collaborations and university consultations.

New initiatives have emerged to enhance EAA engagement, including a Miro board for collaborative planning, clearly defined EAA roles and criteria, a peer mentorship programme, and a structured meeting system to support ongoing participation. A subsequent Scotland meetup, although attended by only one EAA, was highly impactful, applying strategic goals in a practical, student-led context with support from the SU.

Two online meetings in November and December maintained momentum post-meetup, focusing on survey results, role definitions, and mentoring initiatives. EEAs also ran targeted information sessions for medicine and Cambridge/Oxford applicants providing valuable guidance and demonstrating STAR's commitment to equitable access.

In the latter half of the year, the new Equal Access Manager met individually with all EEAs to assess engagement, personal circumstances, and interests. A mapping exercise was conducted to identify training needs and activity preferences, informing future involvement. Follow-up meetings and opportunities for EEAs to take on internal leadership roles have continued, supporting meaningful engagement across the group.

Guidance, Mentoring and Outreach

This year, STAR delivered three online information events that collectively engaged 332 prospective students live and several hundred others, via recordings. These sessions covered essential aspects of applying to university, such as navigating UCAS, understanding Student Finance, and accessing Sanctuary Scholarships. Alongside this, the team provided signposting and guidance to numerous individuals via phone and email, and offered more intensive support in some complex cases.

As part of our national mentoring programme, 46 refugees and asylum seekers were matched with trained student mentors, who offered personalised support on scholarship applications, admissions processes, and other academic pathways. In addition to these one-to-one pairings, STAR's EA Activists facilitated two group mentoring sessions for applicants seeking further guidance. Many mentees highlighted just how transformative this individualised support had been for their confidence and progress.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

"The session helped me understand each part of the scholarship application — and it felt safe to ask questions and share ideas." - Mentee

"I really liked the personal experiences shared to us by the current university students who have been through a similar journey as me." - Mentee

The Displaced Students Opportunities Portal

A key element of our support for prospective students is the Displaced Students Opportunities Portal. Launched in early 2023 in partnership with REUK and Universities of Sanctuary, the portal has quickly established itself as the central hub for information on higher education opportunities available to refugees in the UK. It currently features 150 opportunities from more than 100 universities and providers. In its first year alone, the portal attracted over 15,000 unique users and generated 89,000 page views.

New enhancements were released this autumn, including improved search functionality, multilingual access in seven languages, and a dedicated member area where universities can share resources and research. The portal remains widely used, and institutions continue to contact us to update their profiles. We continue to promote the portal through regular mailings and active engagement across our social media channels, including LinkedIn and Instagram.

Scholarship Promotion

Providing accurate, accessible information about scholarships for displaced applicants is vital to ensuring that refugees and people seeking asylum can make informed decisions about their education. Many applicants face significant barriers - including limited digital access, unfamiliarity with the UK university system, and unreliable or conflicting information - so having a trusted source where opportunities are clearly listed makes a transformative difference. Centralising this guidance not only reduces stress and confusion but also increases applicants' confidence in navigating a complex process.

Over the past year, scholarship opportunities have continued to be collated and widely promoted by STAR through mailers sent to around 2,000 people and across STAR's social media channels. We have received consistently positive feedback from higher education institutions and partner organisations, who report that these updates are an invaluable tool in reaching prospective students and informing the sector about scholarships available. To further strengthen the support available, the Access to University Enquiry Form has been updated to provide applicants with clearer, more comprehensive, and more easily accessible information.

Catalysing Partnerships to Influence Change

Throughout 2024–25, STAR strengthened partnerships across the higher education and charity sector to expand access and influence policy. Engagement with the University of Sanctuary (UoS) network included representation on the UoS Steering Group and awards panel, supporting KCL's successful University of Sanctuary recognition and guiding applications from other institutions. The University Staff Network grew to over 100 members, facilitated through a dedicated MS Teams space and regular meetings to share best practice, address challenges, and provide mutual support. STAR also continued active participation in the Access to Higher Education Working Group (AHEWG), expanding

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

membership, discussing sector responses to policy developments, and exploring strategic collaborations.

STAR provided direct university support, offering guidance on UCAS data, scholarships, transport funding, and individual student cases across multiple institutions, and organised the University of Sanctuary Conference, engaging scholars, staff, and sector actors to share insights and develop strategic initiatives.

The STAR National Mentoring Programme offered university application and scholarship support to applicants from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds. Mentoring sessions, complemented by training, information sessions, and guidance from Equal Access Activists, paired mentees with experienced student mentors, providing personalised support on applications, scholarships, and navigating higher education. Across quarters two and three, hundreds of applicants attended information sessions live on via recordings, with mentors providing individual support to applicants, and high satisfaction reported by both mentors and mentees, highlighting the value of one-on-one guidance and structured support.

STAR groups also engaged in Equal Access initiatives, running scholarship sessions, open days, and mentoring programmes in collaboration with universities and local organisations. Notable activities included Warwick STAR's Family Open Day, which combined campus engagement, creative workshops, and student society presentations to provide a welcoming, informative experience for displaced families.

Through these partnerships and initiatives, STAR has continued to embed equity, mentorship, and access-focused practices across HEIs, while strengthening strategic collaboration and practical support for students from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds.

Thank you to our donors

A huge thank you to the groups and individuals who went above and beyond to raise money for the STAR charity.

We also don't want to forget our regular donors and everyone else who gave generously to support our work this year, particularly those who have donated through our two Big Give Fundraising campaigns. Thank you so much!

And of course, a huge thank you to all of the generous trusts and foundations who fund us including; Reaching Communities England, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, The Southall Trust, The Hilden Charitable Fund, Evan Cornish Foundation and Blue Thread / This Day.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Financial review

The charity's reserves stood at £63,787 at the year end (2024: £107,479). The reserves were made up of £12,001 unrestricted reserves (2024: £64,843) and £51,786 restricted reserves (2024: £42,636).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a sufficient level to:

- Ensure the charity can meet its obligations in the event of it having to close or significantly reduce in size.
- Meet foreseeable but unknowable costs which cannot be funded from specific or restricted funding

While our level of unrestricted funds are currently lower than we would wish, our restricted funds are healthy, and all are granted to carry out what we see as core STAR activities. We are therefore in a position to continue with a modest level of unrestricted funds to cover contingencies and unfunded work, while closely monitoring our financial position, and prioritising fundraising to help us meet an increasing demand for our support.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In making their assessment, the trustees have considered the financial position of the charity, including its reserves, cash flow forecasts, and future funding.

The charity's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent upon securing future funding and managing its cash flows effectively. The charity is primarily grant funded, which can at times be a volatile source of funding, particularly when many charities are competing for limited funds. This is very much the case at the moment, and the board are continuing to strike a balance between continuing and maximising the invaluable work of the skilled staff team, and making necessary budget cuts to ensure the organisation's long-term survival and impact.

The trustees have taken the following steps to manage this balance:

- Developed detailed cash flow forecasts, to allow the board to make the minimum necessary budget and staffing cuts, if required.
- Cost-saving measures have already been implemented by reducing non-essential expenditure and scaling back on non-core activities.
- Exploring other sources of income, and securing volunteers to assist in this process.

The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result if the charity was unable to continue as a going concern.

Risk Management

STAR has a risk register which is updated annually by the Trustees with advice from the staff team.

Structure, governance and management

STAR was established in 1994 by students at the University of Nottingham and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in January 2000. It was established under a Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by the Articles of Association.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Osborne

M Taher

M Grenier

J Schofield-Wood

(Retired 11 February 2025)

C Bacon

S Srikanth

(Retired 20 November 2024)

R Burman

(Retired 18 March 2025)

M Altaras

M Hastings

(Retired 9 April 2025)

Z Bonnett

(Appointed 20 November 2024)

New Trustees are elected by the STAR membership at the AGM. Candidates are asked to submit a written application to Trustees and, if selected, will be co-opted by the Board to serve until the following AGM. STAR also has three places reserved for STAR student members who are elected by the membership at the AGM.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational Structure

STAR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the Trustees of the charity are also directors of the limited company. STAR is a membership organisation with the STAR groups as its members. STAR groups are student union societies which are constituted within their universities or college's student union and then affiliated to the STAR national charity. STAR members are trained and supported by the staff team from the charity's offices in London.

STAR's student members meet annually at the AGM in November at which they elect Trustees, view the Annual Accounts and plan STAR's work for the coming year. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for governance and oversight of the charity, they ensure that STAR fulfils its legal obligations and carries out activities to fulfil its aims for the public benefit, they also oversee strategy and resources. The Trustees delegate responsibility for running the charity to the Chief Executive and meet quarterly as well as attending the AGM and annual student Committee Training in June.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



J Osborne

Trustee



M Taher

Trustee

Date: 22 March 2026

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of STAR (Student Action for Refugees) (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Linda Dunford FCCA CTA

Warner Wilde Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

4 Marigold Drive

Bisley

Surrey

GU24 9SF

Date: 25/03/26

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	52,229	112,659	164,888	60,183	109,838	170,021
Charitable activities	4	890	-	890	1,017	-	1,017
Other trading activities	5	711	-	711	-	-	-
Investments	6	770	-	770	1,511	-	1,511
Total income		<u>54,600</u>	<u>112,659</u>	<u>167,259</u>	<u>62,711</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>172,549</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	501	215	716	214	57	271
Charitable activities	8	106,941	103,294	210,235	126,240	71,607	197,847
Total expenditure		<u>107,442</u>	<u>103,509</u>	<u>210,951</u>	<u>126,454</u>	<u>71,664</u>	<u>198,118</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(52,842)	9,150	(43,692)	(63,743)	38,174	(25,569)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 July 2024		<u>64,843</u>	<u>42,636</u>	<u>107,479</u>	<u>128,586</u>	<u>4,462</u>	<u>133,048</u>
Fund balances at 30 June 2025		<u>12,001</u>	<u>51,786</u>	<u>63,787</u>	<u>64,843</u>	<u>42,636</u>	<u>107,479</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		320		640
Current assets					
Debtors	15	2,739		14,500	
Cash at bank and in hand		67,309		123,379	
		70,048		137,879	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(6,581)		(31,040)	
Net current assets			63,467		106,839
Total assets less current liabilities			63,787		107,479
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	19	51,786		42,636	
Unrestricted funds	20	12,001		64,843	
		63,787		107,479	

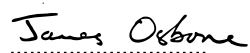
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The director acknowledges his responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 25 February 2026.



J Osborne
Trustee



M Taher
Trustee

Company registration number 3902118 (England and Wales)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 4 Marigold Drive, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9SF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Donated services are included in income at the estimate value to the Charity, when quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised for services donated by volunteers.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	3 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	3,729	9,832	13,561	4,223	-	4,223
Grants	48,400	102,827	151,227	54,500	109,838	164,338
Donated goods and services	100	-	100	1,460	-	1,460
	<u>52,229</u>	<u>112,659</u>	<u>164,888</u>	<u>60,183</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>170,021</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Grants						
The Blue Thread	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
The Hilden Charitable Fund	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Evan Cornish foundation	-	4,000	4,000	-	8,668	8,668
Reaching Communities Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	-	76,827	76,827	-	79,670	79,670
Student Hubs	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Refugee Education UK	13,400	-	13,400	-	-	-
Southall Trust	-	22,000	22,000	-	21,500	21,500
The Forrester Family Trust	-	-	-	4,500	-	4,500
Other	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
	<u>48,400</u>	<u>102,827</u>	<u>151,227</u>	<u>54,500</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>164,338</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Charitable activities		
Other income	890	1,017
	<u>890</u>	<u>1,017</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	503	-
Shop income	208	-
	<u>711</u>	<u>-</u>
Other trading activities	-	-

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	770	1,511

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Other fundraising costs	501	215	716	214	57	271

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	169,944	166,467
Depreciation and impairment	320	320
Student network support costs	6,386	6,475
Printing, postage and stationery	544	70
Telephone and internet	474	500
Subscriptions and membership fees	207	201
Staff training and recruitment	3,326	2,033
ESOL tutors	3,389	3,507
Consultancy	7,040	-
	191,630	179,573
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	11,293	14,591
Governance	7,312	3,683
	210,235	197,847
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	106,941	126,240
Restricted funds	103,294	71,607
	210,235	197,847

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Professional fees	34	13
Rent, rates and room hire	7,096	10,439
Insurance	1,710	1,608
Computer and IT	2,310	2,252
Bank charges	108	114
Repairs, maintenance and equipment	243	165
Governance costs	7,104	3,683
	<u>18,605</u>	<u>18,274</u>

Analysed between:

Charitable activities	<u>18,605</u>	<u>18,274</u>
-----------------------	---------------	---------------

Governance costs comprise:	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiners fees	1,640	1,576
Accountancy	2,877	1,736
Legal and professional	2,587	110
Other governance costs	-	261
	<u>7,104</u>	<u>3,683</u>

10 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,640	1,576
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>320</u>	<u>320</u>

11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025 Number	2024 Number
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

12 Employees

(Continued)

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	151,956	150,161
Social security costs	9,394	8,654
Other pension costs	8,594	7,652
	<u>169,944</u>	<u>166,467</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, defined as the Chief Executive role, is as follows.

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>59,426</u>	<u>55,013</u>

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 July 2024	2,915
Disposals	1,758
	<u>4,673</u>
At 30 June 2025	
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 July 2024	2,275
Depreciation charged in the year	320
Eliminated in respect of disposals	1,758
	<u>4,353</u>
At 30 June 2025	
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2025	<u>320</u>
At 30 June 2024	<u>640</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	2,429	14,500
Prepayments and accrued income	310	-
	<u>2,739</u>	<u>14,500</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security		1,985	2,022
Deferred income	17	-	22,000
Trade creditors		-	684
Other creditors		1,570	2,126
Accruals		3,026	4,208
		<u>6,581</u>	<u>31,040</u>

17 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Other deferred income	-	22,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,000</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	-	22,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,000</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 July 2024	22,000	13,500
Released from previous periods	(22,000)	(13,500)
Resources deferred in the year	-	22,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,000</u>
Deferred income at 30 June 2025	-	22,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>22,000</u>

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	8,594	7,652
	<u>8,594</u>	<u>7,652</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

18 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 July 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2025
	£	£	£	£
Foundation Open Society Institute	4,462	-	-	4,462
Reaching Communities	38,174	76,827	(75,403)	39,598
The Big Give	-	9,832	(4,105)	5,727
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	4,000	(2,001)	1,999
Refugee Education UK	-	22,000	(22,000)	-
	<u>42,636</u>	<u>112,659</u>	<u>(103,509)</u>	<u>51,786</u>
Previous year:	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£
Foundation Open Society Institute	4,462	-	-	4,462
Reaching Communities	-	79,670	(41,496)	38,174
The Aziz Foundation	-	8,668	(8,668)	-
Refugee Education UK	-	21,500	(21,500)	-
	<u>4,462</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>(71,664)</u>	<u>42,636</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Foundation Open Society Institute

To empower university students to support refugees to settle and succeed in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Reaching Communities

Student Action for Refugees Community Welcome Projects: £320,451 over 4 years to support 1,700 refugees through Youth Social Action projects to feel more welcome, less isolated and have improved wellbeing. 1,300 STAR student volunteers will have a better understanding of the refugee experience and improved cross-cultural understanding.

The Aziz Foundation

Funding for staff: Access to University Co-ordinator and Student Network Organiser.

Refugee Education UK

Towards the cost of staff time providing university-facing support for institutions using the Displaced Student Opportunities UK portal, including quality assurance and due diligence on all opportunities featured on the site and good practice coordination

The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund

To maintain STAR's student volunteer services supporting refugees and asylum seekers

The balance on the fund represents the net book value of the office equipment and will be offset against depreciation of the assets.

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 July 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	64,843	54,600	(107,442)	12,001
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	128,586	62,711	(126,454)	64,843
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 30 June 2025:			
Tangible assets	-	320	320
Current assets/(liabilities)	12,001	51,466	63,467
	<u>12,001</u>	<u>51,786</u>	<u>63,787</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 30 June 2024:			
Tangible assets	-	640	640
Current assets/(liabilities)	64,843	41,996	106,839
	<u>64,843</u>	<u>42,636</u>	<u>107,479</u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

Accounts

Charity registration number 1079042

Company registration number 3902118 (England and Wales)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Osborne	
	M Taher	
	M Grenier	
	J Schofield-Wood	
	C Bacon	
	S Srikanth	
	R Burman	(Appointed 26 July 2023)
	M Altaras	(Appointed 22 November 2023)
	M Hastings	(Appointed 22 November 2023)
Charity number	1079042	
Company number	3902118	
Registered office	356 Holloway Road London N7 6PA	
Independent examiner	F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA Warner Wilde 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
	The Co-operative Bank P.O. Box 250 Dell House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

THE WORK OF STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES

Our vision

A society where refugees are welcomed and can thrive as equal members of the community.

Our values

Inclusive: Our movement brings together people from all backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming and respectful place for all and continually strive to be more diverse and representative, particularly of those with lived refugee experience.

Student-powered: Students are the driving force of STAR with the power to bring about positive change in their local communities and the UK.

Collaborative: We are stronger together. Change happens because we work collectively and share learning across our network, in our communities and alongside partners locally and nationally.

Dynamic: We have the energy to drive social change and the adaptability and flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to the changing environment.

Expert: Our network has the support of an experienced and knowledgeable staff team, and our work is informed by those with lived refugee experience.

Who we are and what we do

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) is the national network of students building a society where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed and can thrive.

At STAR we know that refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK experience multiple forms of adversity while seeking protection. As well as the difficult and traumatic experiences people who are forced to flee their homes because of war and persecution must live through, their journey to safety is often long and dangerous. Once they arrive here, the difficulties are far from over, as they face many challenges in claiming their right to asylum and building new lives. This is due to an increasingly hostile policy environment, negative media narrative and public attitudes, and limited access to services. We want to change this. Set up by students at Nottingham University in 1994, STAR is creating a more understanding, just and welcoming society by:

- empowering students to be changemakers;
- providing practical support for refugees by volunteering;
- challenging the structural barriers that refugees and asylum seekers face when seeking protection and building new lives in the UK;
- sharing information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

We have a small expert staff team who work to build our movement, train and support the network and lead on national campaigns and advocacy work for refugee rights, specialising in improving access to higher education

Our movement is an inclusive one with UK students, students from refugee backgrounds and international students working together to make change. For almost 30 years our vibrant national student network has impacted on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, making a difference that has reached far beyond the walls of universities and colleges. For many of our student leaders and activists, their involvement with STAR sparks the beginning of a lifelong commitment to social action and refugee and migrant rights.

Here's how STAR made a difference in 2023/24:

Introduction

This year has been transformative yet challenging for our community, as refugee rights have come under significant pressure in the UK and abroad. With policies like the Illegal Migration Act and the Rwanda plan tightening access to safe refuge, and with rising hostility toward refugees, our mission has never felt more urgent. Despite these obstacles, STAR has harnessed the resilience and dedication of students nationwide who continue to take meaningful action—from organizing impactful campaigns to fostering a welcoming environment for refugees in communities and on campuses across the country.

This report reflects the achievements we're proud of, made possible by the dedication of our student volunteers, staff, and supporters. Together, we are building a movement grounded in hope, resilience, and the belief that everyone deserves a place to thrive. Thank you for standing with us on this journey.

Our impact – the highlights

The Student Action for Refugees (STAR) network

We continued building our movement across the UK, welcoming new members and making it one of the largest youth-driven networks advocating for refugee rights in the country.

- 38 STAR groups - 11 new groups this year
- 222 STAR group leaders & 1902 members
- 23583 Instagram followers
- 262 student-led events with 9609 attendees
- Sam and Angel, Warwick STAR leaders were included in Big Issue's Top 100 Changemakers of the Year!

"My experience with STAR has been tremendous. STAR has enabled me to get outside the student bubble, expanding my understanding of local life in my community. It has provided me with an understanding of how the UK immigration system is badly affecting vulnerable people." - Leeds STAR leader.

Empowering and training the network

Through one-on-one support, and national and local training events, STAR developed a network of informed and passionate student leaders who are equipped to advocate for change on their campuses, communities, and nationally.

- 136 one-to-one support meetings with student leaders
- 15 national training sessions for 270 STAR student leaders and members
- 41 support meetings and training for English Conversation Club leaders and volunteers

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Community volunteering projects

Across the UK, STAR volunteers dedicated their time and energy to community projects that support refugees, from conversation clubs to cultural events, helping newcomers feel welcomed and connected.

- 1280 refugees supported by 645 volunteers
- 34 volunteering projects & 413 volunteers supporting 834 refugees
- 28 STAR-led volunteering projects including 16 conversation clubs
- 25 one-off volunteering events run by 232 volunteers, benefiting at least 446 refugees

Campaigning for refugee rights.

We mobilised thousands of students to campaign on the Illegal Migration Act, Rwanda plan, immigration detention, asylum accommodation, the right to work for people seeking asylum, safe routes to the UK for displaced people - including Gaza family reunion visas - and calling for universities to divest from arms companies. Through impactful events, petitions, and participation in national protests, STAR amplified calls for a humane asylum system.

- 46 STAR group campaign events and activities reaching thousands
- 1000 students voted for Warwick Student Union to support the Lift the Ban Campaign

Advocating for Equal Access to University

Our work to expand scholarships, establish mentoring networks, and partner with universities nationwide has helped hundreds of displaced individuals pursue their academic goals.

- 665 people seeking asylum and refugees attended 3 online information events and 224 were provided with individual signposting & advice
- 76 people were supported to apply to university & scholarships through our mentoring project
- 100 providers and 127 access to HE opportunities now on the Displaced Student Opportunities portal and it had 15,000 unique users in its first year
- Our staff network now has 100 staff members from 58 universities

Achievements of the STAR charity and network in 2023-24

It was another busy year across the STAR network, although we lost a few groups at the end of 2022-23 we supported the setup of 11 new groups, bringing the total by the end of the year to 37 STAR groups across 29 towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales. The groups were run by 222 STAR student leaders and had a membership of over 1900 students with a combined total of 23,583 Instagram followers!

"Doing small actions are the most important, going to a demonstration or even just having a conversation with someone can have an impact. Don't get disheartened, get out of your comfort zone, join a group, it might be scary at first but I guarantee you will meet like minded people and you'll be really glad you did it! I feel like STAR really helped me through my University experience." - Maria, Cardiff STAR

Training and empowering students to build the movement and be changemakers

"The training sessions were excellent and provided me with a key sense of STAR's mission and my role within it."

Our strength is our amazing national network of dedicated student leaders, activists and volunteers and the role of the national charity is to provide them with the support and training they need to be effective changemakers.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The STAR national team provides extensive 1:1 support, training and networking opportunities to student leaders to help new groups - 11 this year - get established, and ensure all leaders have the advice and guidance they need to run successful student societies, campaigns, organise impactful events, volunteering projects and handover to new leadership at the end of the year. We had 136 1:1 support meetings with STAR leaders and we delivered 15 online and in-person training and networking sessions for 285 students. These covered topics like an introduction to asylum in the UK, how to run your group and volunteering projects, how to use social media effectively and engage with the media, how to campaign, and how to have difficult conversations about race and immigration. Our English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) professionals provided national online training and local support to English Conversation Club coordinators and volunteers, a total of 41 meetings, visits and on-site training sessions.

"It was great to hear ideas from other STAR groups and it was also really inspiring to hear what other groups have been doing"

"I had a great time and was very informative and inspirational regarding new ideas I can introduce to my uni as a new committee member."

A highlight this year was when Sam and Angel were named in the Big Issue's Top 100 Changemakers of 2024 for their brilliant work with Warwick STAR. Each year The Big Issue uses the list to highlight those who are working hard to make things better for others, receiving nominations from across the country and whittling it down to only 100! This year they also wanted to highlight the "new generation of social impact leaders."

Providing a community welcome through volunteering

Through our national network, we mobilise hundreds of student volunteers who provide essential support and friendship to refugees in their communities. In collaboration with local charities and organisations, our volunteer-led projects offer practical assistance and foster a welcoming environment. These initiatives range from English conversation clubs, women's groups, and kids' homework clubs to book clubs, bike projects, film nights, and university open days. Each project is aimed at reducing isolation, helping new arrivals to get to know their new home, improving English language skills, and nurturing cultural understanding to strengthen community bonds. Over the past year, STAR groups led 28 community projects supporting refugees and recruited volunteers for an additional six projects run by local organisations. In total, 413 volunteers directly impacted 834 refugees through these ongoing initiatives.

In addition, STAR groups organised 25 one-off volunteering events involving 232 volunteers, reaching at least 446 refugees. These events included clothing and food drives for local charities and organisations working in Calais, as well as community gatherings and university open days.

For example, Warwick STAR collected an impressive 62 kg of rice, 62 kg of pasta, 80 toothbrushes, 20 kg of lentils, and 306 menstrual pads to distribute through the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre. In a special Valentine's Day event, 35 Plymouth STAR volunteers assembled over 50 care bags filled with essentials like food, toiletries, and treats. Each bag included a handwritten note of welcome for refugee families in Plymouth. *"This was the highlight of the year for me!"* shared Shehany, Plymouth STAR President and refugee scholar.

These impactful projects were made possible through partnerships with 27 outstanding local organisations; Asylum Welcome, Bristol Community Learning, Cambridge Women's Resource Centre, Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, Conversation Club Leeds, Coventry Council, Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, Edinburgh City Mission, Jacari, Leeds Refugee Forum, LinkNet, Maryhill Integration Network, Migrant Help, Nottingham Women's Centre, Our Second Home, Plateful Cafe, RAFT, Rainbow Junction, Red Cross Nottingham, Refugee Support Devon, Space4U, Sport 4 Life, St Sidwells, The Welcoming.

Conversation Clubs: A Case Study: For refugees in the UK being able to speak English is the key to taking part in society, reducing isolation, and improving wellbeing. Many of the English language learners in our clubs want to return to their previous professions, continue with their education, or retrain yet in the UK they struggle to access classes and often find that these do not provide sufficient opportunities to practice conversation or learn the English they need for daily life. STAR's English conversation clubs address these challenges by creating informal, social spaces where refugees can practice English, make friends, and meet welcoming locals.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Over the past year, STAR has run 14 clubs across 8 cities, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Coventry, Glasgow, Leeds, and Nottingham, with support from a national team and ESOL professionals. Each club provides a unique learning environment with a strong emphasis on social connection and cultural exchange, offering learners and volunteers alike the chance to grow. Here are a few examples.

Leeds STAR ran three conversation clubs this year—two in-person and one online. On Wednesday they hold a club the Leeds Refugee Forum (LRF), it is a supportive and relaxed setting for practising English, attracting around 25 learners and supported by 15 dedicated volunteers. Learners express how impactful the club has been:

"I go most weeks... I don't have friends here (in the UK), so it's nice to find people to speak with."

"When I come, I didn't speak English, now I speak. They are good people."

For volunteers, the club offers a meaningful experience, connecting them with the wider community:

"It's good to get out of the Uni 'bubble' and see a different aspect of the city. I talk about STAR at uni a lot."

They also run a club on a Thursday, in partnership with Rainbow Junktion, which has become a close-knit gathering with a small core group of regular learners. Sessions often feature shared snacks, sparking rich cross-cultural conversations. Emilia, a Leeds STAR coordinator, shared:

"The last Club of the year was a celebration... from identifying proteins in DNA to German philosophy. All participants said that they would miss the social aspect of the club and the chance to have extended, stimulating conversations. Everyone loved it, there was always lots of laughing, and gratitude from the learners towards the volunteers, it really felt like a little family."

This club has been particularly successful in creating friendships and allowing members to share their backgrounds. The relaxed environment has also drawn positive feedback from Rainbow Junktion, who noted that community projects often have difficulty gaining engagement, but that this student-run club was exceptionally well-received.

For those who prefer a virtual format, the Saturday Online Club offers a structured yet flexible approach to language learning. The online sessions have a steady core of five learners, facilitated by a small group of volunteers. Sessions are topic-based, allowing for focused discussion, and the group maintains contact through a WhatsApp group, where topics and resources are shared. Learners gain confidence as they share ideas on everything from current events to cultural interests, and this accessible format has provided a platform for those at intermediate language levels to advance their conversation skills.

In Bristol, the STAR group also runs three clubs. They are all at accessible community locations, including weekly adult sessions at the Bristol Central Library and a young people's club at Bristol City College. Nilu, president of Bristol STAR, explains the impact the clubs have on everyone involved:

"The highlights of the clubs have been knowing that we are having a positive impact on learner's lives - with some learners showing up at the Sanctuary Scholarship Open Days and pursuing Higher Education as a result of increased confidence in their skills as well as performing at STAR events and applying for higher positions in their work field. I also feel it has helped learners find a way to call Bristol home amidst a hostile and cold policy environment by providing a warm and welcoming safe space. There's always a laugh, a smile, and a story at our Conversation Clubs and it is so heartwarming to see people develop the confidence to let their personalities show and engage in conversation as well as helping each other out. It's lovely to know that we've fostered a sense of community - with many of our attendees befriending each other and practising English together outside the clubs."

With consistent attendance and growing numbers, Bristol's clubs have even required extra seating, underscoring the club's popularity and success in creating a friendly, supportive environment where participants can forge friendships, share stories, and build a sense of belonging in a new city.

"It's great because, unlike other classes, we get to practice our English here for free!"

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Through conversation clubs, STAR has built inclusive spaces where refugees not only improve their language skills but also find connection, cultural exchange, and a sense of home. Here Bethlehem Gebregheghish, Nottingham STAR English Class Coordinator shares why the experience matters so much to her.

"I volunteered with STAR because, as the daughter of refugee parents, I feel a deep connection to and appreciation for this community. Growing up, I saw first-hand the challenges and resilience required to rebuild their lives. This experience instilled in me a strong desire to give back to the community that has shaped who I am today. I cherished the opportunity to meet diverse learners and build meaningful relationships with each of them. Despite language barriers, shared laughter and our mutual passion for learning and teaching created a strong bond. This experience has had a significant impact on me, allowing me to connect with people from different walks of life, many of whom I might not have encountered otherwise, especially within a university setting. I encourage others to volunteer with STAR, especially in this polarising time in the UK, where refugees are often seen as a monolithic group. STAR's work is essential in bringing to light each individual's unique story and empowering them on their journey to a new beginning."

Improving Access to University for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

In 2023-24, STAR made significant progress toward improving access to higher education for refugees and people seeking asylum across the UK. This work has been shaped by our Equal Access Activists who all have lived experience of forced migration. Refugees face numerous barriers to education, including financial constraints, limited access to information, and systemic challenges that often prevent them from pursuing university pathways. Through STAR's efforts to expand scholarships, establish mentoring networks, and partner with universities nationwide, we have helped hundreds of displaced individuals overcome these barriers and pursue their academic goals.

As one new sanctuary scholar shared:

"I am thrilled to share the exciting news that I have been selected for the Sanctuary Scholarship to study Business Analytics MSc. I want to express my deepest gratitude for the valuable information sessions and the supportive platform provided by STAR. Your efforts have been incredibly helpful and instrumental in this achievement."

STAR's commitment to improving access to university is built on over a decade of advocacy and collaboration, and this year we continued to drive positive change through key initiatives.

Major Achievements This Year

Expanding and Improving Scholarships and Support for Displaced Students STAR's advocacy helped increase the number of dedicated scholarships for refugees and people seeking asylum, providing critical financial support and integration opportunities. Scholarships enable recipients to access resources, build networks, and feel supported within a welcoming campus environment.

The university staff network, established last year, has now grown to 100 staff members from 58 universities, with all UK nations and also Ireland represented! This year, STAR with Universities of Sanctuary, started hosting monthly online meetups. These sessions created a collaborative network where staff could share best practices, gain insights, and strengthen support for sanctuary scholars. As one staff member noted, the sessions have become *"the space that had been missing."* This network fosters a more inclusive academic environment, ensuring that scholarship programs adapt to meet refugee students' unique needs.

STAR groups across Cardiff, Bristol, Sussex, and Birmingham championed sanctuary scholar support on their campuses, leading to progress in scholarships, accommodation, mentoring, and staff training. For example, **Sussex STAR** made a film about the risk of homelessness faced by asylum-seeking students to highlight the importance of ensuring adequate accommodation is provided as part of the scholarship which they screened on campus and in Brighton to advocate for change.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Case Study: Birmingham STAR – Advocating for Equal Access

Birmingham STAR's work this year exemplifies internal university advocacy. The group launched its "Refugee Reach" initiative to expand support and scholarships for sanctuary students, engaging both their Student Union and university administrators. The initiative received overwhelming support, with **470 students voting in favour**. Birmingham STAR committee members also engaged with the Birmingham University of Sanctuary steering group, advocating for improved policies and resources for sanctuary scholars. This sustained engagement resulted in policy changes, including increased scholarships and better integration programs. Birmingham STAR member Kate shared:

"Committee members attended monthly University of Sanctuary meetings to lobby the university for better treatment of refugee students, and we wrote a policy that was accepted by the university to better integrate and welcome students on the Sanctuary Scholarship."

EA Activist Team Expansion and Development Our Equal Access Activist (EA) group grew with the addition of eight new members, strengthening our advocacy team. A strategy weekend in Birmingham provided training, strategy refinement, and renewed focus for the team. EA Activists also contributed to a peer-led research project with Sheffield University, taking an evidence-based approach to advocacy. In addition to offering practical advice through their peer-led online Equal Access Network forum, EA Activists presented at STAR's online information events and led interactive campaign workshops for STAR leaders, empowering both applicants and advocates.

Guidance, Mentoring, and Outreach This year, STAR hosted three online information sessions, reaching 665 prospective students and covering key topics in the university application process, including UCAS, Student Finance, and Sanctuary Scholarships. STAR also provided 245 individuals with signposting advice through phone and email and supported several cases in-depth, including students who faced homelessness at the start of their course or international students who claimed asylum mid-course and were unable to pay fees.

"I got the scholarship from Aston University! Thank you Tamana for your help to prepare for the interview and thank you Lara for your help, every time I ask for help I receive help from you. Again thank you very much both of you for your help. I will try to make the best of this scholarship."

Through our national mentoring program, STAR paired 76 refugees and asylum seekers with 58 student mentors, who provided critical guidance on scholarship applications, university admissions, and other key steps. In addition to these individual sessions, STAR's EA Activists hosted two group mentoring sessions for students seeking extra guidance. Many mentees emphasized the impact of this one-on-one support:

"I loved that it was one-to-one; I was able to ask all my questions comfortably. My mentor was easy to communicate with and made everything clear."

"My mentor was very friendly, and she supported me with great information that was new for me. It was very important for me to apply for the correct scholarships."

We were very pleased to hear from several participants who secured university places and scholarships.

"Good news: I got the sanctuary scholarship with the Compass Project at Birkbeck University. Thank you for the session you provided on writing the scholarship application."

"Thanks to your support, I secured a Sanctuary Scholarship at the University of Glasgow to study Law (LLB, Graduate Entry)."

Several STAR groups played their part in university outreach this year. Warwick, Bristol, and Nottingham STAR organized open days and campus information sessions to introduce displaced students to university life. Nottingham STAR partnered with NEST, a full-time educational program for young refugees aged 15-19, hosting a scavenger hunt on campus. Warwick STAR held two events, including a Family Day in May which they describe here;

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

"We welcomed 40 people—women, parents, and kids—from sanctuary backgrounds on campus for our Family Day. We started with a sculpture tour of campus. In the afternoon, the children played hockey with the Warwick Mixed Hockey Club while parents learned about university pathways and sanctuary scholarships with Refugee Education UK. They all departed with big smiles, asking for more days like our Family Day and more sports taster sessions. We hope that we have inspired children and parents to follow the path to university."

One of the participants had this to say;

"It was powerful to walk around campus with my family, learning about the opportunities available here. Warwick STAR really made us feel welcome."

The Displaced Student Opportunities Portal Another important way we provide support is through the Displaced Students Opportunities Portal. Launched in early 2023, a partnership project with REUK and Universities of Sanctuary, it has become the one-stop resource for higher education opportunities for refugees in the UK. Currently listing 127 opportunities from 100 providers, the portal has had over 15,000 unique users and 89,000 page views in its first year. With new features launching this autumn, the portal will soon offer advanced search options, multilingual support in seven languages, and a member area for universities to share resources and research.

Building Understanding and Changing Narratives

Our charity is dedicated to shifting the narrative around asylum and the experiences of refugees, to foster understanding and empathy within local communities. Hostile public opinion leads to stringent policies and an unwelcome environment for refugees, starkly demonstrated by the troubling rise in far-right violence in the UK. By sharing lived experiences and insights about asylum, we work to counter these views and promote positive, constructive conversations. The inhumane and othering rhetoric of forced migrants by many in government this year has made this even more urgent

Research in "contact theory" indicates that meaningful social interactions are among the most effective ways to encourage tolerance and intercultural understanding. Through our local STAR groups, volunteers connect with communities to challenge prejudices and foster mutual understanding. Our student members also organize events and workshops that spotlight experts by experience, scholars, activists, artists, and organisations who inform and inspire about the realities of asylum and refugee experiences and use their social media platforms to share positive messages. These efforts not only engage the student body but help influence broader support for systemic change.

"Music and storytelling help bridge divides. It's incredible to see how people respond when these complex issues are shared through art." - Stirling STAR.

Centrally we provide resources and training to empower our student members. For example, this year we collaborated with a film distributor to offer STAR groups previews of *The Old Oak*, Ken Loach's latest film exploring themes of asylum and community integration. Seven STAR groups screened the film, with each screening providing a space for reflection and discussion. In June, our national meetup featured "Who is Your Neighbour," a charity working in South Yorkshire to encourage open discussions on race, migration, and culture. The workshop equipped student leaders with skills for addressing difficult conversations about migration, a need underscored by participants:

"It was really useful to learn skills and tactics to respond to anti-migrant rhetoric."

Another participant added, *"It's important to keep learning how best to approach these issues."*

Across the UK, STAR groups hosted over 260 events this year, including demonstrations, panel discussions, cultural evenings and club nights. These events were hugely varied from on-campus gatherings to online panels, all aimed at fostering awareness and advocacy:

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

- **Cambridge STAR** hosted a workshop on humanitarian ethics with Second Tree, a Greek NGO, where students learned about ethical complexities in supporting forced migrants. This session motivated many attendees to consider further engagement in the humanitarian sector: *"It got us thinking seriously about future volunteering opportunities and how we can best support refugees without victimizing them,"* shared a participant.
- **Nottingham STAR** organized a workshop with *ice&fire*, focusing on mapping the asylum process. This well-attended event ended with a Q&A, highlighting the dedication of STAR members and local charities in deepening their understanding of asylum issues.
- **Edinburgh STAR** held a panel in partnership with Solidaritee featuring speakers like Edinburgh University Rector Dr Debora Kayembe, JustRight Scotland founder Jen Ang, and Dr George Palattiyil. The discussion spanned health outcomes for refugees and the ethics of migration policy, with one student noting, *"It was eye-opening to hear how economic arguments in migration debates can dehumanize."*
- **Cardiff STAR**'s co-presidents, Maria and Raghad, appeared on the student-run podcast "Be the Change," sharing their journey with STAR and encouraging others to get involved. Maria emphasized STAR's impact on her university experience: *"Doing small actions makes a difference. Get out of your comfort zone; you'll meet like-minded people and be glad you did it."*
- **York STAR** hosted a cultural event celebrating Palestinian heritage, with music, talks, and a focus on refugee issues. Divided across two events to accommodate Ramadan, the program provided a supportive space for discussion on displacement, culture, and resilience. *"Events like these are a reminder of the shared experiences and stories that connect us all,"* remarked a York STAR leader. *"It was a celebration of heritage but also a call to action on behalf of those displaced by conflict."*

Our student-led STAR groups continue to push for change, empowering students to become advocates, changing minds, and building compassion through connection, education, and activism.

Campaigning for a humane asylum system and a warm welcome for refugees

This has been an extremely difficult year in the UK for refugee rights, with the passing of the Illegal Migration Act, the enactment of the Rwanda plan, and the damaging impact of huge delays in the asylum system. The increased use of institutional accommodation for people seeking asylum and the lack of safe routes to the UK have also exacerbated the situation. Alongside this, increasingly hostile and inhumane rhetoric from government ministers has emboldened the far right and increased violence against refugees. Globally, the conflict in Gaza and the lack of response from the international community has underscored the urgent need for safe routes to sanctuary and coordinated action to protect those seeking refuge.

STAR continues to mobilise and empower thousands of students across the country to take action against the hostile environment, advocate for a more humane asylum system, and demand a warm welcome for those seeking sanctuary. Our central staff team works closely with national and local organisations and campaign coalitions to identify where our student network can have the greatest impact in driving systems and policy change.

Throughout the year, STAR National supported groups by fostering connections between universities and organizing regional calls and thematic WhatsApp groups. These platforms allowed students to share strategies and receive targeted support. This peer-led model helps to build a stronger, more connected advocacy network. "We had students who had never thought of themselves as campaigners," notes our Campaigns Manager, *"but by the end of the year, they were leading events, starting petitions, and creating real change on their campuses."*

Our student groups have organised stalls, events, and campaigns on campus to raise awareness, gather support, and encourage action. They have also engaged in petition signing, lobbying local MPs and decision-makers, and amplifying messages on social media. This year alone, STAR groups organised at least 46 campaign events and were involved in many more protests and petitions.

"Small actions have a ripple effect. Together, we're making an impact that reaches beyond our campuses." (STAR leader)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Throughout the year, our network has championed a wide range of campaigns and causes. We have worked on immigration detention through the Detention Forum, collaborating with Detention Action, and with Rainbow Migration on the "No Pride in Detention" campaign. We also campaigned on asylum accommodation issues with Communities Not Camps, focusing on problems like the Bibby Stockholm barge. Other areas of focus included advocating for the right to work for people seeking asylum through the Lift the Ban campaign, supporting refugee family reunification with Families Together, and opposing the Illegal Migration Act and the Rwanda plan. Our network also supported the launch of the Fair Begins Here campaign as part of the Together with Refugees coalition. Additionally, we backed the Gaza Families Reunited call for a Gaza family visa scheme to provide sanctuary and reunite Palestinian families. Many of our groups also participated in encampments and university protests in solidarity with Gaza, including those calling for divestment from arms companies with People and Planet's Divest Borders campaign. In the run-up to the general election, we shared resources with our network to encourage their peers to register to vote and to advocate for refugee rights with election candidates.

The academic year began with a campaign during Welcome Week, "No Dad Jokes Without Dad" in collaboration with Families Together. This campaign highlighted the heartbreak of family separation for refugee children by inviting students to share their favourite dad jokes at Welcome Week stalls, explaining the campaign's focus on reuniting families torn apart by conflict. This lighthearted but meaningful approach resonated with new members, allowing them to consider the importance of family unity for refugees.

Launching on Valentine's Day was the "Fair Begins Here" campaign with the Together With Refugees coalition. This week saw creative displays of solidarity with refugees across UK campuses. Birmingham STAR created a large heart installation on campus, encouraging students to sign messages of support while also learning about the campaign and related issues like the Rwanda Bill. At Bath STAR, students distributed Valentine's Day cards with messages of solidarity and hosted an information session on the Bill, sparking meaningful discussions on its implications. A STAR leader shared,

"It was powerful to see students come together to advocate for humane asylum policies. The campaign opened a lot of eyes to the realities that refugees face under the current system."

Here are just a few of the many other activities taking place across the UK:

- Leeds STAR, in collaboration with Detention Action, held a workshop on alternatives to immigration detention, where students learned about a new compassionate model for the UK asylum system.
- Bristol STAR held a panel discussion event in collaboration with Nanou Thassinda from Migrants Organise on the problems with the private contractors providing accommodation for people seeking asylum.
- Cardiff hosted regular speaker events, and placard painting, and worked on campaigning in solidarity with Gaza, including focusing on the campaign for a Palestinian Families Visa Scheme.

Case Study: STAR Groups Unite for the "Lift the Ban" Campaign

In 2023-24, many STAR groups across the UK embraced the **Lift the Ban** campaign, advocating for the right of asylum seekers to work while they await decisions on their cases. One of the standout efforts came from **Warwick STAR**, who successfully championed the Lift the Ban campaign within their Student Union. They presented a motion advocating for asylum seekers' right to work, which the Student Union passed with strong support. *"We campaigned for 4 weeks to make the Students Union a part of the Lift the Ban campaign, and it passed a week ago with 1,000 votes in favour (and only 100 against) The right to work is essential for asylum seekers' dignity and well-being. This motion is a step toward making our university a more inclusive and welcoming space."* (Warwick STAR leader). Other activities included Edinburgh STAR taking part in the High Street challenge, getting local businesses to join the campaign and Birmingham STAR holding a live music event in partnership with Asylum Matters as part of the Lift the Ban campaign, using the event as both an occasion of celebration with music and food but also for attendees to learn about the campaign from refugees and people seeking themselves.

Thank you to our donors

A huge thank you to the following groups and individuals who went above and beyond to raise money for the STAR charity. Thanks to UCL STAR, Plymouth STAR and Edinburgh STAR. We also don't want to forget our regular donors and everyone else who gave generously to support our work this year. Thank you so much!

And of course, a huge thank you to all of the generous trusts and foundations who fund us including; Reaching Communities England, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, The Southall Trust, The Hilden Charitable Fund, The Forrester Family Trust.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Financial review

The charity's reserves stood at £107,479 at the year end (2023: £133,048). The reserves were made up of £64,843 unrestricted reserves (2023: £128,586) and £42,636 restricted reserves (2023: £4,462).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a sufficient level to:

- Ensure the charity can meet its obligations in the event of it having to close or significantly reduce in size.
- Meet foreseeable but unknowable costs which cannot be funded from specific or restricted funding

The trustees have concluded that the amount required is £52,967. This is based on a predetermined formula and is reviewed on a regular basis. The excess above the essential reserves is earmarked for spending in 2023-24.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Risk Management

STAR has a risk register which is updated annually by the Trustees with advice from the staff team.

Public Benefit

When planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities meet the principles laid out in that guidance.

Plans for future periods

These are our strategic goals for 2021-25. We are pleased to say that we have made good progress against these, despite the challenges of the past few years.

1. To create a better welcome for refugees by:

- Delivering impactful community projects which welcome, build understanding and connections
- Changing minds and building support for refugees by providing spaces and opportunities where people can meet and learn together
- Campaigning nationally, locally and within our institutions to challenge the hostile environment and damaging immigration policy
- Breaking down the barriers preventing people seeking asylum and refugees from accessing higher education

2. To build a more powerful movement by:

- Establishing groups in all nations from the grassroots
- Ensuring more people with lived refugee experience take a lead and shape our work
- Building a more diverse and representative charity & network.
- Empowering more student leadership & involvement in decision making e.g we have plans to develop a regional leaders programme
- Building and reconnecting with our supporter base by improving our communications
- Becoming more sustainable by developing individual & alumni giving, income generation from universities and strengthening the trustee board

Structure, governance and management

STAR was established in 1994 by students at the University of Nottingham and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in January 2000. It was established under a Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by the Articles of Association. The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Osborne	
D Garratt	(Resigned 18 January 2024)
M Taher	
S Isegbe	(Resigned 22 November 2023)
H Al Sheikh	(Resigned 22 November 2023)
M Grenier	
J Schofield-Wood	
C Bacon	
S Srikanth	
R Burman	(Appointed 26 July 2023)
M Altaras	(Appointed 22 November 2023)
M Hastings	(Appointed 22 November 2023)

New Trustees are elected by the STAR membership at the AGM. Candidates are asked to submit a written application to Trustees and, if selected, will be co-opted by the Board to serve until the following AGM. STAR also has three places reserved for STAR student members who are elected by the membership at the AGM.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational Structure

STAR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the Trustees of the charity are also directors of the limited company. STAR is a membership organisation with the STAR groups as its members. STAR groups are student union societies which are constituted within their universities or college's student union and then affiliated to the STAR national charity. STAR members are trained and supported by the staff team from the charity's offices in London.

STAR's student members meet annually at the AGM in November at which they elect Trustees, view the Annual Accounts and plan STAR's work for the coming year. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for governance and oversight of the charity, they ensure that STAR fulfils its legal obligations and carries out activities to fulfil its aims for the public benefit, they also oversee strategy and resources. The Trustees delegate responsibility for running the charity to the Chief Executive and meet quarterly as well as attending the AGM and annual student Committee Training in June.

STAR Groups

Affiliated groups

Aberystwyth University, Aston University, University of Bath, University of Birmingham, University of Bradford, University of Bristol, University of Cambridge, Cardiff University, University of Chester, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, University of Glasgow, University of Gloucestershire, Goldsmiths, University of London, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Imperial College London, University of Kent, King's College London (KCL), Lancaster University, University of Leeds, University of Leicester, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, University of Plymouth, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton, University of Stirling, University of Sussex, University College London (UCL), University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP), University of South Wales (USW), University of Warwick, University of Winchester, Warwick Medical School (WMS), and University of York.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Staff and volunteers

STAR's work is undertaken by a network of thousands of student volunteers supported by a small central staff and volunteer team based in London. Additional staff support the English conversation clubs across the country. STAR's staff team this year were:

Paid staff

Emily Crowley, Chief Executive
Siobhán Coskeran, Campaigns Manager (left September 2023)
Lara Cumming, Campaign and Advocacy Manager
Sophie Cox, Student Network Manager (left January 2024)
Holly Lanyon, Student Network Manager
Lois Barton, Student Network Organiser
Alice Clarke, Student Network Organiser
Afsana Hamidy, Access to University Project Coordinator
Loujain Al Baghdadi, Volunteering Coordinator
Samira Hatamizadeh, Communications Officer (6 month post)

Consultants

Abi Airey, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Patricia Mersh, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist

National Volunteers

Alice Clarke
Eloise Bui
Tamryn Nicol
Henrietta Jinivizian
Teigan Couper

National Volunteers: Equal Access Activists

Daniel, Waleed, Maryam, Abdullah, AbdulRahman, Pearlgin, Abdullah, Arooba, Anne, Zana, Dickson, Akram, Tamana, Shehany, Shaliny, Luwam, Angel, Sam, Mahdi, Manizha, Nasrat

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
J Osborne
Trustee

Date: Dec 05 2024
.....



.....
R Burman
Trustee

Dec 05 2024

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of STAR (Student Action for Refugees) (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA

Warner Wilde
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated: 16 December 2024

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	60,183	109,838	170,021	174,665	39,725	214,390
Charitable activities	4	1,017	-	1,017	732	-	732
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	2,605	5,420	8,025
Investments	6	1,511	-	1,511	523	-	523
Total income		62,711	109,838	172,549	178,525	45,145	223,670
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	214	57	271	803	-	803
Charitable activities	8	126,240	71,607	197,847	134,712	45,797	180,509
Total expenditure		126,454	71,664	198,118	135,515	45,797	181,312
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(63,743)	38,174	(25,569)	43,010	(652)	42,358
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 July 2023		128,586	4,462	133,048	85,576	5,114	90,690
Fund balances at 30 June 2024		64,843	42,636	107,479	128,586	4,462	133,048

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		640		-
Current assets					
Debtors	15	14,500		5,422	
Cash at bank and in hand		123,379		148,038	
		137,879		153,460	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(31,040)		(20,412)	
Net current assets			106,839		133,048
Total assets less current liabilities			107,479		133,048
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	19	42,636		4,462	
Unrestricted funds	20	64,843		128,586	
		107,479		133,048	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on Dec 05 2024



J Osborne
Trustee



R Burman
Trustee

Company registration number 3902118 (England and Wales)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Donated services are included in income at the estimate value to the Charity, when quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised for services donated by volunteers.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	3 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	4,223	-	4,223	15,580	297	15,877
Grants	54,500	109,838	164,338	157,585	39,428	197,013
Donated goods and services	1,460	-	1,460	1,500	-	1,500
	<u>60,183</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>170,021</u>	<u>174,665</u>	<u>39,725</u>	<u>214,390</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Grants						
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	-	-	72,000	-	72,000
The Hilden Charitable Fund	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
The Aziz Foundation	-	8,668	8,668	-	25,928	25,928
Reaching Communities	-	79,670	79,670	-	-	-
Maingot Charitable Trust	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	10,000	-	10,000	15,000	-	15,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
Refugee Education UK	-	21,500	21,500	-	13,500	13,500
Southall Trust	4,500	-	4,500	-	-	-
The Forrester Family Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Other	25,000	-	25,000	30,585	-	30,585
	<u>54,500</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>164,338</u>	<u>157,585</u>	<u>39,428</u>	<u>197,013</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Charitable activities		
Other income	<u>1,017</u>	<u>732</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising events	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,605</u>	<u>5,420</u>	<u>8,025</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	1,511	523

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Other fundraising costs	214	57	271	803	-	803

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Charitable activities 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	166,467	145,684
Depreciation and impairment	320	651
Student network support costs	6,475	12,505
Printing, postage and stationery	70	512
Telephone and internet	500	274
Subscriptions and membership fees	201	188
Staff training and recruitment	2,033	921
ESOL tutors	3,507	3,200
Consultancy	-	1,330
	179,573	165,265
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	14,591	13,533
Governance	3,683	1,711
	197,847	180,509
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	126,240	134,712
Restricted funds	71,607	45,797
	197,847	180,509

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Professional fees	13	587
Rent, rates and room hire	10,439	8,914
Insurance	1,608	1,522
Computer and IT	2,252	2,270
Bank charges	114	115
Repairs, maintenance and equipment	165	125
Governance costs	3,683	1,711
	<u>18,274</u>	<u>15,244</u>
Analysed between:		
Charitable activities	<u>18,274</u>	<u>15,244</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance costs comprise:		
Accountancy	1,736	-
Legal and professional	110	-
Independent Examiners fees	1,576	1,530
Other governance costs	261	181
	<u>3,683</u>	<u>1,711</u>

10 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>320</u>	<u>651</u>

11 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2024 Number	2023 Number
<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

12 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	150,161	132,364
Social security costs	8,654	7,240
Other pension costs	7,652	6,080
	<u>166,467</u>	<u>145,684</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, defined as the Chief Executive role, is as follows.

	2024 £	2023 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>55,013</u>	<u>52,333</u>

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 July 2023	3,712
Additions	960
	<u>4,672</u>
At 30 June 2024	
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 July 2023	3,712
Depreciation charged in the year	320
	<u>4,032</u>
At 30 June 2024	
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2024	<u>640</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	14,500	5,422

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security		2,022	2,118
Deferred income	17	22,000	13,500
Trade creditors		684	-
Other creditors		2,126	1,526
Accruals		4,208	3,268
		31,040	20,412

17 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Other deferred income	22,000	13,500
	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	22,000	13,500
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 July 2023	13,500	-
Released from previous periods	(13,500)	-
Resources deferred in the year	22,000	13,500
Deferred income at 30 June 2024	22,000	13,500

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	7,652	6,080

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£
Foundation Open Society Institute	4,462	-	-	4,462
Reaching Communities	-	79,670	(41,496)	38,174
The Aziz Foundation	-	8,668	(8,668)	-
Refugee Education UK	-	21,500	(21,500)	-
	<u>4,462</u>	<u>109,838</u>	<u>(71,664)</u>	<u>42,636</u>

Previous year:	At 1 July 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2023
	£	£	£	£
Foundation Open Society Institute	4,462	-	-	4,462
The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund	652	-	(652)	-
The Aziz Foundation	-	25,928	(25,928)	-
UNHCR Grant	-	3,620	(3,620)	-
Refugee Education UK	-	13,500	(13,500)	-
REHEB Project	-	2,097	(2,097)	-
	<u>5,114</u>	<u>45,145</u>	<u>45,797</u>	<u>4,462</u>

Foundation Open Society Institute

To empower university students to support refugees to settle and succeed in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Reaching Communities

Student Action for Refugees Community Welcome Projects: £320,451 over 4 years to support 1,700 refugees through Youth Social Action projects to feel more welcome, less isolated and have improved wellbeing. 1,300 STAR student volunteers will have a better understanding of the refugee experience and improved cross-cultural understanding.

The Aziz Foundation

Funding for staff: Access to University Co-ordinator and Student Network Organiser.

Refugee Education UK

Towards the cost of staff time providing university-facing support for institutions using the Displaced Student Opportunities UK portal, including quality assurance and due diligence on all opportunities featured on the site and good practice coordination

The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund

To maintain STAR's student volunteer services supporting refugees and asylum seekers

The balance on the fund represents the net book value of the office equipment and will be offset against depreciation of the assets.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	128,586	62,711	(126,454)	64,843
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 July 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 30 June 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	85,576	178,525	(135,515)	128,586
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£
At 30 June 2024:			
Tangible assets	-	640	640
Current assets/(liabilities)	64,843	41,996	106,839
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	64,843	42,636	107,479
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
At 30 June 2023:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	128,586	4,462	133,048
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	128,586	4,462	133,048
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

Accounts

Charity registration number 1079042

Company registration number 3902118 (England and Wales)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	J Osborne	
	D Garratt	
	M Taher	
	S Isegbe	
	H Al Sheikh	
	M Grenier	
	J Schofield-Wood	
	C Bacon	
	S Srikanth	(Appointed 18 February 2023)
	R Burman	(Appointed 26 July 2023)
Charity number	1079042	
Company number	3902118	
Registered office	356 Holloway Road London N7 6PA	
Independent examiner	F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA Warner Wilde 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
	The Co-operative Bank P.O. Box 250 Dell House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

THE WORK OF STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES

Our vision

A society where refugees are welcomed and can thrive as equal members of the community.

Our values

Inclusive: Our movement brings together people from all backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming and respectful place for all and continually strive to be more diverse and representative, particularly of those with lived refugee experience.

Student powered: Students are the driving force of STAR with the power to bring about positive change in their local communities and the UK.

Collaborative: We are stronger together. Change happens because we work collectively and share learning across our network, in our communities and alongside partners locally and nationally.

Dynamic: We have the energy to drive social change and the adaptability and flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to the changing environment.

Expert: Our network has the support of an experienced and knowledgeable staff team, and our work is informed by those with lived refugee experience.

Who we are and what we do

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) is the national network of students building a society where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed and can thrive.

At STAR we know that refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK experience multiple forms of adversity while seeking protection. As well as the difficult and traumatic experiences people who are forced to flee their homes because of war and persecution must live through, their journey to safety is often long and dangerous. Once they arrive here, the difficulties are far from over, as they face many challenges in claiming their right to asylum and building new lives. This is due to an increasingly hostile policy environment, negative media narrative and public attitudes, and limited access to services. We want to change this. Set up by students at Nottingham University in 1994, STAR is creating a more understanding, just and welcoming society by:

- empowering students to be changemakers;
- providing practical support for refugees by volunteering;
- challenging the structural barriers that refugees and asylum seekers face when seeking protection and building new lives in the UK;
- sharing information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We have a small expert staff team who work to build our movement, train and support the network and lead on national campaign and advocacy work for refugee rights, specialising in improving access to higher education

Our movement is an inclusive one with UK students, students from refugee backgrounds and international students working together to make change. For almost 30 years our vibrant national student network has impacted on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, making a difference that has reached far beyond the walls of universities and colleges. For many of our student leaders and activists, their involvement with STAR sparks the beginning of a lifelong commitment to social action and refugee and migrant rights.

Here's how STAR made a difference in 2022/23:

The STAR student network

- **39** STAR groups - **7** new groups - in **30** towns and cities
- **213** STAR leaders
- **2005** STAR group members
- **9697** attendees at **345** events organised by STAR groups
- **21876** social media reach

Training and empowering the network

- **20** training sessions delivered to **284** STAR student leaders and members
- **84** one to one support meetings with student leaders

Volunteering

- **741** refugees supported by **323** student volunteers through **30** volunteering projects
- **22** projects were student-volunteer led
- **33** one-off volunteering events
- **42** student mentors volunteered in our national program to support new university applicants

Campaigning

- **109** campaign activities with over **3200** participants
- **77** STAR group campaign events and actions with over **910** attendees
- **31** national events with **1464** attendees
- **839** university students and staff signed a petition against the Illegal Migration Bill

Access to University

- **88** universities now have scholarships
- **335** applicants and students from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds provided with individual signposting & advice
- **777** people seeking asylum and refugees attended 7 online information events
- **72** people supported to apply to university & scholarships through our online mentoring project
- **1** new website launched - Displaced Student Opportunities UK - with **85** providers uploading **118** access to HE opportunities to it
- **5** learning & networking events organised for **243** university staff

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Achievements of the STAR charity and network in 2022-23

We continued to build back the STAR student network post pandemic

It was another busy year across the STAR network, although we were still feeling the impact of Covid-19. Lower membership levels in 2021-22 as a direct result of the pandemic meant that a number of our groups struggled to recruit new leaders and were unable to continue, which slightly reduced the size and impact of the network. However, over the year we supported the set up of 7 new groups, bringing the total to 39 across 30 towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales. The groups were run by 213 STAR student leaders and had a membership of over 2000 students. Across their active social media platforms, they had a reach of 21,876.

Here are what a few of our groups had to say when we asked them what they were most proud of this year...

Plymouth STAR *"I am most proud of Plymouth STAR's volunteering - we collaborated with a local charity called Community Horizons to make over 300 care bags to be distributed to refugee families within the community and also to make toiletry bags for refugee women in the community. We have started sharing personal refugee stories on STAR Instagram page to raise awareness about barriers and obstacles refugees face when it comes to accessing higher education and dealing with the obstacles of day to day life. STAR have also done a charity bake sale to raise funds. We recruited student volunteers to attend a cultural kitchen (meeting place for refugees and asylum seekers to cook, share a healthy meal and socialise and practice English) at a local church. STAR provided student volunteers for the Plymouth Hope festival and we also did a SU quiz to raise awareness about refugee issues."*

Warwick Medical School STAR *"We won a university wide community outreach award for our projects with local charities who work with refugees and displaced people in the area, winning a prize of £2000 to put towards STAR projects" -*

Bath STAR *"We are really proud of our contribution to the local community. We have worked with 3 councils across Somerset and supported refugees with Access to HE throughout the year including the exam seasons. We successfully hosted an open day as well. Furthermore, we changed the minds of 10 businesses by joining the Lift the Ban campaign and also rebuilt our society from the beginning as we had no handover from the previous year."*

Cardiff STAR *"We ran 2 volunteering projects, one was our regular conversation class, and another was a new project volunteering at a hotel that housed refugees. At the hotel we mostly spent time with the children, played games, and did arts and crafts with them. However, we did also spend time with adults and had casual conversations with them. For our LGBTQ+ history month campaign we made an Instagram campaign about the struggles faced by refugees who are members of the LGBTQ+ community and also hosted a panel event with speakers discussing the topic. We are a part of the University of Sanctuary working group at Cardiff University which successfully managed to organise the first open day for refugees and asylum seekers at Cardiff university, the Aspire open day. We talked about our work and worked individually with refugees and asylum seekers to find what resources are available for them to be able to reach their individual goals e.g. how to get access to free courses,"*

Sussex STAR *"We are exceptionally proud of all the events we have put on, but more specifically how we are encouraging students and academic staff to think more ambitiously about scholarship programmes for refugees and asylum-seekers. We have done a lot of work on campaigning for equal access and a lot of working on challenging why we have a company like Mitie on campus when Sussex is a University of Sanctuary. We were even invited by the Sanctuary Steering Group to a focus group with a research company on why Mitie needs to be ousted and the Sanctuary Steering Group were really grateful for our input. We feel like we are making change at the university for the better."*

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We trained and empowered students to be effective changemakers

"Thanks all for the hard work. The STAR team is truly supportive. I am hoping that STAR continues to achieve great impact." (STAR leader)

Our strength is our amazing national network of dedicated student leaders, activists and volunteers so we make sure we provide them with the support and training they need to be effective changemakers.

The STAR national team provided extensive 1:1 support, training and networking opportunities to student leaders to help new groups - 7 this year - get established, and ensure all leaders had the advice and guidance they needed to run successful student societies, organise impactful events, volunteering projects and handover to new leadership at the end of the year. We had 84 1:1 support meetings with STAR leaders and ran 20 training sessions for 284 students. These covered topics like, an introduction to asylum in the UK, how to engage with your MP, how to advocate for Equal Access to higher education for refugees at your university, how to run your group and volunteering projects. Our English to Speakers of Other languages (ESOL) professionals provided national online training and local support to English Conversation Club coordinators and volunteers. We also provided a comprehensive selection of online guides and "how to" resources and were very excited to host our first in person AGM, networking and training event since 2019, in February this year!

"The conversation class coordinators in particular use the language resources to guide their worksheets for sessions each week. The training resources have also been helpful in informing us of our roles and how to run society effectively"

"I attended the leadership training. I found it really useful especially with the planner documents STAR provided. Other committee members such as the coordinator of the campaign attended the campaign's training, which they found useful and worked by the tips provided."

"The most popular and well-received training [for our group] was the social media training and the words to be thoughtful about training held during the AGM. It really supported our team to present ourselves better"

We provided a practical community welcome through volunteering

"Volunteering as part of a larger STAR network challenges the idea that your contribution is small...As STAR student leaders, we're a small cog in a very big wheel making the UK a more welcoming place for refugees." (Peter, Cardiff STAR Leader)

Through our national network we mobilise large numbers of student volunteers who provide practical support and friendship to refugees in their local communities. Our volunteering projects, run in partnership with local charities and organisations, include English conversation clubs, women's groups, kids' homework clubs, book clubs, bike projects, film nights, university open days and more. They help to combat isolation and make refugees feel welcomed, learn about their new home and improve their English. They also help to build cultural understanding and strengthen connections between and across communities. Centrally, we also run an online university application mentoring programme.

This year, STAR groups ran 22 student volunteer-led community projects supporting refugees and helped out at 8 projects run by local organisations. In total 741 refugees benefitted from the projects which were delivered by 323 volunteers. Alongside this they also organised 33 volunteering events from book, clothes and food collections, to present wrapping and creating 300 care packages for local refugee women.

These projects were delivered in partnership with 21 brilliant organisations; Jacari, Somali Resource Centre, Bristol City Council, Care4Calais, Space4U, Refugee Support Devon, RAFT, Maryhill Integration Network, Plateful Cafe, Love2Learn, CARAS, Westminster Council, Leeds Refugee Forum, PAFRAS, Rainbow Junction, Conversation Club Leeds, Nottingham Women's Centre, The British Red Cross, Common Ground, Coventry City Council and Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

"I can't thank the STAR volunteers enough for the amazing work they have done with us this year. They have shown commitment, resilience, curiosity and involvement with and for our young people and the young people really enjoyed their presence. I am looking forward to collaborating again next academic year" - Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre

"The students [STAR volunteers] are really respectful, welcoming and make the learners feel at home. With the learners who consistently come, you can see the confidence growing in them. Everyone speaks some level of English, but all need that confidence to properly integrate in their communities." - Maryhill Integration Network - Glasgow STAR English conversation club

Case study: Leeds English Conversation Club

Leeds STAR have a long-term partnership with Leeds Refugee Forum and delivers mixed-ability weekly English conversation clubs on a Wednesday. Ali Magroub, the CEO of Leeds Refugee Forum, describes the clubs as *"indispensable"* and has high praise for the student coordinators. The club was hosted online last academic year but returned to a face to face session in October 2022. 5 learners, from Iran, Ethiopia and Ukraine, attended the first in person session - a good turnout for the first club - and all of them came back for more. Overall 25 refugee learners were supported over the year by 25 STAR volunteers. Here is what some of the refugee learners had to say about the club;

"Thank you so much for the conversation, I really appreciate it."

"Now I can use English. I can speak, I can listen to other people who speak very well."

"We have different nations here but here all talk in English. It's a good thing. We learn grammar and people correct our mistakes."

"...very important conversations and listening. I understand better."

The clubs are planned using STAR's conversation club resources and supported by a local STAR ESOL professional. They bring together a diverse range of learners who want to improve their English skills in an informal way, and the social elements, like celebrating birthdays together, that are included in the sessions help learners form new friendships and connections. The student leaders promote collaborative learning between participants, as well as with the volunteers, for example by using the last 30 minutes of every session to hold group quizzes or games. In one of the clubs we visited, after volunteers and learners chatted about social media, one to one, there was a fun music quiz for everyone to take part in, which included guessing the national anthems of different countries.

"Volunteering with STAR for the conversation classes, the homework club and the bike scheme is incredibly eye-opening. It is a great way to help refugees and asylum seekers in our local community whilst educating myself on the obstacles they are up against. Therefore, it is both enriching and rewarding and I would recommend it to anyone that has the chance to get involved" - Leeds conversation club volunteer.

We improved access to university for people seeking asylum and refugees

Refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK face numerous challenges in accessing higher education due to limited financial support, difficulties in navigating the complex university system, and inadequate information and guidance. Access to higher education is life changing. Studies have shown that it can mitigate the negative effects of traumatic experiences, helping people focus on the future, not just surviving the present and helping them develop skills and improve employability. University provides a safe, empowering environment where people fleeing persecution can rebuild their lives and support networks. The current system results in a huge waste of potential and has long-term impacts on integration, wellbeing and employability.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We are committed to ensuring campuses are places of welcome for refugees and we have been leading advocacy for scholarship programmes and work on improved access to university in the UK since 2008. We are experts in access to university for refugees and asylum seekers and in campaigning for, developing and managing Sanctuary Scholarships. We also bring the sector together, share and encourage good practice and lobby institutions for more and better scholarships and improved access pathways. This work is shaped by a group of STAR activists with lived experience of forced migration (Equal Access Activists).

"Equal access to higher education is a human right, and I believe that everyone, regardless of circumstance, has the right to an education. Many people are unaware of the barriers that refugees and asylum seekers face in accessing admission to higher education, as well as the day-to-day obstacles they confront. As someone who had to overcome numerous barriers and obstacles to pursue higher education, I understand how difficult it is to persevere when there are so many hurdles in your way, as it is so easy to give up. That is why equal access to higher education is so important to me. I believe there is a significant under-representation of individuals from sanctuary seeking backgrounds in higher education for a variety of reasons, such as issues with their status, lack of student finance access, and a lack of overall support, so I wanted to change that and STAR is a perfect platform to push for this much-needed access...As part of the Equal Access group, we have spoken at national and international conferences, provided feedback to institutions such as UCAS, Student Finance England and many more. By getting involved with STAR, you will be given an excellent platform to raise awareness and fight for equal access to higher education for individuals from sanctuary seeking backgrounds. By educating the community and by advocating for their rights, you will be helping them reach for the stars! I am so proud to be a member of STAR and am really excited to fight against more social injustices together with my fellow STAR members around the UK!" (Shehany, Plymouth STAR President and Equal Access Activist)

Equal Access Activists took the lead - This year the Equal Access Activists have been reviewing the campaign's strategy and running focus groups with partner organisations, university staff, students and applicants. Alongside this, they presented about access to university at 8 events, helped us develop the new Displaced Students Opportunities website.

'Being part of the group has been such a positive highlight and helped me develop skills, experiences and feel more confident about campaigning, networking with students, universities and charities. It has been a brilliant opportunity'.

'Felt very supported and STAR gave me a platform to improve my leadership and communication, public speaking and team working skills'.

They have also been involved in working on an interactive research project with Sheffield University - "(Re) Imagining the Higher Education Border". The project is collating the 'advice and guidance' queries received by STAR and REUK to "increase the visibility of borders and their reproduction in higher education".

We supported universities and advocated for more access opportunities: 88 universities now offer Sanctuary Scholarships, up from 83 last year. We provided guidance to 18 institutions to help them improve existing scholarships or plan new ones and delivered 5 information and networking events for 243 university staff. We also worked with Universities of Sanctuary to publish a new resource for universities on setting eligibility criteria for Sanctuary Scholarships. 12 of our student groups campaigned for better access at their institutions and in January, we supported STAR leaders and Equal Access Activists to take part in two conferences in Edinburgh alongside university staff and leaders: The Higher Education and Refugees Forum organised by UNHCR and Times Higher Education, and The Universities of Sanctuary annual conference. Both events were a fantastic opportunity to ensure that a strong student voice, and particularly that of students with lived experience, was included in discussions about access to HE for people seeking sanctuary.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We provided information and support to refugee applicants: The STAR central team responded to 335 enquiries from individual refugees about higher education and delivered information events for 777 refugees. We ran an online mentoring programme that provided 1:1 support for 72 people from 42 STAR volunteers to help them apply to university and for scholarships. We improved the resources on our website by adding a frequently asked questions page which has been visited 4481 times and our sanctuary scholarship list was visited 72,918 times. Bath, Bristol, Warwick and York STAR held campus open days for local refugees and people seeking asylum. Warwick STAR decided to make theirs a 'family open afternoon' which was a huge success, attended by 52 adults and 13 children from the local area.

"With the help and guidance of STAR I was able to receive admissions to universities and received two sanctuary scholarships from UEA and Sussex."

A major project this year was the development and launch of the Displaced Student Opportunities UK website - with partners Refugee Education UK and Universities of Sanctuary, and pro bono support from digital marketing agency, Hewitt Matthews. STAR Equal Access Activists also gave their time to advise on the development and test it out. Here is what one of them said about the portal; *"I cannot stress how great it looks and how easy it is to navigate through. The fact that there is a tool for scholarship search devoted for students from displaced backgrounds would make the application process a lot clearer and smoother too. A huge congratulation to you and to everyone involved in this wonderful project. I can't wait to see its positive impact on Displaced people."* The new website provides a one stop shop for access to higher education opportunities for people from refugee backgrounds - from people who have arrived through the Ukraine schemes, to those who are seeking asylum or have arrived on a resettlement scheme. The types of opportunities vary, but include: open events; summer courses; undergraduate, postgraduate, postgraduate research; and PhD's; as well as, English courses and mentoring support. In the first 6 months, 83 providers - including universities, charities and colleges - set up an account and posted 107 opportunities. The website was used by 8,173 individuals and viewed 51,832 times. We were also really pleased that the site won 'Third Sector Website of the Year' at the UK Dev Awards in February. The feedback from opportunity providers was very positive, for example;

"extremely useful to have a dedicated portal like this - we are making sure we use this for all of our opportunities, and are linking to this from our web pages to direct applicants to other institutions' opportunities"

"The portal provides a very important platform/ system to inform and be informed about opportunities to organisations and applicants. Its immense contribution in reaching out to small charities such as ReConnect and marginalised groups such as refugees and asylum seekers need to be highlighted and recognised"

Case study: STAR University Application Mentoring Project

We know that many people seeking asylum and refugees struggle to get the information and support they need to access university in the UK. Which is why we launched our University Application online mentoring project during the pandemic. This year we saw a huge increase in interest in the initial information session sign-ups and overall 633 people attended the three sessions! The first one in November covered how to apply to university in the UK and included guidance from UCAS, the second session was delivered with the Student Loans Company and finally in March we held a session on understanding and applying for Sanctuary Scholarships. .

The option for one to one online mentoring from our trained student volunteers was offered to people who attended the information sessions. In total 72 people received support volunteer mentors recruited from our student network and Equal Access activists. People were paired with mentors who had similar qualifications and academic interest and they received advice and guidance about the university application process from the perspective of a student who has recently submitted an application themselves. Here is what some of the mentees had to say about their experience:

"They provided me with all the information I needed. Answered my questions with evidence. Encouraged me with positive advice"

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

"Thank you very much for all the support, now I feel confident about applying to university. It was very fruitful"

"It has boosted my confidence in applying for university as an asylum seeker"

We followed up with the mentees in the summer to find out if there had been any positive outcomes as a result of the mentoring. Out of 13 survey responses received, 11 had applied to university and 8 had received offers. 7 had applied for Sanctuary Scholarships and 3 had been successful. 6 of the respondents said that they would be going to university this year. They also shared some feedback with us about how the information session and mentoring had helped them:

"At first yes [had difficulties applying to university], however I didn't give up and sought advice from your mentors and templates provided by your website, and at the end I was able to do better and received many admissions offers".

We shared information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative.

Hostile public opinion drives harsh public policy and an unwelcoming reception for refugees in local communities. Research on "contact theory" shows that social contact is one of the most effective ways of building positive attitudes towards refugees in host communities and encouraging intercultural tolerance and understanding. This happens both through STAR groups local volunteering projects and also through the many events about asylum and the refugee experience.

Before joining STAR, only 8% of our student leaders were very confident at talking to other people about asylum and refugees and 42% were not confident at all. By the end of the year all were more confident with 71% feeling very confident

Before joining STAR, 42% of our leaders felt very committed to creating a welcoming society for refugees and people seeking asylum but by the end of the year 96% would describe themselves as very committed.

We empower students to hold engaging and informative events that provide a platform for experts by experience, academics, activists, artists and organisations to help their fellow students better understand asylum and the experiences of refugees. These interactions and information mobilise our student members to tackle systemic problems and to change the minds of peers, friends, and families, which in turn helps to build public support for policy change.

This year STAR groups organised 345 events attended by 9697 people. These took place on and off campus, and on and offline, and ranged from demonstrations, stalls and film showings to speaker events, plays and comedy nights. For example:

- Kent STAR in partnership with the human rights society hosted a conference on "Refugee Settlement in the UK". Panelists included STAR's CEO Emily Crowley, Ita Farelly, a district tribunal judge who has been working to help Afghan women judges get to safety in the UK and Richard Warren, immigration law advisor and lecturer who runs the Refugee Family Reunion project at the University of Kent.
- UCL STAR hosted a film screening and discussion of "Flee" - *"It was a very emotional and moving film. I really loved the discussion after as it allowed us to reflect on such a gripping film,"*
- York STAR hosted a panel discussion event in collaboration with Amnesty society and Lawyers without Borders society. The group invited three lecturers from the Centre for Applied Human Rights and the Sociology department to talk about their research and help those interested in human rights issues to understand how they can make a difference without a law degree.
- Sussex STAR hosted an Asylum Monologues performance by the Ice&Fire theatre company.
- UCL STAR, Goldsmiths STAR and KCL STAR came together to organise a panel discussion on immigration detention in Britain. More than 50 people attended the event, to hear from Prof. Sue Clayton, filmmaker and professor at Goldsmiths university, Tahlia Dwyer, a legal officer for UNHCR and lawyer, Hannah Carbery, a detention advocacy for the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and previous Student Network Organiser at STAR. The event opened with the screening of excerpts from the documentaries 'Calais Children' and 'The Stansted 15 On Trial',

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We're proud to be on the steering group of Refugee Week and this year a number of groups organised events, for example Birkbeck STAR collaborated with the Voices Network to host a panel talk, "Compassion to Action: Sanctuary Seekers in Higher Education." They heard from experts in access to education and asylum law and heard stories of success from people with lived experience followed by some amazing poetry and songs from Voices Network members.

Case Study: Warwick Medical School panel event

Warwick Medical School (WMS) STAR hosted a panel event on the Health Impact of UK Anti-Immigration Policies which was sponsored by the Medical Defense Union. Over 50 people attended the event and the panel was followed by a Q&A in addition to nibbles, hot drinks and networking. The event was so successful that it contributed to WMS STAR being awarded a Warwick Award for Community and Public Engagement. The panel was chaired by the WMS STAR president Laura Whitter with four guest panellists:

- Zarah Sultana, MP for Coventry South and advocate for refugee rights
- Marina Davison, Advocacy Manager and Primary Care Lead for Doctors of the World
- Last Mafuba, founder and director of the Inini Initiative
- Victor Irengere, Social Enterprise Manager at Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre.

Together they discussed the barriers faced accessing healthcare in migrant communities, and explored what barriers are preventing people from getting the help they need. The panellists spoke both from their experience working in the sector, and their own personal experiences accessing healthcare.

"It was definitely an eye-opener learning about what is happening to refugees in the UK at the moment, and is a reminder that we all need to advocate for the rights of others"

Case Study: STAR national meetup & AGM

Our STAR national network meetup & AGM took place on February 18, 2023 in London. It was our first in-person event since 2019, and was attended by student leaders from STAR groups across the UK and Equal Access activists. We made sure there was lots of time for everyone to connect and share successes and challenges, and our AGM was a chance for STAR groups to get involved in the running of the charity and to celebrate their achievements. Alongside this we organised a diverse range of workshops and activities to educate and inspire our members;

- Migrants Rights delivered a Words Matter workshop, exploring the ramifications of how certain language shapes narratives around migration and migratised communities. *"A real eye opening activity of how to counter and tackle refugee narratives"*
- Coram Young Citizens highlighted the impact of the UK asylum system on young people, sharing their experiences of going through the asylum system as teenagers and young adults. *"Really enjoyed getting the chance to hear people's stories from so close to home to increase our empathy and outlook"*
- Ice and Fire theatre acted out Asylum Monologues, a collection of first-hand accounts of asylum seekers' experiences of the UK asylum system. After the performance, lots of groups were keen to invite them to perform at their university. *"- Felt really powerful - humanising stories of the asylum system"*
- To launch STAR's Campaign Action Week, we ran a workshop about the Lift the Ban campaign's High Street Challenge to get local businesses on board. To get them
- ready to get out and about in their own high streets STAR groups practised persuasive conversation techniques *"Can't wait to get involved, feeling v. equipped"*

"Really well organised and inspiring!"

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

We took action to campaign for a humane asylum system and a warm welcome for refugees

Every year STAR mobilises and empowers thousands of students across the country to take action to fight the hostile environment, advocate for a humane asylum system and a warm welcome for people seeking sanctuary. Our central staff team works alongside national and local organisations and campaign coalitions to identify where our student network can make the biggest impact for systems and policy change. Our student groups hold stalls and events on campus to inform their peers and get them to take action, organise campaign stunts, sign and share petitions and lobby local MPs and decision makers and get the message out there on social media. This year there were 108 campaign activities with over 2,374 participants

It has been a challenging period with an almost constant onslaught of new and increasingly harsh immigration policy and demonising of forced migrants by politicians. The Nationality and Borders Act came into force at the start of this year but by March there was already a new Illegal Migration Bill going through parliament. At the same time the Rwanda plan was in motion, there were record asylum decision backlogs and the quality of accommodation provided for people seeking asylum and resettled refugees continued to decline.

We remained active in longstanding national campaigns - calling for the right to work with Lift the Ban, better refugee family reunion rights with Families Together, and campaigning against immigration detention - but our major focus this year was responding to the evolving government policy.

Fighting the Anti-Refugee Laws

With the Nationality and Borders Act in place and the Illegal Migration Bill announced in March 2023, over the course of the year the majority of our national campaigning was fighting the government's anti-refugee laws. In the summer we signed up to the Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws coalition, which was established after the Nationality and Borders Act passed to secure pledges from national and local organisations, local authorities and MPs to challenge the anti-refugee laws. At the start of the academic year we joined the # *StopRwanda* coalition and supported actions planned by the Together With Refugees coalition. For example, STAR groups participated in the # *FillTheSkiesWithHope* action during freshers week. Stirling STAR took the action one step further by packaging up their paper planes and sending them to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary. We also joined Together with Refugees on their campaign bus outside Westminster in January. In November we held an online event, for 107 people, that brought together a diverse range of speakers to discuss how current government policy is impacting on the lives of people seeking asylum in the UK and how we can take action for change. Here is some of that great advice from a couple of the speakers;

"Bring real stories and the examples of people who have lived experience. There are many people who would like to do something but are not educated enough" - Ali Ghaderi, actor, activist, and founder of Babylon Project

"Don't underestimate the power of conversations with people. People will have specific views, and talking through and challenging them - those conversations, wherever you are, can really make a difference." - Enver Solomon, Refugee Council CEO

When the Illegal Migration Bill was announced we prioritised sharing up to date information with our student network, encouraging groups to support national actions, and supporting them to organise local actions.

We published a national statement and call to action, shared write to MP actions, petitions and signed open letters coordinated by sector partners and encouraged other organisations and groups to sign up to the Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws pledge. We also co-led the student bloc at Stand Up to Racism's # *ResistRacism* march for UN Anti-Racism Day on 18th March in London with Kent STAR, Cambridge STAR, UCL STAR, Birkbeck STAR, and LJMU STAR, with STAR Edinburgh attending the demonstration in Glasgow. As the Bill reached its final stages in Parliament, we worked with SolidariTee, Universities of Sanctuary, and the Voices Network to launch a petition for university students and staff who oppose the Bill. On the day that Parliament passed the law, we handed the petition, signed by 839 people, into Downing Street.

STAR group local actions included; Stirling STAR's open letter which collected over 80 signatures from students, academics and local residents calling on the government to scrap the 'Illegal Migration' Bill, Warwick STAR organised a demonstration on campus and Edinburgh STAR teamed up with Contemporary Art Soc to run a workshop on protest art and the Illegal Migration Bill.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Case study - Durham STAR Mitie Must Fall campaign

Durham STARs successful campus campaign against Mitie Group Plc was a highlight this year.

As part of their long-running campaign against detention and support of the No To Hassockfield Immigration Detention Centre campaign, this year Durham STAR focused their attention on removing the presence of companies complicit in detention from the university's campus.

Alongside attending monthly protests at the Hassockfield/Derwentside Detention Centre, the STAR group kickstarted an information campaign - 15 students organised stalls in high-volume areas around the university with banners, tea, and coffee where they engaged people in conversation about immigration detention and the fact that a company which made a profit running the nearby detention centre for women was also providing services for Durham University. They launched an open letter to the university and after a leafleting and social media campaign they had 1129 signatures. This is equivalent to an eighth of the undergraduate population! In February, Durham STAR handed the letter to the university who responded a month later to state that while the contract with Mitie has been renewed for a 2-year period, this is a 'transition period' in which the university will bring staff contracts in-house and end their involvement with Mitie.

"I'm incredibly proud of how adaptive and versatile my exec have been for me this year, doing incredible work as circumstances particularly relating to the Mitie campaign changed so quickly. Everyone adapted and took on new roles and changed expectations so we could take on the opportunity we had to make change and as a result we now have a written commitment that the contract will be ended. We now need to work to assure this is followed through on, but that result is due to persistence and versatility of everyone involved." - Durham STAR leader

Thank you to our donors

A huge thank you to the following groups and individuals who went above and beyond to raise money for the STAR charity. Thanks to Bristol STAR, Edinburgh STAR, Birmingham STAR in partnership with the Birmingham Dance Society, Warwick STAR, UCL STAR and Plymouth STAR. We also don't want to forget our regular donors, Facebook birthday fundraisers and everyone else who gave generously to support our work this year. Thank you so much!

Special mentions for these amazing fundraisers!

- Edinburgh STAR who raised us £468 by hosting a Ceilidh
- Bristol STAR, UCL STAR & Edinburgh STAR who took part in the Great STAR bake off and raised a total of £506 from selling sweet treats on campus
- Three wonderful people who took on a sponsored challenge. The most impressive being Thomas Coskeran who cycled all the way from Lands End to John O Groats on a Brompton bike, raising £1,091.45. Our trustee Jess Schofield-Wood who ran the Brighton Marathon raising £460 and our Chief Executive Emily Crowley who did the RideLondon60 cycle at very short notice to raise £800

And of course, a huge thank you to all of the generous trusts and foundations who fund us; The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Maingot Charitable Trust, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, The AB Charitable Trust, The Aziz Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Allen Lane Foundation, Pears Foundation.

Financial review

The charity's reserves stood at £133,048 at the year end (2022: £90,690). The reserves were made up of £128,586 unrestricted reserves (2022: £85,576) and £4,462 restricted reserves (2022: £5,114).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a sufficient level to:

- Ensure the charity can meet its obligations in the event of it having to close or significantly reduce in size.
- Meet foreseeable but unknowable costs which cannot be funded from specific or restricted funding

The trustees have concluded that the amount required is £52,269. This is based on a predetermined formula and is reviewed on a regular basis. The excess above the essential reserves is earmarked for spending in 2023-24.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Risk Management

STAR has a risk register which is updated annually by the Trustees with advice from the staff team.

Public Benefit

When planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities meet the principles laid out in that guidance.

Plans for future periods

These are our strategic goals for 2021-24. We are pleased to say that we have made good progress against these, despite the challenges of the past few years.

1. To create a better welcome for refugees by:

- Delivering impactful community projects which welcome, build understanding and connections
- Changing minds and building support for refugees by providing spaces and opportunities where people can meet and learn together
- Campaigning nationally, locally and within our institutions to challenge the hostile environment and damaging immigration policy
- Breaking down the barriers preventing people seeking asylum and refugees from accessing higher education

2. To build a more powerful movement by:

- Establishing groups in all nations from the grassroots
- Ensuring more people with lived refugee experience take a lead and shape our work
- Building a more diverse and representative charity & network.
- Empowering more student leadership & involvement in decision making e.g we have plans to develop a regional leaders programme
- Building and reconnecting with our supporter base by improving our communications
- Becoming more sustainable by developing individual & alumni giving, income generation from universities and strengthening the trustee board

Structure, governance and management

STAR was established in 1994 by students at the University of Nottingham and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in January 2000. It was established under a Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by the Articles of Association. The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

K Joksaite	(Resigned 18 February 2023)
E Arnold	(Resigned 18 February 2023)
J Osborne	
D Garratt	
M Taher	
B Dibb	(Resigned 18 February 2023)
S Isegbe	
H Al Sheikh	
W Zuoriki	(Resigned 18 February 2023)
M Grenier	
J Schofield-Wood	
C Bacon	
S Srikanth	(Appointed 18 February 2023)
R Burman	(Appointed 26 July 2023)

New Trustees are elected by the STAR membership at the AGM. Candidates are asked to submit a written application to Trustees and, if selected, will be co-opted by the Board to serve until the following AGM. STAR also has three places reserved for STAR student members who are elected by the membership at the AGM.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Organisational Structure

STAR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the Trustees of the charity are also directors of the limited company. STAR is a membership organisation with the STAR groups as its members. STAR groups are student union societies which are constituted within their universities or college's student union and then affiliated to the STAR national charity. STAR members are trained and supported by the staff team from the charity's offices in London.

STAR's student members meet annually at the AGM in November at which they elect Trustees, view the Annual Accounts and plan STAR's work for the coming year. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for governance and oversight of the charity, they ensure that STAR fulfils its legal obligations and carries out activities to fulfil its aims for the public benefit, they also oversee strategy and resources. The Trustees delegate responsibility for running the charity to the Chief Executive and meet quarterly as well as attending the AGM and annual student Committee Training in June.

STAR Groups

Affiliated groups

University of Bath, Birmingham City University (BCU), Birkbeck University of London, University of Birmingham, BPP University, University of Bristol, Brunel University London, Cardiff University, University of Cambridge, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, University of Glasgow, University of Gloucestershire, Goldsmiths University of London, King's College London (KCL), University of Kent, Lancaster University, University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, University of Leicester, Liverpool John Moores University (LJM), London School of Economics (LSE), University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, University of Plymouth, University of Sheffield, Solent University, University of Southampton, St George's University of London, University of Stirling, University of Sussex, Swansea University, University College London (UCL), University of East Anglia (UEA), University of Warwick, University of Winchester, Warwick Medical School (WMS) & University of York.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Staff and volunteers

STAR's work is undertaken by a network of thousands of student volunteers supported by a small central staff and volunteer team based in London. Additional staff support the English conversation clubs across the country. STAR's staff team this year were:

Paid staff

Emily Crowley, Chief Executive

Siobhán Coskeran, Access to University Co-ordinator & Campaigns and Communications Manager

Rebekah Lucking, Volunteering Project Manager (left 7th July 2022)

Sophie Cox, Student Network Manager

Hannah Carbery, Student Network Organiser (left 17th January 2022)

Annie Feetham, Student Network Organiser (Temporary cover)

Ali Al-Enazi, Student Network Organiser Intern (Short term role - left 23rd February 2023)

Lois Barton, Student Network Organiser

Afsana Hamidy, Access to University Project Coordinator

Trà My Hicken, Communications Assistant (Short term role - left 5th July 2023)

Consultants

Abi Airey, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist

Patricia Mersh, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist

Abdullah Rafiq, Researcher

National Volunteers

Hannah Carbery

Marta Muniz

Alice Clarke

Meije Dumont

Tim Lineham

National Volunteers: Equal Access Activists

Daniel, Venita, Waleed, Maryam, Abdullah, AbdulRahman, Pearlgin, Abdullah, Michael, Arooba, Anne, Zana, Dickson, Akram, Tamana, Shehany

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
D Garratt

Trustee

Date: Nov 30 2023
.....

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of STAR (Student Action for Refugees) (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA

Warner Wilde
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated: 6 December 2023

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	174,665	39,725	214,390	163,008	58,067	221,075
Charitable activities	4	732	-	732	-	-	-
Other trading activities	5	2,605	5,420	8,025	5,005	-	5,005
Investments	6	523	-	523	29	-	29
Total income		178,525	45,145	223,670	168,042	58,067	226,109
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	803	-	803	1,338	-	1,338
Charitable activities	8	134,712	45,797	180,509	116,455	58,771	175,226
Total expenditure		135,515	45,797	181,312	117,793	58,771	176,564
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		43,010	(652)	42,358	50,249	(704)	49,545
Fund balances at 1 July 2022		85,576	5,114	90,690	35,327	5,818	41,145
Fund balances at 30 June 2023		128,586	4,462	133,048	85,576	5,114	90,690

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		-		652
Current assets					
Debtors	13	5,422		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		148,038		94,931	
		<u>153,460</u>		<u>94,931</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(20,412)</u>		<u>(4,893)</u>	
Net current assets			133,048		90,038
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>133,048</u>		<u>90,690</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		4,462		5,114
Unrestricted funds			128,586		85,576
			<u>133,048</u>		<u>90,690</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on ..22nd November 2023



J Osborne
Trustee



D Garratt
Trustee

Company registration number 3902118

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Donated services are included in income at the estimate value to the Charity, when quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised for services donated by volunteers.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	3 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	15,580	297	15,877	8,658	1,879	10,537
Grants receivable	157,585	39,428	197,013	152,500	56,188	208,688
Donated goods and services	1,500	-	1,500	1,850	-	1,850
	<u>174,665</u>	<u>39,725</u>	<u>214,390</u>	<u>163,008</u>	<u>58,067</u>	<u>221,075</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	72,000	-	72,000	90,000	-	90,000
Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	-	-	-	7,500	-	7,500
The Aziz Foundation	-	25,928	25,928	-	4,297	4,297
Refugee Council	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Maingot Charitable Trust	15,000	-	15,000	10,000	-	10,000
Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	15,000	-	15,000	7,500	-	7,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	-	25,000	20,000	-	20,000
Refugee Education UK	-	13,500	13,500	-	-	-
The Steel Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Kickstart Scheme	1,085	-	1,085	-	11,891	11,891
The Allen Lane Foundation	4,500	-	4,500	4,500	-	4,500
The Southall Trust	-	-	-	3,000	-	3,000
Other	25,000	-	25,000	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>157,585</u>	<u>39,428</u>	<u>197,013</u>	<u>152,500</u>	<u>56,188</u>	<u>208,688</u>

4 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Other income	<u>732</u>	<u>-</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising events	2,605	5,420	8,025	5,005
	=====	=====	=====	=====

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable	523	29
	=====	=====

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023 £	2022 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	803	1,338
	=====	=====
	803	1,338
	=====	=====

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

8 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs	145,684	153,648
Depreciation and impairment	651	651
Student network support costs	12,505	3,432
Printing, postage and stationery	512	180
Telephone and internet	274	281
Subscriptions and membership fees	188	-
Staff training and recruitment	921	1,183
ESOL tutors	3,200	1,450
Consultancy	1,330	-
	<u>165,265</u>	<u>160,825</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	13,533	12,979
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	1,711	1,422
	<u>180,509</u>	<u>175,226</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	134,712	116,455
Restricted funds	45,797	58,771
	<u>180,509</u>	<u>175,226</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

9 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Professional fees	587	-	587	685	-	685
Rent, rates and room hire	8,914	-	8,914	8,158	-	8,158
Insurance	1,522	-	1,522	1,331	-	1,331
Computer and IT	2,270	-	2,270	2,576	-	2,576
Bank charges	115	-	115	142	-	142
Repairs, maintenance and equipment	125	-	125	87	-	87
Independent Examiners fees	-	1,530	1,530	-	1,422	1,422
Other governance costs	-	181	181	-	-	-
	<u>13,533</u>	<u>1,711</u>	<u>15,244</u>	<u>12,979</u>	<u>1,422</u>	<u>14,401</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>13,533</u>	<u>1,711</u>	<u>15,244</u>	<u>12,979</u>	<u>1,422</u>	<u>14,401</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the Independent Examiner of £1,530 (2022- £1,422)

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	132,364	137,308
Social security costs	7,240	8,925
Other pension costs	6,080	7,415
	<u>145,684</u>	<u>153,648</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 July 2022	3,900
Disposals	(188)
At 30 June 2023	3,712
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 July 2022	3,249
Depreciation charged in the year	651
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(188)
At 30 June 2023	3,712
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2023	-
At 30 June 2022	652

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	5,422	-

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	2,118	2,152
Deferred income	13,500	-
Other creditors	1,526	1,042
Accruals and deferred income	3,268	1,699
	20,412	4,893

15 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Other deferred income	13,500	-

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

15 Deferred income

(Continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	13,500	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 July 2022	-	55,000
Released from previous periods	-	(55,000)
Resources deferred in the year	13,500	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 30 June 2023	13,500	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Balance at 30 June 2023
	Balance at 1 July 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 July 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Foundation Open Society Institute	6,045	-	(1,583)	4,462	-	-	4,462
The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund	1,303	-	(651)	652	-	(652)	-
Refugee Council	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-	-
DWP Kickstart scheme	(1,530)	11,891	(10,361)	-	-	-	-
The Aziz Foundation	-	4,297	(4,297)	-	25,928	(25,928)	-
The Steel Charitable Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-	-	-
Equal Access	-	1,879	(1,879)	-	-	-	-
UNHCR Grant	-	-	-	-	3,620	(3,620)	-
Refugee Education UK	-	-	-	-	13,500	(13,500)	-
REHEB Project	-	-	-	-	2,097	(2,097)	-
	<u>5,818</u>	<u>58,067</u>	<u>(58,771)</u>	<u>5,114</u>	<u>45,145</u>	<u>(45,797)</u>	<u>4,462</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Foundation Open Society Institute

To empower university students to support refugees to settle and succeed in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund

To maintain STAR's student volunteer services supporting refugees and asylum seekers

The balance on the fund represents the net book value of the office equipment and will be offset against depreciation of the assets.

Refugee Council and Easy Access

Furthering the opportunities available to refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK for access to higher education.

DWP Kickstart Scheme

For the Communications Officer salary. Funding is received in arrears so income is anticipated after the year-end to cover the deficit.

The Aziz Foundation

Funding for staff: Access to University Co-ordinator and Student Network Organiser.

The Steel Charitable Trust

Funding for English conversation clubs.

UNHCR Grant

To cover the costs of STAR activists and staff attending the The Higher Education and Refugees Forum in Edinburgh

Refugee Education UK

Towards the cost of staff time providing university-facing support for institutions using the Displaced Student Opportunities UK portal, including quality assurance and due diligence on all opportunities featured on the site and good practice coordination

REHEB Project

To contribute to the costs of involvement in a Sheffield University research project

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 30 June 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-	652	652
Current assets/ (liabilities)	128,586	4,462	133,048	85,576	4,462	90,038
	<u>128,586</u>	<u>4,462</u>	<u>133,048</u>	<u>85,576</u>	<u>5,114</u>	<u>90,690</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

18 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, defined as the Chief Executive role, is as follows.

	2023 £	2022 £
Aggregate compensation	52,333	51,827

Accounts

Charity registration number 1079042

Company registration number 3902118 (England and Wales)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	K Joksaite	
	E Arnold	
	J Osborne	
	D Garratt	
	M Taher	
	B Dibb	
	S Isegbe	(Appointed 23 November 2021)
	H Al Sheikh	(Appointed 23 November 2021)
	W Zuoriki	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
	M Grenier	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
	J Schofield-Wood	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
	C Bacon	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
Charity number	1079042	
Company number	3902118	
Registered office	356 Holloway Road London N7 6PA	
Independent examiner	F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA Warner Wilde 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ	
	The Co-operative Bank P.O. Box 250 Dell House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

THE WORK OF STAR

STAR's Vision and Aims

Our vision

A society where refugees are welcomed and can thrive as equal members of the community.

Our values

Inclusive: Our movement brings together people from all backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming and respectful place for all and continually strive to be more diverse and representative, particularly of those with lived refugee experience.

Student powered: Students are the driving force of STAR with the power to bring about positive change in their local communities and the UK.

Collaborative: We are stronger together. Change happens because we work collectively and share learning across our network, in our communities and alongside partners locally and nationally.

Dynamic: We have the energy to drive social change and the adaptability and flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to the changing environment.

Expert: Our network has the support of an experienced and knowledgeable staff team, and our work is informed by those with lived refugee experience.

Who we are and what we do

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) is the national network of students building a society where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed and can thrive.

At STAR we know that refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK experience multiple forms of adversity while seeking protection. As well as the difficult and traumatic experiences people who are forced to flee their homes because of war and persecution must live through, their journey to safety is often long and dangerous. Once they arrive here, the difficulties are far from over, as they face many challenges in claiming their right to asylum and building new lives. This is due to an increasingly hostile policy environment, negative media narrative and public attitudes, and limited access to services. We want to change this. Set up by students at Nottingham University in 1994, STAR is creating a more understanding, just and welcoming society by:

- empowering students to be changemakers;
- providing practical support for refugees and connecting local communities through volunteering;
- challenging the structural barriers that refugees and asylum seekers face when seeking protection and building new lives in the UK;
- sharing information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

We have a small staff team who train and support the network and lead on national campaign and advocacy work, with expertise in improving access to higher education.

Our movement is an inclusive one with UK students, students from refugee backgrounds and international students working together to make change. For over a quarter century our vibrant national student network has impacted on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, making a difference that has reached far beyond the walls of universities and colleges. For many of our student leaders and activists, their involvement with STAR sparks the beginning of a lifelong commitment to social action and refugee and migrant rights.

In order to achieve our vision, we work at a number of different levels. This starts by ensuring that our student leaders have the support and training they need to be effective changemakers. Our national network means that we can mobilise large numbers of volunteers to provide practical support and friendship in local communities. Our volunteering projects tackle isolation and enable refugees to feel welcomed, learn about their new home, improve their English, build connections and become part of the community. These projects also provide opportunities for quality, positive social contact which extensive research on “contact theory” suggests is one of the most effective ways of reducing negative attitudes. Volunteering activities and campus events, which provide a platform for refugee activists, artists and professionals, give the next generation of professionals and opinion-formers a real understanding of the situation for refugees in the UK. This mobilises them to take action to tackle systemic problems and to change the minds of their peers, friends and families. This in turn helps to build public support for policy change and makes communities more welcoming. Our central staff team works alongside national and local organisations to identify where our student network can make the biggest impact for systemic change. It is also of huge importance to our network that refugees and people seeking asylum have the same chance to access university, so we also lead the campaign for scholarship programmes and improved access.

Our 2021/22 highlights!

- Our network was active in 54 universities and there were 44 STAR university student society groups, across 31 towns and cities, run by 292 STAR student leaders.
- 378 events were organised by STAR groups to educate, campaign, and fundraise for a more welcoming UK, from art exhibitions to cookery classes and film nights.
- 1580 refugees were supported through 46 community projects and 40 one off events.
- We mobilised thousands of students to support calls for better treatment of refugees in the UK, including standing against the Nationality and Borders Bill, and we took practical action to respond to the crisis in Ukraine and Afghanistan.
- 83 UK universities now offer sanctuary scholarships for refugee students, 22 were new this year. The STAR staff team was involved in the development of 11 of these and in the improvement of 4 existing scholarships. We delivered workshops for 382 university staff.
- 17 STAR groups campaigned for Equal Access at their institutions and 4 won!
- 100 aspiring students from refugee backgrounds were supported by our national university application mentoring project and we provided signposting and advice about accessing higher education to almost 300 people.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Here's how STAR made a difference in 2021/22

We trained and empowered students to be effective changemakers

Our strength is our amazing national network of dedicated student leaders, activists and volunteers so our first priority is to provide our student leaders and activists with the support and training they need to be effective changemakers.

At the end of the academic year 100% of STAR leaders surveyed said they were now committed to making the UK a welcoming place for refugees compared to 42% before their involvement.

Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, which continued to impact on the student experience and campus engagement until the end of the academic year, we are proud to say that welcoming refugees remained a priority. In 2021-22 we were active in 54 universities and colleges in England, Scotland and Wales. 44 STAR student groups, in 31 towns and cities, were supported and empowered to take local and national action to welcome refugees. The groups were run by 292 STAR student leaders and had a membership of at least 2260 students. Across their active social media platforms, they had a reach of 37,368.

"It has been a huge honour and privilege to lead a fast-growing society after the pandemic. I am proud to say we have accomplished a lot over the year. Re-establishing in person volunteering projects, raising huge amounts for local charities and Ukraine, organising events and talks to bring the cause closer to students, collaborating with extremely diverse societies and groups across the University and the city and working with the University of Sanctuary Group to make sure students from a refugee background saw their scholarships meet the increase in living costs, have been some of these achievements" Aram, Exeter STAR Leader

The STAR national team provided extensive 1:1 support, training and networking opportunities to student leaders to help new groups get established and ensure all leaders had the advice and guidance they needed to run successful groups, organise impactful events and volunteering projects and handover to new leadership at the end of the year. The STAR team held more than 120 support meetings, with STAR leaders and we provided a comprehensive training programme. For example, to prepare new members at the start of the year we delivered five online training events attended by 186 students. The sessions covered how to make a difference with STAR, an introduction to asylum in the UK, how to engage with your MP, how to advocate for Equal Access to HE for refugees in your university and how to run your group and volunteering projects. Our English to Speakers of Other languages (ESOL) professionals provided national online training and direct support to English Conversation Club coordinators and volunteers.

"All the support we could have needed...The balance of structured and more ad hoc support available made us feel looked after. There was always someone to go to." (Lena, STAR leader)

We provided a warm welcome to 1580 refugees and connected communities through volunteering.

Our national network means we can mobilise large numbers of volunteers to provide a welcome to refugees in local communities. Our volunteering projects, run in partnership with local organisations, include English conversation clubs, kids' homework clubs, sports clubs, garden projects, film nights, arts & crafts groups, university open days and more. They tackle isolation and make people feel welcome, help them learn about their new home and to improve their English.

This year 1580 refugees and people seeking asylum were supported through 46 community projects delivered in partnership with 39 local organisations. These projects were made possible by 875 STAR student volunteers and 29 of them were student volunteer led. STAR groups also organised 40 one off events, like festive parties and clothes collections for local refugee charities.

New volunteering projects included conversation clubs and kids' clubs set up to support people living in hotels in London and the Midlands. There were also new sports projects, like Birmingham STAR's exciting collaboration with Aston Villa and brand-new women's groups set up in Warwick and Birmingham. Nationally, we continued to deliver our successful online University Application Mentoring Project, in partnership with the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), which supported 100 people.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Here are just a few of the great volunteering projects from this year:

Making connections - STAR Nottingham collaboration with NEST

This year Nottingham STAR formed a new partnership with the Nottingham Education Sanctuary Team (NEST), a full-time educational provision college for asylum seeker and refugee young people aged 15-19 years. Most of them are new arrivals to the city, so the staff at the project were excited to connect them with other local young people. The first activity planned by the STAR group was a campus tour, in the form of a fun scavenger hunt, which took the NEST students all over the university grounds and gave them lots of time to chat with their STAR volunteer hosts about university life and Nottingham. The 45 NEST students were split into small groups, each hosted by 2 STAR volunteers, given a map of the campus and a list of questions which would lead them to different venues, like the giant outdoor chessboard, the arts venue or the school of Law & Social Sciences. They were really happy to get the chance to find out more about university in the UK as many of them have plans to study - for example, a NEST student had set his heart on studying Cancer Sciences and one of the volunteers happened to be doing that exact course which gave them a lot to talk about!

"They had a fabulous time and were still talking about it the next day. We look forward to the next event".
(NEST staff member)

Case study: English Conversation Clubs for Afghan refugees in Westminster

In Autumn 2021, we were approached by Westminster City Council who were supporting recently arrived Afghan refugees across three hotels in Paddington they knew were desperate for English language learning opportunities. They asked if we could help, so we recruited two STAR groups, King's College London (KCL) STAR and London School of Economics (LSE) STAR, and together we worked with the council to start a new English Conversation Club. It took a while to get started but we were delighted when the first club took place at the end of January. The sessions were for adult learners but informal activities were provided for children so the parents could concentrate on their English practice. There was such a demand that the group had to expand to run two sessions each Wednesday attended by 20 learners and supported by 8 volunteers. The atmosphere was incredibly warm and welcoming, with lots of conversation and laughter at each table.

"Thank you so much for this club! We are so happy to have English!" (Conversation Club participant).

Sharon, the Family Liaison Officer at Westminster City Council, told us about the positive impact it is having and said, "it makes such a difference when volunteers like STAR come in, you can see how much of a need there is, and we so greatly appreciate it".

Case study: National University Application Mentoring Project

In 2020, to respond to the need highlighted by our advice work and the experience of our lived experience activists, we launched an online "How to apply to university" mentoring pilot project. It was such a great success we continued to develop it this year. The first set of workshops are timed to help people complete UCAS forms so took place in December and January. We partnered with UCAS who helped us to train up 35 STAR volunteers to support applicants through the process. UCAS staff also presented alongside STAR staff & Equal Access activists at the initial information session which was attended by 81 people interested in applying to university. People ready to apply were then given the option to sign up for 1:1 online mentoring sessions with STAR volunteers. 41 people took part and they reported a 50% increase in confidence in applying to university.

"I can't thank you enough for the good work and precious help you are providing. The session went fantastic. The mentor was amazing..., I can't wait to be back for the next mentoring session".

The next round in March focused on how to apply for scholarship programmes. There were 95 people at the initial information session and 59 people went on to meet a STAR volunteer mentor to get top tips & advice with their applications. 20 of these mentees were supported over 2 sessions. We followed up with the mentees in the summer to find out if there had been any positive outcomes, out of twelve responses - nine people had received an offer of a university place, one for a PhD, three for MA's and the rest for undergraduate courses. We were delighted to hear that four of them had also successfully secured a sanctuary scholarship.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

"I am very thankful to STAR for the mentoring sessions. My mentor was incredible, I am so grateful for her. She helped me a lot and without her I don't think I would have gotten a scholarship."

Alongside the online sessions we also held in person mentoring sessions in London and reached many more people through video recordings of the information sessions, which were viewed almost 1400 times this year.

"It is really something we appreciate; I had been struggling with this for 2 and a half years. Finally, somebody can help me, after 2 and a half years of searching, thank you so much. I am so happy to have found STAR, you are doing such good things." (Mentee)

We successfully improved access to university

Having equal access to education is a human right. Many studies have shown that higher education can mitigate the negative effects of traumatic experiences. University provides a safe, empowering environment where people fleeing persecution can rebuild their lives and support networks. However, people seeking asylum are treated as international students by universities, do not have access to student finance and are not allowed to work. In addition to financial barriers, many people from refugee backgrounds find the UK university system difficult to navigate and struggle to get the help they need to do so.

We are committed to ensuring our institutions and campuses are places of welcome for refugees and we have been leading advocacy for scholarship programmes and work on improved access to university in the UK since 2008. We are experts in access to university for refugees and asylum seekers and in campaigning for, developing and managing Sanctuary Scholarships. We also bring the sector together, share and encourage good practice and lobby institutions for more and better scholarships and improved access pathways. Here is what we achieved this year:

Sanctuary Scholarships: An exciting milestone was reached with around half (83) of UK universities now offering a sanctuary scholarship! 22 of the scholarships were new this year and our staff team provided direct support with the development of 11 of these and with the improvement of 4 existing scholarships. 17 STAR groups campaigned for improved access at their institutions, achieving success at 4 universities. At Nottingham University, the STAR group ensured that the WH Revis Scholarship was reinstated, and Stirling STAR got the university to establish a brand new scholarship. At the University of Birmingham, the STAR group submitted a proposal to two Pro Vice Chancellors calling for the expansion of the Article 26 Scholarship, they then joined forces with a new Refugee Hub at the university and after a lot of hard work the proposal was approved! Finally, after a couple of years of campaigning Bath STAR and partners got their university to agree to expand their Sanctuary Scholarship to undergraduate level which was a huge achievement.

"When I started this campaign, I did so with the goal of trying to leave a lasting impact even after I'd left the university...I often found myself skeptical or worried that things would change, unsure that the university would make a real commitment. Your advice and support throughout really informed my choices and decision making, encouraging me to continue trying...I learnt a lot from listening to you." - Balraj, Birmingham STAR Leader

Providing advice, spreading the word & encouraging good practice: We provided guidance and signposting to 288 students and prospective students this year and 42 university staff members. Our online scholarships table continued to be the most comprehensive list of sanctuary scholarships available and was viewed 59,235 times. We held 29 Equal Access events with 867 attendees, these included 17 information & support events for 412 current & aspiring refugee students and 9 training and information events for university staff with 382 attendees.

"Thanks for the incredibly helpful workshop you facilitated yesterday. I have learned so much with all speakers from Universities across the UK." - Belfast Metropolitan College staff member after attending "How to set up a Sanctuary Scholarship" workshop

We also set up a network for university staff working on sanctuary scholarships to encourage sharing of good practice and to provide a platform to discuss urgent issues, for example how they could respond to the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine and support students affected.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Equal Access Activists - lived experience campaigners: Our Equal Access Activist group has gone from strength to strength this year and has been working closely with the STAR team to guide our access to university work. They recruited 6 new members, bringing the membership up to 16, giving them a more comprehensive geographical spread and wider range of experiences. Over the year they co-led many training and information events for staff and fellow students, fed into guidance for the Student Loans Company & UCAS and helped to shape the development of a new online portal for higher education opportunities. The Equal Access Network, the online peer support network for current and aspiring students who are displaced, which the Equal Access Activists started in 2021, grew to 217 people. They have written and were interviewed for a number of media articles to highlight how vital access to university is. For example, AbdulRahman wrote about applying to university as a refugee student for the Times HE Student magazine. They have also presented at national and international events, like the UNESCO World Higher Education conference in Barcelona and the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) conference.

"She was spectacular, an amazing speaker, very powerful." (UKCISA Advice and Training Officer about Venita, Equal Access Activist).

Systems change & advocacy: After a number of years of work with UCAS and partners, UCAS have introduced a new self-identification question for asylum-seeking, refugee & migrant applicants in the UCAS application form. This is a major step towards improving access to pastoral and financial support. We also worked with UCAS to develop new good practice guidance for HE providers and applicants.

Along with the other members of the Access to Higher Education Working Group we worked with the Student Loans Company in England to tackle the many difficulties faced by refugee and migrant applicants. As a result, they are developing new guidance for their advisors and exploring additional support for these applicants. We were also consulted by the Department for Education in the development of the Warm Welcome Scholarships for Afghan nationals which finally went live in early May and have also supported calls to open access to student finance for British National (Overseas) visa holders from Hong Kong, many of whom have fled political persecution.

We shared information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative

"I love being part of a passionate community... I also have lots more information about asylum issues and am more empowered to help inform people." (Abi, STAR leader).

Hostile public opinion drives harsh public policy and an unwelcoming reception for refugees in local communities. Research on "contact theory" shows that social contact is one of the most effective ways of building positive attitudes towards refugees in host communities and encouraging intercultural tolerance and understanding. This happens both through STAR groups local volunteering projects and also through the many events about asylum and the refugee experience. We empower students to hold engaging and informative events that provide a platform for experts by experience, academics, activists, artists and organisations to help their fellow students better understand asylum and the experiences of refugees. These interactions and information mobilise our student members to tackle systemic problems and to change the minds of peers, friends, and families, which in turn helps to build public support for policy change.

"If I talk about what I'm doing, people want to listen, they want to know a lot more. More legitimacy in what I say than if I'd just read something. I feel more informed, and people are more understanding, they care about what I have to say when it comes from somewhere legitimate." (Lauren, STAR leader)

This year STAR groups organised almost 400 events reaching over 7000 people. These took place on and off campus, and on and offline, and ranged from demonstrations, stalls and film showings to speaker events, plays and comedy nights. Here are just a few of them:

- Goldsmiths and KCL STAR collaborated to host a conference titled 'Seeking Asylum; 2022 and Beyond', where they invited a range of speakers, including lecturers, political advisors, storytellers, documentary makers and activists, to discuss the challenges facing people seeking asylum today.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

- University of East Anglia (UEA) STAR invited Ice&Fire to perform 'Asylum Monologues' on campus. This performance is a reading of interwoven first-hand accounts of peoples experiences of seeking refuge and the UK's asylum system and is a great way to help the audience better understand the lived reality for refugees in the UK. The STAR group also played a key role in organising a UEA University Refugee Week to celebrate being their University of Sanctuary status which had a jam-packed schedule of events including a walk of welcome, cook alongs, and a creative workshop with the artist Annie Brundit.
- Edinburgh STAR created and published their own zine! They launched it with a poetry and music open mic night, and they also sold artwork from the zine, as well as raffle tickets, to raise money for refugees from Ukraine.

"We ran a workshop with Proof Bakery, a local bakery employing women from refugee backgrounds. This was a great event, where one of their Head Baker's taught a group of 15 members a traditional Syrian biscuit recipe from home. Everyone loved the workshop. We also coordinated with Warwick Discourse Society to have an open discussion about perceptions of refugees in the UK, where we were able to talk about the Anti Refugee Bill, which many of them weren't aware of and also talk about our personal experiences of volunteering." (Warwick STAR leader)

We took action to campaign for a humane asylum system and a warm welcome for refugees

Every year STAR mobilises and empowers thousands of students across the country to take action to fight the hostile environment, advocate for a humane asylum system and a warm welcome for people seeking sanctuary. Our central staff team works alongside national and local organisations and campaign coalitions to identify where our student network can make the biggest impact for systems and policy change. Our student groups hold stalls and events on campus to inform their peers and get them to take action, organise campaign stunts, sign and share petitions and lobby local MPs and decision makers and get the message out there on social media.

In 2021/22 we took a stand against the cruel Nationality and Borders Bill, starting with a week of action in October and a final push in March. Although we were extremely disappointed when the Act became law in April we kept up the pressure on MPs joining the Fight the Anti Refugee Laws coalition. Alongside this we continued to campaign in coalition with Lift the Ban, for the right to work for asylum seekers, for an end to immigration detention with These Walls Must Fall and for improved refugee family reunion rights with Families Together. We also joined sector calls to resettle Afghan refugees, welcome Ukrainian refugees and stand against deportations to Rwanda and more.

Locally, we have supported STAR groups near the new Hassockfield/Derwentside Immigration Detention and Removal Centre for women, to stand in solidarity with the women being detained and to call for its closure. Durham STAR have been attending monthly demonstrations and campaigning alongside Women for Refugee Women, other organisations and activists. As the centre is operated by the company Mitie they have also been using their student power on campus to call on their university to cancel its contracts with the company.

Lauren, a Durham STAR group leader describes their experience with the campaign, *"We see the diverse range of people who stand together against the site at the monthly public demonstrations that the NotoHassockfield group organise. The peaceful protests show so many people coming together and it is so inspiring to witness the public protest against the government's hostile immigration policies. I always meet so many inspiring people who are doing incredible work to improve the treatment of people seeking asylum and people who are refugees. It's really nice to be able to chat with people face-to-face, and it's fab to meet people from the local community outside of the uni bubble!"*

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

A week of action against the Nationality and Borders Bill:

In October 2021, STAR groups came together for a national week of action against the Nationality and Borders Bill. We started off by holding an online event to look at what the Bill would mean for UK asylum and immigration policy and its impact on people seeking safety. Speakers included, the Co-Director of Asylum Matters, a Voices Network representative and MPs Paul Blomfield & Bell Ribeiro-Addy. The event was chaired by STAR student leader and lived-experienced activist Michael Darko. We ended it with a practical workshop on how to successfully lobby your MP. Then it was over to the STAR groups to take action in their local communities and to raise the issue with their MP, which they did in many different ways.

To highlight just a few of them - Winchester STAR decided to run a stall in a busy part of their campus to talk to as many students as they could about the bill and give them the tools they needed to take action, Edinburgh STAR created a giant banner which they displayed on campus and followed up with a mass MP letter writing event. In Brighton, Sussex STAR partnered up with local organisations for a huge campaign stunt on the beach. In the run up to the event they wanted a creative way to get as many students as possible involved, so they held a Tie-Dye t-shirt workshop to reach new people and tell them about the protest. The group then got busy organising with students and groups on campus, finding a megaphone, writing press statements, organising drone photography and getting the word out. It all paid off as on the day 200 people turned up to form a giant orange heart as a public display of solidarity with refugees.

Liliah, a Sussex STAR member described *"The aim of the protest was to challenge these new inhumane and deadly measures designed to keep people seeking safety out, and instead to show people that they are welcome here."* Many more people were reached with the message as the stunt was covered by local media and a video was shared widely on social media.

How we responded to the crisis in Ukraine:

When Russia invaded Ukraine on 24th February, we joined sector-wide efforts to ensure that the needs of refugees were front and centre: we shared a statement on social media calling on the government to support Ukrainians seeking sanctuary, co-signed an open letter in the Times calling on the government to welcome Ukrainian refugees with over 50 charities, and co-signed Freedom From Torture's petition from the sector. We shared actions and news updates with the STAR network and provided guidance to individual groups fundraising to support Ukrainian refugees. We created our own online template letter to MPs calling on the government to welcome Ukrainian refugees (including particular reference to financial and visa support for Ukrainian students in the UK on study visas and students who were studying in Ukraine who may wish to continue their studies here) and challenge the Nationality and Borders Bill.

We were also involved in sector-wide efforts to ensure that access to higher education opportunities were available for Ukrainians affected by the conflict. This included collating guidance for students affected by the invasion. We also published guidance for UK universities on how they can support students, academics and institutions affected by the conflict, in collaboration with Universities of Sanctuary and REUK. Our Access to University Coordinator spoke at a webinar about support for the Ukrainian HE community alongside representatives of Ukrainian institutions, Mercy Corps, and Google, attended by 110 people

We were invited by Universities UK International to join regular sector meetings, which included the Department for Education and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. These meetings provided the opportunity to press for access to student finance and home fees for Ukrainians, and to highlight the need for refugees of all backgrounds to be considered and for inclusive long-term structures of support to be set up. As part of this we fed into an expert sub-group to support universities to set up short-term opportunities for students who were previously studying in Ukraine and to create opportunities for displaced students to travel to the UK, through both the Homes for Ukraine scheme and a longer-term visa programme open to all displaced students. One exciting development from this group is that we started working in partnership with REUK & University of Sanctuary to build a new online portal for all the access to HE opportunities available to displaced students.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

We shared the STAR model internationally - STARTnow in Thessaloniki

We have been working with Greek charity SolidarityNow since 2019 supporting them to develop student led STAR-like groups in Thessaloniki and although we were sad that the project came to an end this year we were all delighted that at the end of the 2021/22 academic year, STARTnow had passed exclusively to the volunteer students with plans for the recruitment of the new generation of both volunteers and beneficiaries at the start of September. An entirely student-led refugee welcome group is finally established in Thessaloniki and we know they will do great things!

Future work

These are our strategic goals for 2021-24. We have already made good progress, despite the challenges of the pandemic, but we also recognise that an important additional priority is to continue building back the network and activities post pandemic.

1. To create a better welcome for refugees by:

- Delivering impactful community projects which welcome, build understanding and connections
- Changing minds and building support for refugees by providing spaces and opportunities where people can meet and learn together
- Campaigning nationally, locally and within our institutions to challenge the hostile environment and damaging immigration policy
- Breaking down the barriers preventing people seeking asylum and refugees from accessing higher education

2. To build a more powerful movement by:

- Establishing groups in all nations from the grassroots
- Ensuring more people with lived refugee experience take a lead and shape our work
- Building a more diverse and representative charity & network.
- Empowering more student leadership & involvement in decision making e.g., we have plans to develop a regional leaders programme
- Building and reconnecting with our supporter base by improving our communications
- Becoming more sustainable by developing individual & alumni giving, income generation from universities and strengthening the trustee board

Thank you to our donors

A huge thank you to the following groups and individuals who went above and beyond to raise money for the STAR charity. Thanks to Cardiff STAR, Essex STAR, Goldsmiths STAR, York STAR, Edinburgh STAR, Bath STAR and UEA STAR. We also don't want to forget our regular donors, Facebook birthday fundraisers and everyone else who gave generously to support our work this year. Thank you so much!

Special mentions for these amazing fundraisers!

- UEA STAR who ran, walked, cycled and swam 636 miles to raise £636 for the Equal Access campaign - the distance between STAR's furthest groups - University of London Institute in Paris to the University of Stirling
- York STAR who raised a massive £845 by hosting a delicious supper club
- Edinburgh STAR who raised £700 from organising a Ceilidh
- Jacob Colman who ran a half marathon every month in 2021 and raised £1,072!
- Alexander Zouev from NCH STAR who patiently waited until October 2021 to run the London marathon after it was postponed due to Covid, and who raised an amazing £2,640
- Geoff and Helen who braved the Brighton Marathon 2022 and raised an amazing £1,064
- The brilliant Team Track STARS Dipak, Ben, Hannah, Danny, Jo, Safia, Sophie and Matt from Experian who raised £1,115 and thanks to Experian who match funded the first £1000!

And of course a massive thank you to all of the generous trusts and foundations who fund us; The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust, The Maingot Charitable Trust, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, Foundation Open Society Institute, The AB Charitable Trust, The Refugee Council, Barrow Cadbury Trust/The National Lottery Community Fund COVID Support Fund, The Aziz Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Allen Lane Foundation and the Southall Trust.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Achievements and performance

Financial review

The charity's reserves stood at £90,690 at the year end (2021: £41,145). The reserves were made up of £85,576 unrestricted reserves (2021: £35,327) and £5,114 restricted reserves (2021: £5,818).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a sufficient level to:

- Ensure the charity can meet its obligations in the event of it having to close or significantly reduce in size.
- Meet foreseeable but unknowable costs which cannot be funded from specific or restricted funding

The trustees have concluded that the amount required is £52,269. This is based on a predetermined formula and is reviewed on a regular basis.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Risk Management

STAR has a risk register which is updated annually by the Trustees with advice from the staff team.

Public Benefit

When planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities meet the principles laid out in that guidance.

Structure, governance and management

STAR was established in 1994 by students at the University of Nottingham and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in January 2000. It was established under a Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by the Articles of Association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

N Murphy	(Resigned 19 April 2022)
K Joksaite	
E Arnold	
J Osborne	
D Garratt	
M Taher	
B Dibb	
S Isegbe	(Appointed 23 November 2021)
H Al Sheikh	(Appointed 23 November 2021)
W Zuoriki	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
M Grenier	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
J Schofield-Wood	(Appointed 25 April 2022)
C Bacon	(Appointed 25 April 2022)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

New Trustees are elected by the STAR membership at the AGM. Candidates are asked to submit a written application to Trustees and, if selected, will be co-opted by the Board to serve until the following AGM. STAR also has three places reserved for STAR student members who are elected by the membership at the AGM.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

STAR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the Trustees of the charity are also directors of the limited company. STAR is a membership organisation with the STAR groups as its members. STAR groups are student union societies which are constituted within their universities or college's student union and then affiliated to the STAR national charity. STAR members are trained and supported by the staff team from the charity's offices in London.

STAR's student members meet annually at the AGM in November at which they elect Trustees, view the Annual Accounts and plan STAR's work for the coming year. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for governance and oversight of the charity, they ensure that STAR fulfils its legal obligations and carries out activities to fulfil its aims for the public benefit, they also oversee strategy and resources. The Trustees delegate responsibility for running the charity to the Chief Executive and meet quarterly as well as attending the AGM and annual student Committee Training in June.

STAR Groups

Affiliated groups

University of Bath STAR, University of Birmingham STAR, Birkbeck, University of London, STAR, Brunel University of London STAR, BPP University STAR, University of Bristol STAR, Cardiff University STAR, City University of London STAR, Durham University STAR, The University of Edinburgh STAR, University of Essex STAR, University of Exeter STAR, University of Glasgow STAR, Goldsmiths University of London STAR, King's College London STAR, University of Kent STAR, Lancaster University STAR, University of Leeds STAR, London South Bank University STAR, University of Leicester STAR, University of Liverpool STAR, London School of Economics Student Union STAR, The University of Manchester STAR, Nottingham Trent University STAR, University of Northampton STAR, University of Nottingham STAR, University of Oxford STAR, University of Plymouth STAR, Queen Mary University of London STAR, The University of Sheffield STAR, University of Southampton STAR, University of Stirling STAR, University of Sunderland STAR, University of Sussex STAR, Swansea University STAR, The Open University STAR, University College London SU STAR, University of East Anglia STAR, University of East London STAR, University of London in Paris STAR, University of the West of England STAR, University of Warwick STAR, University of Winchester STAR, Warwick Medical School STAR & University of York STAR.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Staff and volunteers

STAR's work is undertaken by a network of thousands of student volunteers supported by a small central staff and volunteer team based in London. Additional staff support the English conversation clubs across the country. STAR's staff team this year were:

Paid staff

Emily Crowley, Chief Executive
Hannah Carbery, Student Network Organiser (left 17th January 2022)
Siobhán Coskeran, Access to University Co-ordinator
Rebekah Lucking, Volunteering Project Manager
Annie Feetham, Student Network Organiser (Temporary)
Anisa Shirka, Administrator (post made redundant, left 12th December 2021)
Jess Benham, Student Network Manager (post made redundant, left 12th December 2021)
Miriam Lawson, Communications Assistant (6-month contract - left 14th October 2021)
Trà My Hicken, Communications Assistant

Consultants

Abi Airey, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Patricia Mersh, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist

National Volunteers

Hannah Carbery
Waleed Zuoriki
Callum Nolan

Equal Access Activists

Daniel, Venita, Waleed, Maryam, Abdullah, AbdulRahman, Pearlgina, Abdullah, Michael, Arooba, Anne, Zana, Dickson, Akram, Tamana, Shehany

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
D Garratt

Trustee

Dated: 23/2/2023

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of STAR (Student Action for Refugees) (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA

Warner Wilde
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated: 28 February 2023

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

		Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	163,008	58,067	221,075	102,206	68,647	170,853
Other trading activities	4	5,005	-	5,005	6,622	-	6,622
Investments	5	29	-	29	8	-	8
Total income		168,042	58,067	226,109	108,836	68,647	177,483
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	1,338	-	1,338	54	272	326
Charitable activities	7	116,455	58,771	175,226	111,169	104,950	216,119
Total expenditure		117,793	58,771	176,564	111,223	105,222	216,445
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds							
		50,249	(704)	49,545	(2,387)	(36,575)	(38,962)
Fund balances at 1 July 2021		35,327	5,818	41,145	37,714	42,393	80,107
Fund balances at 30 June 2022		85,576	5,114	90,690	35,327	5,818	41,145

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		652		1,303
Current assets					
Debtors	13	-		240	
Cash at bank and in hand		94,931		102,015	
		<u>94,931</u>		<u>102,255</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(4,893)</u>		<u>(62,413)</u>	
Net current assets			90,038		39,842
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>90,690</u>		<u>41,145</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		5,114		5,818
Unrestricted funds			85,576		35,327
			<u>90,690</u>		<u>41,145</u>

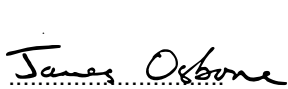
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2022.

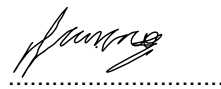
The director acknowledges her responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on ...18/2/2023.....


J Osborne
Trustee


D Garratt
Trustee

Company registration number 3902118

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Donated services are included in income at the estimate value to the Charity, when quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised for services donated by volunteers.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	3 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £
Donations and gifts	8,658	1,879	10,537	6,536	-	6,536
Grants receivable	152,500	56,188	208,688	95,670	68,647	164,317
Donated goods and services	1,850	-	1,850	-	-	-
	<u>163,008</u>	<u>58,067</u>	<u>221,075</u>	<u>102,206</u>	<u>68,647</u>	<u>170,853</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	90,000	-	90,000	40,000	-	40,000
Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	7,500	-	7,500	17,500	-	17,500
Refugee Council	-	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
Maingot Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	15,000	-	15,000
Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	7,500	-	7,500	12,500	-	12,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund	-	-	-	-	36,900	36,900
ESU	-	-	-	-	4,177	4,177
A B Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
The Blue Thread	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
The Steel Charitable Trust	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Kickstart Scheme	-	11,891	11,891	-	-	-
The Aziz Foundation	-	4,297	4,297	-	-	-
The Allen Lane Foundation	4,500	-	4,500	-	-	-
The Southall Trust	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	670	2,570	3,240
	<u>152,500</u>	<u>56,188</u>	<u>208,688</u>	<u>95,670</u>	<u>68,647</u>	<u>164,317</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising events	5,005	6,622
	=====	=====

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	29	8
	=====	=====

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>				
Other fundraising costs	1,338	54	272	326
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	1,338	54	272	326
	=====	=====	=====	=====

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

7 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs	153,648	159,681
Depreciation and impairment	651	652
Student network support costs	3,432	12,750
Printing, postage and stationery	180	444
Thessaloniki Students welcome project grants	-	4,024
Telephone and internet	281	335
Subscriptions and membership fees	-	94
Staff training and recruitment	1,183	1,416
ESOL tutors	1,450	2,863
Consultancy	-	13,845
	<u>160,825</u>	<u>196,104</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	-	84
Share of support costs (see note 9)	12,979	18,321
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	1,422	1,610
	<u>175,226</u>	<u>216,119</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	116,455	111,169
Restricted funds	58,771	104,950
	<u>175,226</u>	<u>216,119</u>

8 Grants payable

	2021 £
Grants to individuals	84
	<u>84</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

9 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £
Professional fees	685	-	685	467	-	467
Rent, rates and room hire	8,158	-	8,158	15,816	-	15,816
Insurance	1,331	-	1,331	764	-	764
Computer and IT	2,576	-	2,576	826	-	826
Bank charges	142	-	142	259	-	259
Repairs, maintenance and equipment	87	-	87	189	-	189
Independent Examiners fees	-	1,422	1,422	-	1,597	1,597
Other governance costs	-	-	-	-	13	13
	<u>12,979</u>	<u>1,422</u>	<u>14,401</u>	<u>18,321</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>19,931</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>12,979</u>	<u>1,422</u>	<u>14,401</u>	<u>18,321</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>19,931</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the Independent Examiner of £1,422 (2021- £1,320)

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	137,308	145,726
Social security costs	8,925	7,270
Other pension costs	7,415	6,685
	<u>153,648</u>	<u>159,681</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 July 2021	4,275
Disposals	(375)
At 30 June 2022	3,900
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 July 2021	2,972
Depreciation charged in the year	651
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(375)
At 30 June 2022	3,248
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2022	652
At 30 June 2021	1,303

13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	-	240

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Other taxation and social security		2,152	2,327
Deferred income	15	-	55,000
Trade creditors		-	1,150
Other creditors		1,042	2,339
Accruals and deferred income		1,699	1,597
		4,893	62,413

15 Deferred income

	2022 £	2021 £
Other deferred income	-	55,000

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

15 Deferred income

(Continued)

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	-	55,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 July 2021	55,000	90,000
Released from previous periods	(55,000)	(65,000)
Resources deferred in the year	-	30,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deferred income at 30 June 2022	-	55,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 July 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 July 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 30 June 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Foundation Open Society Institute	37,393	-	(31,348)	6,045	-	(1,583)	4,462
European Students Union	-	4,176	(4,176)	-	-	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-	-	-
The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund	-	36,900	(35,597)	1,303	-	(651)	652
Refugee Council	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
DWP Kickstart scheme	-	2,571	(4,101)	(1,530)	11,891	(10,361)	-
The Aziz Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,297	(4,297)	-
The Steel Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
Equal Access	-	-	-	-	1,879	(1,879)	-
	<u>42,393</u>	<u>68,647</u>	<u>(105,222)</u>	<u>5,818</u>	<u>58,067</u>	<u>(58,771)</u>	<u>5,114</u>

Foundation Open Society Institute

To empower university students to support refugees to settle and succeed in Thessaloniki, Greece.

European Students Union

Towards costs of the Equal Access Activist group and conference

The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund

To maintain STAR's student volunteer services supporting refugees and asylum seekers

The balance on the fund represents the net book value of the office equipment and will be offset against depreciation of the assets.

DWP Kickstart Scheme

For the Communications Officer salary. Funding is received in arrears so income is anticipated after the year-end to cover the deficit.

The Steel Charitable Trust

Funding for English conversation clubs.

The Aziz Foundation

Funding for staff: Access to University Co-ordinator and Student Network Organiser.

Equal Access and Refugee Council

Furthering the opportunities available to refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK for access to higher education.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 30 June 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	652	652	-	1,303	1,303
Current assets/ (liabilities)	85,576	4,462	90,038	35,327	4,515	39,842
	<u>85,576</u>	<u>5,114</u>	<u>90,690</u>	<u>35,327</u>	<u>5,818</u>	<u>41,145</u>

18 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, defined as the Chief Executive role, is as follows.

	2022 £	2021 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>51,827</u>	<u>58,580</u>

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1079042

Company Registration No. 3902118 (England and Wales)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	N Murphy K Joksaite E Arnold J Osborne D Garratt M Taher B Dibb	(Appointed 25 November 2020)
Charity number	1079042	
Company number	3902118	
Registered office	356 Holloway Road London N7 6PA	
Independent examiner	F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA Warner Wilde 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ The Co-operative Bank P.O. Box 250 Dell House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)".

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are:

- To relieve sickness, hardship, poverty and distress particularly by the provision of a trained student network of volunteers and helpers to assist in all aspects of refugee assistance
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and the role of students.

THE WORK OF STAR

STAR's Vision and Aims

Student Action for Refugees is the national network of students building a more understanding and just society where refugees are welcomed and can thrive in the UK.

Our vision

A society where refugees are welcomed and can thrive as equal members of the community.

Our values

Inclusive: Our movement brings together people from all backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring we are a welcoming and respectful place for all and continually strive to be more diverse and representative, particularly of those with lived refugee experience.

Student powered: Students are the driving force of STAR with the power to bring about positive change in their local communities and the UK.

Collaborative: We are stronger together. Change happens because we work collectively and share learning across our network, in our communities and alongside partners locally and nationally.

Dynamic: We have the energy to drive social change and the adaptability and flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to the changing environment.

Expert: Our network has the support of an experienced and knowledgeable staff team, and our work is informed by those with lived refugee experience.

Who we are and what we do

Student Action for Refugees is the national network of students building a society where refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed and can thrive. Set up by students at the University of Nottingham in 1994, we are an inclusive network with UK students, students from refugee backgrounds and international students working together to make change. We are a membership charity and the members are STAR student union society groups. A small staff team train and support the network and lead on national campaign and advocacy work. Last year was our 25th anniversary, marking a quarter century of a vibrant student refugee welcome movement that has impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

People who arrive in the UK after fleeing war and persecution face many challenges in both claiming their right to asylum and in building new lives. Challenges that result from a hostile policy environment, negative public attitudes, unhelpful media narrative and a lack of access to services. Additionally, people seeking asylum are locked out of university. Treated as international students, they do not have access to student finance and are not allowed to work. Many refugees find the university system difficult to navigate and struggle to get the help they need to move on with their education.

Our network of STAR student societies and activists is creating a more understanding, just and welcoming society. We do this by: providing practical support and connecting communities through volunteering; improving access to university; campaigning for policy change; learning and sharing information about asylum and the lived experience of refugees to shift the narrative.

Geographically, STAR is well positioned to make change and reach large numbers of refugees. The student network currently spans 43 institutions across more than 30 towns and cities. The majority of STAR groups are based in areas where a large number of people seeking asylum are housed and areas which are experiencing high levels of deprivation. For example, the top five host cities for asylum seekers (Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Cardiff, Manchester) are where we have some of our largest groups.

At STAR, we know that in order to achieve our vision of a welcoming society for refugees, we need to work at a number of different levels. This starts by ensuring that our student leaders have the support and training they need to be effective changemakers. Our national network means that we can mobilise large numbers of volunteers to provide practical support and friendship in local communities. Our volunteering projects tackle isolation and enable refugees to feel welcomed, learn about their new home, improve their English, build connections and become part of the community. These projects also provide opportunities for quality, positive social contact which extensive research on “contact theory” suggests is one of the most effective ways of reducing negative attitudes. The volunteering activities and campus events, which provide a platform for refugee activists, artists and professionals, give the next generation of professionals and opinion-formers a real understanding of the situation for refugees in the UK. This mobilises them to take action to tackle systemic problems and to change the minds of their peers, friends and families. This in turn helps to build public support for policy change and makes communities more welcoming. Our central staff team works alongside national and local organisations to identify where our student network can make the biggest impact for systemic change. It is also of huge importance to our network that refugees and people seeking asylum have the same chance to access university, so we also lead the campaign for scholarship programmes and improved access.

STAR in 2020/21

This year has been extremely challenging on many levels but thanks to the dedication of our student leaders, members and staff team, we have been able to continue with our work to make the UK more welcoming for refugees. We are proud that in 2020/21 over 2000 students joined STAR to take action to welcome refugees in 44 STAR student groups run by 291 dedicated student leaders.

Refugees have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. People seeking asylum were already living in extreme poverty, in poor quality housing with little to no access to the internet or digital devices. All of this made lockdown much more difficult and isolating. Most support services had to suspend face to face advice and support. The waits for asylum decisions – which had already been steadily increasing – became even longer. Covid-19 restrictions also brought to a halt the few safe routes for refugees to the UK and led to over 8000 people making the dangerous journey across the channel in 2020. The harsh response and rhetoric from the government and media has in turn provided the far right with a focus for stirring up anti-migrant sentiment, for example, harassing and attacking asylum seekers in temporary accommodation in hotels and military barracks. The New Plan for Immigration published by the government proposed wide-ranging and extremely concerning changes to the asylum system which will make the lives of those seeking sanctuary in the UK even more difficult. It's clear that welcome movements like STAR are needed more than ever to stand with refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK.

'STAR reminds me every week and most days that we shouldn't give up, we are part of a huge group of people who are dedicated to changing their little piece of the world for the better, in whatever way we are all doing this. It is my community and I am proud to be a part of it.' -
Cardiff STAR leader

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Highlights from 2020/21:

- Our network had 44 STAR student groups with 2013 members which were run by 291 student leaders.
- We successfully moved many of our community projects online and recruited 502 STAR student volunteers for 54 projects, delivered in partnership with 42 local charities, supporting 964 refugees. 33 of these were student-led. The projects provided social connections, helped people learn English, tutored children with their school work. STAR groups also organised 24 one-off volunteering events benefiting 346 refugees. For example, creating welcome packs and hosting online film nights.
- We organised 489 online events and activities to skill up our network and provide a platform for experts by experience, academics, activists and organisations to inform 8506 people about the asylum journey and the experiences of refugees.
- We mobilised students to campaign for: the right to work for asylum seekers; the right to family reunion for refugees; the closure of the military barracks being used to house asylum seekers; an end to immigration detention; support from mobile companies to tackle the digital divide; a fairer asylum system by responding to the consultation on the New Plan for Immigration (now the Nationality and Borders Bill).
- We improved access to university for refugees by supporting 11 universities with scholarship development and 12 STAR student groups to campaign for Equal Access to HE at their institutions; delivering 6 training events for 192 staff and 25 information events for 431 prospective refugee students; responding to 370 enquiries from refugees and 77 from staff.
- Our Equal Access Activist group grew to 10 dedicated lived experience campaigners who took part in 12 events to share their experiences and train university staff, hosted a conference for 63 aspiring and current students and an information event to help 30 people with scholarship applications.
- We launched a new brand and website during Refugee Week in June 2021.

Despite the size of the STAR network and breadth of our activity, the central team who train, support and empower the network consisted of just 3 full-time and 4 part-time paid staff plus volunteers.

Here's how STAR made a difference in 2020/21

The STAR network

This year 44 STAR student groups, in 30 towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales (and one in Paris!), were supported and empowered to take local and national action to welcome refugees. There were 7 new STAR groups in development. The groups were run by 291 dedicated STAR student leaders and had a membership of 2013 students. The digital reach of STAR grew to an amazing 65,008!

'Being involved in STAR has been one of my favourite parts of my university experience. It's been an amazing way to connect with individuals local to my university, an opportunity that I value even more when it allows me to contribute towards creating a welcoming community to those who have recently arrived in the country. The network we've established is so supportive and I hope it continues to grow.' - **Exeter STAR**

We also had a growing group of 10 committed Equal Access Activists, all experts by experience who campaigned tirelessly to improve access to higher education for refugees. They launched an online peer support network for aspiring and current refugee students which was joined by 67 people.

'I received really useful support from the STAR team, who helped me find practical courses about getting into university, public speaking, and campaigning. Developing my skills in these areas enabled me to share my experiences with aspiring and current refugee students. Helping refugees and people seeking asylum to overcome obstacles on their academic journey is really important to me, as an activist from an asylum-seeking background. From reading happy messages from students who've benefited from the network, to guiding the campaigns, being part of the Equal Access Network is a great experience.' - Waleed, Equal Access Activist & President of Birkbeck STAR

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

At the end of the year, we held an awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the student network and recognise some of the stand out activities across the year. The winners were:

- Most impactful volunteering project - Bristol STAR's homework club
- Most outstanding event - Cardiff STAR's Lost in the System: Asylum Seeking in the UK
- Boldest campaign action - Durham STAR's campaigns for safe routes
- Best photo - Sussex STAR's close the barracks collage
- Best fundraiser (for STAR) - UCL STAR's sashiko workshop

There were also three STAR groups who achieved a Comet award:

- Bronze comet award: Bristol and Warwick Medical School STAR
- Gold comet award: KCL STAR

The staff team trained and empowered students to be effective changemakers.

'Lots of exciting ideas and energy always leave STAR events with fire in my belly!' (STAR leader)

The STAR staff team is made up of a central team based in London, and regional ESOL professionals. We:

- Provide advice, support, training and resources that STAR leaders need to set up and run their groups.
- Recruit new members to grow our refugees welcome movement.
- Deliver high quality community projects with local partners.
- Organise events to raise awareness of the asylum journey in the UK, and the global refugee experience.
- Mobilise student members to campaign for change in impactful ways.

In 2020/21 we delivered 68 support and training sessions for 991 students and created 43 new guides and resources.

This year, we also supported student groups to navigate running a STAR group when all their activities had to be online or Covid-safe. Freshers' fairs, the main way that groups recruit members at the start of the new academic year, either did not take place or were hosted online by Student Unions with limited success. The staff team worked extremely hard to help groups with the summer transition and handover period. Although we lost a few groups, most were able to restart their activities in the new academic year. We continued to adapt and improve our online training programme and resources and worked hard to ensure that our student leaders had support to make their work possible. A benefit of online training was that we were able to engage with many more student leaders and provide a more varied and staggered training programme. Sessions include; how to run an online conversation club, how to chair a panel event, how to lobby your MP, being anti-racist, and working with local media. STAR leaders described the online training sessions as 'more accessible and democratic than in-person meetings.'

'Thank you for everything you've done in the midst of such a challenging year! The STAR team has been endlessly supportive and helpful which is so appreciated.' - City STAR

Zoom meetings and online events meant that it was easier to involve STAR student leaders from around the UK in leading the work of the national charity. For example, planning and delivering national events, campaigns and running a programme of peer led focus groups with the network to feed into our strategy development. Groups also found it easy to host joint events and activities which helped strengthen connections in the network.

We were aware that the life changes brought about by the pandemic were impacting more significantly on young people. A Hefi report found that almost two-thirds (63%) of students said their mental health was worse as a result of the pandemic. As a result we made sure that we also offered wellbeing resources and opportunities for student leaders to get together both with the STAR network and with other student activists like Oxfam students. Many student leaders also told us that their involvement with STAR helped them get through the year: *'This year has certainly been challenging, but having been part of STAR for three years it has been something to focus on and remain passionate about. It has been evident lots of the STAR national team have been working hard to help each group with new ways to host events.'* - Leeds STAR leader

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

We were also delighted to launch our new brand and website on 18th June 2021. This is our first brand refresh in a long time and our new website replaces one that was designed in 2007! This was a huge amount of work and was thanks to the efforts of the staff team and lots of pro-bono support from Saudy, our web designer, Templo branding agency and thanks to funding from Esme Fairbairn.

We delivered direct support to 1310 refugees and connected communities through volunteering.

Our goal was to get as many community projects as possible up and running this year, as we knew that student volunteers could play an important role in tackling some of the difficulties that refugees and people seeking asylum were facing as a result of the pandemic. Although Covid-19 had a big impact on our volunteering activities, with the support of the staff team and the ingenuity and energy of our student members, we were able to move many projects online and also start new ones. Although we were not able to reach as many people as we would have been able to do through in-person volunteering, we are proud that STAR groups and the national staff team supported 1310 refugees in 76 projects delivered by 763 volunteers.

Of these 76 projects, 54 projects took place regularly across the year, and 33 of which were entirely student-led, and they were delivered in partnership with 42 local charities and organisations. The majority of the projects were English conversation clubs or homework and study support for children. There were also arts and crafts clubs, sports clubs, and a gardening project.

A number of our groups in London, Bristol, Exeter and Northampton worked with school and college age children and young people to support them with their education. This work is vital as we know that Covid has made the education gap widen. For example, Bristol STAR has a longstanding partnership with the Somali Resource Centre (SRC) and usually run two homework clubs, one for primary school-aged children, and another for secondary pupils. They were able to continue delivering this vital support during lockdown by working with SRC to ensure they could safely provide one-to-one tuition over Zoom for 96 young people. In Birmingham, the STAR group have been running a conversation club, a kids club and orientation projects for years in the local Initial Accommodation Centre. When this was no longer possible due to Covid, they made sure that people still felt supported by creating 100 welcome packs which included basic stationery, gloves, hand sanitiser, reusable face masks, a map of the city centre, an information card with contact details for helpful organisations, a chocolate treat, a handwritten welcome card and colouring books and toys for children.

Access to higher education is an area where there is huge inequality and this year has made it even harder for people to access the advice and support they need. To tackle this, we set up national projects to provide one-to-one online mentoring for UCAS and scholarship applications and a peer support network for current and aspiring students. We supported STAR groups to hold workshops and virtual open days on how to access university at their institutions.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Case study: Glasgow STAR English conversation club

Glasgow STAR has been running a successful English Conversation Club in partnership with the Maryhill Integration Network for the past few years. When the pandemic forced them to suspend the in person club they knew they had to make sure it could still happen.

Ella Mayne, the STAR student leader who runs the clubs describes how they put their plan into action.

"Initially we tried to organise an outdoor conversation club, but the Scottish weather combined with COVID regulations made this impossible. Running our conversation club online seemed like a natural next step, however internet access and technology can be exclusive and we wanted the club to be as accessible to as many people as possible. With fundraising and help from the Scottish Refugee Council, we bought devices and mobile data top ups, which allowed our learners to get online and access zoom. We also created learning packs with simple stationery, learning activities and headphones. We saw an increase in the numbers of attendees to our conversation club, greater numbers than we ever had in person up to 30 people. Glaswegians are proud of Glasgow as a welcoming and friendly city, and we at STAR Glasgow look to extend that welcome to all. The committee and volunteers have found it so rewarding to see our club grow, knowing that we are reaching more people than ever and supporting our learners through what is an especially hard period'.

Here is what some of the participants had to say about the club...

'I am so glad to be a part of this conversation group, it is my favourite conversation group because the people are amazing, lively and friendly too. When i joined I was shy and quiet and because English is not my first language but the host and the other friends are very supportive, I am especially thankful for this in this difficult situation for asylum seekers' - Syeda

'From Conversation Club, we have learned a lot both before and after lockdown. It provides a great opportunity to listen to different people about their experiences, achievements, struggles and opinions. It gives us the perfect platform to share our experiences and knowledge. We have felt a big difference in our language skills, listening ability and confidence of speaking in front of others. We have met different nationalities, tried to learn different languages, culture and traditions. We are thankful to everyone for giving us this opportunity to participate'. - Abid and Hena

STAR successfully improved access to university

In the UK people seeking asylum are locked out of university. They are treated as international students, do not have access to student finance and are not allowed to work. In addition, many people with refugee backgrounds find the UK university system difficult to navigate and struggle to get the help they need to do so. For the past 12 years we have been campaigning for policy change, scholarships and improved access pathways, and providing the information that aspiring students need to continue their journey to university. The expertise we have developed means that we are able to provide advice and guidance to universities and sector organisations. Our growing group of Equal Access activists ensure that the work we do is led by the needs of those with lived experience.

This year we:

Expanded and improved scholarship provision through advice, sharing good practice and campaigning. We provided support to universities in the development of 11 new scholarships, including tailored advice for 9 universities. We have also advised 4 universities who are redeveloping their scholarships and 3 scholarships that are in development. We held 6 information and training events for 192 university staff and we've launched twice-yearly networking events for scholarship staff and a new Slack workspace to help university staff to connect and share best practice.

'STAR are a beacon of clarity in a field that is unendingly confusing! Invaluable.' - Leeds University

'The advice and support was excellent. It's wonderful to have an organisation like STAR to turn to with some of these more complex queries.' - University of St Andrews

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

12 STAR groups campaigned to encourage their universities to set up new scholarships or expand existing schemes. For example, Bath STAR launched a crowdfunder to show the support behind their campaign for undergraduate scholarships in addition to the existing postgraduate scholarship. They raised £5,629 and have been meeting with university staff to discuss next steps and Birmingham STAR gathered over 500 petition signatures asking for an increase in the university's scholarship offer. Their Campaigns Officer then met with university staff and is developing a proposal for the Pro Vice-Chancellors.

Provided information and advice to 527 current and prospective students. We responded to 370 information enquiries from current or prospective students. We launched a new online mentoring project to support 59 prospective students with UCAS and scholarship applications and 4 STAR groups held online open days for 98 people.

STAR continues to be the primary source of information about scholarship opportunities in the UK. The new STAR website includes refreshed guidance for applicants and a new filterable, searchable scholarships list. We also developed a new guide on how to apply for scholarships with the Equal Access Activists and with input from universities.

Case study: Online advice & mentoring workshops for university applicants

Access to advice and support with university applications is very limited so this year we decided to launch online advice and mentoring workshops to support applicants from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds to apply for university. This brought together the strengths of our network of student volunteers, the skills and experience of our Equal Access Activists, and the expertise of our staff team.

The first set of workshops were timed to help people complete UCAS forms so took place 1 December and January. We partnered with UCAS who helped us to train up 36 STAR volunteers to support applicants through the UCAS application process, with a focus on issues that refugee and asylum-seeking applicants might encounter. 30 participants took part in four UCAS mentoring sessions on Zoom. In each hour-long session, participants were paired with STAR volunteers and had the opportunity to discuss their application in breakout sessions. Where possible, we paired participants with volunteers studying a similar subject, and many participants used the opportunity to discuss university life in general as well as the application process which the participants really appreciated. STAR's Access to University Coordinator and Volunteering Coordinator were on hand during each session to answer technical questions and ensure a safe, welcoming environment.

'Overall, the session was very useful but in particular, I would say the feedback on personal statement and covering the legal aspect. Also, I need to mention, the politeness and friendliness in dealing with students was excellent!'

The UCAS sessions were such a success that we rolled out a similar programme for scholarship applications in March and April; this time working with the Equal Access Activists who co-led the volunteer training & workshop sharing their experience of applying to university and created a resource for applicants to take away. 29 participants took part. A recording of the presentation was shared publicly after the event and has been watched 250 times.

'The star volunteers was absolutely amazing and they discussed about the courses, which I'm interested to study at university. I learnt more about writing personal statements and about the references letters. This workshop was very useful and informative.' - Workshop participant

Built on the achievements of the Equal Access Activists. In 2019, working with refugee student leaders in our network, we started an Equal Access activist group of lived experience campaigners to help lead and guide the campaign. One of the big achievements of this year, which also helped the group grow, was the Refugee Scholars Conference they organised and hosted in October 2020. The online conference was attended by 63 current and prospective students across two days. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet others who were facing similar challenges and learn more about the support and information available. One participant said, *'It made me feel confident and believe more in my ambitions regardless of the challenges.'* The attendees also shared their views on the support needed to address key challenges in accessing and succeeding in higher education, which was presented by the Equal Access Activists to an audience of 100 practitioners at the opening session of the Universities of Sanctuary Conference.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

As a result of the Refugee Scholars Conference, 6 new campaigners joined the Equal Access activist group. Since then, the expanded group of 10 has gone from strength to strength. They have participated in 12 different events to raise awareness. They have improved support for applicants by co-leading a new resource and workshops for 30 scholarship applicants. They have raised issues related to student finance and humanitarian protection in the Access to Higher Education Working Group, resulting in the Student Loans Company and NHS BSA agreeing to update their guidance so that students with Humanitarian Protection status can access the Social Work bursaries they are entitled to.

In February, the group launched the online Equal Access Network with an Instagram Live Q&A watched by over 300 people. They describe the network as *'an open, interactive and friendly forum where students from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds in the UK can connect and learn from each other's experiences of Higher Education. We want to build a sense of community, value and empowerment. The Network is supported by Student Action for Refugees (STAR) and led by STAR Equal Access Activists with experience of accessing university while claiming asylum or with a temporary immigration status.'*

We continued to connect the movement and work in partnership for change. STAR coordinates a working group of organisations for refugee and migrant access to higher education in the UK (AHEWG), this year a new member of the group was the Office for Students. We also work closely with UCAS and this year have been working with the Student Loans Company to tackle the barriers people face when applying for student finance.

We work very closely with City of Sanctuary's "University of Sanctuary" stream and also sit on the steering group. Together we led on a pledge to continue to improve access to university for refugees, from the UK higher education sector, signed by 31 Vice Chancellors and 8 organisations for the Global Refugee Forum in 2019. We are now a co-sponsor of the Global Refugee Forum Education Theme and this year we gathered developments on the UK pledge which was included in the update for states published in June 2021. All of this work is building towards the goals of the 15by30 campaign to reach the goal of 15% of refugees able to access higher education globally by 2030.

We shared the refugee welcome message and educated people about the realities of claiming asylum.

Across the STAR charity and network, we organised 489 online events and activities, reaching 8506 people, to skill up our members. We provided a platform for experts by experience, academics, activists and organisations to inform people about asylum and the experiences of refugees. The huge variety of events taking place range from panel events to film nights, plays, pub quizzes, speed debates, craftivism and yoga. The topics of the events were incredibly diverse from sharing poetry and art created by refugees, to looking at the impact of Covid-19 on refugee communities, asylum law, channel crossings, access to healthcare and much more. As many of the events took place online, it meant that we could be a more inclusive network and reach a wider audience.

The national staff team were able to hold many more national events this year, in partnership with STAR leaders. At the start of the year, we hosted an online panel looking at the challenges facing people seeking asylum in the UK in 2020 such as Covid-19 and channel crossings. The event was chaired by Erin, STAR Bristol leader, and had expert panel members from KRAN, The British Red Cross and the Voices Network. One attendee said, *'...one of the best things about the event was the inclusion of the Voices ambassador! It is so important that 'experts by experience' are included in the talks and discussions we have surrounding refugee issues'.*

Our national conference, in November, included sessions on Race & Racism in the Refugee Sector, workshops from Coram Young Citizens, Doctors of the World, STAR Equal Access Activists, North East Solidarity & Teaching, Stand & Be Counted Theatre, IMIX, and Hope Not Hate.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Case study: Warwick Medical School healthcare panel event

A new STAR group, Warwick Medical School organised a panel event on access to healthcare to raise awareness among their fellow students:

'With this event, we aimed to raise awareness on the health inequalities and challenges that exist for people from refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds in terms of access to the healthcare sector. Our guest speakers spoke about barriers both as users of the NHS, as well as qualified Health Care Professionals.' - WMS STAR committee member

There was an amazing line up of speakers including:

- Yusuf Ciftci, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Doctors of the World
- Niloha Rangel (Venezuelan refugee studying to requalify as a doctor)
- Dr Majel McGranahan (focuses on improving health among migrant groups)
- Arooba Hameed, Equal Access Activist and student of cancer biology and immunology
- Saleh Alisa, GP administrator and participant of 'Leave Home, Save Lives' exhibition

The 30 medical students who attended had the chance to ask questions and left with an understanding of the challenges faced by people seeking asylum and refugees in the UK and how they, as future health care professionals, can make a difference.

'It was great to meet you all and thanks to Warwick Medical School STAR for inviting me to participate. I really enjoyed taking part.' - Saleh, Leave Home Save Lives

Refugee Week is always an important moment in the STAR calendar and although it marked the end of a difficult year for students, there was still an amazing array of events taking place. Sussex STAR's Refugee Week treasure trail in Brighton encouraged people to visit and support refugee-owned businesses and scan QR codes to uncover Refugee Week activities. Goldsmiths STAR held one of the few in-person events of the year with a thoughtful exhibition attended by 50 people. It featured artists with lived experience of forced migration, and was organised in partnership with Create without Borders. The art on display included a documentary projection, photography, drawings, and paintings by members of the Goldsmiths community and public around the Refugee Week theme of '#WeCannotWalkAlone'.

We challenged the hostile environment and campaigned for policy change.

STAR mobilises and empowers thousands of students across the country to take action on national and local campaigns and stand in solidarity with refugees. This year brought new challenges for people seeking asylum and refugees in the UK, not only the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic but also with the publication of this government's New Plan for Immigration.

We took action to fight for:

- the right to family reunion for refugees as part of the Families Together coalition, of which we are also a steering group member
- the closure of the military barracks being used to house asylum seekers
- an end to immigration detention with These Walls Must Fall and the Detention Forum
- solutions to the digital divide. This was a STAR student-led campaign to raise awareness of the digital divide and get support from mobile companies
- a fairer more humane asylum system by empowering our network to respond to the New Plan for Immigration consultation

We also joined many calls to action such as the Hands up for our Health coalition and demands to halt asylum evictions and restart resettlement programmes. Groups also pushed for change in their local areas, like Sheffield STAR who held socially distanced protests outside the Home Office and campaigned for destitute asylum seekers to be housed immediately, who were particularly at risk during the pandemic.

In October we gave a final push to the Lift the Ban petition before it was handed in. On Human Rights Day, in December, we focused on the Families Together campaign. We mobilised students to share their journeys home for Christmas through videos and photos on social media to raise awareness of the fact that many refugees are separated from their families by unfair rules. They encouraged their followers, families, friends, and peers to sign the Families Together online petition. Several groups held innovative activities over the next few months to raise awareness of the need for fairer refugee family reunion rules. This included Bristol STAR who organised a craftivism activity for their members to learn about the campaign while doing an arts project that helped their wellbeing. They sent out tie dye tote bag kits to 60 members which had information about the campaign and directed them to petition to sign and share.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

At the end of 2020, STAR groups started planning a campaign around the digital exclusion of people seeking asylum and refugees. This followed on from the work that Ahmed Noori, student & Refugee Week Ambassador had started over the summer with the STAR team. Many groups were speaking to people in their local area who were affected and felt that they had to do something. The "Ditch the Divide" campaign was launched in early 2021 to raise awareness and to ask students to sign a petition to urge their phone companies to make services more accessible and affordable to refugees and people seeking asylum. Alongside this, groups fundraised to donate digital devices and data to those who needed them and hosted an expert online panel event to share what can be done to reduce the digital divide.

In March, we were shocked by the treatment of people seeking asylum who were being housed in old military barracks so for our annual week of action we joined the sector wide call to '#CloseTheBarracks'.

Campaigning to '#CloseTheBarracks'

'It really symbolised to me just what an impact students can have if they join together to campaign on change.' - Yasmin QMUL STAR

At the beginning of 2020, this government started housing people seeking asylum in run down disused military barracks in Wales and Kent. The living conditions at the barracks were squalid and unsafe with inadequate access to health care and no clear timeline given to people of when they could leave. When there was a Covid outbreak at Napier barracks, it went into lockdown meaning people seeking asylum were detained, making an already challenging situation much worse. The impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the people living inside the barracks was horrific. This is not the welcome that people seeking asylum should receive and not the kind of asylum system we want to see in the UK. In March 2020 we joined the call to '#CloseTheBarracks' for our annual week of action.

We held an online rally attended by 87 people. STAR groups held placard making workshops in advance to mobilise their members to attend the rally. At the rally, attendees learnt about the barracks from Samphire, heard from campaigners who were former residents of Napier and Penally barracks, and STAR students who spoke about why it was important to take action on this issue. During the week and at the event, students contacted the Home Office and their MPs to demand the closure of the barracks. Stirling STAR hosted a socially distanced rally with placards in the town centre and launched an online petition that was signed by 24,865 people!

'Thank you for the opportunity to join and impact this conversation. I think it has already had beneficial outcomes with the increased publicity and closure of Penally Barrack.' - Campaigner and former resident of the barracks who spoke at the online rally

Another way we took action to stand in solidarity with residents was to start up an online conversation club after we had connected with Care for Calais and Samphire during a Detention Forum meeting about the barracks. All the face-to-face activities at the centre had been paused, including the ESOL class, and the residents were feeling incredibly isolated and their mental health was suffering. We suggested that STAR set up an online conversation club and the charities thought this was a great idea. We reached out to the STAR network and were quickly able to mobilise, train and support our KCL STAR group to set up a club which was attended by 20 residents. The club was a great success, Sally Hough from Care for Calais after the first few sessions said 'We had such good feedback. They really liked how it was organised - thank you!!'. The club was supported by the national team and regularly attended by Trish, a STAR ESOL professional. One of the learners said 'I enjoy coming to this class each week because it is a space where I feel I can work hard to improve my English and all of the volunteers are always very helpful'.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

In April and May 2021, we mobilised students to stand against the New Plan for Immigration, hosting a briefing event in partnership with other student networks, Oxfam and Solidaritee. We invited speakers from the British Red Cross and the Voices Network to explain the impact of the proposals and how individuals could respond to the consultation. The recording of the event was shared on Facebook and reached 420 people. Alongside this, we created a guide to help people complete the consultation response which was viewed by 1000 people.

We shared the STAR model internationally- STARTnow in Thessaloniki

We have been working with Greek charity SolidarityNow since 2019 supporting them to develop STAR-like groups in Thessaloniki. Although the pandemic did have an impact on their activities as the groups were already well established, they were able to move online easily. It also allowed them to involve students from even more universities and cities, in total around 90 students took action with STARTnow in 2020/21. The students mainly from Aristotle University, International Hellenic University and the University of Macedonia joined together to provide online conversation clubs for refugees, connect with young women and girls living in Greek refugee camps running workshops and share experiences of school and university in Greece, support homework clubs for refugee children. They also held online film nights, produced an e-magazine to raise awareness of refugee issues and much more.

One of the reasons I like the Conversation Clubs is that it forces me to speak Greek and makes me say my mistakes without embarrassment and help me learn to say them correctly. And also in the conversation class the atmosphere is very friendly and encourages me to learn Greek so that I can love it and learn the language more easily." Fatima, 17 years old, Syrian refugee

Thank you to our donors

A huge thank you to the following groups and individuals who went above and beyond to raise money for the STAR charity.

Bath STAR, Birmingham STAR, Essex STAR, Cardiff STAR, KCLSU STAR, Kingston STAR, LSU STAR, Dundee STAR, Sussex STAR, Stirling STAR, Warwick STAR, Mary Crowley, Maddy Robinson, Jacob Colman, Sasha Alexander

A special mention to:

- Stirling STAR who ran walked and swam 591 miles raising £524
- Jacob Colman who is running a half marathon every month in 2020
- Alexander Zouev from NCH STAR who had to wait until October 2021 to run the London marathon after it was postponed due to Covid but has already almost reached his fundraising target!

And of course huge thanks to all of the generous trusts and foundations who fund us; The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, European Students' Union, The Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust, The Maingot Charitable Trust, The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund, Foundation Open Society Institute, The AB Charitable Trust, The Refugee Council, Barrow Cadbury Trust/The National Lottery Community Fund COVID Support Fund and Unbound Philanthropy

Achievements and performance

Financial review

The charity's reserves stood at £41,145 at the year end (2020: 80,107). The reserves were made up of £35,327 unrestricted reserves (2020: £37,714) and £5,818 restricted reserves (2020: £42,393).

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a sufficient level to:

- Ensure the charity can meet its obligations in the event of it having to close or significantly reduce in size.
- Meet foreseeable but unknowable costs which cannot be funded from specific or restricted funding

The trustees have concluded that the amount required is £52,269. This is based on a predetermined formula and is reviewed on a regular basis.

The trustees has assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Risk Management

STAR has a risk register which is updated annually by the Trustees with advice from the staff team.

Public Benefit

When planning activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities meet the principles laid out in that guidance.

Structure, governance and management

STAR was established in 1994 by students at Nottingham University and registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in January 2000. It was established under a Memorandum of Association, which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by the Articles of Association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

N Murphy

K Joksaite

(Appointed 25 November 2020)

E Arnold

J Osborne

D Garratt

M Taher

B Dibb

S El-Attar

(Resigned 13 April 2021)

C Sweeney

(Resigned 13 April 2021)

L Darwent

(Resigned 25 November 2020)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

New Trustees are elected by the STAR membership at the AGM. Candidates are asked to submit a written application to Trustees and, if selected, will be co-opted by the Board to serve until the following AGM. STAR also has three places reserved for STAR student members who are elected by the membership at the AGM

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

STAR is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, the Trustees of the charity are also directors of the limited company. STAR is a membership organisation with the STAR groups as its members. STAR groups are student union societies which are constituted within their university's or college's student union and then affiliated to the STAR national charity. STAR members are trained and supported by the staff team from the charity's offices in London.

STAR's student members meet annually at the AGM in November at which they elect Trustees, view the Annual Accounts and plan STAR's work for the coming year. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for governance and oversight of the charity, they ensure that STAR fulfils its legal obligations and carries out activities to fulfil its aims for the public benefit, they also oversee strategy and resources. The Trustees delegate responsibility for running the charity to the Chief Executive and meet quarterly as well as attending the AGM and annual student Committee Training in June.

STAR Groups

Affiliated groups

University of Bath, University of Birmingham, Birkbeck University of London, University of Bristol, University of Cardiff, City University of London, Coventry University, University of Dundee, Durham University, University of Edinburgh, University of Essex, University of Glasgow, The Glasgow School of Arts, Goldsmiths University of London, King's College London, University of Kent, Leeds Beckett University, University of Leeds, University of Lincoln, University of Liverpool, London School of Economics, University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Nottingham Trent University, Northampton University, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, Queen Mary's University of London, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Southampton, St George's University of London, Stirling University, University of Sunderland, University of Sussex, University College London, University of East Anglia, University of London Institute in Paris, University of West England and Bristol, University of Warwick, Warwick Medical School, University of Winchester and University of York.

Non-affiliated groups

University of Leicester

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Staff

STAR's work is undertaken by a network of staff and thousands of student volunteers. STAR's national office is in London with additional staff supporting the English conversation clubs across the country. STAR's staff team this year were:

Paid staff

Emily Crowley, Chief Executive
Jess Benham, Student Network Manager
Hannah Carbery, Student Network Organiser
Siobhán Coskeran, Access to University Co-ordinator
Anisa Shirka, Administrator
Miriam Lawson, Communications Assistant
Rebekah Lucking, Volunteering Project Co-ordinator
Maddy Robinson, Student Network Co-ordinator (left 3rd July 2020)
Natasha Chilambo, Student Network Assistant (Temporary - left 4th July 2020)
Hebe Tang, Student Network Assistant (Temporary - left 6th August 2020)
Jamala Abdullahi, Student Network Assistant (left 1st October 2020)
Courtney Savage, Administrator (Maternity Cover - left 31st December 2020)
Amos Schonfield, Volunteering Project Co-ordinator (left 9th April 2021)

Consultants

Abi Airey, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Patricia Mersh, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist
Susan Morris, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist (contract ended March 2021)
Kay Rimmington, Conversation Club ESOL Specialist (contract ended March 2021)
Emma Williams, Consultant, Thessaloniki Students Welcome (contract ended November 2020)
Kenneth Hansen, Consultant, Thessaloniki Students Welcome (contract ended November 2020)
Milla Gregor, Consultant, Peer Focus Group project training & support
Saudy Usman, Website Developer, Onyx Tech

National Volunteers

John McLaverty
Sophie Morbey
Hannah Carbery
Hannah Logan
Waleed Zuoriki
Ahmed Noori
Emma Blair
Sarah Doyel
Abbie Mclean
Billie Dibb
Caroline Maggs
Charlie Oubridge
Hebe Tang
Phanthip Saengathit
Rattan Bhorjee
Natasha Murphy
Emily Edge
Lauren Darwent
Taya Sayekaya

Equal Access Activists

AbdulRahman, Anne, Arooba, Daniel, Dickson, Maryam, Michael, Tamana, Pearlgin, Waleed

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
D Garratt

Trustee

Dated: 15/11/2021.....

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of STAR (Student Action for Refugees) (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA

Warner Wilde
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated: 18 November 2021

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

		Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	102,206	68,647	170,853	161,463	62,257	223,720
Other trading activities	4	6,622	-	6,622	1,321	-	1,321
Investments	5	8	-	8	123	-	123
Total income		108,836	68,647	177,483	162,907	62,257	225,164
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	54	272	326	590	-	590
Charitable activities	7	111,169	104,950	216,119	166,606	90,342	256,948
Total resources expended		111,223	105,222	216,445	167,196	90,342	257,538
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(2,387)	(36,575)	(38,962)	(4,289)	(28,085)	(32,374)
Fund balances at 1 July 2020		37,714	42,393	80,107	42,003	70,478	112,481
Fund balances at 30 June 2021		35,327	5,818	41,145	37,714	42,393	80,107

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,303		1
Current assets					
Debtors	13	240		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		102,015		176,362	
		<u>102,255</u>		<u>176,362</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(62,413)</u>		<u>(96,256)</u>	
Net current assets			39,842		80,106
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>41,145</u>		<u>80,107</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		5,818		42,393
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds		-		1	
General unrestricted funds		<u>35,327</u>		<u>37,713</u>	
			35,327		37,714
			<u>41,145</u>		<u>80,107</u>

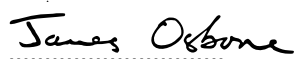
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2021.

The trustees acknowledges her responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

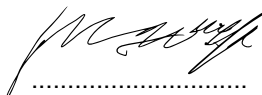
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15/11/2021



J Osborne
Trustee



D Garratt
Trustee

Company Registration No. 3902118

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

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 set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Donated services are included in income at the estimate value to the Charity, when quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised for services donated by volunteers.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	3 years straight line
-----------------------	-----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £
Donations and gifts	6,536	-	6,536	23,616	-	23,616
Grants receivable	95,670	68,647	164,317	129,887	62,257	192,144
Donated goods and services	-	-	-	7,960	-	7,960
	<u>102,206</u>	<u>68,647</u>	<u>170,853</u>	<u>161,463</u>	<u>62,257</u>	<u>223,720</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	40,000	-	40,000	60,000	6,200	66,200
Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Trust	17,500	-	17,500	22,500	-	22,500
Foundation Open Society Institute	-	-	-	-	55,894	55,894
Refugee Council	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	-	25,000
Maingot Charitable Trust	15,000	-	15,000	10,000	-	10,000
Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	12,500	-	12,500	7,500	-	7,500
Southall Trust	-	-	-	3,000	-	3,000
Barrow Cadbury Covid Fund	-	36,900	36,900	-	-	-
ESU	-	4,177	4,177	-	-	-
A B Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Other	670	2,570	3,240	1,887	163	2,050
	<u>95,670</u>	<u>68,647</u>	<u>164,317</u>	<u>129,887</u>	<u>62,257</u>	<u>192,144</u>

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021 £	2020 £
Fundraising events	<u>6,622</u>	<u>1,321</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable	8	123
	<u>8</u>	<u>123</u>

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>				
Other fundraising costs	54	272	326	590
	<u>54</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>590</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

7 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	159,681	168,394
Depreciation and impairment	652	-
Student network support costs	12,750	9,645
Printing, postage and stationery	444	1,155
Educational resources	-	4,573
Thessaloniki Students welcome project grants	4,024	20,490
Telephone and internet	335	535
Subscriptions and membership fees	94	231
Staff training and recruitment	1,416	1,589
ESOL tutors	2,863	1,940
Staff travel and subsistence	-	4,758
Consultancy	13,845	-
	<u>196,104</u>	<u>213,310</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	84	-
Share of support costs (see note 9)	18,321	38,949
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	1,610	4,689
	<u>216,119</u>	<u>256,948</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	111,169	166,606
Restricted funds	104,950	90,342
	<u>216,119</u>	<u>256,948</u>

8 Grants payable

	2021 £	2020 £
Grants to individuals	84	-
	<u>84</u>	<u>-</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

9 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Professional fees	467	-	467	17,790	-	17,790
Rent, rates and room hire	15,816	-	15,816	18,609	-	18,609
Insurance	764	-	764	1,113	-	1,113
Computer and IT	826	-	826	1,252	-	1,252
Bank charges	259	-	259	185	-	185
Repairs, maintenance and equipment	189	-	189	-	-	-
Independent Examiners fees	-	1,597	1,597	-	3,120	3,120
Other governance costs	-	13	13	-	1,569	1,569
	<u>18,321</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>19,931</u>	<u>38,949</u>	<u>4,689</u>	<u>43,638</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>18,321</u>	<u>1,610</u>	<u>19,931</u>	<u>38,949</u>	<u>4,689</u>	<u>43,638</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the Independent Examiner of £1,320 (2020- £3,120)

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

No trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2020: 3 trustees - £296)

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2021 Number	2020 Number
6	6

Employment costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	145,726	151,553
Social security costs	7,270	10,309
Other pension costs	6,685	6,532
	<u>159,681</u>	<u>168,394</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 July 2020	3,070
Additions	1,954
Disposals	(750)
At 30 June 2021	<u>4,274</u>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 July 2020	3,069
Depreciation charged in the year	652
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(750)
At 30 June 2021	<u>2,971</u>
Carrying amount	
At 30 June 2021	<u>1,303</u>
At 30 June 2020	<u>1</u>

13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	<u>240</u>	<u>-</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxation and social security		2,327	1,963
Deferred income	15	55,000	90,000
Trade creditors		1,150	235
Other creditors		2,339	938
Accruals and deferred income		1,597	3,120
		<u>62,413</u>	<u>96,256</u>

15 Deferred income

	2021 £	2020 £
Other deferred income	<u>55,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

Brought forward at 1 July 2020	90,000
Amounts deferred	30,000
Amounts released	<u>(65,000)</u>
Carried forward	<u>55,000</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			Balance at 30 June 2021
	Balance at 1 July 2019	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 July 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Network for Social Change	1,730	-	(1,730)	-	-	-	-
The Henry Smith Charity	38,750	-	(38,750)	-	-	-	-
Foundation Open Society Institute	29,998	55,894	(48,499)	37,393	-	(31,348)	6,045
European Students Union	-	163	(163)	-	4,176	(4,176)	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	6,200	(1,200)	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Barrow Cadbury Covid Fund	-	-	-	-	36,900	(35,597)	1,303
Refugee Council	-	-	-	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
DWP Kickstart scheme	-	-	-	-	2,571	(4,101)	(1,530)
	<u>70,478</u>	<u>62,257</u>	<u>(90,342)</u>	<u>42,393</u>	<u>68,647</u>	<u>(105,222)</u>	<u>5,818</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

16 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Foundation Open Society Institute

To empower university students to support refugees to settle and succeed in Thessaloniki, Greece.

European Students Union

Towards costs of the Equal Access Activist group and conference

Esmee Fairbairn

For rebranding and strategy

Barrow Cadbury Trust Covid Fund

To maintain STAR's student volunteer services supporting refugees and asylum seekers

Grant income 36,900

Expenditure

Laptops and mobiles	(2,800)
Website and online costs	(2,000)
Staff costs	(22,304)
Staff training and recruitment	(639)
Volunteer expenses and training	(5,800)
Overheads	(3,996)
	<u>36,900</u>

The £1,303 balance on the fund represents the net book value of the office equipment and will be offset against depreciation of the assets over the next 2 years.

Refugee Council

To support work on furthering the opportunities available to young refugees in the UK to access Higher Education.

DWP Kickstart Scheme

For the Communications Officer salary.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 30 June 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	1,303	1,303	1	-	1
Current assets/ (liabilities)	35,327	4,515	39,842	37,713	42,393	80,106
	<u>35,327</u>	<u>5,818</u>	<u>41,145</u>	<u>37,714</u>	<u>42,393</u>	<u>80,107</u>

STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

18 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	58,580	-