

**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

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<b>Trustees</b>	N Murphy K Joksaite E Arnold J Osborne D Garratt M Taher B Dibb	(Appointed 25 November 2020)
<b>Charity number</b>	1079042	
<b>Company number</b>	3902118	
<b>Registered office</b>	356 Holloway Road London N7 6PA	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	F J Wilde FCCA MBA DChA Warner Wilde 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 9SF	
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# 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

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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

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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

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#### 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

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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

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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

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#### **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

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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

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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.

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

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### **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

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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

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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

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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

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#### 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**

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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)

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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						
<b>Income from:</b>							
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>108,836</b>	<b>68,647</b>	<b>177,483</b>	<b>162,907</b>	<b>62,257</b>	<b>225,164</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	6	54	272	326	590	-	590
Charitable activities	7	111,169	104,950	216,119	166,606	90,342	256,948
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>111,223</b>	<b>105,222</b>	<b>216,445</b>	<b>167,196</b>	<b>90,342</b>	<b>257,538</b>
<b>Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(2,387)</b>	<b>(36,575)</b>	<b>(38,962)</b>	<b>(4,289)</b>	<b>(28,085)</b>	<b>(32,374)</b>
Fund balances at 1 July 2020		37,714	42,393	80,107	42,003	70,478	112,481
<b>Fund balances at 30 June 2021</b>		<b>35,327</b>	<b>5,818</b>	<b>41,145</b>	<b>37,714</b>	<b>42,393</b>	<b>80,107</b>

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 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		1,303		1
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	240		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		102,015		176,362	
		<u>102,255</u>		<u>176,362</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(62,413)</u>		<u>(96,256)</u>	
Net current assets			39,842		80,106
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>41,145</u>		<u>80,107</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
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.

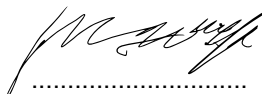
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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**

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### **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**

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### **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>
<b>Grants receivable for core activities</b>						
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
	==	==

### 6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and publicity				
Other fundraising costs	54	272	326	590
	==	==	==	==
	54	272	326	590
	==	==	==	==

# 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>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
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 £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 July 2020	3,070
Additions	1,954
Disposals	(750)
At 30 June 2021	<u>4,274</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
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>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 30 June 2021	<u>1,303</u>
At 30 June 2020	<u>1</u>

### 13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
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	55,000	90,000
	<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

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### 18 Related party transactions

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	58,580	-