

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

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<b>Trustees</b>	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)
<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	
<b>Bankers</b>	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	

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# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' report	1 - 13
Independent examiner's report	14
Statement of financial activities	15
Balance sheet	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 - 26

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# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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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

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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

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### 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

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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

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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

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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

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### **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

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*"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

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- **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

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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

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### 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

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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

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### 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)

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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 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						
<b>Income from:</b>							
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>62,711</b>	<b>109,838</b>	<b>172,549</b>	<b>178,525</b>	<b>45,145</b>	<b>223,670</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	7	214	57	271	803	-	803
Charitable activities	8	126,240	71,607	197,847	134,712	45,797	180,509
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>126,454</b>	<b>71,664</b>	<b>198,118</b>	<b>135,515</b>	<b>45,797</b>	<b>181,312</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds</b>		<b>(63,743)</b>	<b>38,174</b>	<b>(25,569)</b>	<b>43,010</b>	<b>(652)</b>	<b>42,358</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 July 2023		128,586	4,462	133,048	85,576	5,114	90,690
<b>Fund balances at 30 June 2024</b>		<b>64,843</b>	<b>42,636</b>	<b>107,479</b>	<b>128,586</b>	<b>4,462</b>	<b>133,048</b>

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 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14		640		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	14,500		5,422	
Cash at bank and in hand		123,379		148,038	
		137,879		153,460	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	(31,040)		(20,412)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			106,839		133,048
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			107,479		133,048
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
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

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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 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

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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 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 £
<b>Grants</b>						
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 £
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
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 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>						
Other fundraising costs	214	57	271	803	-	803

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2024 £	Charitable activities 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
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
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)</b>		
Support	14,591	13,533
Governance	3,683	1,711
	197,847	180,509
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
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 £
<b>Governance costs comprise:</b>		
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 £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 July 2023	3,712
Additions	960
	<u>4,672</u>
At 30 June 2024	
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 July 2023	3,712
Depreciation charged in the year	320
	<u>4,032</u>
At 30 June 2024	
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
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>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 July 2022</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>At 30 June 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£
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
	£	£	£
<b>At 30 June 2024:</b>			
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
	£	£	£
<b>At 30 June 2023:</b>			
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).