

Charity registration number 1079042 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 3902118

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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

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# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

#### **Objectives and activities**

The charity's objects are:

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

#### **Our values**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Who we are and what we do**

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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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 2024/25:**

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

#### **Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

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

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

#### **Our impact – the highlights**

##### **The Student Action for Refugees (STAR) network**

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

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

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

##### **Empowering and training the network**

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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#### Community volunteering projects

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

This year STAR volunteers organised and led:

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

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

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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#### Campaigning for refugee rights and changing minds

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

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

#### Advocating for Equal Access to University

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

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

#### Achievements of the STAR charity and network in 2024-2025

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

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

#### Training and empowering students to build the movement and be changemakers

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



# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

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

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

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

*"All committee members found it really useful."*

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

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

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

### Providing a community welcome through volunteering

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

#### **Bristol Conversation Club**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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#### Case Study: Leeds STAR walk in Saltaire

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

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

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

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

#### Case Study - Warwick STAR

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

#### **Campaigning for refugee rights and changing minds**

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

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

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

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

### Improving Access to University for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

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

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

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

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

### Major Achievements This Year

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Guidance, Mentoring and Outreach**

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

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

#### **The Displaced Students Opportunities Portal**

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

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

#### **Scholarship Promotion**

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

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

#### **Catalysing Partnerships to Influence Change**

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



# **STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)**

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

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025***

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Thank you to our donors**

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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### Financial review

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

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

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

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

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

### Going Concern

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

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

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

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

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

### Risk Management

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

### Structure, governance and management

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

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

J Osborne

M Taher

M Grenier

J Schofield-Wood

(Retired 11 February 2025)

C Bacon

S Srikanth

(Retired 20 November 2024)

R Burman

(Retired 18 March 2025)

M Altaras

M Hastings

(Retired 9 April 2025)

Z Bonnett

(Appointed 20 November 2024)

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

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

### Organisational Structure

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

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

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



J Osborne

Trustee



M Taher

Trustee

Date: 22 March 2026

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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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 2025.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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



#### **Linda Dunford FCCA CTA**

Warner Wilde Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

4 Marigold Drive

Bisley

Surrey

GU24 9SF

Date: 25/03/26

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

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

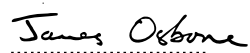
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2025.

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

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

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

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



J Osborne  
Trustee



M Taher  
Trustee

Company registration number 3902118 (England and Wales)

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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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 4 Marigold Drive, Bisley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9SF.

#### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

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

#### **1.2 Going concern**

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

#### **1.3 Charitable funds**

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

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

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

#### **1.4 Income**

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

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

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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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 2025

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

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

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

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

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

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

#### **1.10 Employee benefits**

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

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

#### **1.11 Retirement benefits**

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

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

(Continued)

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

### 4 Income from charitable activities

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

### 5 Income from other trading activities

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

### 6 Income from investments

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

### 7 Expenditure on raising funds

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

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### 9 Support costs allocated to activities

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

#### Analysed between:

Charitable activities	<u>18,605</u>	<u>18,274</u>
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Governance costs comprise:	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiners fees	1,640	1,576
Accountancy	2,877	1,736
Legal and professional	2,587	110
Other governance costs	-	261
	<u>7,104</u>	<u>3,683</u>

### 10 Net movement in funds

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

### 11 Trustees

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

### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### 12 Employees

(Continued)

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

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

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

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

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

### 13 Taxation

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

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

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

### 15 Debtors

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

### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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

### 17 Deferred income

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

### 18 Retirement benefit schemes

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

#### 18 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

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

#### 19 Restricted funds

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

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

# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

#### 19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

##### Foundation Open Society Institute

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

##### Reaching Communities

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

##### The Aziz Foundation

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

##### Refugee Education UK

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

##### The Barrow Cadbury Trust - Covid-19 Support Fund

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

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

#### 20 Unrestricted funds

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

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



# STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

### 21 Analysis of net assets between funds

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

### 22 Related party transactions

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