

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended
31 MARCH 2021

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

CONTENT

	Page
Legal and administrative information	3
Report of the trustees	4 - 7
Independent examiner report.	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes forming part of the financial statements	11 - 13

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

CHARITY INFORMATION

Management Committee:	Margaret Akullo	Chair
	Christine Atim	Treasurer
	Hadijah Kitembo	Member
	Jackie Kipwola	Member
	Lilian Olanya	Member
	Charles Kyazze	Member

Charity Number: 1083548

Registered Office: Canalside House
383 Ladbroke Grove
London
W10 5AA

Independent Examiner: E Alli
Lakubi Consulting
Accountants & Business Advisors
Unit 102, Park Royal Business Centre
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London
NW10 7LQ

Bankers Lloyds Bank
Willesden Green Branch
1 Walm Lane
London, NW2 5SN

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Structure, Governance and Management

African Women's care is governed by its committee who meets regularly to manage its affairs. The charity employs paid staff and uses paid consultants for specific projects. It relies heavily on committee and volunteers for its day to day activities. AWC applies for funding of projects through applications to Trusts, Local Government, Central Government and other funding bodies. Most of our projects are funded for 1 - 3 years and are monitored through regular monitoring visits from the funders and quarterly project reports.

Statement of Committee's Responsibilities

The law requires the committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the committee are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- make judgment and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the accounts:
and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The committee have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems of control, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any given time the financial position of the charity and to enable them ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk Management

The risk to which the charity is exposed is reviewed regularly by its committee. At every committee meeting, the agenda would include among others, health and safety risk and compliance and, financial risk. The committee is certified that appropriate steps have been taken to identify and manage major risk to which the charity is exposed.

Objectives and Activities

The principal objectives and activities of the charity are:

- a) To advance education;
- b) To preserve and protect public health;
- c) To relieve poverty and suffering of women, girls and, families who are refugees especially those of African origin.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT cont'd **CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT:**

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the AWC Annual Report for the year 2020-2021. As has been the case since the organisation took its first tentative steps back in 1998, the period under review has seen significant challenges and uncertainty that no one could have predicted due to the pandemic and the alarming high demand for support from our target client group.

I am pleased to report that despite all the challenges, AWC continued to support more women and their children than ever before. Our frontline staff were very flexible to adapt to the changes, moving from face-to-face contact to home working through telephone within very limited resources. Unlike other organisation we started with major funding deficit and the uncertainty with sustainability of our programme, we are truly grateful to the support we received from ROSA, which made such a great impact supporting our staff with the much-needed resources to move into delivering differently, like laptop computers, telephone facilities for remote working, and case management system. We are also grateful for the immediate support received from other donors like City Bridge Trust and MPOC, their funding made it possible for small groups like us to continue providing support to destitute clients during the lockdown and onwards.

The organisation's role in the community as a reputable and important player in the provision of services to Black and Minority women, girls and their children is reflected in the increase in the number of referrals coming to us daily. We will strive to continue to utilise our unique position and will ensure that our high standards of service delivery is maintained at all times.

I am pleased to report to you our overall impact on our service users covering the financial year 2020 -2021. As outlined here.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ADVOCACY SUPPORT:

AWC continues to provide domestic violence support service to Black & Minority women, children and girls with particular focus to those of African origin across London.

Although, the COVID-19 pandemic is claiming the lives of many across the globe, the pandemic's disproportionate impact on women and girls' lives is threatening to reverse the hard-won gains in advancing women and girls' rights and gender equality. Our domestic violence case work has tremendously increased, currently our support staffs handle 5 new cases weekly, and we are getting referrals from all the London borough, needing specialist support for African Women survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse.

The support accessed varied from one client to another, women from all walks of life, some client just needed someone to speak to as they struggle with anxiety, fear and tension within their household. Some of the cases were more complex requiring an in-depth and immediate action to exist the dangerous situation. We had cases from women struggling with lockdown and quarantine, the additional burden on them as they continue to work from home while continuing to shoulder their household and childcare responsibilities failing to cope with tension, stress, overcrowding - extended families members returning home.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT cont'd

The women we work with experience violence and abuse from a partner or family member. They are those identified as low to medium risk through a national risk assessment we conduct when they are referred to us. They face immediate and repeated violence which threatens their lives as well as financial, emotional, sexual and psychological abuse which affects their ability to move around freely, parent their children, see friends, live safely and remain safely in their homes. Many are financially impoverished due to financial control and/or are not able to work. Many face homelessness if they leave their abusive partner or family home. Many face repeat violence and death.

We get these referrals from the police, housing, health, community groups and from women and girls who walk into our services with friends.

Our team of support staffs were fantastic in giving them advice, support and guidance on what to do and where to go should the situation escalates. We also had to turned down so many referrals as our team could not cope with the high demand. Overall, we were able to support 136 women and their children to live free from domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse.

NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS:

Women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are at high risk of homelessness and destitution because they cannot access mainstream housing, welfare benefits and employment. AWC continues to provide support to BME women facing domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds. Most of the women we supported arrived on spouse visa and had barely stayed in the UK for one year. They lack knowledge of the UK system, most of them had no relatives in the UK, some met their spouses through arranged marriage and travelled over to start marriage lives, which turned into dangerous situation. This year we had very high numbers of referral for support with limited resources, however through our support and intervention 11 out of the 31 women and their children have already been successfully granted indefinite leave to remain.

VOLUNTEERING:

AWC relies heavily upon the contribution of volunteers to deliver their much-demanded services. The principle of volunteering inherits in the organisation's commitment to facilitate integration of African refugee and asylum seekers. Volunteers take responsibilities for varied tasks relating to the work of the organisation. AWC's ethos and sense of purpose are rooted in the education of women to their rights in order to increase their contribution to the wider community by using their talents. Volunteers help with general office administration duties, practical accompany clients to various services, interpretation work and including providing home visits for the elderly and those living with terminal ill health. In the past two years, we fully recognise the invaluable commitment and dedication of our volunteers who were engaged providing crucial support – emotional to the increased demand coming through our doors.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT cont'ed

Financial Review

During the year, AWC received incoming resources of £121,400 (2020: £48,246) and had outgoing resources of £128,155 (2020: £52,070) in delivering its objectives as well as for management and administration of the charity.

Reserve Policy

One of the financial objectives of AWC is to build up reserves. It is therefore seeking to establish a level of reserves that would allow it to increase its activities as well as to enable it maintain long-term viability.

Thank You

I would like to acknowledge the important roles played by the management committee during the year as they individually contributed resources and skills mentoring the staff during the hard days. I also take this opportunity to thank the staff team at AWC for their commitment in saving and changing many lives, with special mention for our volunteers for their hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year and above all our service users.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the organisations that continue to work with us and funders that support us and make it possible to achieve our objectives.


Margaret Akullo
Chair

17th August 2021

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner.

As the charity's Trustees' you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply.

It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Direction of the Charity Commissioner under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustee' concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention: which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirement of the Act, have not been met; or to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



E. Alli

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20th August 2021

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming Resources					
Grant	5.	-	120,054	120,054	30,659
Other Income		<u>1,346</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,346</u>	<u>17,627</u>
Total Incoming Resources		1,346	120,054	121,400	48,286
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income	2.	-	-	-	141
Charitable Activities	2.	2,548	124,107	126,655	51,429
Governance Costs	2.	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>500</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>4,048</u>	<u>124,107</u>	<u>128,155</u>	<u>52,070</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the Year		(2,702)	(4,053)	(6,755)	(3,784)
Movement of Funds		6,380	(6,380)	-	-
Balances b/f at 1 April 2020		-	1,851	1,851	5,635
Balances c/f at 31 March 2021		<u><u>3,678</u></u>	<u><u>(8,582)</u></u>	<u><u>(4,904)</u></u>	<u><u>1,851</u></u>

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	3.	4,309	477
Current Assets			
Debtors	2,323		2,822
Cash at Bank & in Hand	<u>13,964</u>		<u>552</u>
	16,287		3,374
Creditors			
Amount falling due within one year	25,500		2,000
Net Current Assets		(9,213)	1,374
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>(4,904)</u>	<u>1,851</u>
Restricted Funds		(8,582)	421
Unrestricted Funds		<u>3,678</u>	<u>1,430</u>
		<u>(4,904)</u>	<u>1,851</u>

Director's Statements

The Trustees considers that the organisation is entitled to audit exemption under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993.

The Trustees acknowledges their responsibility for ensuring that the organisation keeps accounting records which comply with the provisions of the Charities Act 1993, and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation at 31 March, 2017 and of its results for the period then ended.


Margaret Akullo
Chair

17th August 2021

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies

- a) The financial statements are prepared under the historical costs convention and with the Charities Act 1993 and related regulations.
- b) Depreciation is provided on straight line basis over estimated useful life of the assets which is four years.
- c) These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by Charities (SORP 2005 updated 2008) and applicable accounting standards.
- d) Voluntary income received by way of donations is included in full in the account when they are receivable
- e) Grants are recognised in full in the accounts in the year in which they are receivable
- f) Funds received for specific purpose are funds restricted for use for that purpose. These funds are shown separately in the accounts.
- g) Costs of generating funds are cost associated with attracting voluntary income.
- h) Charitable expenditure are those costs incurred in the delivery of the charity's activities and these costs includes direct support costs.
- i) Governance costs include those associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory obligations.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. Resources Expended

Cost of generating funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Publicity & related costs	-	-	-	39
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	102
sub-total	-	-	-	141
Charitable Activities				
Volunteer Expenses	-	2,605	2,605	1,447
Sessional Work	-	42,538	42,538	19,110
Workshops, Welfare & Training	-	2,610	2,610	3,890
COVID Young Women Support	-	3,450	3,450	-
Recruitment	-	813	813	-
Consultancy	-	10,741	10,741	950
Rent	-	5,750	5,750	5,521
Salary & Wages	-	44,320	44,320	13,870
Telephone, Fax & Internet	-	2,041	2,041	1,374
Subscriptions	-	625	625	314
Information Resources	-	1,212	1,212	2,322
Print, Postage & Stationery	-	751	751	424
Publicity	-	751	751	442
Travel	-	690	690	301
Repairs & Maintenance	-	3,889	3,889	146
Bank Charges	-	313	313	261
Insurance	-	1,008	1,008	513
Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	68
Depreciation	2,548	-	2,548	476
sub-total	2,548	124,107	126,655	51,429
Governance				
Management Committee meeting	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination Fee	1,500	-	1,500	500
sub-total	1,500	-	1,500	500
Total Resources Expended	4,048	124,107	128,155	52,070

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	Total
	£	£
Costs		
At 1 April 2020	11,990	11,990
Additions in Year	6,380	6,380
At 31 March 2021	18,370	18,370
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2020	11,513	11,513
Charge for the Year	2,548	2,548
At 31 March 2021	14,061	14,061
Net Book Value		
At 31 March 2021	4,309	4,309
At 31 March 2020	477	477

4. (Deficit)/Surplus for the year

	2021 £	2020 £
This is stated after charging: Depreciation of Tangible fixed Assets	2,548	477

5. Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Big Lottery	-	10,000	10,000	-
City Bridge Trust	-	28,200	28,200	-
London Community Foundation	-	15,992	15,992	-
National Lottery	-	45,350	45,350	30,659
Rosa Fund	-	14,562	14,562	-
The Kensington and Chelsea Func	-	2,500	2,500	-
Young Women Trust	-	3,450	3,450	-
Other Income	1,346	-	1,346	17,627
Total	1,346	120,054	121,400	48,286

6. Creditors

	2021 £	2020 £
Accrual	1,500	500
BB Loan	24,000	-
Total	25,500	500