

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended
31 MARCH 2024

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

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AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

CHARITY INFORMATION

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

Charity Number: 1083548

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

Independent Examiner: E Alli
Lakubi Consulting
Accountants & Business Advisors
Unit 47B Park Royal Business Centre
9-17 & 19-21 Park Royal Road
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 2024.

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'ed

In recent years, African Women's Care (AWC) has stood resolutely by vulnerable Black & Minoritised women, offering crucial support amidst mounting challenges, such as destitution, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing cost of living crisis. These crises have disproportionately impacted our communities, significantly increasing the demand for our services to levels we have never before experienced."

Despite these pressures, AWC has remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering women and girls since our founding in 1998. Operating in West London and beyond, we have delivered frontline crisis intervention, advocacy, and practical support to African and other BAME women experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse, harmful practices, stalking, and harassment. We have complemented this with workshops, seminars, outreach programs, roadshows, one-to-one mentoring, and accredited training. Currently, we provide intensive information, advice, and guidance to approximately 280 clients annually.

Our deep roots within the communities we serve provide us with credibility and trust that external organizations often struggle to achieve. This connection ensures that local residents see us as a safe and approachable resource. We actively listen to and adapt our services to address the multifaceted challenges our clients face—ranging from mental health struggles, loneliness, confusion, and bereavement to financial hardship and distrust in some mainstream provided services.

As we look ahead, we recognize the need for a clear vision to sustain and grow our impact. To that end, we have developed a comprehensive three-year Business Plan, guiding our work from July 2023 to July 2026. This plan outlines a strategic roadmap for the next phase of our development, detailing clear, actionable goals for our projects.

AWC remains driven by our mission to empower women and create safe, inclusive, and supportive spaces for those in need. I am confident that with the dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and the resilience of the women we serve, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.


Margaret Akullo
Chair

11th October 2024

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT cont'ed

Coordinator's Reports

African Women's Care (AWC) is a registered charity established in July 1998 to alleviate the suffering and trauma of Black & Minoritised women, girls, and children.

Mission Statements

To provide support services and empower African women, girls, and children living in the UK to reach their full potential.

Core Services

We offer free, confidential crisis intervention, advocacy, and guidance to women and girls at risk of domestic violence. Our work also includes support with health, education, housing, training, and employment, helping individuals improve their lives in meaningful ways. Our primary focus is in the boroughs of Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham, and neighbouring boroughs within West London. Our culturally sensitive services are delivered by qualified staffs and trained volunteers, adhering to strict legal and ethical guidelines

Impact Overview

Key Demographics

85% of service users are from refugee and migration communities.

45% have no Recourse to Public Funds

Primary Challenges Addressed:

- a) Domestic abuse against women and girls
- b) Social isolation, poverty and mental health challenges
- c) Health and wellbeing disparities in vulnerable communities

Programs and Services

1. Women's Centre Drop-In Services

This service offers information, advice, and support for daily needs, including access to schools, family support, welfare benefits, and healthcare.

2. Women's Support Services

Provides one on-one support for survivors of domestic abuse, including:

- a) Crisis intervention & Advocacy
- b) Support to access legal guidance and solicitors
- c) Assistance with housing and financial independence

On average, caseworkers support clients for up to six months, addressing physical, emotional, and psychological abuse.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT cont'ed

3. **Young People's Services**

Supports children and young people aged 6–18 who are victims of or witnesses to domestic abuse, often working closely with social workers to ensure safety and wellbeing.

4. **Therapeutic and Peer Support Groups**

Our programs such as The Change and Positive Image, focus on breaking cycles of abuse, building self-confidence, and fostering mental well-being through peer learning and support.

Our Achievements in 2024

1. **Domestic Abuse Support Expansion**

- a) Supported 236 Black & Minoritised women and girls with improved quality of life & safety.
- b) Assisted 41 women and their children in securing private or social housing.
- c) Supported 53 women with No Recourse to Public Funds, leading to 18 successful Leave to Remain applications.
- d) Helped 16 survivors secure DIY Injunctions and Non-Molestation Orders, empowering them to live free from fear and abuse.

2. **Dry Food Package Program Growth**

- a) Provided critical nutritional support to 400 families struggling with food insecurity.
- b) Doubled distribution efforts, alleviating financial burdens and ensuring access to essential meals.

3. **Introduction of Peer Support Group**

Benefited 42 women through group sessions that reduced isolation, improved mental health, and fostered community bonds, leading to positive job outcomes for all participants.

4. **Case Management System Implementation**

- a) Streamlined service delivery for more personalized and efficient care.
- b) Improved client outcomes by tailoring interventions and tracking progress.

5. **Community Partnerships and Advocacy**

- a) Strengthened collaborations with local councils, healthcare providers, and other charities.
- b) Actively advocated for systemic changes addressing housing insecurity and domestic violence support for Black & Minoritised women, girls and children.

6. **Enhanced Financial Stability**

Secured funding from key sources, including MOPAC, Community Foundations, ROSA, Lloyds Foundation and National Lottery, enabling service expansion and sustainability.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT cont'ed

7. Frontline Team Development

- a) Recruited and trained a diverse team, including an Operational Manager and an Outreach Advice Worker.
- b) Equipped staff with trauma-informed care and crisis management skills.

Looking Ahead: Challenges and Goals for 2025

Challenges

- a) Growing Demand: Rising cost of living and economic instability continue to exacerbate food insecurity, housing needs, and mental health challenges among BAME women.
- b) Funding Sustainability: Expanding services requires consistent financial support amidst increasing operational costs.
- c) Cultural Barriers: Many women face stigma, language barriers, and mistrust in mainstream services, requiring continued efforts in cultural sensitivity.

Goals

- a) Expand Services: Broaden access to therapeutic groups and food support programs.
- b) Increase Advocacy: Strengthen policy efforts to address systemic issues impacting Black & Minoritised women and girls.
- c) Build Capacity: Recruit more frontline staff to meet growing demands.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, trustees, consultants, staffs and volunteers whose unwavering support enables us to make a difference. Your contributions have empowered countless women and families to build safer, healthier futures.

Together, we are building brighter futures for African women and families in the UK.

Financial Review

During the year, AWC received incoming resources of £327,751 (2023: £243,353) and had outgoing resources of £247,509 (2023: £245,516) in delivering its objectives as well as for management 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.

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 2024.

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 Trustees' 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.



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18th October 2024

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Grant	5	-	320,229	320,229	236,400
Other Income		<u>7,522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,522</u>	<u>5,953</u>
Total Incoming Resources		7,522	320,229	327,751	242,353
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income	2	1,784	-	1,784	1,394
Charitable activities	2	3,182	240,293	243,475	242,272
Governance costs	2	<u>2,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,250</u>	<u>1,850</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>7,216</u>	<u>240,293</u>	<u>247,509</u>	<u>245,516</u>
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the Year					
		306	79,936	80,242	(3,163)
Movement of Funds					
		-	-	-	-
Balances b/f at 1 April 2023		-	5,079	5,079	8,242
Balances c/f at 31 March 2024		<u>306</u>	<u>85,015</u>	<u>85,321</u>	<u>5,079</u>

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	3	8,062	4,448
Current Assets			
Debtors		2,554	3,849
Cash at Bank & in Hand		<u>100,330</u>	<u>22,994</u>
		102,884	26,843
Creditors			
Amount falling due within one year	6	15,595	11,044
Net Current Assets		87,289	15,799
Creditors			
Amount falling after more than one year	6	10,030	15,168
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>85,321</u>	<u>5,079</u>
Restricted Funds		85,015	3,853
Unrestricted Funds		<u>306</u>	<u>1,226</u>
		<u>85,321</u>	<u>5,079</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 2024 and of its result for the period then ended.



Margaret Akullo
Chair

11th October 2024

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 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.
- l) 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 2024

2. Resources Expended

Cost of generating funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Publicity & related costs	866	-	866	543
Volunteer Expenses	918	-	918	851
sub-total	1,784	-	1,784	1,394

Charitable Activities

Volunteer Expenses	-	14,987	14,987	10,628
Sessional Work	-	39,425	39,425	29,403
Workshops, Welfare & Training	-	29,777	29,777	57,881
Community Costs of Living Support	-	32,977	32,977	-
Recruitment	-	953	953	857
Consultancy	-	28,312	28,312	19,185
Bookkeeping & Payroll	-	3,150	3,150	3,150
Rent	-	9,570	9,570	9,570
Salary & Wages	-	49,779	49,779	74,158
Telephone, Fax & Internet	-	3,416	3,416	3,132
Subscriptions	-	2,219	2,219	2,413
Information Resources	-	7,981	7,981	7,152
Print, Postage & Stationery	-	4,160	4,160	3,839
Publicity	-	4,015	4,015	4,532
Travel	-	5,249	5,249	5,175
Repairs & Maintenance	-	2,497	2,497	2,087
Bank Charges	-	375	375	675
Insurance	-	981	981	892
Conduit	-	470	470	5,670
Depreciation	3,182	-	3,182	1,483
sub-total	3,182	240,293	243,475	241,882

Governance

Management Committee meeting	-	-	-	-
Independent Examination Fee	2,250	-	2,250	1,850
sub-total	2,250	-	2,250	1,850

Total Resources Expended	7,216	240,293	247,509	245,126
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AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Furniture & Equipment	Total
Costs	£	£
At 1 April 2023	22,328	22,328
Additions in Year	6,796	6,796
At 31 March 2024	<u>29,124</u>	<u>29,124</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	17,880	17,880
Charge for the Year	3,182	3,182
At 31 March 2024	<u>21,062</u>	<u>21,062</u>
Net Book Value		
At 31 March 2024	<u>8,062</u>	<u>8,062</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,448</u>	<u>4,448</u>

4. (Deficit)/Surplus for the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of Tangible fixed Assets	<u>3,182</u>	<u>1,483</u>

5. Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery (Award for all)	-	10,000	10,000	-
Charity Foundation	-	-	-	250
Hammersmith & Fulham Council	-	-	-	2,000
National Lottery	-	100,919	100,919	98,860
Imkhan Charity	-	290	290	34,600
International Policy	-	-	-	400
Kensington & Chelsea Social Council	-	-	-	5,600
Rosa Fund	-	32,850	32,850	17,054
Brent Council	-	-	-	500
The Albert Hunt Trust	-	2,000	2,000	-
GLA High Street Challenge Fund	-	5,000	5,000	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	25,000	25,000	27,250
UK Government Community Organisation	-	58,700	58,700	-
The London Community Foundation	-	29,000	29,000	-
Southall Black Sisters	-	470	470	-
NHS Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea	-	2,000	2,000	-
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea	-	-	-	1,400
London Borough of Barnet	-	54,000	54,000	40,000
Westway Trust	-	-	-	2,500
Other Income	7,522	-	7,522	11,939
Total	<u>7,522</u>	<u>320,229</u>	<u>327,751</u>	<u>242,353</u>

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
6. Creditors	£	£
Amount falling less than one year:		
PAYE & NIC	7,838	6,552
Pension	494	617
Accruals	7,263	3,875
Total	<u>15,595</u>	<u>11,044</u>
Amount falling after more than one year:		
BB Loan	<u>10,030</u>	<u>15,168</u>