



Voice of the Asian Women across the Nation
Charity Registration Number 1088443

Annual Report & Financial Statement
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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Administrative Information

Trustee	Saeeda Khana Loreta Malik Sahera Dala Maryam Jahanzeb
Secretary	Mrs L Malik
Treasurer	Mrs A Omer
Charity Registration Number	1088443
Registered Office	Aawaz Access Point 225 Blackburn Road Accrington, Lancashire BB5 0AL
Banker	Lloyds 2 Peel Street Accrington BB5 1EP
Accountant	Gulfraz Ahmed (FCA CeMap) Ahmed Alam Accountants 63 Johnston Street Blackburn BB2 1HD



Message from Aawaz Patron

Councillor Mrs Jean Battle MBE



I am so very proud of having the role of Patron at Aawaz this year more than ever I have felt that our charity organisation has stepped up and responded to the Coronavirus crisis, staff volunteers and Executive committee members, all joined together to make sure that we are here to support our communities in need.

I applaud all your efforts and I am fully aware of the positive difference that Aawaz help, support and assistance has made to hundreds of local women and families.

Aawaz has been an active member of the local HUB Community Action Network Group. Everyone has been working ever so hard, dealing with lots of issues, whilst we ourselves have also been anxious and have tried to safeguard our team our staff and volunteers.

As this year comes to a close and lockdown restrictions are easing, we look forward to building further on our learning from delivering the crisis work.

I would like to extend my gracious thanks to all the Aawaz team for their hard work and commitment.

Councillor Mrs. Jean Battle MBE

Message from Chairperson Maryam Jahanzeb



I am so pleased to introduce my first annual report and accounts for Aawaz. As the newly appointed Chairperson, I have come in my role with a sense of pride and gratitude. I have been a volunteer with Aawaz for many years and I have truly appreciated the need to support the women who are in need in our communities.

I am excited about the opportunities that may be available to our charity. We want to work together with partners to bring real tangible benefits to the women that we support.

I have good knowledge of the local community of Hyndburn, and I have spent over 12 years supporting children and families in Hyndburn and Pendle. My background is in social care, children services and as a youth worker in my early career. I have experience of working with children and young people and families.

This year has been like no other. Aawaz has had to quickly adapt its approach and delivery of all our programmes. We have been guided by the women we support and have tried to offer whatever seemed to be the most appropriate to meet specific needs. Our multilingual befriending and support has had the greatest impact, it has acted as the safety net, helping women to feel that they are not alone that they are supported and they are valued.

We are grateful to all our funders for being accommodating and allowing us the time to respond sensitively and in a timely manner. Thank you also to all our partners and everyone in the locality, we have valued working together to help all our communities.

Maryam Jahanzeb

Trustees Report 2020-2021

Our annual report sets out the work of the Charity over the year 2020-2021.

Aawaz is a registered charity organisation, established in 1997, its registered office is at 225 Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 0AL. Aawaz work is to assist women and their families in need. Today Aawaz is well established, respected and accepted by and all those diverse communities that we serve. The charity's work is recognised by local authority, statutory and non-statutory organisations and faith sector organisations in the area. Aawaz works holistically at grass roots level, with the principle of helping the women and their families and welcomes everyone under our Open Door policy. The charity's work helps to regenerate the communities.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Aawaz have 4 members of Trustees and 8 members of Executive Committee. Volunteers and Service users are also represented on the Committee. The Executive Committee have the overall responsibility for our work and finances. They meet four times per year. Our patron is a well know and dedicated lady, Mrs Jean Battle, MBE.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit reporting in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements with applicable law and regulations.

The Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable organisation and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable organisation for that period. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimated that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern unless it is appropriate to presume that the charitable organisation will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of charitable organisation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charitable Act 1993 and the charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reference & Administrative detail

Reference and Administrative details are shown on page one of the Financial Statements.

Trustees

The trustees served the charity during the year 2020 -2021

- Mrs Saeeda Khanam
- Mrs Sahera Dala
- Mrs Loreta Malik
- Mrs Maryam Jahanzeb (appointed January 2021)
- Mr Jawad Bhatti (retired January 2021)

Executive Commttee

The following members have served on the Executive Committee during the year ended 31st March 2021.

- Jawad Bhatti (Chairperson retired January 2021)
- Maryam Jahanzeb (Chairperson as from January 2021)
- Loreta Malik (Secretary)
- Zohra Begum
- Aziz Fatema
- Sahera Dala
- Saeeda Khanam
- Aisha Omer (Treasurer)
- Shabana Bibi
- Noshin Hussain
- Nazma Naz
- Uzma Rani
- Asia Bibi

Registered Office

Aawaz Access Point
225 Blackburn Road, Accrington
BB5 0AL Lancashire

Organisation Vision

“To remove the culture of dependency improve the lives of south Asian women and their families and help create equal and cohesive communities where women can feel a sense of belonging and play their part in the wider society”

Organisation Aim

“The object of the charity is to promote and benefit the whole of the ethnic minority community by association with local authorities, voluntary organisation and other agencies in a common effort to improve the quality of life of members of the ethnic minority community, in particular the women and children and families living and working across the country”.

Assisting the communities

This year has been a year like no other. A year where we have together with staff volunteers and community members, all worked tirelessly to help each other and the wider communities. Aawaz has had to change the way of working, we have had to change the way we are supporting our service users, and we have had to change our own thinking in order to rise to the challenges. Now we have the hope with the Covid-19 vaccination programme being rolled that things will soon start to improve.

During this year Aawaz staff have had to be furloughed. Aawaz carried out a full risk assessment and ensured that on return everyone could work in a Covid-19 safe manner. Staff and volunteers have received induction and continued training to enable them to work in a different way where they are carrying out their roles over the telephone, via video calls and zoom. We have had to change and adapt our delivery of support, to provide more practical in kind help to assist all those who are in need. Providing food parcels, toiletry parcels, baby items, stationary packs and other activity packs.

Aawaz has seen some successes, where our services users have made progress and achieved their goals including accessing accredited learning, volunteering and paid employment. Also a year with tears and emotions, frustrations and anxiety with the pandemic. The lockdowns brought with them so many issues, many of our service users have experienced anxiety and panic attacks, loneliness and isolation.

Our service users have told us that they have found it difficult to relax, not being able to sleep, which has made them more and more tired and restless. Others have shared with us that they are finding it so difficult to focus, and finding it difficult to concentrate.

A considerable number of the women that we support have reported, they have experienced fuel poverty and food poverty, many have experienced a reduction in their income. The difficulty has been that the women have not been able to budget as carefully, not been able to shop in the cheaper places and therefore, have had to seek further help.

Many of our service users are mothers with school age children and they found home schooling quite a challenge. Although the local schools have been very good in offering support, delivering homework tasks at home, it has been quite a trying time and we have done our best to offer help and support.

Another added complication has been the spread of misinformation, in particular via WhatsApp messages. During the first nine months we were getting many enquiries from women who were worried, some messages claimed that Coronavirus covid-19 was a myth others claimed that this was the governments way of controlling people. We found that it was often quite difficult to change people's views because they believed the information they received via WhatsApp and other means. Aawaz decided that we will give the correct information in an open and honest manner using simple language.

Aawaz responded quickly to the crisis through providing multilingual befriending support. We did this over the phone as it seemed to be the simplest way to reach out to the ladies, also the fact that when we make the phone call it would not cost the receiver anything for the call.

Aawaz wanted to be there to provide a listening ear, help others feel that they are not alone and provide help and practical support.

As one would expect all of our projects experienced some degree of disruption, including delaying the start of our new Move Forward project.

Another issue for many of our service users is their lack of IT skills and limited access to a laptop or an electronic tablet that would allow them to join online digital sessions.

Aawaz has purchased electronic tablets and laptops to loan out to the service users, we have assisted with provision of top up cards and payments for phone / access to internet in supporting families where there are exceptional circumstances. By providing this kind of help we have succeeded in helping families in need with a visible life line. Our assistance has made a positive difference to so many people.

This year due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, we were not able to arrange any kind of social gathering to celebrate the International Women's Week. However, a group of our service users came together to write a poem about being "Together for each other" they decided to make that poem into a song. Along with New Era Choir, volunteers, other service users and representatives from partner agencies. The group created and recorded a song working with a very talented local music teacher Jayne Bradshaw. The Aawaz song "Together" was launched on 8th March 2021 and can be accessed via <https://youtu.be/H8OC1cK87EU>. The service group also participated in a video to accompany the song.

As we come to close on this financial year we are proud of our achievements in continuing to help and serve or communities in need. Our daily Zoom sessions are now established and we are introducing more and more new service users to a different way of learning.

- Aawaz received 5926 enquiries during this year, this number includes 1130 enquiries from other Lancashire districts and beyond.
- This year Aawaz has engaged with 1676 people.
- 289 people have received regular support from our multicultural befriending service.
- 369 people have participated in our learning and training sessions, and participated in health and wellbeing activities.
- 11 of our service users have progressed into paid employment
- 7 of our service users have progressed into volunteering

Aawaz activity packs have assisted so many of our service users to continue their learning journey. The activity packs have also helped many of our service users to spend quality time doing some fun learning activities with their children.

This year, more than ever a positive outcome has been that all the key agencies have come together as part of the Community Hub to work together to provide the help and support for the local communities in need. Aawaz is an active member of this network and we have truly appreciated the spirit of cooperation and friendship the essential steps to successfully providing a responsive service.

Feedback from those that have been helped through Aawaz

- Myself and the women I talked to over the phone are all impressed and wish all of you in Aawaz well for providing so much help during this pandemic.
- I came from India ten years ago, I needed good English and to be more confident to find a good job, I worked 4 years as a cleaner but now with my improved English language I feel so much confident, even I have passed my driving test, all this will help me to get a job on checkout in supermarket, that I am interested in. Thank you and God bless everyone who have helped me.
- "I have found your contact with me over WhatsApp and zoom so helpful, you have helped me in so many ways to feel better"
- "I did not think that by volunteering I will gain so much. I am learning every day. The staff are wonderful and your project has certainly given me a new life, I am happy in my work and I always tell people, how Nai Zindagi is a fantastic project"
- The Activity Packs have been so helpful to me. I have been able to take part in the learning groups without worrying about how to do things or what materials I need
- The laptop that was loaned to me was the biggest help for me. Thank you
- The food parcel given to me was greatly appreciated. Allah bless you all for being so discreet and giving me the respect
- I found a job at the Gift Factory and it is all through your help and the training I received from Aawaz
- It was so comforting to know that Aawaz is here for all us women. In good and bad times, when we are frightened and worried and when we are happy and well you are there for us.
- My children loved the baking activities that I did for them we made some lovely cupcakes and it helped them to learn to measure things. Thanks to your activity packs
- The employability programme has helped me and my sister so much
- Your learn and chat sessions for us Syrian ladies are so good and they help us to properly understand and improve our English language communication
- I am learning to improve my IT skills and its hard but the way you teach us is very good and easy to follow



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees

I report on the financial statements of **Aawaz** for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006 and that an independent examination is needed:

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts
- To follow the procedures laid down in General Directions given by the Charity Commission
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

Independent Examiner's Report

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

Proper accounting records are kept and accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 07/10/2021


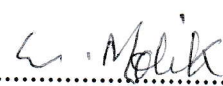
Gulfraz Ahmed AFA CeMap
Ahmed Alam Accountants
63 Johnston Street. Blackburn, Lancashire.BB2 1H

Member of Institute of Financial Accountants Membership No: 25268



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2021

	Note	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Tangible Assets	(2)	1436	<u>1689</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash at bank:			
Restricted funds		209369	45996
Reserves		54500	34373
Cash in hand		<u>897</u>	<u>837</u>
		264766	81206
		<u>266202</u>	<u>82895</u>
 <u>CREDITORS</u> – amounts falling due within one year	(3)	43734	2404
 <u>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES).</u>		<u>£222468</u>	<u>£80491</u>
 <u>Represented by:</u>			
 <u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>			
Balance (b/fwd)		80491	111628
Prior year adjustment	(8)	-	-
Net profit for the year	(4)	142977	(31137)
 <u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>		<u>£223468</u>	<u>£80491</u>

Signed Trustees:  Signed Trustee: 

These financial statements were approved and signed by the Trustees on 7th October 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For Year ended 31st March 2021

	Note	<u>2021</u> £	<u>2020</u> £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u> – from generating funds			
<u>RESTRICTED</u>			
Active Lancashire		1335	-
Big Lottery Reaching Communities		44008	69499
Big Lottery Community Fund		69156	-
BBO-Reach IT		-	3898
Canal & River Trust		7600	-
Community Foundation		5000	-
Covid Response Fund		15000	-
East Lancashire CCG		3970	-
Emergency Assistance Grant		3150	-
Eric Wright Foundation		500	-
Garfield Weston Foundation		25000	-
Good Things Foundation		-	250
Halsall Foundation		10000	10000
History in Action		855	-
HMRC		44093	-
LCC Grant		1000	2000
LCC Informal ESOL Grant		4836	4835
Lloyds Foundation		53510	-
Onwards Homes Grant		4030	-
Phoenix Fund		20000	-
Voice4Change		9790	-
WEA ESF Community Grant		6817	4869
		<u>329650</u>	<u>95351</u>
<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>			
Income generating activities		200	128
		<u>200</u>	<u>128</u>
<u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u>			
Bank interest received (Net)		-	-
<u>OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES</u>			
Donation for Support Work		-	424
<u>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</u>		<u>£329850</u>	<u>£95903</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For Year ended 31st March 2021

RESOURCES EXPENDED FOR CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Staff (salaried and sessional)	143919	99627
Project materials and Activities	16171	11890
Volunteer expenses	4655	3326
Rent-accommodation and venue	4376	4644
Professional fees, training	3090	2230
Office equipment & refurbishment	8623	168
Utilities	3580	2990
Insurance	856	858
Accountancy Fees	1350	1000
Depreciation	253	298

TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

£186873 £127040

NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

£142977 £ (31137)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For Year ended 31st March 2021

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use, at the discretion of the trustees, in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

(c) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of Income:

Income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the Charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(d) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of the tangible fixed assets to their estimated residual values over expected useful lives.

The following rates and basis apply:

Office equipment & Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings at 15% reducing balance

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For Year ended 31st March 2021

2.	<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	Office Equipment, Furniture <u>Fixtures & Fittings</u>
	Cost at 01/04/2020	11912
	Additions	0
		<u>11912</u>
	<u>Depreciation</u>	
	To 31/03/2020	10223
	For the year	<u>253</u>
		10476
	Book value at 2021	<u>£1436</u>
	Book value at 2020	<u>£1689</u>
3.	<u>CREDITORS</u>	
	Expense Creditors:	
	Staff Salaries & NIC	37851
	Project materials and activities	2772
	Professional Fees	2200
	Utilities	261
	Rent, accommodation and venue	620
	Volunteers	30
		<u>£43734</u>
4.	<u>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</u>	
	Net profit for the year	<u>£142977</u>
5.	<u>CAPITAL COMMITMENTS</u>	
	There were no capital commitments at 31 March 2021.	
6.	<u>CONTINGENT</u>	
	At 31 March 2021 the charity allocated for ongoing Projects restricted funds amounting to.	<u>£209369</u>
	Total	<u>£209369</u>
7.	<u>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>	
	As per attached schedule	
8.	Prior year adjustments	None

Aawaz آواز

Aawaz Accesspoint 225 Blackburn Road Accrington BB5 0AL

Email; infor@aawaz.org.uk

Website: www.aawaz.org.uk