



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

**Trustees Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

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Administrative Information

Trustee	Saeeda Khanam Loreta Malik Sahera Dala Aziz Fatima Bibi Noshin Hussain Nazima Naz
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	Gulfraaz Ahmed (FCA) Ahmed Alam Accountants 63 Johnston Street Blackburn BB2 1HD

Message from Aawaz Patron



This year the continuing uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic made it a challenging environment for us all. Most of all, marginalised women and families across the area in which Aawaz work, whose livelihood reduced in times of severity of the pandemic. Nevertheless, this year of bringing people together and helping them to learn to overcome their fear and anxiety caused by the pandemic has achieved positive outcomes for many families and individuals.

Aawaz has continued to rise to the many challenges in such trying times. Being here for those in need has been the most important and essential element of the charity's work.

Aawaz is proud of helping and assisting those in need through food parcels, clothing, winter packs, toiletry items and activity packs. Staff and volunteers have worked ever so hard helping women and their families as we came through the transition from the pandemic into the post pandemic stage.

I feel proud seeing how Manager, members of staff, volunteers and Executive Committees Member have worked together long hours giving their time helping and befriending families in need. These are the families who have had suffered financial hardship during Coronavirus pandemic. Everyone in Aawaz has shown the sense of responsibilities and women and families felt Aawaz is part of community during time of hardship.

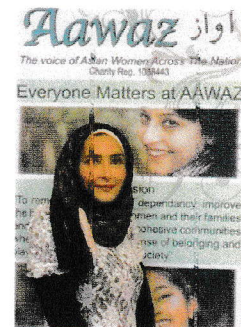
I applaud all the hard work and dedication shown by everyone. Aawaz is active member of HUB Community Action Network Group that is dealing with many issues faced by families in Hyndburn.

We all look forward to a better, safer and a happier future as we all learn to live with Coronavirus Covid 19.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the team for their hard work during difficult circumstances.

Councillor Mrs. Jean Battle MBE

Message from Chairperson



I am pleased to introduce my first annual report and accounts for Aawaz.

I was appointed as the Chairperson during this year and it is a great honour for me to serve our communities.

I have a long standing association with Aawaz charity organisation. I have helped in the past for many years as a volunteer, helping local families, talking with the women and also organising many community activities.

I have witnessed Aawaz grow and mature as a charity organisation, gaining recognition and building trust and credibility.

Today I am so very proud of the charity's track record, all the efforts that have been made to help those in need. In particular, Aawaz role during the pandemic has been crucial. In ensuring that everyone who needed help was reached and assisted.

Aawaz work continue post pandemic as there is still a great need to help our communities to recover fully.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who is part of Aawaz family.

Mrs Noshin Hussain

Trustees Report 2021-2022

Our annual report sets out the work of the Charity over the year 2021-2022

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, matured, 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 its "Open Door policy". The charity's work helps in community regeneration.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Aawaz have 6 members of Trustees and 6 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.

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 Trustees Report

Executive Commtee

The following members have served on the Executive Committee during the year ended 31st March 2022.

- Loreta Malik (Secretary)
- Noshin Hussain (Chairperson)
- Zohra Begum
- Aziz Fatema Bibi
- Sahera Dala
- Saeeda Khanam
- Aisha Omer (Treasurer)
- Shabana Bibi
- Nazima Naz
- Uzma Rani
- Asia Bibi
- Sobia Begum

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"

2021-2022 has been another busy and quite challenging year. Where we have seen the rollout of the covid19 corona virus vaccination programme leading to easing of the restrictions. Our work at Aawaz has seen a steep increase in demand for support and befriending along with practical help and assistance. Aawaz charity has continued to work tirelessly ensuring that everyone that needed our help was able to access it.

This year has seen Aawaz continuing with its food poverty and fuel poverty work. We have been able to help those in need with food parcels containing essential basic food items, we have offered toiletry packs and baby items to help those who are in need. Aawaz also successfully referred 130 families to receive fuel vouchers worth £147 per family. The charity has been able to offer advice and signposting through the Energy 360 project. Aawaz has accessed additional resources to help the women and families with winter warm packs, coats, thermal gloves, socks etc. All of these small acts has meant a great deal and made a big difference to the families who we supported.

Aawaz has continued to work with women and families through zoom sessions, video calls support over telephone and WhatsApp. The charity continued to loan out Electronic Tablets and Laptops

where ever possible to ensure that those who need to access our online support and learning have the right equipment.

As from August 2021 the charity was able to move to more face to face sessions. The women that we support have really appreciated the fact that we were once again able to see, meet and greet people in person. Post pandemic Aawaz continued to introduce more group activities, visits and face to face discussions. We have been able to see more people in person to ensure that we can respond in a timely manner.

This year Aawaz learning programs have had a strong emphasis on employability, IT skills and Life Skills. Helping the participants to upskill themselves, learn to plan ahead and to assist them to access more practical learning opportunities. Aawaz organised volunteer work placements, work experience placements, mentoring and coaching to assist the project beneficiaries. Sixteen of our service users have been able to apply for voluntary work and 11 women have been able to successfully carry out voluntary work with mainstream agencies and organisations.

An important aspect of the charity's work has been the health and wellbeing programs. Aawaz has introduced the Haal Chal Walking groups and continues to support the Walk and Talk programme. The Feel Better - Smile Project has helped women to adapt a healthy lifestyle through using arts and crafts.

Aawaz has also delivered the multilingual Diabetes Project, working with 83 women helping individuals to be better informed and skilled in self-care. Aawaz designed the multilingual, practical grassroots project to address the needs that the charity identified through community consultation. Aawaz Diabetes project provided:

- Awareness, accurate information, understanding and appreciation of what is diabetes and how the condition should be managed.
- Information about the correct use of medication and Diabetes care services, including the importance of structured Diabetes education.
- Helped participants to understand how they can adapt their lifestyle including diet, meal planning and exercise.
- Project set up a walking group and a Diabetes Self-help group.

The project participants found the multilingual and practical nature of the project extremely helpful.

Aawaz Take Care project has helped those who experienced disruption, distress and loneliness during the pandemic. The project helped the participants to talk about their feelings. Project encouraged and assisted the participants to help them to feel less anxious and make new friends. The project was commended for introducing a new way their service users can express their feelings, which is often hard when in an online group. Using coloured heart tokens, distributed in advance, the participants were able to hold the heart tokens up to indicate if they would like extra support outside of the workshop.

The Move Forward project continues to offer a practical programme to help women in achieving personal goals leading to positive and meaningful outcomes. We are so pleased to see that the ladies who access our projects, support and services have achieved a degree of success helping them to learn, upskill themselves and move forward progressing and achieving their goals. For many of the participants the goals include accessing accredit learning, volunteering and paid employment.

The charity has seen an increase in referrals for help and assistance from Refugee and Asylum seeker communities. Individuals and families have found it extremely challenging post pandemic and are turning to Aawaz to access a variety of support and services.

In June 2021 Aawaz celebrated the Refugee week with many of the service users contributing to a display sharing their experience and offering their support to each other. The group also thanked local council, the various agencies and the communities who have welcomed them and continue to support them. Their experiences and positive messages were highlighted in a short video by the local council.

Aawaz members came together to create this wonderful display for Refugee Week June 2021



"I have felt so welcome at Aawaz, moving to Accrington has been a new experience. You have made it easier for me to meet others and make friends"

"It has been a good place for me to meet other Muslim women and talk with them, we have been able to share our experiences and to support each other"



In March 2022 Aawaz service users celebrated International Women's Day. A group of service users came together through the creative writing workshops to contribute to a poem which they have called – "We are Women, we are the Best"

A poem written by Aawaz service users for International Women's Day 2022

We are Women, we are the Best

Be Happy
Stay Positive
Do your Best
Don't worry about the rest

We are Women, we are the Best

We see Good Times
We see Great Times
There are testing Times
And there are sad Times

We are Women, we are the Best

We try to Stay Positive
We come through the Test
In these Stressful Times
With Covid19 and Uncertainty
Looking after Ourselves is Paramount
We are strong, inner strength can be found

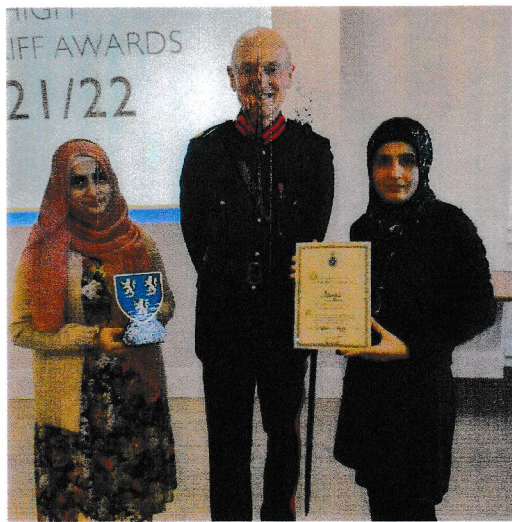
We are Women, we are the Best



Throughout the year Aawaz has continued to adapt its method of delivery to comply with the post pandemic restrictions and requirements. All staff and volunteers have ensured that all who use and access our support and services are safe and well. Charity has offered face coverings and sanitizers to continue to encourage everyone to stay safe.

However, the charity has continued to see many people who remain anxious and upset about the effect of the pandemic. It has been and it still is a difficult because there are unresolved issues of loss, grief and uncertainty. Aawaz are called upon to offer multilingual befriending, support and help to many of the service users who have lost loved ones, they have not been able to grieve appropriately and continue to find it difficult and traumatic.

Finally, we are pleased to have received the High Sheriff Award on 30th March 2022 in recognition of our charitable work. Aawaz received the award for Community Group of the year.



Aawaz staff presented with the award by the High Sherriff of Lancashire Edwin John Booth
March 2022

This year:

- Aawaz received 6134 enquiries
- Charity has engaged with 1712 people to offer support and help
- 479 people have engaged in the learning activities
- After completing their learning and employability programme with Aawaz 14 women have achieved paid employment
- After completing their learning programme with Aawaz 16 women have applied for voluntary work
- 210 women have participated in the health and wellbeing activities

Feedback from those that have been helped through Aawaz charitable work during this year

"I have found it very useful and helpful to get involved in the project. I can say that it has given me more confidence and I have learned new skills"

"Joining the project last year but because of Covid we could not go anywhere and could not do any visits, this year has been so good I have had several visits to local employers and my mentor has been super supportive"

"I have learnt to improve my IT skills greatly. I am able to email someone. In fact, I asked my son's school Do you have any job in helping children or in play ground?"

"Most helpful to me is when you can talk with me in English and Punjabi so I can understand everything fully. You don't rush me"

"I am sometimes a little slow and it takes time for me to understand but you know the way you helped with my CV document and register for Job Search. It is easy now and I am doing this myself".

"What I find most helpful is to talk with you, to have a conversation about my health and that you are listening to me and don't dismiss me like I feel that others at clinic do"

"Being able to talk about all my health problems it has helped me to see that by making some changes in my lifestyle I will also improve my diabetes. I did not realise this"

"My mood is also improving and I feel not alone but now I have started to look forward to meeting with other ladies and sharing things"

"The main thing for me is to start to take up walking. Joining the walking group has been great and I now go for walk with my sister three times a week"

All the trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thank you to all who believe in Aawaz, who work with Aawaz and all who access the support and services provided by the charity.



Noshin Hussain - Chairperson



Aawaz Accesspoint 225 Blackburn Road Accrington BB5 0AL

Email; infor@aawaz.org.uk

Website: www.aawaz.org.uk

***Financial Accounts
in respect of***

AAWAZ

Voice of the Asian Women across the Nation

Aawaz Registered Charity Number: 1088443

**225 Blackburn Road
Accrington
BB5 0AL**

For Year ended 31st March 2022



63 Johnston Street | Blackburn | BB2 1HD | Tel: 01254 55897 | Email: info@ahmedalamaccountants.com

Member of the Institute of Financial Accountants | Membership No. 252689

AAWAZ
For Year ended 31st March 2022

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AAWAZ
For Year ended 31st March 2022

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees

I report on the Financial Statements of **Aawaz** for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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. 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 accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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: 25/07/2022

Gulfraz Ahmed AFA
Ahmed Alam Accountants
63 Johnston Street
Blackburn
BB2 1HD

AHMED ALAM
Accountants
63 Johnston Street
Blackburn, BB2 1HD
Tel: 01254 55897

AAWAZ
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Tangible Assets	2	<u>1221</u>	<u>1436</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
<u>Cash at bank :</u>			
Restricted funds		69700	209369
Reserves		65500	54500
Unrestricted Funds		95933	-
Cash in hand		<u>867</u>	<u>897</u>
		<u>232000</u>	<u>264766</u>
		<u>233221</u>	<u>266202</u>
<u>CREDITORS</u> - amounts falling due within one year	3	12946	43734
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</u>		<u>£220275</u>	<u>£222468</u>

Represented by :

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance (b/fwd)		223468	80491
Prior year adjustment	8	36143	-
Net profit for the year	4	(39336)	142977
<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>		<u>£220275</u>	<u>£223468</u>

These financial statements were approved and signed by the trustees on 26/7/2022

Signed N. Hussain..... Trustee

Signed L. Mollat..... Trustee

The notes on pages 6 - 8 form part of these financial statements

AAWAZ
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For Year ended 31st March 2022

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
		£	£
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u> - from generating funds ,			
<u>RESTRICTED</u>			
Active Lancashire		-	1335
Big Lottery - RC		8868	44008
Big Lottery - Community Fund		62806	69156
Canal & River Trust		5200	7600
Community Foundation		4995	5000
Covid Response Fund		-	15000
East Lancashire CCG		-	3970
Emergency Assistance Grant		1900	3150
Eric Wright Foundation		-	500
Garfield Weston Foundation		-	25000
Halsall Foundation		-	10000
History in Action		1720	855
Household Support Fund		5000	-
HMRC Job Retention Scheme		4439	44093
LBMEN		8070	-
Lancashir Care		500	-
LCC Grant		-	1000
LCC Informal ESOL		-	4836
Lloyds Foundation		30000	53510
NHS		39611	-
Onwards Home Grants		-	4030
Phoenix Fund		-	20000
Voice 4 Change		-	9790
WEA ESF Community Grants		7288	6817
		<u>180397</u>	<u>329650</u>
<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>			
Income Generating Activities		-	200
		<u>-</u>	<u>200</u>
<u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u>			
Bank interest received (net)		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES</u>			
Activities and Donations		3133	-
		<u>3133</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</u>		<u>£183530</u>	<u>£329850</u>

RESOURCES EXPENDED
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Staff (Salaried & Sessional)	156666	143919
Project Materials & Activities	27805	16171
Volunteer Expenses	11488	4655
Rent Accommodation and venue	4144	4376
Training & Professional Fees	10205	3090
Capital spending - Office equipment & Refurbishment	3720	8623
Utilities	6389	3580
Insurance	1234	856
Accountancy Fees	1000	1350
Depreciation	215	253
	-	-
<u>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>	<u>£222866</u>	<u>£186873</u>
	-	-
<u>NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>£(39336)</u>	<u>£142977</u>

AAWAZ
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For Year ended 31st March 2022

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.

(c) 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

AAWAZ
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For Year ended 31st March 2022

2. FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings
Cost at 01/04/2021	11912
Additions	0
	<u>11912</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>	
To 31/03/2021	10476
for the year	<u>215</u>
	<u>10691</u>
Book value at 2022	<u>£1221</u>
Book value at 2021	<u>£1436</u>

3. CREDITORS

Expense creditors:

Wages & NIC	£7648
Project Materials & activities	£3988
Accountancy Fees	£1000
Rents, accomodation & Venue	£310
	<u>£12946</u>

4. **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

Net profit (Loss) for the year £(39336)

5. **CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

There were no capital commitments at **31 March 2022**

6. **CONTINGENT**

At **31 March 2022** the charity allocated for ongoing projects amounting to

£69700

***Financial Accounts
in respect of***

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Depreciation	215	253
	-	-
<u>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>	<u>£222866</u>	<u>£186873</u>
	-	-
<u>NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>£(39336)</u>	<u>£142977</u>

AAWAZ
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For Year ended 31st March 2022

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.

(c) 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

AAWAZ
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For Year ended 31st March 2022

2. FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings
Cost at 01/04/2021	11912
Additions	0
	<u>11912</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>	
To 31/03/2021	10476
for the year	<u>215</u>
	<u>10691</u>
Book value at 2022	<u>£1221</u>
Book value at 2021	<u>£1436</u>

3. CREDITORS

Expense creditors:

Wages & NIC	£7648
Project Materials & activities	£3988
Accountancy Fees	£1000
Rents, accomodation & Venue	£310
	<u>£12946</u>

4. **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

Net profit (Loss) for the year £(39336)

5. **CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

There were no capital commitments at **31 March 2022**

6. **CONTINGENT**

At **31 March 2022** the charity allocated for ongoing projects amounting to

£69700
