

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1102814

Details

Other names MERTON AND WANDSWORTH ASYLUM WELCOME

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [05001950](#)

Registered 2004-03-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Woodlawns Centre
16 Leigham Court Road
London
SW16 2PJ

Phone 02034903443

Email admin@slr-a.org.uk

Website www.slr-a.org.uk

Activities

Objects: A) TO RELIEVE POVERTY AND DISTRESS BY ASSISTING AND SUPPORTING REFUGEES, PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY THOSE LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN SOUTH LONDON WHO ARE OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN THROUGH FEAR OF PERSECUTION, WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM.

Activities: Providing services for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants at risk or in crisis in the South London Area.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON
- Croydon
- Lambeth
- Merton
- Wandsworth

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£933,667	£920,880	£310,752	20
2024-03-31	£995,768	£982,319	£297,965	20
2023-03-31	£991,577	£913,881	£284,516	14
2022-03-31	£599,448	£662,051	£206,820	20
2021-03-31	£669,161	£577,113	£269,422	14

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Laura Harrison	Chair	2023-10-24
Dr Lulseged Abebe		2020-03-03
Habtom Okube		2024-06-10
Joe Gordon		2025-09-01
Mandeep Soor		2016-09-19
Maria Abdul Rahman Tanko		2025-09-01
Murali Prathaban Mahendran		2024-06-10
Roisin Ross		2025-09-01
Sarah Neblett-Lindo		2025-09-01

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1102814

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

For the year ending 31 March 2025



Registered Charity Number 1102814

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Foreword from our Chair of Trustees and CEO

Here at SLRA we are hugely proud of the impact our work continues to have on the lives of the migrant individuals and the communities we work with. This year, the quality of our services and depth of our expertise has been more vital than ever in the context of the increasingly restrictive legislative environment and the increasing political hostility towards refugees and migrants. The exclusion of many migrants from any welfare safety net has had a significant impact on our communities and in turn this makes our work in supporting people to navigate the asylum and immigration system, and to secure access to justice and opportunity, more vital than ever.

Our highlights of the year include our work with local migrants as they increase their collective voice and power. We hosted the Youth Summit and Exhibition, which brought together over 150 migrant young people from across London. A planning committee of young people developed the focus and content of the day and facilitated workshops. We are incredibly proud of how they took on responsibility and created a real sense of community. Our Community Leaders programme has continued to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills for impactful campaigning and influencing work.

We are lucky to have continued our strong partnerships with local specialist agencies including Law Centres and Coram Children's Legal Centre. These partnerships help us to meet legal advice needs despite the severe shortage of high quality, free advice that can transform people's lives and futures.

We are hugely grateful to the Trusts and Foundations that support our work, many with successive grants, allowing us to respond to the ever changing needs of the individuals and communities we work with. We are also grateful to our increasing number of community supporters and donors. This support is vital for sustaining our services, and for building our resilience and capacity.

A huge thank you to the team of incredible staff, volunteers and trustees, without whom our impact would not be possible. We also thank the people we work with who continue to inspire us with their strength, resilience and hope for the future.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

1064

people directly
accessed our
services

50

people were able
to move on
from street
homelessness

122

emergency grants
were provided to
those who were
destitute

536

people
participated in
positive activities

Laura Harrison

Laura Harrison
Chair of Trustees

Celia Sands

Celia Sands
CEO



Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Company Number

5001950

Charity Number

1102814

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Trustee Board comprises the Chair and the Treasurer supported by at least three trustees. All trustees are elected and confirmed in post at each Annual General Meeting. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end are as follows:

Lulsegged Abebe
Jennifer Brown
Laura Harrison – Chair
Margaret Johnston
Pratha Mahendran – Treasurer
Habtom Okube
Mandeep Soor
Alex Sutton

Senior Management

Celia Sands, CEO

Registered Office and Operational Address

The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, London, SW16 2PJ

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton Granters Community Centre 73-79 Oakhill Road Sutton SM1 3AA

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc 117 Balham High Road, London, SW12 9AS

Report of the Board of Trustees

Report of the Board of Trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The Board presents the report and financial statements for South London Refugee Association for the year ended 31 March 2025. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements also comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

South London Refugee Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee, having no share capital, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21st November 2013. The liability of the members, who are the Trustees, is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Lulsegged Abebe

Jennifer Brown

Laura Harrison – Chair

Margaret Johnston

Pratha Mahendran – Treasurer (from April 2024)

Habtom Okube (from April 2024)

Mandeep Soor

Alex Sutton

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association there can be no less than three Trustees.

Trustee vacancies are filled by personal recommendations from current trustees or an advertisement can be placed requesting suitable candidates. In both cases, meetings with the Chair of Trustees are held and references taken up, details of the prospective Trustee are circulated and the candidate is invited to attend a Board Meeting. If all Trustees agree, then the candidate is invited to join the Board.

Trustees are inducted into the service; spending time with the CEO, taking time to learn about the organisation and meeting the staff and volunteers. New Trustees receive an information pack about the organisation, including a copy of the latest audited annual accounts, a copy of the Memorandum, Articles of Association and most recently published service reports.

OUR IMPACT

Adult & Family Services

561 people

accessed our advice and casework, education and wellbeing services for adults and families

323 people

were supported with specialist immigration advice, casework and practical support

264 people

joined our community groups, learning new skills, taking part in creative projects and wellbeing activities

We provided vital immigration advice and casework to **215 homeless people** in the year, and succeeded in progressing 78% of the cases

SIAS: Supporting homeless migrants off the streets

SLRA is leading the GLA funded Sub-regional Immigration Advice Service partnership for South West London. We're working with South West London Law Centre, with specialist homelessness services and Local Authority homelessness teams across the sub-region to bring accessible, high quality immigration advice to people who are sleeping rough. Many of those reached by the project have been rough sleeping for years, without access to the advice and support they need in order to move on.

“My situation was very bad before I came to SLRA. I was street homeless, isolated and estranged from family and friends, my poor health was diminishing, my mind was all over the place and I couldn't eat any food, I couldn't think straight. I had to watch over my shoulders all the time for the fear of anyone stopping or reporting me. My life started to change after Crisis told me to go to SLRA because they couldn't help me with immigration. The first time I spoke to my caseworker I felt good. The way she spoke to me made me feel better, she fought for me and gave me some good advice on how to keep myself safe, she was very caring. When she gave me the good news, it was too amazing to explain and till this day everybody there are still happy for me. My mind is at ease now so I can start to sort my life out with work, home, paying NI and pension, go to college and be like everyone else with the freedom to be free. The love that Crisis and SLRA has shown me has been unconditional.”

SIAS client and Men's Group Member



Adult & Family Services



Nest Project: Early Intervention to build family and community resilience

The Nest Project works across four local community settings, and aims to reach families with the immigration advice and information they need before their insecure immigration status causes them to fall into crisis.

The project also increases the knowledge of staff and volunteers in these community spaces through training and workshops. The project strengthens communities by reducing stigma, raising awareness and developing individuals' self advocacy and community organising skills.

In its third year, the project has broadened its reach and has continued to have notable successes in immigration outcomes. **116 people** attended info-sessions in community settings this year, and **75 families** have received immigration advice since the start of the project. This support has had a very real impact on families' ability to be together, to live, to work, to learn and to move out of destitution.

Esther was referred to the Nest Project in 2024 when she was facing eviction from the person she was subletting a room from. She and her 9-year-old son, Adam*, had been living in the UK since 2018 without access to support or housing, relying on the kindness of friends, their church and food banks. At the time when Nest Project contacted her, Esther felt she had nowhere left to turn.*

She had originally arrived in the UK as a tourist with her then-infant son. Like many families supported by the Nest Project, Esther had not known where to seek advice about their immigration status. Having fled an abusive marriage, Esther lived in constant fear of the consequences she might face if she returned to her country of origin.

Despite these hardships, Esther demonstrated remarkable resilience. She volunteered with several community groups, offering support to other families in crisis. Adam excelled at school, standing out as a talented student and even having his written work published while in primary school.

The Nest Project was able to secure emergency accommodation for Esther and Adam while providing immigration advice and support. With the guidance of the Nest Project's immigration advisor, she was able to submit an immigration application. Less than a year after making contact, she and Adam were granted permission to stay in the UK.

Since then, Esther has joined SLRA's Community Leaders group, playing a key role in shaping the future of the Nest Project. Meanwhile, Adam has started secondary school, where he continues to thrive as a model student. Their journey is a testament to the impact of accessible support and the strength of individuals facing adversity.

*names changed

Services for young people aged 14 to 24 years

503 young people

accessed our services during the year

120 young people

attended our weekly Youth Club

88 young people

took part in trips, activities and events

59

young people secured refugee status and were able to move on with their plans for work or study

66%

of young people have increased their independence and social activities

89%

of young people supported have improved emotional wellbeing

336 young people

received specialist, holistic one to one casework support. **47%** were supported by our caseworkers with immigration, along with other issues such as age assessment, trafficking and criminal exploitation, welfare benefits and social care.



Services for young people aged 14 to 24 years

Merton Early Intervention Project

Our Early Intervention Project, initially funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and now grant funded by Merton Council, has seen us strengthen our collaborative approach to improving outcomes for young migrants who are looked after in Merton. We have worked with Merton Council to develop an effective model of early intervention; providing immigration advice and casework, along with training for Children's Services team members. This collaborative working ensures that young people have access to impactful support and good legal representation as soon as they arrive in the UK or their immigration issue is identified. Evaluation continues to show a significant improvement in young people's experience of the asylum or immigration process, and in knowledge and good practice among Children's Services professionals.

This year, **47 young people** were supported with immigration advice and casework support and had access to our programme of positive activities for young people.

Lambeth Mentoring Project

As part of the Lambeth Mentoring Project for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Care Leavers funded by the Department for Education, we are working in partnership with Lambeth Council, Knights Youth Centre and Da'aro Youth Project to support young people in Lambeth to develop meaningful connections in their community, understand their rights and entitlements, and gain the confidence and skills to thrive. Mentors worked closely with a SLRA caseworker to provide holistic support that meets young people's emotional, cultural and practical needs. Alongside mentoring, the project offered regular activities and classes to build community and a sense of belonging in Lambeth.

This year, SLRA supported **32 young people** in Lambeth and continuation funding has been confirmed for 2025/26 to further develop this work.

“ I came to this country, I didn't know how to do anything. From the beginning, [my caseworker] helped me, filled forms with me, showed me how the system works, found me a lawyer, told me about activities to go to, and without this support a lot of people would be lost ”
Young person



Services for young people aged 14 to 24 years

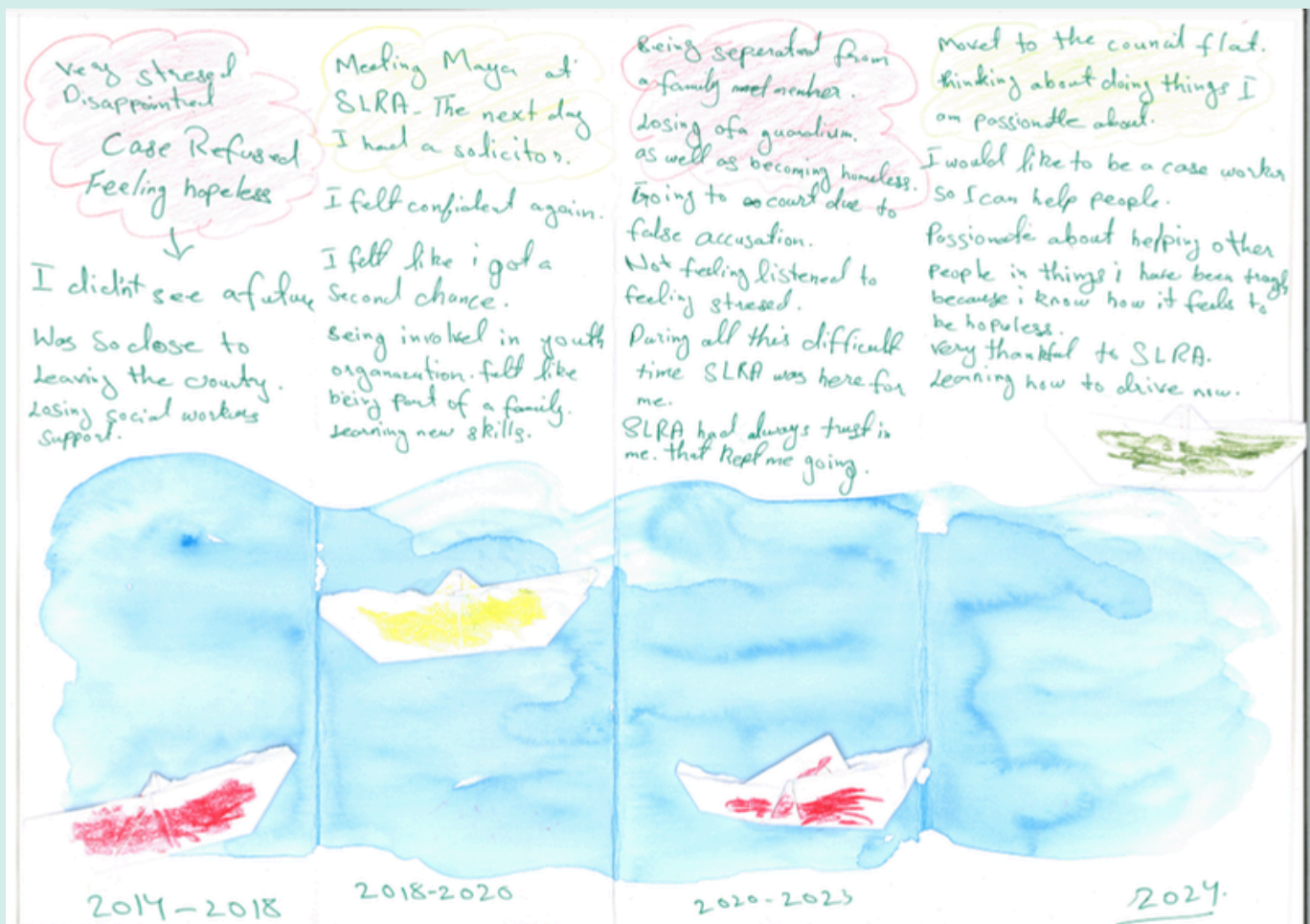
We have revised our monitoring and evaluation processes for our youth service and introduced a new tool that enables each young person to reflect on their own 'journey' with SLRA. The journey map below captures one young person's experience in their own words.

Roman* described the stress he experienced as a constant flow, like the sea and that everything was continuous rather than starting and stopping. To reflect this, he chose to paint the water as his story. He made paper boats to represent himself, at first sinking but now floating on the surface. He chose to colour the boats using a traffic-light system to show changes in how he was feeling over time, moving from red, to yellow, back to red, and now to green.

When reflecting on the support he received from SLRA's team he said "even if I was fed up, they would keep chasing me, they didn't give up on me and always cared for me even more than I cared for myself".

He's feeling settled now and thinking about next steps. He has enjoyed being involved in community organising at SLRA and says he is passionate about helping others.

*name changed



Policy & Participation

Supporting Local Authorities to adopt the Immigration Support Pledge

SLRA continues to work with charities across the UK to call on local authorities to sign an immigration support pledge, which commits them to identifying all looked after children and care leavers with immigration and nationality issues. Local authorities that sign up also pledge to connect young migrants with good quality legal support as soon as possible, and to take a proactive and informed role in supporting young people through any immigration applications and appeals, enabling those who are eligible to apply for permanent status and British citizenship.

Local authorities that have adopted the pledge so far:



We are working through an implementation plan with each local authority, and 11 other local authorities are in discussions to adopt the pledge. We co-organised with London Councils and the Greater London Authority a workshop for London Local Authorities' in March 2025 with the goal of providing a platform for local authorities to share and learn from each other's approaches in supporting Care Leavers with immigration needs.

Our focus has been on strengthening relationships with local authorities who have adopted the pledge. To support the implementation of the commitments in the immigration support pledge, we have co-developed a learning package for local authorities. The package includes a training video developed by young leaders from SLRA and Coram Young Citizens which highlights the difference that adopting this kind of good practice can have on the lives of young migrants in care.

This year, a group of care experienced young people were supported to create and illustrate the Immigration Support for Young Migrants in Care infosheet - a valuable resource packed with essential information for young migrants in care which is now included in the Welcome Pack for children in care by local authorities that have adopted the pledge.



“ I'm proud that I got involved with SLRA's Immigration Support Pledge work. Together, we have created an information sheet for every young migrant who is here, with information that we all need to know... information which I didn't know myself when I came to the UK. Please share this resource with others. Together, let's stand up for young migrants and make a real difference!



Young Community Leaders

In 2024 we launched our Young Community Leaders Programme, building on our previous impactful youth participation work. **14 young people** were involved and attended fortnightly meetings identifying the issues they care about and developing community organising skills.

A few young Community Leaders were trained as peer researchers, and co-authored *The Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People Living in London* report commissioned by London Councils and the Association of London Directors of Children's Services. Interviews carried out as part of this participatory research revealed how uncertainty in the asylum system puts young people's lives on hold, and the report calls for urgent reforms to ensure all children have access to the support needed.

Youth Summit and Exhibition

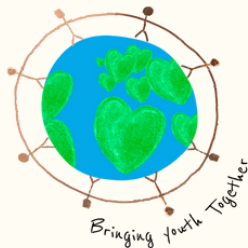
In May 2024, we hosted the Youth Summit and Exhibition, a day of workshops, art and fun activities which brought together **over 150 people** from the migrant community, the majority of which were aged between 16 and 30.

The Summit was planned by a committee of young people from across partner organisations. Over three months, 11 young people came together to form the planning committee, meeting fortnightly online and in-person in the lead up to the event. Together the planning committee decided on the selection of workshops, promotion of the event, design of the event t-shirts and reviewed artist proposals. They also developed evaluation questions, interviewed attendees as part of the event film, wrote speeches for the welcoming and closing of the event and many were involved in the delivery of partner workshops and activities. Reflections and learnings from this Youth Summit fed into an evaluation report and have influenced planning for future events.

"Today was a perfect day for young people to get together and remember they are not alone"

"It was a good thing that there were games, poems and speeches, there was also a free mindset to enjoy the moment"

"Perfect day full of fun and useful information. Loved every bit of it"



Community Leaders

59 Community Leaders

took part in our programme to develop leadership skills and organise to influence the decisions that affect their lives and their communities.

16 Community Leaders

attended our pilot ‘Leaders in Action’ training to develop the knowledge and confidence to actively participate in decision making and policy influencing forums.

No Recourse to Public Funds

NRPF restrictions continue to affect the lives of many of our Community Leaders and their families. The NRPF focus group has been working with Lambeth Council to improve its NRPF webpage. Drawing on their lived experience, Community Leaders helped ensure that essential information about available support is clear, accurate and accessible. This focus group plans to use its experience and learning from working with Lambeth to influence other boroughs locally.

Our series of [community education videos](#), co-produced with Community Leaders, about the issues of ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’, ‘Section 17 support’ and ‘Immigration Advice’ continues to be used by agencies and individuals across London and beyond.

Legal Aid Crisis

SLRA Community Leaders have partnered with Migrants Organise and other organisations to form *the Hope & Justice Collective*. Together they are raising awareness of the impact of the legal aid crisis and campaigning for access to justice. In November 2024 they launched the Take Your MP To Work Campaign at Parliament, and in March 2025 SLRA hosted a Hope & Justice Collective open meeting with 35 attendees from 7 organisations to discuss and share useful tools and resources available for those struggling without legal support. SLRA and other organisations also launched a report [Threadable: The Quality of Immigration Legal Aid](#) calling for a deeper commitment from government to build a sustainable legal aid system, and an end to the hostile environment policy.



Community Hub



215 people joined us at our weekly Community Hub to socialise, learn new skills, relax, tap into their creativity, and share information, experiences and a delicious free meal.



54 volunteers supported us with their time, from assisting our casework teams to cooking lunches for our Community Hub members.

21 members of our Men's Group met regularly to connect and share their stories and experiences of life, family, and being a refugee, migrant, or asylum seeker.

139 members of the SLRA community came to our Summer BBQ and Winter party.



51 people attended our weekly ESOL class where they were able to improve their English, make new friends, and grow in confidence.



“

It makes me realise that I'm not the only one who's suffering, it makes me feel grateful, thankful and cheerful. Sometimes when you're on your own, you can feel it's only you facing these things. But when you meet other people, you realise you're not the only one. It helps you not want to give up, when you know you have the same issues.

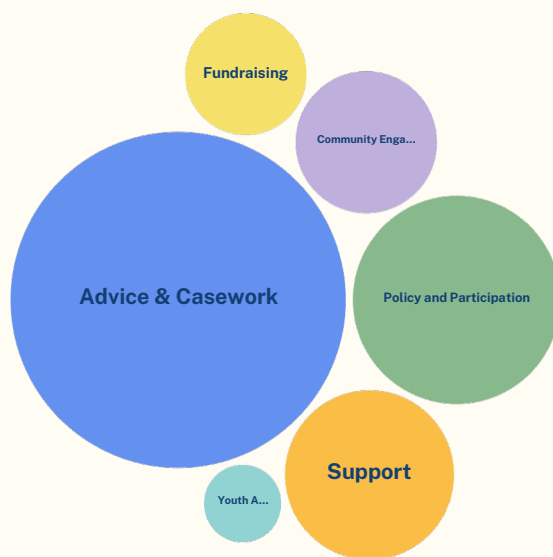
”

Our Finances

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 2025

£933,667
TOTAL INCOME

£920,880
TOTAL EXPENDITURE



With thanks to the funders who supported our work in 2024/25 including

A O Shearman
BBC Children in Need
The City Bridge Foundation
Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Jack Petchey Foundation
Justice Together Initiative

LandAid
Leathersellers Company
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
The Swire Charitable Trust
Trust for London
The Walcot Foundation
The Wimbledon Foundation

and to the individuals, schools, churches and community groups who ran, shopped, saved and organised events in order to support our work.



OUR ACCOUNTS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South London Refugee Association

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent review

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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or

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

Name: Dunstanette Kuti FCCA MCSI

Position: Community Accountant
Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre,
73-79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3AA

Date: 
Dun Kuti (Dec 12, 2025 11:03:18 GMT)

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming resources					
Income from					
Charitable activities		49,799	867,946	917,745	951,029
Voluntary income		15,922	-	15,922	44,739
Total	2	65,721	867,946	933,667	995,768
Resources expended					
Expenditure on					
Raising funds		-	480	480	31,771
Charitable activities		25,142	895,258	920,400	950,548
Total	3	25,142	895,738	920,880	982,319
Net income/(expenditure)		40,579	(27,792)	12,787	13,449
Transfers between funds		(244)	244	-	-
Net movement in funds		40,335	(27,548)	12,787	13,449
Total funds brought forward		251,389	46,576	297,965	284,516
Total funds carried forward		291,724	19,028	310,752	297,965

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Debtors	8	31,194	86,295
Cash at bank and in Hand		506,879	376,009
Total current assets		538,073	462,304
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Deferred Income	9	14,907	10,059
	10	212,414	154,280
Total current liabilities		227,321	164,339
Total assets less current liabilities		310,752	297,965
Total net assets		310,752	297,965
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted - General		257,584	251,389
Restricted		53,168	46,576
Total funds	11	310,752	297,965

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and


b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Trustees on

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Chair: 
Laura Harrison (Dec 9, 2025 19:50:06 GMT)

Trustee: 
Prethe Mahendran (Dec 11, 2025 16:27:49 GMT)

Date: 09/12/2025

Date: 11/12/2025

The notes on pages 19 to 24 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015), effective January 2015.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of SLRA.

Restricted funds are made up of grants received for the specific projects including salary payments and may only be applied for this purpose. Any changes to the agreed budgets must be agreed with the funders considered before being actioned.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when SLRA has entitlement to in the income and there is a certainty of receipt, and the amount is quantifiable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts are included when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognized when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant,

Interest receivable is included when receivable,

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognized on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable Activities				
Grants	44,833	867,946	912,779	943,385
Charitable Activities	4,966	-	4,966	7,644
	<u>49,799</u>	<u>867,946</u>	<u>917,745</u>	<u>951,029</u>
Voluntary Income				
Donations and legacies	15,922	-	15,922	44,739
	<u>65,721</u>	<u>867,946</u>	<u>933,667</u>	<u>995,768</u>

3 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Direct Costs (Note 4)	758	100,658	101,416	191,293
Staff Costs (Note 5)	33,586	681,556	715,142	683,959
Support Costs (Note 6)	(9,202)	109,154	99,952	103,374
Governance costs (Note 7)	-	4,370	4,370	3,693
	<u>25,142</u>	<u>895,738</u>	<u>920,880</u>	<u>982,319</u>

4 Direct Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Fundraising	22,980	31,771
Charitable Activities and Events	100,936	159,522
	<u>123,916</u>	<u>191,293</u>

5 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages & Salaries include SS & Pension costs	628,956	602,523
Employer's NI Costs	55,122	51,567
Employer's Pension Costs	31,064	29,869
	<u>715,142</u>	<u>683,959</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

6 Support Costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Professional Fees	19,887	15,716
Accounting Costs	-	192
Office Expenses	70,467	66,310
General Expenses	2,800	5,402
Other Staff Costs	6,798	15,754
	<u>99,952</u>	<u>87,620</u>

7 Governance Costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Insurance	2,970	2,318
Expenses	-	25
Independent Examiner Charges	1,400	1,350
	<u>4,370</u>	<u>3,693</u>

8 Debtors and prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accrued Income	31,194	86,295
Other Debtors	-	-
	<u>31,194</u>	<u>86,295</u>

8.1 Accrued Income

LBL Mentoring	-	300
Justice Together Initiative	31,194	20,967
Merton EIP	-	5,000
LBL Mentoring	-	56,923
Esme CCLC JTI project	-	3,105
	<u>31,194</u>	<u>86,295</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

9 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	14,907	10,059
	<u>14,907</u>	<u>10,059</u>

10 Deferred Income:

		2025	2024
		£	£
A O Shearman	Restricted	5,000	-
BBC CIN	Restricted	7,742	3,008
Blue Thread	Restricted	10,000	20,900
Esmee Fairbairn	Restricted	43,683	25,616
Justice Together Initiative	Restricted	10,000	19,756
LandAid	Restricted	15,000	-
Merton Council EIP	Restricted	5,160	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation Core	Restricted	62,500	58,000
Walcot Foundation	Restricted	23,329	5,000
LBL Resettlement Ad Grant Lambeth	Restricted	-	2,000
Trust for London	Restricted	-	20,000
UKSPF	Unrestricted	30,000	-
		<u>212,414</u>	<u>154,280</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

11 Movement of Funds

	Balances B/F at 31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances C/F at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
CAF Resilience Fund	7,155	-	-	-	7,155
Small Unrestricted Funds	13,607	16,143	1,180	-	30,930
General Fund	193,479	-	(14,124)	(244)	179,111
Donations and legacies	37,148	17,578	(198)	-	54,528
Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	-
UKSPF	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Total Unrestricted Funds	251,389	65,721	(25,142)	(244)	291,724
Restricted Funds					
BBC Children in Need Emergency	4,632	30,011	(34,643)	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	3,651	62,466	(59,316)	-	6,801
Forrester Family Trust	1,760	-	(1,765)	5	-
Hardship Funds	552	-	-	-	552
Individual Grants	3,519	14,783	(14,751)	-	3,551
Justice Together Initiative	7,236	61,262	(68,491)	-	7
LB Lambeth: Advice	(368)	10,580	(10,211)	(1)	-
London Councils Funding	13,384	305,531	(316,141)	-	2,774
Merton EIP	290	55,000	(55,223)	-	67
Paul (Core) Hamlyn Foundation	(3,659)	65,500	(65,555)	-	1,286
Paul (Youth) Hamlyn Foundation	9,297	-	(9,326)	29	-
The Blue Thread	154	25,900	(25,505)	-	549
Trust for London	5,080	20,000	(25,096)	17	-
Walcot Foundation	11	10,500	(10,206)	-	305
Wimbledon Foundation	1,061	-	(1,232)	171	-
Other Funds	(21)	-	-	21	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	15,820	(15,816)	(4)	-
Coram Children's Legal centre	-	6,335	(4,230)	-	2,105
Jack Petchey Foundation	-	1,800	(1,426)	-	374
The Swire Charitable trust	-	30,000	(30,008)	8	-
LandAid	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
LB Lambeth	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
LB Lambeth: UASC Mentoring	-	122,458	(121,799)	-	659
Leathersellers	-	20,000	(19,998)	(2)	-
Total Restricted	46,576	867,946	(895,738)	244	19,030
Funds Total Funds	297,965	933,667	(920,880)	-	310,752

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

12 Expenses List

	2025	2024
	£	£
Adult & Family Casework Salaries	240,547.58	218,146.77
Adult & Family Policy Salaries	35,249.44	6,310.50
Bank Charges	142.14	168.87
Book-keeping/Accounts Preparation	1,400.00	1,542.00
Computer Costs	265.50	-
Consultancy	-	2,000.00
Core Freelance Workers	(5,640)	5,640.00
Core Salaries inc HMRC	165,057.28	200,787.06
Fundraising	39,957.43	22,104.32
Governance	-	25.00
Immigration Advice Supervision contract	4,000.00	-
Individual hardship grants expenditure	18,132.58	20,780.00
Insurances	2,970.41	2,318.49
Interpreting	7,205.69	10,823.54
IT equipment/data for clients	-	37.00
IT Equipment/mobile phones	2,960.04	976.98
IT support/website hosting	11,679.88	9,160.45
Men's Group	4,817.62	1,216.02
Monitoring/Evaluation	12,680.90	-
Office Maintenance/cleaning	6,833.51	5,102.12
Office Rent	27,960.00	27,960.00
Office Supplies	-	392.01
Other Professional Services	63.46	892.80
Payroll Expenses	1,318.37	1,418.31
Phone Costs	8,292.54	7,379.68
Printing, Postage and Stationery	5,060.89	4,240.01
Project Activities General	4,579.48	4,460.71
Project Partner Payment	53,228.95	151,952.99
Raising funds	480.00	-
Recruitment	668.25	1,763.50
Staff Training and Supervision	13,076.51	15,845.26
Staff Travel and Subs	3,113.41	1,907.80
Subs, accreditation	5,222.40	7,601.40
Telephone	-	109.97
Trips and Events	2,799.56	5,401.24
Volunteer Costs	1,889.50	658.69
Women's group and NRPF project	-	409.40
Youth Activities (inc Summit)	5,175.93	-
Youth Casework Salaries inc HMRC	158,176.29	222,278.22
Youth Club	5,014.36	3,505.09
Youth Policy Freelance Workers	9,738.00	2,310.00
Youth Policy Salaries inc HMRC	52,638.91	14,692.56
Late payments to HMRC	14,123.76	-
Total Expenditures	920,880.57	982,318.76

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1102814

Accounts

Report & Annual Accounts

For the year ending 31 March 2024



Registered Charity Number 1102814

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Foreword from our Chair of Trustees

This year has been another which has tested the resilience and flexibility of our organisation, and we are proud of our performance in the face of huge challenges for those we work with and for the sector in which we work. The challenges faced by those we work with include increased restrictions on their access to justice and opportunity, along with the ongoing cost of living crisis, and the expected impact of the Illegal Migration Act. In response, we have ensured that we are directing our resources to those who are most marginalised and that we are constantly increasing our expertise and impact.

We recognise the vital importance of building our organisation's capacity and resilience for the future. With this in mind we focused clearly this year on improving our financial resilience, ensuring the wellbeing of our staff and volunteer team and centring and valuing the expertise of people with lived experience at all levels in our organisation.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

1137

people directly accessed our services

245

people were supported to move on from street homelessness

201

emergency grants were provided to those who were destitute

“

I'm involved in SLRA's Community Leaders programme so I can learn more about other people's stories and tell them about mine. I like to hear different stories and hear similar ones, similar problems. It relieves stress and problems and we can find out how to help each other.

Ana, Community Leader

”



Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Company number

5001950

Charity number

1102814

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Trustee Board comprises the Chair and the Treasurer supported by at least three trustees. All trustees are elected and confirmed in post at each Annual General Meeting. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end are as follows:

Lulsegged Abebe

Jennifer Brown

Laura Harrison – Chair (Appointed November 2023)

Margaret Johnston

Pratha Mahendran – Treasurer (Appointed March 2024)

Habtom Okube (Appointed March 2024)

Mandeep Soor

Alex Sutton

Alan Wood – Treasurer (resigned March 2024)

Senior Management

Celia Sands, CEO

Registered Office and operational address

The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, London, SW16 2PJ

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton

Granters Community Centre 73-79 Oakhill Road

Sutton

SM1 3AA

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc

117 Balham High Road, London, SW12 9AS

Adult and Family Services

515 people

accessed our advice and casework, education and wellbeing services for adults and families.

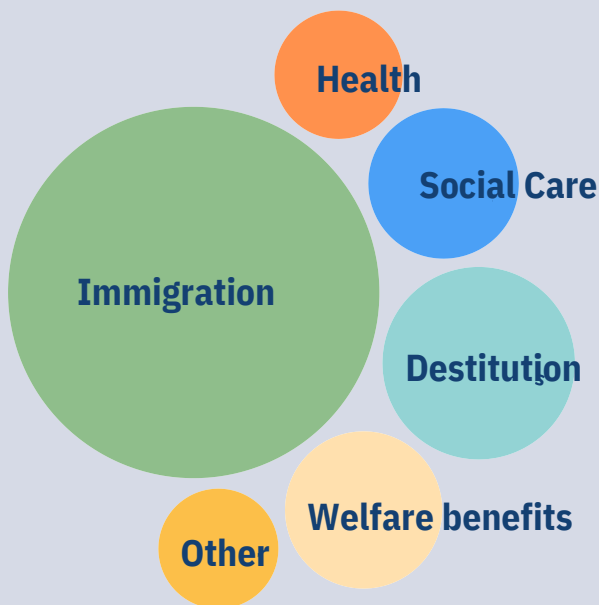
411 people

were supported with specialist immigration advice and casework.

137 people

joined our **community groups**, learning new skills, taking part in creative projects and wellbeing activities.

The main issues we supported with during the year were:



SIAS: Supporting homeless migrants off the streets

SLRA is leading the GLA funded Sub-regional Immigration Advice Service partnership across South West London. We're working with South West London Law Centres, with specialist homelessness services and Local Authority homelessness teams across the region to bring accessible, high quality immigration advice to people who are street homeless. Many of those reached by the project have been rough sleeping for years, without access to the advice and support they need in order to move on. We provided vital immigration advice and casework to **213 homeless people** in 2023 and succeeded in progressing the immigration cases of 86% of these.

Nest Project: Early Intervention to build family and community resilience

53 families were involved in our Nest Project, which works collaboratively in four local community settings. The project aims to reach families with the immigration advice and information they need before their insecure immigration status causes them to fall into crisis. The project provides vital immigration casework, as well as building links with communities and increasing the knowledge of staff and volunteers in the settings through training and workshops. The project aims to build community by reducing stigma, increasing knowledge and fostering self advocacy and community organising skills.



I don't know where I would be without SLRA. I think I would still be living on the street at the age of 70 years old! You are the people who helped to move things on for me! I still love coming there whenever I can.

Service user



Services for young people aged 14 to 24 years

426 young people

accessed our services during the year.

364 young people

received specialist, holistic one to one casework support for a range of issues including immigration, age assessment, trafficking and criminal exploitation, welfare benefits and social care.

123 young people

attended our weekly Youth Club.

76 young people

took part in trips, activities and events.

Early Intervention Project

Our Early Intervention Project, funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, has seen us developing a collaborative approach to improving outcomes for young migrants who are looked after. We have worked with Merton Council to develop an effective model of early intervention; providing immigration advice and casework, along with training for Children's Services team members. This collaborative working ensures that young people have access to impactful support and good legal representation as soon as they arrive in the UK or their immigration issue is identified. Evaluation has shown a significant improvement in young people's experience of the asylum or immigration process and in knowledge and good practice among Children's Services professionals. Merton Council agrees and has now commissioned this service for the next two years.

37 young people secured refugee status and were able to move on with their plans for work or study.

73% have increased their independence and social activities

66% of young people supported have improved emotional wellbeing

69% say they have become more confident



It was life saving for me and I don't say it lightly. I don't know the country very well; I don't know the language. You can imagine I was completely at a loss, but they were kind, helpful, friendly and taking me to these places and also, I wasn't isolated by participating in activities so it was huge for me.

Young Service User



Policy and Participation

Supporting Local Authorities to adopt the Immigration Support Pledge

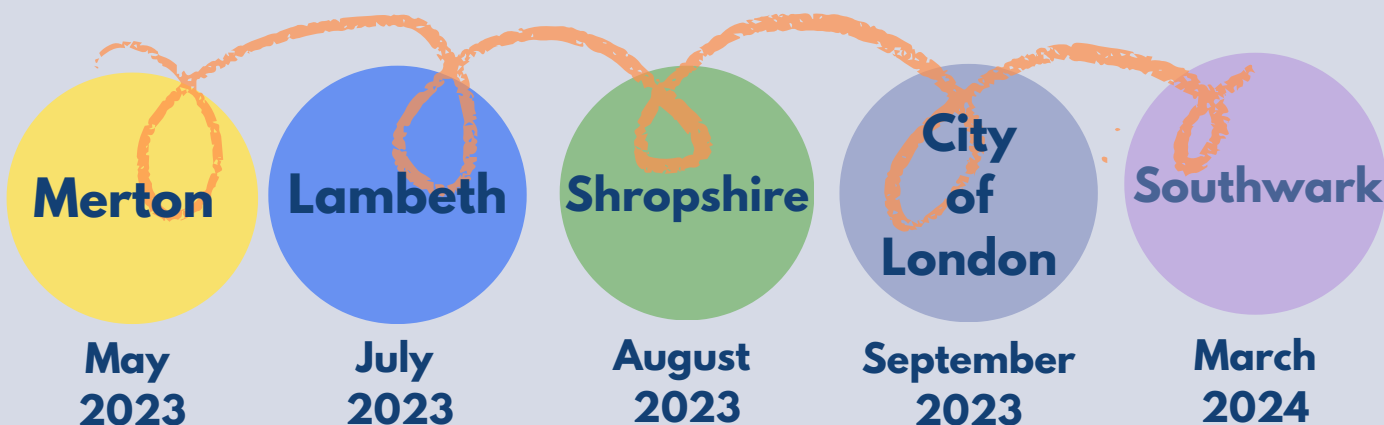
SLRA is working with charities across the UK to call on local authorities to sign an immigration support pledge, which commits them to identifying all looked after children and care leavers with immigration and nationality issues. Local authorities that sign up also pledge to connect young migrants with good quality legal support as soon as possible, to take a proactive and informed role in supporting young people through any immigration applications and appeals, enabling those who are eligible to apply for permanent status and British citizenship.

We recognise that there are lots of excellent examples of social care practice in this area across the UK. For these local authorities, adopting the immigration support pledge is an opportunity to build upon this and embed it within local policy and processes.

We also recognise that many local authorities may be near the beginning of a journey to build systems and new practices which meet the specific needs of non-British children. Signing the immigration support pledge is an important first step.

To support the implementation of the commitments in the immigration support pledge, we have co-developed a learning package for local authorities. The package includes a [training video](#) developed by young leaders from SLRA and Coram Young Citizens. This resource illustrates why the immigration support pledge is so important, and the difference adopting this kind of good practice can have on the lives of young migrants in care

Local authorities that have adopted the pledge so far:



Community Leaders

41 Community Leaders

took part in our program to develop leadership skills and organise to influence the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of people in their communities.



Helping to shape Lambeth Borough of Sanctuary

SLRA Community Leaders who are Lambeth residents have been involved in Lambeth's successful bid to become a borough of sanctuary, and are now involved in shaping this important initiative.

Four SLRA Community Leaders sit on the Borough of Sanctuary Forum; helping to make sure that Lambeth is a welcoming borough for all sanctuary seekers. Community Leader Imran took a turn of chairing the forum for six months, and is using his experience to support and encourage others to take on roles like this in the community.

No Recourse to Public Funds

NRPF restrictions have affected the lives of many of our Community Leaders and their families. Leaders are continuing to influence locally to improve the support and increase the advice available to families in need. This includes a focus group that will work with Lambeth to improve the information for people with NRPF, and professionals supporting them, provided on their webpage.

Our series of community education videos, co-produced with Community Leaders, about the issues of 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF), 'Section 17 support' and 'Immigration Advice' are being used by agencies across London to inform and empower.

Legal Aid Crisis

SLRA is partnering with Migrants Organise to campaign for review of the Legal Aid system. Our Community Leaders are learning about the Legal Aid crisis and how this is impacting them and others in their communities. Our Leaders aim to join forces with others across the country to campaign for change. In the coming months our Leaders and other groups plan to take action, starting off with a 'Take your MP to work' campaign at the beginning of next year.



Paulina's Story

Paulina, a 17 year old unaccompanied minor seeking asylum in the UK, approached SLRA as she had been incorrectly assessed as an adult by Social Services and informed that she was to be moved into adult Home Office accommodation in a matter of days. This often happens to young people whose age is incorrectly assessed and means they end up in unsuitable accommodation where they are at risk.

Soa had been trafficked to the UK, after a stranger promised her a chance to go back to school - what she had always wanted to do. She found herself far from home, working in a house in London, for a woman she didn't know. When she became pregnant the woman made her leave, she now had nowhere to go and she feared approaching the authorities.

The caseworker helped Paulina register at college and encouraged her to attend SLRA's youth club. Despite her worries and challenges, Paulina was determined to learn new skills and meet other young people. Soon, Paulina joined our Youth Participation group to speak up on issues affecting young migrants. She even joined a residential trip during the summer. Paulina's caseworker also applied for grants for her so that she could travel to college and solicitor appointments.

Soa is taking every opportunity to study, including joining our ESOL classes, taking part in our Community Leaders workshops and writing letters to her MP. Soa now has safe accommodation, her solicitor is progressing her immigration case and her child, Sami, has just celebrated their first birthday. Sami loves books and dinosaurs.

Soa's Story

We received a call from a hospital about Soa, a young woman who had just given birth but couldn't be discharged because she had nowhere to go. Soa had our number saved in her phone. Someone she met at an antenatal class had given it to her.

Paulina arrived at our office anxious and distressed. Her SLRA caseworker listened to her worries and explored options with her so they could work out a plan together. They decided to refer Paulina to a Community Care solicitor to get advice on challenging her age assessment and to support her with her asylum claim. Over the following months, Paulina's caseworker remained a consistent and supportive presence - the only reliable source of support Paulina had when she was moved into hotel accommodation in a new area.

SLRA supported Soa to find a lawyer, and referred her to organisations which provide specialist therapeutic support and practical help with her baby. She has also been recognised as a potential survivor of modern slavery.

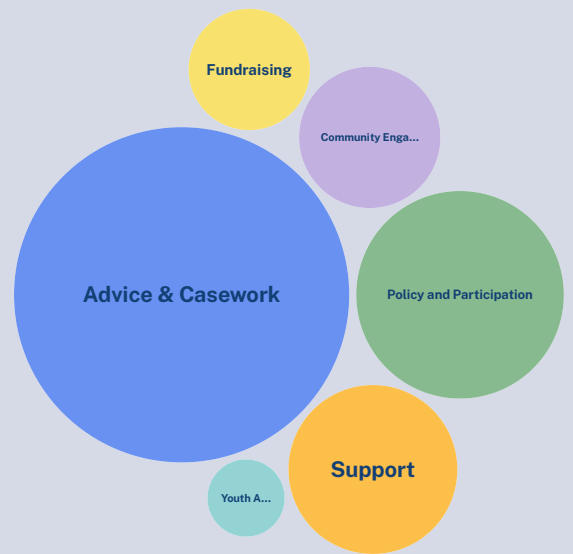
After four months in inappropriate hotel accommodation, Paulina was moved back into care in South London. She also got the good news that she had been granted refugee status, something that can take much longer without the specialist support Paulina received from her caseworker. Now she has her refugee status, Paulina plans to continue studying alongside working. She says she will build on the skills she gained as a youth participation group member to pursue a career in marketing.

Our Finances

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 2024

£995,768
TOTAL INCOME

£982,319
TOTAL EXPENDITURE



With thanks to the funders who supported our work in 2023/24 including

BBC Children in Need
Community Justice Fund
Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Henry Smith Charity
Impact on Urban Health
Jack Petchey Foundation
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust

Justice Together Initiative
National Lottery Community Fund
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Sir Walter St John's Educational Charity
Steel Charitable Trust
Trust for London
The Walcot Foundation
The Wimbledon Foundation

and to the individuals, schools, churches and community groups who ran, shopped, saved and organised events in order to support our work.

All photos by Federico Rivas



Financial Report of the Board of Trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Board presents the financial report and statements for South London Refugee Association for the year ended 31st March 2024. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements also comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

South London Refugee Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee, having no share capital, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21st November 2013. The liability of the members, who are the Trustees, is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Article of Association there can be no less than three Trustees.

Trustee vacancies are filled by personal recommendations from current trustees or an advertisement placed for suitable candidates. In both cases, meetings with the Chair of Trustees are held and references taken up, details of the prospective Trustee are circulated and the candidate is invited to attend a Board Meeting. If all Trustees agree, then the candidate is invited to join the Board.

Trustees are inducted into the service; spending time with the CEO, learning about the organisation and meeting staff and volunteers. New Trustees receive an information pack including latest audited annual accounts, Memorandum, Articles of Association and most recently published service reports.

Financial Review

Income

The results for the year end and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements. The Charity's total income for the year amounted to £995,768 (2023- £911,577) against which £982,319 (2023- £913,881) was expended during the year, leaving net income of £13,449. The result for the year was a surplus of £13,449 which, combined with our funds brought forward of £284,516 gives us total funds of £297,965 at 31 March 2024. Out of these funds £46,535 are restricted for specific purposes set by the donors while £251,389 represents our unrestricted reserves. Since the Balance Sheet date no significant changes have taken place.

Our accounts reflect the careful budget setting and regular monitoring which the CEO, Treasurer and Trustee Board carry out regularly. This has allowed us to maintain our income at the level planned and to continue to steadily increase our unrestricted reserves. This in turn has allowed us to continue to work towards our aims and strategic priorities.

Income (Cont.d)

SLRA continues to secure grants from Trusts and Foundations to fund activities and services. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the Charity is doing with the local refugee, asylum seeker and vulnerable migrant population. The Trustees are, however, continuing to take steps to diversify the Charity's income in order to ensure long term sustainability. We have achieved progress with this already with a substantial increase in the proportion of funding received from local and national government sources and from community donors.

During the year the Charity Trustees and CEO have monitored the financial position of the service to ensure that the Charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted are correctly applied and accounted for. The Trustee Board regularly reviews the use of our resources in light of changing needs, and with a view to the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Our Future Plans

Our strategic plan focuses on ensuring that we continue to provide and develop our accessible and effective frontline services while developing the capacity of those we work with to participate in decision making and to influence the decisions that affect their lives. We plan to continue to deliver vital specialist services to meet the complex needs of our service users while further developing our areas of expertise, particularly in relation to working in cross sector partnership, providing specialist legal advice in community settings and working with local authorities to improve the outcomes for young migrants in their care.

We will continue to develop the resilience of our organisation and build while sharing our expertise through the provision of training and development of partnership with non specialist community organisations.

We are clear that in order to create long-term change for the people we support, we must achieve changes to the policy and practice that affects their lives. We will continue to invest in our policy and influencing work, drawing on our front line experience and the evidence we collect in order to do this. People with lived experience of the immigration system will continue to be at the heart of this work.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Trustees aim is to have cash reserves to keep a minimum of three months operating costs, building to a maximum of six months when funds allow. The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually by the Trustee Board. At 31 March 2024 unrestricted reserves were £251,389. In the financial year 2024/25 we plan to focus on increasing our unrestricted funding for the year add to these reserves in order to increase current reserves levels.

Grant making Policy

SLRA does not provide grants directly as a method of furthering its charitable objectives. The Charity applies for and distributes hardship payments according to need and the criteria of the donors. We are particularly grateful to ACTS 435, Positive Action In Housing and generous individuals who have contributed to our hardship funds. We also provide hardship payments to destitute residents in our housing projects. In 2023/24 we distributed a total of £20,780 in individual hardship grants.

Trustees Responsibilities

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton was appointed as Independent Examiners of the charity at the Annual General Meeting which took place 16th April 2024.

Pratha Mahendran

Pratha Mahendran (Dec 11, 2024 20:25 GMT)

Pratha Mahendran (**Treasurer**)

Laura Harrison

Laura Harrison (Dec 10, 2024 18:54 GMT)

Laura Harrison (**Chair**)

Date: 9th December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South London Refugee Association

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent review

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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or

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

Name: Dunstanette Kuti FCCA MCSI

Position: Community Accountant, Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre, 73-79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3AA

Signature: 
Dunstanette Kuti (Dec 11, 2024 13:50 GMT)

Date: 11/12/2024

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming resources					
Income from					
Charitable activities		7,644	943,385	951,029	956,818
Voluntary income		44,739	-	44,739	34,759
Total	2	52,383	943,385	995,768	991,577
Resources expended					
Expenditure on					
Raising funds		360	31,441	31,771	32,206
Charitable activities		14,627	935,891	950,5459	881,675
Total	3	14,987	967,332	982,319	913,881
Net income/(expenditure)		37,396	(23,947)	13,449	77,696
Transfers between funds		14,132	(14,132)	-	-
Net movement in funds		51,528	(38,079)	13,449	77,696
Total funds brought forward		199,861	84,655	284,516	206,820
Total funds carried forward		251,389	46,576	297,965	284,516

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore, no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 24 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	8	86,295	45,700
Cash at bank and in Hand		376,009	360,766
Total current assets		462,304	406,466
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	10,059	1,400
Deferred Income	10	154,280	120,550
Total current liabilities		164,339	121,950
Total assets less current liabilities		297,965	284,516
Total net assets		297,965	284,516
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted - General		251,389	199,861
Restricted		46,535	84,655
Total funds	11	297,965	284,516

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Company Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities 9 effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Laura Harrison

Laura Harrison (Dec 10, 2024 18:54 GMT)

Laura Harrison (**Chair**)

Pratha Mahendran

Pratha Mahendran (Dec 11, 2024 20:25 GMT)

Pratha Mahendran (**Treasurer**)

The notes on pages 18 to 24 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015), effective January 2015.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of SLRA.

Restricted funds are made up of grants received for the specific projects including salary payments and may only be applied for this purpose. Any changes to the agreed budgets must be agreed with the funders considered before being actioned.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when SLRA has entitlement to in the income and there is a certainty of receipt, and the amount is quantifiable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts are included when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognized when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Interest receivable is included when receivable.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognized on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable Activities				
Grants	-	943,385	943,385	956,818
Charitable Activities	7,644	-	7,644	-
	7,644	943,385	951,029	956,818
Voluntary Income				
Donations and legacies	44,739	-	44,739	34,759
	52,383	943,385	995,768	991,577

3 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Direct Costs (Note 4)	191,293	168,303
Staff Costs (Note 5)	699,713	643,469
Support Costs (Note 6)	87,620	97,710
Governance costs (Note 7)	3,693	4,399
	982,319	913,881

4 Direct Costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising	31,771	32,206
Charitable Activities and Events	159,933	136,097
	191,293	168,303

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

5 Staff Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & Salaries include SS & Pension costs	602,523	555,126
Employer's NI Costs	51,567	21,815
Employer's Pension Costs	29,869	50,693
Staff Training	13,845	14,905
Other Staff Costs	1,909	930
	<u>699,713</u>	<u>643,469</u>

6 Support Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Professional Fees	15,716	24,854
Accounting Costs	192	852
Office Expenses	66,310	68,315
General Expenses	5,402	3,689
	<u>87,620</u>	<u>97,710</u>

7 Governance Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Insurance	2,318	3,224
Expenses	25	-
Independent Examiner Fees	1,350	1,175
	<u>3,693</u>	<u>4,399</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

8 Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued Income (8.1)	86,295	45,700
Other Debtors	-	-
	<u>86,295</u>	<u>45,700</u>

8.1 Accrued Income

London Borough of Lambeth	-	5,500
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	40,200
London Borough of Lambeth (DfE)	300	-
Justice Together Initiative	20,967	-
London Borough of Merton	5,000	-
LBL Mentoring	56,923	-
Coram Children's Legal Centre (JTI)	3,105	-
	<u>86,295</u>	<u>45,700</u>

9 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	10,059	1,400
	<u>10,059</u>	<u>1,400</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Deferred Income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Coram Children's Legal Centre (JTI)	-	8,650
Forrester Family Trust	-	40,000
Henry Smith Charity	-	24,452
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	-	20,435
London Borough of Lambeth (DfE)	-	335
London Councils	-	3,018
BBC Children in Need	3,008	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	25,616	3,960
Justice Together Initiative	19,756	12,177
London Borough of Lambeth Resettlement	2,000	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	58,000	1,296
The Blue Thread	20,900	6,227
Trust for London	20,000	-
Walcot Foundation	5,000	-
	<u>154,280</u>	<u>120,550</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

11 Movement of Funds

	B/F at 31 March 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	C/F at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
CAF Resilience Fund	7,155	-	-	-	7,155
Small Unrestricted Funds	13,340	7,644	(7,377)	-	13,607
General Fund	179,366	-	-	14,113	193,479
The Albert Hunt Trust	-	7,000	(7,019)	19	-
Donations and legacies	-	37,739	(592)	-	37,148
Total Unrestricted Funds	199,861	52,383	(14,987)	14,132	251,389
Restricted Funds					
BBC Children in Need	-	25,872	(21,240)	-	4,632
Community Justice Fund	4,010	-	(4,010)	-	-
Cycle Scheme	-	-	(2,400)	2,400	-
Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust	-	12,000	(11,992)	(8)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	12,315	86,994	(95,658)	-	3,651
Forrester Family Trust	-	41,760	(40,000)	-	1,760
Hardship Funds	-	1,860	(1,308)	-	552
Henry Smith Charity	238	54,452	(54,701)	10	-
Individual Grants	2,296	18,558	(17,335)	-	3,519
Jack Petchey Foundation	14,255	11,920	(26,246)	72	-
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	-	20,435	(20,493)	57	-
Justice Together Initiative	13,475	115,340	(121,579)	-	7,236
London Borough of Lambeth (Resettlement)	-	12,300	(12,668)	-	(368)
London Borough of Lambeth (Warm Spaces)	-	2,000	(2,031)	31	-
London Borough of Lambeth (DfE)	-	52,759	(62,851)	10,092	-
London Councils	-	283,018	(269,634)	-	13,384
London Borough of Merton EIP	-	5,000	(4,710)	-	290
Migrant Help Community Grant	-	5,000	(5,084)	84	-
NLCF Cost of Living Fund	-	48,298	(48,297)	(1)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	1,018	-	-	-	1,018
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (Core)	-	12,000	(15,659)	-	(3,659)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (Youth)	-	29,629	(21,350)	-	8,279
Room For Refugee Grants	-	1,300	(1,700)	400	-
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	32,804	-	-	(32,804)	-
The Blue Thread	4,246	15,827	(19,919)	-	154
Trust for London	-	40,000	(34,920)	-	5,080
Walcot Foundation	-	10,000	(9,989)	-	11
Wimbledon Foundation	-	12,550	(11,489)	-	1,061
Coram Children's Legal Centre (JTI)	-	24,514	(30,068)	5,554	-
Total Restricted Funds	84,655	943,385	(967,332)	(14,113)	46,535
Total Funds	284,516	995,768	(982,319)	-	297,965

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Expenditure list

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Adult Casework Salaries	-	218,147	218,147	172,907
Adult Policy Salaries	-	6,311	6,311	156,878
Bank Charges	169	-	169	174
Book-keeping/Accounts Preparation	-	1,542	1,542	2,027
Consultancy	-	2,000	2,000	19,512
Core Salaries	3,522	187,265	190,787	157,991
Destitution Fund	-	-	-	830
Development	-	333	333	-
Food Bank	-	-	-	1,595
Fundraising	360	31,411	31,771	32,206
Governance	-	25	25	-
Immigration Advice Supervision	-	-	-	4,000
Individual hardship grants expenditure	67	20,513	20,580	14,851
Insurances	-	2,318	2,318	3,224
Interpreting	-180	11,004	10,824	5,342
IT equipment/data for clients	-	37	37	121
IT Equipment/mobile phones	78	899	977	3,279
IT support/website hosting	852	8,309	9,160	10,177
Materials and Equipment	-	-	-	270
Men's Group	70	1,146	1,216	1,379
Office Maintenance/cleaning	733	4,369	5,102	4,535
Office Rent	-	27,960	27,960	29,710
Office Supplies	220	172	392	2,159
Other Professional Services	-	893	893	-
Payroll Expenses	-	1,418	1,418	1,409
Phone Costs	273	7,107	7,380	7,165
Printing, Postage and Stationery	867	3,373	4,240	3,802
Project Activities General	1,019	3,442	4,461	16,535
Specialist Advice Services	-	151,953	151,953	114,081
Recruitment	-	1,764	1,764	1,989
Staff Training and Supervision	2400	11,446	13,845	14,905
Staff Travel and Subs	999	909	1,908	930
Subs, accreditation	1,086	6,515	7,601	3,838
Telephone	-	110	110	-
Travel and Accommodation	-	-	-	257
Trips and Events	262	5,140	5,401	2,762
Volunteer Costs	190	468	659	2,513
Women's group	-	409	409	1,741
Youth Casework Salaries	-	222,278	222,278	95,878
Youth Club	-	3,505	3,505	4,325
Youth Policy Freelance Workers	-	2,310	2,310	-
Youth Policy Salaries	-	14,693	14,693	17,915
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-	-	-	670
Freelance workers (general)	-	5,640	5,640	-
Supervision	2,000	-	2,000	-
Individual grants	-	200	200	-
	14,987	967,332	982,319	913,881

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1102814

Accounts



SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2023

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Foreword from our Chair of Trustees & CEO

This has been another year which has tested the resilience and flexibility of our organisation, and we are proud of our performance in the face of huge challenges for those we work with and for the sector in which we work. We have responded to the impact of those challenges for those we work with, including increased restrictions on their access to justice and opportunity, along with the ongoing aftermath of the covid crisis and an emerging cost of living crisis, directing our resources and expertise to those who are most marginalised and who are experiencing severe hardship and crisis.

This year we recognised the vital importance of building our organisation's capacity and resilience to ensure that we are able to continue to develop our services, involve service users at all levels of our organisation, and be resilient in the coming months and years.

This year we were able once again to secure the funds we needed to meet the targets identified in our Strategic Plan 2020 to 2023. We were able to secure the increased income we needed in line with our plans to increase capacity and expertise, develop our local organising and influencing work, and ensure that our staff are rewarded and valued. As we move forward, we are preparing for the challenges that we anticipate will be felt across the voluntary and community sector in raising the funds we will need to respond to the impact of the Illegal Immigration Bill. We have been working to improve how we evidence the impact of our work, and we plan to use this evidence to continue to diversify our sources of funding and to clearly demonstrate our impact to existing and new funders and supporters.

As we look towards the future, the impact of the Illegal Immigration Bill and continuing cost of living crisis mean that our services have never been more needed. As we prepare to launch our new strategic plan for the coming three years, our focus is firmly on reaching those in our local area who are most at risk with the specialist advice and support they need. We will continue to lead the south west London partnership of the Sub Regional Immigration Advice Project, securing access to justice and support for street homeless migrants, many of whom have been unable to access the immigration advice they need for many years. We will also further develop our immigration outreach work – taking advice to people where and when they need it. And while our frontline advice and casework will always be at the centre of our work, we will continue to build on the successes we have had this year in supporting local people with lived experience to influence the decisions and policies that affect their lives. Our participation work with young people will continue to centre on supporting more Local Authorities to sign up to the Immigration Pledge for young people in care.



.....
Laura Harrison
Chair of Trustees



.....
Cella Sands
CEO

Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The Charity number is 1102814. The Company number is 5001950.

Director and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Management Board comprises the Chair and the Treasurer supported by at least three trustees. All trustees are elected and confirmed in post at each Annual General Meetings. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end are as follows:

Mandeep Soor

Alan Wood – Treasurer

Margaret Johnston

Alex Sutton

Lulsegged Abebe

Sophie Hobson (to March 2023)

Stuart Barker

Jennifer Brown- Chair (to November 2023)

Laura Harrison – Chair (from November 2023)

Senior Management

Celia Sands, CEO

Registered Office and principal place of business

The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, London, SW16 2PJ

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre
73-79 Oakhill Road
Sutton
SM1 3AA

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc
117 Balham High Road, London, SW12 9AS

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES for the year ending 31 March 2023

The Board presents the report and financial statements for the South London Refugee Association for the year ended 31st March 2023. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements also comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by a memorandum and articles of association dated 21st November 2013. The liability of the members, who are the Trustees, is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Trustees

Mandeep Soor
Alan Wood – Treasurer
Margaret Johnston
Alex Sutton
Lulsegged Abebe
Stuart Barker
Sophie Hobson (to May 2023)
Jennifer Brown – Chair (to November 2023)
Laura Harrison – Chair (from November 2023)

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Article of Association there can be no less than three Trustees.

Trustee vacancies are filled by personal recommendations from current trustees or an advertisement can be placed requesting suitable candidates. In both cases, meetings with the Chair of Trustees are held and references taken up, details of the prospective Trustee are circulated and the candidate is invited to attend a Board Meeting. If all Trustees agree, then the candidate is invited to join the Board.

Trustees are inducted into the service; spending time with the CEO, taking time to learn about the organisation and meeting the staff and volunteers. New Trustees receive an information pack about the organisation, including a copy of the latest audited annual accounts, a copy of the Memorandum, Articles of Association and most recently published service reports.

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)

For the year ending 31 March 2023

Organisation and Risk Management

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets every two months. It is responsible for ensuring that there are written financial procedures in place and that these are adhered to.

A CEO is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and practice related issues.

The SLRA Trustee Board ensures that the area of operational risk is reviewed regularly and has in place a strategy document that is updated annually. The SLRA Trustee Board also receives a quarterly report on the organisation's performance against the milestones and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document.:

The Charity's objects are to relieve poverty and distress by assisting and supporting refugees and other migrants, primarily but not exclusively those living, working or studying in South London; refugees who are outside their country of origin through fear of persecution, whether or not they have been granted asylum, and migrants who are vulnerable and find their needs are not catered for through mainstream services.

Our aims

Our Strategic Plan 2020 to 2023 identifies the following aims for this period:

- Reduce the impact of hardship and poverty.
- Increase migrants' capacity to advocate for themselves to gain access to justice.
- Use our learning to amplify the voices of those we work with to influence policy and practice.
- Involve our service users in decisions and actions at all levels of our organisation.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)
For the year ending 31 March 2023

Objectives and Activities

Summary of main activities of the charity in relation to its objectives

The principal activities of the organisation are to develop and provide services and activities which support refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants who are in crisis or at risk.

Most of those we worked with this year were in crisis - experiencing severe hardship and destitution due to irregular or insecure immigration status. Our free, high-quality advice has allowed people to resolve their immigration issues and move on from destitution.

Involvement in our groups and activities has allowed people of all ages to gain the knowledge and confidence needed to advocate for themselves and others. We have supported participants to come together to challenge the injustice and discrimination they face.

Advice & Casework service

SLRA's advice and casework services provide specialist advice to migrants who are in crisis or at risk. Our specialist teams provide accessible support to adults, families and young people who are in crisis.

We are regulated to provide immigration advice to OISC Level 3 and hold the Advice Quality Standard.

This year the hardship of those we work with has been compounded by many factors. These include very long delays to Home Office decision making, the ongoing lack of accessible free legal advice along with the ongoing effects of the covid pandemic and the anxiety caused by uncertainty as the Illegal Immigration Bill made its way through parliament. This has meant that demand for our services has further increased and that we have aimed our resources at those who are most marginalised including street homeless migrants, families with young children who are destitute and those who have particular vulnerabilities including those who are older, and people with chronic physical or mental health conditions. As always, our specialist youth service has provided impactful casework support to young people, mainly unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who have few sources of accessible and consistent support.

This year we provided specialist advice and casework to 761 people.

Following a successful pilot funded by the Greater London Authority, SLRA has taken on the role of lead partner for the south west subregion for the Sub Regional Immigration Advice Service. This three year service will see SLRA work in partnership with South West London Law centre to provide immigration advice to homeless migrants across the south west London boroughs as part of a city wide initiative again funded by the GLA. We are working closely with local specialist homelessness service providers, providing training and second tier advice for staff within these services, as well as reaching vulnerable rough sleeping migrants with immigration advice that makes a huge difference to their lives, allowing them to access short and long term support and to move on from street homelessness. In many cases those supported through this service have been homeless and destitute for many months or years.

We have continued and developed our partnership work with a range of agencies and services, including Merton and Southwark Children's Services with whom we are continuing to develop

our early intervention service for young migrants who are looked after. We are also working with specialist homeless services across south west London to ensure that we reach those who are street homeless as a result of immigration issues and we are working in a range of community settings; bringing vital immigration advice to families in need of this.

Other areas of specialist knowledge and practice we have developed include our advocacy and participation work with young people. Young migrants in care and young migrant care leavers have been at the heart of our work to advocate for better support for all young migrants in care. We worked with Coram Children's Legal Centre to carry out research and develop best practice guidelines in this area and in early 2022 we published a report '*Taking Care: How Local Authorities can best address immigration issues of children in care*'. We will be continuing work on this to support local authorities across the country to adopt a pledge through which local councils can commit to best practice in this area.

Social and Wellbeing Support

We have provided a wide range of flexible and accessible opportunities for service users to build supportive connections, access practical and emotional support, access specialist health and mental health advice and referrals and enjoy a range of social activities. Over 400 people have accessed this support this year.

Our weekly ESOL classes have been very popular this year with 47 people attending classes.

Training

We have provided training to increase the knowledge and understanding of professionals in other organisations, including training for social workers and workers within homelessness specialist services, enabling them to better identify the needs of, and provide support for, migrants and refugees in South London.

Training is an important part of opportunity and support we provide to those of our service users who choose to get involved in our 'Community Leaders' programme. This programme aims to support people with lived experience of the immigration system to gain knowledge, skills and confidence they need in order to advocate for themselves and for others, and to influence the local decisions and policies that affect their lives. Some of our Community Leaders are using their skills as members of the Lambeth Borough of Sanctuary forum.

Policy and Participation

We are committed to enabling and supporting those we work with to influence the policies that impact their lives.

Our participation work with young migrants who are looked after or are leavers has enabled the development of the immigration pledge. Local Authorities adopting the pledge are committing to building systems and practices which meet the specific needs of non-British children. These systems and practices help to ensure better outcomes for all non-British young people who are looked after. So far, four Local Authorities have signed up to the pledge with many more working towards doing so.

Many of our Community Leaders are involved in influencing local policy. They will continue to work together to campaign for more accessible, free immigration advice for those in need and to challenge policies such as the no recourse to public funds restriction on leave at both local and national levels.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and used this to help them plan current and future activities. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the Charity at least annually. This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the Trustees ensure the Charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated charitable purpose.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and Outcomes

In considering our key objectives, the Trustees have taken into account the following factors:

- The profile, numbers and needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who are at risk in the local area.
- The provision of accessible, specialist services available to the people we work with within our local area and the gaps in this provision.
- External factors such as changes in national and local government policies and procedures.
- Feedback from all our stakeholders.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

1086 people benefitted from our services.

761 people were provided with vital specialist advice or casework.

430 people were supported to move on from homelessness.

528 people received specialist advice which resolved their immigration or asylum issues.

351 people accessed groups, activities and trips.

118 people were supported by our foodbank when they found themselves in crisis.

Our youth team provided specialist youth casework to 315 of the most vulnerable young migrants this year. Most were unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people. Our specialist caseworkers provided holistic support to resolve issues including homelessness, health and access to education as well as providing immigration advice.

Financial Review

for the year ending 31 March 2023

The results for the year end and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements.

The Charity's total income for the year amounted to £991,577 (2022- £599,448) against which £913,881 (2022- £662,051) was expended during the year, leaving net income of £77,696. The result for the year was a surplus of £77,696 which, combined with our funds brought forward £206,820 gives us total funds of £284,516 at 31 March 2023. Out of these funds £84,655 are restricted for specific purposes set by the donors while £199,861 represents our unrestricted reserves. Since the Balance Sheet date no significant changes have taken place.

Our accounts reflect the careful budget setting and regular monitoring which the CEO, Treasurer and Trustee Board carry out regularly. This has allowed us to ensure effective use of our resources throughout the year and the ability to expand and develop services in order to respond to changing needs.

SLRA continues to rely mainly on grants from Trusts and Foundations to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the Charity is doing with the local refugee, asylum seeker and vulnerable migrant population. The Trustees are, however, continuing to take steps to diversify the Charity's income in order to ensure long term sustainability. Some progress in this is already evident with a substantial increase in the proportion of funding received this year from individual and community donors.

During the year the Charity Trustees and CEO have monitored the financial position of the service to ensure that the Charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted are correctly applied and accounted for. With careful monitoring and planned spending of the funds available this year we have been able to increase our free reserves. The Trustee Board regularly reviews the use of our resources in light of changing needs, and with a view to the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Our Future Plans

In 2023/24 we will launch our new three-year Strategic Plan, to ensure that frontline services and community building remain core to our work and purpose. Under our new strategic plan, we will continue to deliver vital specialist services to meet the complex needs of our service users. We will further develop our areas of expertise, particularly in relation to working in cross sector partnership, providing specialist legal advice flexibly, in order to reach those who are most marginalised and working with local authorities to improve the outcomes for young migrants in their care.

We will continue to develop the resilience of our organisation through developing training and support for our staff team and maintaining our specialist expertise and position of trust within the migrant communities we work with.

We are clear that in order to create long-term change for the people we support, we must achieve changes to the policy and practice that affects their lives. We will invest in our policy and influencing work, drawing on our front line experience and the evidence we collect in order to do this. We will develop our collaborative and partnership working in order to maximise our impact. People with lived experience of the immigration system will continue to be at the heart of this work.

**SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)
For the year ending 31 March 2023**

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Trustees aim is to have cash reserves to keep a minimum of three months operating costs, building to a maximum of six months when funds allow. The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually by the Trustee Board.

At 31 March 2023 unrestricted reserves were £199,861. Trustees have undertaken a thorough review of the level of reserves required to meet requirements, paying particular attention to the projected longer term impacts. In the financial year 2023/24 we plan to add to these reserves in order to increase current reserves levels.

Grant making Policy

SLRA does not provide grants directly as a method of furthering its charitable objectives. The Charity applies for and distributes hardship payments according to need and the criteria of the donors. We are particularly grateful to London Catalyst, Samaritan Grant, ACTS 435, Positive Action In Housing and generous individuals who have contributed to our hardship funds. We also provide hardship payments to destitute residents in our housing projects. In 2022/23 we distributed a total of £14,851 in individual hardship grants.

Trustees Responsibilities

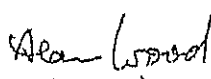
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing those Financial Statements the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner

A resolution proposing Community Action Sutton be appointed as Independent Examiners of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.


Alan Wood (Treasurer)


Laura Harrison (Chair)

Date: 7th December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of South London Refugee Association

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 set out on pages 16 to 24 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 14 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent review

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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

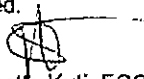
Independent Examiner's statement

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 requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or

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


Name: Dunstanette Kuli FCCA MCSI
Position: Community Accountant
Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre,
73-79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey,
SM1 3AA

Date: 11/12/2023

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Charitable Activities		108,940	847,878	956,818	531,681
Voluntary Income		34,759	-	34,769	67,767
Total Income	2	143,699	847,878	991,577	599,448
Expenditure					
Fundraising		25,812	6,394	32,206	26,975
Charitable Activities		99,012	782,663	881,675	635,076
Total Expenditure	3	124,824	789,057	913,881	662,051
Net Income / (Expenditure)		18,875	58,821	77,696	(62,602)
Transfers between funds		20,421	(20,421)	-	-
Total Funds brought forward		160,565	46,255	206,820	269,422
Total Funds carried forward	9	199,861	84,655	284,516	206,820

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these accounts.

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

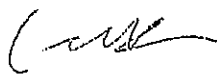
	Note		2023 £		2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS:					
Cash at bank and in hand		360,766		425,908	
Accrued income	7	<u>45,700</u>		<u>-</u>	
			406,466		425,906
LIABILITIES:					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	1,400		1,150	
Deferred income	9	<u>120,550</u>		<u>217,936</u>	
			<u>121,950</u>		<u>219,086</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS:			<u>284,516</u>		<u>206,820</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>284,516</u>		<u>206,820</u>
FUNDS					
General reserve fund			199,861		160,565
Restricted reserve			84,655		46,255
TOTAL FUNDS	10		<u>284,516</u>		<u>206,820</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

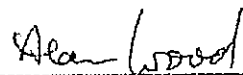
The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Director acknowledges their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 7th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Laura Harrison (Chair)



Alan Wood (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these accounts.

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015), effective January 2015.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of SLRA.

Restricted funds are made up of grants received for the specific projects including salary payments and may only be applied for this purpose. Any changes to the agreed budgets must be agreed with the funders considered before being actioned.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when SLRA has entitlement to the income and there is a certainty of receipt, and the amount is quantifiable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts are included when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognized when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Interest receivable is included when receivable.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognized on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable Activities				
Grants Received				
Other Grants	108,940	847,878	956,818	531,681
	<u>108,940</u>	<u>847,878</u>	<u>956,818</u>	<u>531,681</u>
Voluntary Income				
Donations and legacies	34,759	-	34,759	67,767
	<u>34,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,759</u>	<u>67,767</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>143,699</u>	<u>847,878</u>	<u>991,577</u>	<u>599,448</u>

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Total Expenses - 2023	Total Expenses - 2022
Adult Casework Salaries in HMRC	1,509	171,398	172,907	449,549
Adult Policy Salaries in HMRC	3,544	153,334	156,878	-
Bank Charges	174	-	174	-
Book-keeping/Accounts Preparation	1,175	852	2,027	1,015
Consultancy	-	19,512	19,512	11,495
Core Salaries Inc HMRC	61,040	96,951	157,991	-
Destitution Fund	-	830	830	-
Food Bank	-	1,595	1,595	3,778
Fundraising	25,812	6,394	32,206	26,975
Immigration Advice Supervision contract	-	4,000	4,000	-
Individual hardship grants expenditure	1,200	13,651	14,851	-
Insurances	1,151	2,073	3,224	2,256
Interpreting	1,836	3,506	5,342	5,368
IT equipment/data for clients	38	85	121	-
IT Equipment/mobile phones	339	2,940	3,279	-
IT support/website hosting	1,066	9,111	10,177	25,308
Materials and Equipment	270	-	270	3,579
Men's Group	1,335	44	1,379	-
Office Maintenance/cleaning	1,130	3,405	4,535	6,571
Office Rent	2,363	27,347	29,710	26,478
Office Supplies	1,398	436	1,832	-
Office/General Administrative Expenses	14	-	14	-
Payroll Expenses	1,046	363	1,409	1,162
Phone Costs	1,255	5,910	7,165	6,903
Printing, Postage and Stationery	2,998	805	3,802	3,302
Project Activities General	5,962	10,573	16,535	24,515
Project Partner Payment	-	114,081	114,081	-
Purchases	293	20	313	-
Recruitment	-	1,989	1,989	1,284
Staff Training and Supervision	404	14,501	14,905	14,091
Staff Travel and Subs	108	824	930	1,842
Subs, accreditation	1,900	1,938	3,838	5,920
Travel and Accommodation	-	257	257	-
Trips and Events	604	2,158	2,762	2,338
Volunteer Costs	1,850	663	2,513	3,618
Women's group and NRPf project	615	1,126	1,741	-
Youth Casework Salaries Inc HMRC	1,431	94,447	95,878	-
Youth Club	139	4,187	4,325	-
Youth Policy Salaries Inc HMRC	162	17,754	17,915	-
Reconciliation Discrepancies	670	-	670	(10)
Hall Hire	-	-	-	160
Hardship & Grants	-	-	-	11,649
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	654
Monitoring/Evaluation	-	-	-	14,250
Communications	-	-	-	8,000
	124,824	789,057	913,881	662,051

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

4. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Insurance	3,224	2,256
Independent Examiners Fees	1,175	1,015
Total Governance Costs (Note 3)	<u>4,399</u>	<u>3,271</u>

5. NET (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

(a) This is stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,015</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
(b) Donated goods in the year	Nil	Nil

6. STAFF COSTS

Trustee and Employee Information

Trustees

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any trustee during the year (2022: nil).

Employees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff Salaries Include SS & Pension costs	627,634	476,452
Staff Training	14,905	14,091
Other Staff Costs	930	1,842
	<u>643,468</u>	<u>492,385</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil (2022: nil).

The average number of persons employed in the year was 14 FTE (2022: 14)

The average number of service volunteers in the year was 47 (2022: 52)

Volunteer costs paid were £2,513 (2022: £3,618)

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

7. Accrued Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals		
London Borough of Lambeth	5,600	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	40,200	-
	<u>45,700</u>	<u>-</u>

8. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals		
Others	200	200
Independent Examiners Fees	1,200	950
	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,150</u>

9. DEFERRED INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	3,960	10,000
Esmee/CCLC JTI project	8,650	-
Forrester Family Trust	40,000	-
Henry Smith Charity	24,452	24,750
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	20,435	-
Jack Petchey Fund	-	6,160
Justice Together Initiative	12,177	-
London Borough of Lambeth	335	-
London Councils	3,018	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	1,296	25,833
The Blue Thread	6,227	-
CAF Resilience Fund	-	72,383
Community Justice Fund	-	24,000
NLCF Reaching Communities	-	16,110
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	-	23,200
Impact on Urban Health	-	15,500
	<u>120,550</u>	<u>217,936</u>

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (Continued)

10. TOTAL FUNDS

	At 31 March 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
CAF Resilience Fund	-	107,742	(100,587)	-	7,155
Small Unrestricted Funds	950	35,957	(23,567)	-	13,340
General Fund	159,615	-	(670)	20,421	179,366
Total Unrestricted Funds	160,565	143,699	(124,824)	20,421	199,861
Restricted Funds					
A B Charitable Trust	(9)	-	-	9	-
NLCF Awards for All	-	10,000	(9,993)	(7)	-
BBC Children in Need Emergency	(51)	-	-	51	-
CAF Resilience Consultancy	28,287	10,000	(14,262)	(24,026)	-
Community Justice Fund	(24,000)	24,000	(31,337)	35,347	4,010
Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust	-	10,000	(10,068)	68	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	(6,090)	139,895	(121,490)	-	12,315
Foodbank Funds	971	-	-	(971)	-
GLA Homelessness Fund	416	16,795	(16,825)	(386)	-
Homelessness Fund	7,438	-	-	-7438	-
Julia & Hans Rausing Trust	-	6,600	(6,432)	(168)	-
Hardship Funds	-	2,100	(1,714)	(386)	-
Henry Smith Charity	(1,157)	59,998	(58,602)	-	238
Impact on Urban Health	(10,447)	46,500	(46,569)	10,516	-
Individual Grants	-	9,225	(6,929)	-	2,296
Jack Petchey Foundation	2,392	26,920	(15,057)	-	14,255
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	-	29,565	(29,565)	-	-
Justice Together Initiative	-	116,412	(102,937)	-	13,475
LB Lambeth	-	5,165	(5,165)	-	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	(26)	27,647	(27,666)	45	-
London Councils Funding	-	128,232	(128,232)	-	-
National Lottery Comm Fund	11,440	16,110	(16,117)	(11,433)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	18,114	65,737	(64,719)	(18,114)	1,018
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	13,087	42,900	(23,182)	-	32,804
Steel Charitable Trust	-	5,000	(3,783)	(1,217)	-
The Blue Thread	3,815	19,203	(18,773)	-	4,246
Walcot Foundation	2,139	20,000	(18,704)	(2,435)	-
Wimbledon Foundation	(36)	9,874	(9,935)	97	-
Childhood Trust	(2)	-	-	2	-
City Bridge Fund	(28)	-	-	28	-
Covid Recovery Fund	(14)	-	-	14	-
Lambeth Tech Aid	(10)	-	-	10	-

Marathons Fundraiser	30	-	-	(30)	-
St. Walter St John's Educational Charity	(3)	-	-	3	-
Total Restricted Funds	46,255	847,878	(789,057)	(20,421)	84,655
Total Funds	206,820	991,577	(913,881)	-	284,516

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year (2022: none).

12. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1102814

Accounts



SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2022

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Notes to the Financial Statements	16-22

Foreword from our Chair of Trustees & CEO

This has been a year which has again tested the resilience and flexibility of our organisation and we are pleased to say that, despite enormous challenges, SLRA has been able to continue to thrive and to offer a responsive and accessible range of services and activities for those we work with and for. We reached large numbers of people and our work has focused, more effectively than ever, on reaching those who are most marginalised and experiencing severe hardship and crisis.

This year saw us use the learning we gained in adapting our services during the covid pandemic. We moved back to the provision of face to face services as quickly and safely as we were able to and we have focused on our core value of inclusivity in doing this. We moved our online activities including ESOL classes, therapeutic one to one support and regular group sessions back to face to face provision and we are pleased that so many people in need of these services were able to continue to engage throughout the pandemic and afterwards.

This year much of our work focused on our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We carried out a comprehensive stakeholder review and involved staff and volunteers in an external review of our DEI policies and procedures. This review helped us to identify areas where we plan to focus our resources as we continue this vital work.

Last year we planned to increase our income to allow us to increase capacity and develop our local organising and influencing work in line with our strategic plan. We successfully secured new and additional funding for this purpose and a substantial proportion of this was brought forward into the current financial year as planned and this has allowed us to continue to respond effectively to unexpected crises including the need for support for large numbers of newly arrived Afghans and to further develop our local influencing work, including our Community Leaders programme. This year we have been working to evidence the impact of this work and we plan to use this evidence to secure longer term and multi year funding for additional staff posts we will need.

We successfully secured funding to build our organisational resilience and plan for the future this year. We have reviewed our financial management processes and invested in the support and new accounting software which will support the work of Trustees and CEO to plan and ensure the effective use of resources.

Our services have never been more essential in our local area and the additional financial support we have received this year has allowed us to build on our experience over the last 30 years to gain exceptional specialist knowledge and skill. Our work with street homeless migrants across South London is one area where we are building specialism as is our Community Leader programme, with our Community Leaders involved in local campaigns and meeting with local decision makers to influence the local practice and policy that impacts their lives. We are proud that this year we have led work across the country to involve young people in influencing local authority practice in caring for young migrants.



.....
Mandeep Soor



.....
Celia Sands

Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The Charity number is 1102814. The Company number is 5001950.

Director and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association the Management Board comprises the Chair and the Treasurer supported by at least three trustees. All trustees are elected and confirmed in post at each Annual General Meetings. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end are as follows:

Mandeep Soor - Chair

Alan Wood – Treasurer

Margaret Johnston

Alex Sutton

Lulsegged Abebe

Sophie Hobson

Stuart Barker

Jennifer Brown

Senior Management

Celia Sands, CEO

Registered Office and principle place of business

The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, London, SW16 2PJ

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton,
Granfers Community Centre
73-79 Oakhill Road
Sutton
SM1 3AA

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc
117 Balham High Road, London, SW12 9AS

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES for the year ending 31 March 2022

The Board presents the report and financial statements for the South London Refugee Association for the year ended 31 March 2022. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements also comply with Companies Act 2006.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by a memorandum and articles of association dated 21st November 2013. The liability of the members, who are the Trustees, is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Trustees

Mandeep Soor – Chair
Alan Wood – Treasurer
Margaret Johnston
Alex Sutton
Lulsegged Abebe
Stuart Barker
Sophie Hobson
Jennifer Brown

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Article of Association there can be no less than three Trustees.

Trustee vacancies are filled by personal recommendations by current Trustees or an advertisement can be placed requesting suitable candidates. In both cases meetings with the Chair of Trustees are held and references taken up, details of the prospective Trustee are circulated and the candidate is invited to attend a Board Meeting. If all Trustees are in agreement, that candidate is then invited to join the Board.

Trustees are inducted into the service; spending time with the CEO, taking time to learn about the organisation and meeting the staff and volunteers. New Trustees receive an information pack about the organisation, including a copy of the latest audited annual accounts, a copy of the Memorandum, Articles of Association and most recently published service reports.

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued) For the year ending 31 March 2022

Organisation and Risk Management

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The board meets every two months. It is responsible for ensuring that there are written financial procedures in place and that these are adhered to.

A CEO is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and practice related issues.

The SLRA Trustee Board ensures that the area of operational risk is reviewed regularly and has in place a Strategy document that is updated annually. The SLRA Trustee Board also receives a quarterly report on the organisation's performance against the milestones and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

A summary of the objects as set out in the charity's Governing document.:

The Charity's objects are to relieve poverty and distress by assisting and supporting refugees and other migrants, primarily but not exclusively those living, working or studying in South London; refugees who are outside their country of origin through fear of persecution, whether or not they have been granted asylum, and migrants who are vulnerable and find their needs are not catered for through mainstream services.

Our aims

Our Strategic Plan 2019 to 2022 identifies the following aims for this period:

- Reduce the impact of hardship and poverty
- Increase migrants' capacity to advocate for themselves to gain access to justice
- Use our learning to amplify the voices of those we work with in order to influence policy and practice
- Involve our service users in decisions and actions at all levels of our organisation

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)
For the year ending 31 March 2022

Objectives and Activities

Summary of main activities of the charity in relation to its objectives

The principal activities of the organisation are to develop and provide services and activities which support refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants who are in crisis or at risk.

Most of those we worked with this year were in crisis - experiencing severe hardship and destitution due to irregular or insecure immigration status. Our free, high quality advice has allowed people to resolve their immigration issues and move on from destitution.

Involvement in our groups and activities has allowed people of all ages to gain the knowledge and confidence needed to advocate for themselves and others. We have supported participants to come together to challenge the injustice and discrimination they face.

Advice & Support

This year those we work with have experienced the additional hardship and stress caused by severe delays to Home Office decision making and the ongoing lack of accessible, free legal advice along with the ongoing effects of the covid pandemic. This has meant that demand for our services has further increased and that we have aimed our resources at those who are most marginalised including street homeless migrants, families with young children who are destitute and those who have particular vulnerabilities including those who are older, and people with chronic physical or mental health conditions.

SLRA's advice and casework services provide specialist advice to migrants who are in crisis or at risk. Our specialist teams provide accessible support to adults, families and young people who are in crisis.

We are regulated to provide immigration advice to OISC Level 3 and hold the Advice Quality Standard.

This year we have developed our partnership work with a range of partner agencies and services including Merton and Southwark Children's Services with whom we are providing an early intervention advice and support service for young migrants. We are also working with specialist homeless services across South West London to ensure that we reach those who are street homeless as a result of immigration issues and we are working with a range of community and faith groups and other voluntary sector agencies to provide food parcels, small hardship grants and capacity building support for migrant community groups.

We secured funding from the Greater London Authority to develop an innovative project to provide immigration advice to street homeless migrants across South London. As the project has progressed we have developed valuable joint working procedures with specialist homelessness services across the region, working in partnership to develop clear referral routes and to ensure effective access and engagement arrangements for some of London's most vulnerable migrants. Through the project we have enhanced our specialist knowledge in this area of work and our immigration advisors have been able to progress many highly complex cases for vulnerable people who, in many cases, have been homeless and destitute for many months or years.

Other areas of specialist knowledge and practice we have developed include our advocacy and participation work with young people. Young migrants in care and young migrant care leavers have been at the heart of our work to advocate for better support for all young migrants in care. We worked with Coram Children's Legal Centre to carry out research and develop best practice guidelines in this area and in early 2022 we published a report '*Taking Care: How Local Authorities Can Best address immigration issues of children in care*' The report shows that that early identification and resolution of immigration and nationality issues is both cost-effective and a critical step in safeguarding and supporting children's and care leavers' futures in the UK.

Therapeutic Support

Our counselling service has continued to provide vital support this year. Our counsellor has provided one to one counselling sessions, group sessions in our user-led groups and supported staff and volunteers to recognise and respond to service users' mental health needs.

Training

We have provided training to increase the knowledge and understanding of professionals in other organisations including training for social workers and workers within homelessness specialist services, enabling them to better identify the needs of, and provide support for, migrants and refugees in South London.

This year we have further developed our work in supporting local migrant individuals and communities to build knowledge and confidence in advocacy and influencing work. Some of our service users have also been supported to develop and deliver workshop sessions focusing on the impact of 'No Recourse to Public Funds' restrictions and the need for free, high quality immigration advice in London. These workshop sessions have been attended by more than 100 participants, who have gained a better understanding of these issues thanks to the facilitator's impactful sharing of their lived experience.

Advocacy, Policy and Influencing

This year we worked with a group of service users to gather evidence of the impact of homelessness and destitution on families. Our report "Improving Outcomes for Migrant Families In Lambeth: Learning from Lived Experience" has been the impetus for ongoing joint working with Lambeth Council to improve assessment, access and support.

We are using our specialist expertise in working with young migrants to work in partnership with Coram Children's Legal Centre to improve local authority support for young migrants right across the country.

Groups and Activities

SLRA's user-led groups, activities, classes and events have supported 350 people to reduce their isolation, build resilience, gain confidence and share experience this year. Our group sessions have continued to thrive and provide incredible peer support. Groups include weekly youth club sessions for 14 to 20 year olds, a women's group which focuses on wellbeing and confidence building, a therapeutic group for men and a youth participation group which has worked on influencing local authority policies and procedures for young migrants in care.

Our weekly ESOL classes have been very popular this year. The move from online classes we provided during lockdowns to face to face group classes has been welcome for those who attend, allowing for support networks and new friendships to be built.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and used this to help them plan current and future activities. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the Charity at least annually. This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the Trustees ensure the Charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated charitable purpose.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES

In considering our key objectives, the Trustees have taken into account the following factors:

- The profile, numbers and needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who are at risk in the local area.
- The provision of accessible, specialist services available to the people we work with within our local area and the gaps in this provision.
- External factors such as changes in national and local government policies and procedures.
- Feedback from all our stakeholders

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

1223 people benefitted from our services

917 people were provided with vital specialist advice or casework

653 people were supported to move on from homelessness

889 people received specialist advice which resolved their immigration or asylum issues.

104 people benefitted from therapeutic support provided by our counsellors – either in one to one or group sessions.

67 families who were destitute and homeless were able to access the support they needed to move out of crisis.

351 people were supported by our foodbank when they found themselves in crisis.

Our youth team provided specialist youth casework to 387 of the most vulnerable young migrants this year. Most were unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people. Our specialist caseworkers provided holistic support to resolve issues including homelessness, health and access to education as well as providing immigration advice.

83% of young people supported said that the support they received made them feel less anxious

59% said they better understood their rights and entitlements

94% said they had made new friends and felt more connected.

Financial Review

for the year ending 31 March 2022

The results for the year end and financial position of the Charity are shown in the annexed statements.

The Charity's total income for the year amounted to £599,448 (2021- £669,171) against which £662,051 (2021- £557,113) was expended during the year, leaving net expenditure of £62,602. The result for the year was a deficit of £62,602 which, combined with our funds brought forward (£111,566), gives us total funds of £206,820 at 31 March 2022. Out of these funds £46,255 are restricted for specific purposes set by the donors while £160,565 represents our unrestricted reserves. Since the Balance Sheet date no significant changes have taken place.

Our accounts reflect the careful budget setting and regular monitoring which the CEO, Treasurer and Trustee Board carry out regularly. This has allowed us to ensure effective use of our resources throughout the year and we have been able to expand and develop services in order to respond to changing needs.

SLRA continues to rely mainly on grants from Trusts and Foundations to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the Charity is doing with the local refugee, asylum seeker and vulnerable migrant population. The Trustees are, however, continuing to take steps to diversify the Charity's income in order to ensure long term sustainability. Some progress in this is already evident with a substantial increase in the proportion of funding received this year from individual and community donors.

During the year the Charity Trustees and CEO have monitored the financial position of the service to ensure that the Charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted are correctly applied and accounted for. During 2020-21 the funding received totalled £599,448 compared to £669,177 received in 2020-21 however a significant amount of funding was deferred from the financial year 2020-21. With careful monitoring and planned spending of the funds available this year we have been able to increase our free reserves. The Trustee Board regularly reviews the use of our resources in light of changing needs and with a view to the long term sustainability of the organisation.

Our Future Plans

In 2022/23 we will develop our new three year Strategic Plan. We aim to take time to thoroughly evaluate our situation and to identify opportunities and challenges. This work will begin with a comprehensive Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Review and will involve as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. We are reviewing and developing our fundraising strategy to ensure that support our Strategic planning.

We will continue to focus on staff wellbeing with new opportunities for staff to access supervision and support.

We will also continue our work to develop and improve our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion across our organisation as we recognise and value the benefits this brings.

We anticipate that in 2023 we will begin to be impacted by the effects of the new nationality and Borders Act. Although it is currently difficult to predict the impact of the act on those we work with we anticipate an increase in the numbers of migrants of all ages and in a range of circumstances who find themselves homeless and destitute and who experience severe anxiety.

We will be reflecting on the learning from our response to Covid-19 and the opportunities that arose. We will continue to develop partnerships and systemic influencing with local authorities and specialist homelessness organisations and we will develop our work in providing capacity building support to small local community groups - sharing our expertise within the migrant sector and beyond.

**SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (continued)
For the year ending 31 March 2022**

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Trustees aim is to have cash reserves to keep a minimum of three months operating costs, building to a maximum of six months when funds allow. The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually by the Trustee Board.

At 31 March 2022 unrestricted reserves were £160,565. Trustees have undertaken a thorough review of the level of reserves required to meet requirements, paying particular attention to the projected longer term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the financial year 2022/23 we plan to add to these reserves in order to increase current reserves levels.

Grant making Policy

SLRA does not provide grants directly as a method of furthering its charitable objectives. The Charity applies for and distributes hardship payments according to need and the criteria of the donors. We are particularly grateful to London Catalyst Samaritan Grant and the Trusts and Foundations and generous individuals who have contributed to our hardship funds. We also provide hardship payments to destitute residents in our housing projects. In 2021/22 we distributed £16,282 in hardship grants.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

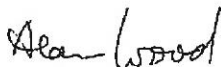
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing those Financial Statements the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

A resolution proposing Community Action Sutton be appointed as Independent Examiners of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.



Alan Wood (Treasurer)



Mandeep Soor (Chair)

Date 22nd November 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South London Refugee Association

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 set out on pages 14 to 22 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 16 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for Independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

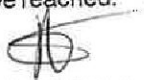
Basis of independent review

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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 requirements have not been met:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Name: Dunstanette Kuti FCCA MCSI
Position: Community Accountant
Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre,

9/12/22

73-79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey,
SM1 3AA

Date:

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Charitable Activities		11,041	520,640	531,681	622,332
Voluntary Income		46,383	21,384	67,767	46,839
Total Income	2	57,424	542,024	599,448	669,171
Expenditure					
Fundraising		515	26,460	26,975	24,541
Charitable Activities		31,769	603,307	635,076	552,572
Total Expenditure	3	32,283	629,767	662,051	577,113
Net Income / (Expenditure)		25,141	(87,743)	(62,602)	92,057
Transfers between funds		(15,787)	15,787	-	-
Total Funds brought forward		151,211	118,211	269,422	177,365
Total Funds carried forward	9	160,565	46,255	206,820	269,422

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these accounts.

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		425,906	381,973
		425,906	381,973
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	1,150	985
Deferred income	8	217,936	111,566
		219,086	112,551
NET CURRENT ASSETS:		206,820	269,422
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		206,820	269,422
FUNDS			
General reserve fund	9	160,565	151,211
Restricted reserve	9	46,255	118,211
TOTAL FUNDS		206,820	269,422

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.


The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Director acknowledges their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 22nd November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Mandeep Soor (Chair)



Alan Wood (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these accounts.

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015), effective January 2015.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of SLRA.

Restricted funds are made up of grants received for the specific projects including salary payments and may only be applied for this purpose. Any changes to the agreed budgets must be agreed with the funders considered before being actioned.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when SLRA has entitlement to the income and there is a certainty of receipt and the amount is quantifiable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts are included 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.

Interest receivable is included when receivable.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognized on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Charitable Activities				
Grants Received				
Local Authority Grants			-	-
Other Grants	11,041	520,640	531,681	622,332
	<u>11,041</u>	<u>520,640</u>	<u>531,681</u>	<u>622,332</u>
Voluntary Income				
Donations	46,383	21,384	67,767	46,839
	<u>46,383</u>	<u>21,384</u>	<u>67,767</u>	<u>46,839</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>57,424</u>	<u>542,024</u>	<u>599,448</u>	<u>669,171</u>

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Continued)

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted 2022	Restricted 2022	Total Expenses - 2022	Total Expenses - 2021
	£	£		£
Freelance Workers	258	11,237	11,495	7,641
Salaries inc HMRC	10,957	439,095	450,052	389,007
Staff Travel & Subs	672	1,169	1,842	7,987
Staff Training & Supervision	240	13,851	14,091	11,453
Volunteer Costs	135	3,482	3,618	2,396
Project Activities	3,403	21,111	24,515	4,723
Office Rent	28	26,450	26,478	26,308
Office Maintenance	2,718	3,853	6,571	1,615
Materials & Equipment	472	3,107	3,579	4,585
IT Equipment & Support	3,599	21,709	25,308	23,571
Telephone	1,880	5,023	6,903	6,994
Stationery, Postage and Printing	128	3,174	3,302	3,117
Hall Hire	-	160	160	4,107
Hardship & Grants	560	11,089	11,649	21,542
Trips, Outings, Events	908	1,430	2,338	991
Insurance	626	1,630	2,256	1,315
Recruitment	894	390	1,284	619
Fundraising	72	26,400	26,472	24,445
Subs, Accreditation	3,031	2,889	5,920	3,150
Payroll Exp	-	1,162	1,162	1,106
Miscellaneous	515	140	654	380
Food Bank	-	3,778	3,778	8,245
Interpreting	181	5,186	5,368	12,569
Monitoring/Evaluation	-	14,250	14,250	-
Communications	-	8,000	8,000	4,872
Covid 19 equip/measures	-	-	-	720
Daaro	-	-	-	2,985
Accounting	1,015	-	1,015	785
Bank discrepancy	(10)	-	(10)	(114)
	32,283	629,767	662,051	577,113

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Continued)

4. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Insurance	2,256	1,315
Independent Examiners Fees	1,015	785
Total Governance Costs (Note 3)	<u>3,271</u>	<u>2,100</u>

5. NET (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

(a) This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiners Fee	<u>1,015</u>	<u>785</u>

(b) Donated goods in the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
	Nil	Nil

6. STAFF COSTS

Trustee and Employee information

Trustees

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any trustee during the year (2021: nil).

Employees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff Salaries include SS & Pension costs	476,452	413,344
Staff Training	14,091	11,453
Other Staff Costs	1,842	7,987
	<u>492,385</u>	<u>432,785</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil (2021: nil).

The average number of persons employed in the year was 14 FTE (2021: 12.5)

The average number of service volunteers in the year was 52 (2021: 41)

Volunteer costs paid were £3,618 (2021: £2,396)

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Continued)

7. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals		
Others	200	200
Independent Examiners Fee	950	785
	<u>1,150</u>	<u>985</u>

8. DEFERRED INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	10,000	60,000
Henry Smith Charity	24,750	-
Jack Petchey Fund	6,160	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	25,833	25,417
Sebba CORE	23,200	13,533
Sam and Bella Sebba Trust (Counselling)	-	10,616
Childhood Trust	-	2,000
Reaching Communities	16,110	-
Community Justice Fund	24,000	-
Urban Health	15,500	-
CAF Resilience Fund	72,383	-
	<u>217,936</u>	<u>111,566</u>

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Continued)

9. TOTAL FUNDS

	At 31 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	15,787	-	-	(15,787)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (Unrestricted)	-	-	-	-	-
Small Unrestricted Funds General Fund	- 135,424	57,424	(32,283)	(24,191) 24,191	950 159,615
Total Unrestricted Funds	151,211	57,424	(32,283)	(15,787)	160,565
Restricted Funds	(15,787)	-	-	15,787	-
AB Charitable	11,333	-	(11,342)	-	(9)
Children in Need Emergency	-	43,253	(43,305)	-	(51)
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	65,950	(72,040)	-	(6,090)
Foodbank Funds	13,625	2,174	(14,828)	-	971
GLA	-	67,180	(66,764)	-	416
Henry Smith Charity	27,809	34,650	(63,616)	-	(1,157)
Homelessness Fund	9,708	-	(2,270)	-	7,438
Jack Petchey Fund	320	6,160	(4,088)	-	2,392
Lloyds Bank Foundation	-	25,021	(25,047)	-	(26)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	20,136	61,584	(63,606)	-	18,114
Room for Refugee Grants	-	1,960	(1,960)	-	-
Sebba CORE	(2,161)	13,533	(15,285)	-	(3,913)
Sebba COUNSELLING	(583)	23,116	(5,533)	-	17,000
Individual Grants	-	6,723	(6,723)	-	-
Walcot Foundation	-	15,000	(12,861)	-	2,139
Lambeth Tech Aid	-	4,940	(4,950)	-	(10)
Reaching Communities	-	80,554	(69,114)	-	11,440
Wimbledon Foundation	1,659	-	(1,695)	-	(36)
Covid Recovery Fund	42,755	-	(42,769)	-	(14)
City Bridge Fund	9,398	-	(9,426)	-	(28)
Sir Walter St John	-	1,470	(1,473)	-	(3)
Community Justice Fund	-	16,000	(40,000)	-	(24,000)
Marathons Fundraiser	-	9,063	(9,034)	-	30
Childhood Trust	-	2,000	(2,002)	-	(2)
Urban Health	-	15,500	(25,947)	-	(10,447)
CAF Resilience Fund	-	36,193	(7,905)	-	28,287
The Blue Thread	-	10,000	(6,185)	-	3,815
Total Restricted Funds	118,211	542,024	(629,767)	15,787	46,255
Total Funds	269,422	599,448	(662,050)	-	206,820

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (Continued)

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year (2021: none).

11. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

SOUTH LONDON REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1102814

Accounts



Annual Report and Summary of Accounts For the year ending March 2021

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Foreword from our Chair of Trustees & Director

The last year has brought huge challenges for SLRA and for those we work to support. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on those migrants who were already marginalised and at risk has been profound and demand for our services and the complexity of the need we have met have increased exponentially.

The people we work with have great resilience, knowledge and optimism in the face of an immigration and asylum system which is hostile, complex and unforgiving, but for many the lockdowns, destitution, homelessness and anxiety they have experienced over the last year has been overwhelming.

We're proud of how SLRA has responded to the situation. We have reached more people this year than ever before (you can read more about our reach and impact on pages 8 to 9). We have increased our specialist knowledge and expertise to meet complex needs - raising our OISC immigration advice regulation level from Level 2 to Level 3 this year. We have also developed vital new partnership working this year - including Southwark Law Centre, Coram Children's Legal Centre, Project 17 and Emmaus, and we have secured funding that is helping us to develop innovative ways of working more effectively including joint working with local specialist homelessness services and a project to involve young care leavers in improving outcomes for young migrants in care right across the country.

We've taken opportunities to develop our expertise in putting the lived experience of those we work with at the heart of both our work and our influencing and policy work and we are particularly proud of the group of women service users who are working together to improve the experience of local families who fall into destitution.

Our dynamic and committed staff and volunteer team have worked effectively to quickly move our services online and have continued to prioritise and reach those in greatest need.

We are hugely grateful to all our funders and supporters, old and new, who have responded so supportively to the crisis. Their support for our work is enabling us to respond flexibly as the situation changes. We're determined to continue to listen and to provide accessible and impactful services to those who are in crisis.

Mandeep Soor
Chair of Trustees

Celia Sands
Director

Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

South London Refugee Association is a company limited by guarantee and a Registered Charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Charity number is 1102814. The Company number is 5001950.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. As set out in the Articles of Association, the Management Board comprises the Chair and the Treasurer supported by three Trustees. All Trustees are elected and confirmed in post at each Annual General Meetings. The Trustees serving during the year and since the year end are as follows:

Mandeep Soor - Chair	Lulsegged Abebe
Alan Wood – Treasurer	Sophie Hobson
Margaret Johnson	Stuart Barker
Alex Sutton	Jennifer Brown

Registered Office

The Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, London SW16 2PJ

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre
73-79 Oakhill Road
Sutton
SM1 3AA

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc
117 Balham High Road, London SW12 9AS

Trustees Report

The Board presents the report and financial statements for South London Refugee Association for the year ended 31 March 2021. The statements appear in the format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised March 2005). The report and statements also comply with Companies Act 2006.

Governing Document

South London Refugee Association is a Registered Charity and a company limited by guarantee, having no share capital, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21st November 2013. The liability of the members, who are the Trustees, is limited to £1 in the event of the charity winding up. It is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

A summary of the objects as set out in the Charity's Governing document.

The Charity's objects are to relieve poverty and distress by assisting and supporting refugees and migrants, primarily but not exclusively those living, working or studying in South London; refugees who are outside their country of origin through fear of persecution, whether or not they have been granted asylum, and migrants who are vulnerable and find their needs are not catered for through mainstream services.

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Article of Association there can be no less than three Trustees.

Trustee vacancies are filled by personal recommendations by current Trustees or an advertisement can be placed requesting suitable candidates. In both cases meetings with the Chair of Trustees are held and references taken up, details of the prospective Trustee are circulated and the candidate is invited to attend a Board Meeting. If all Trustees are in agreement, that candidate is then invited to join the Board.

Trustees are inducted into the service; spending time with the Director, taking time to learn about the organisation and meeting the staff and volunteers. New Trustees receive an information pack about the organisation, including a copy of the latest audited annual accounts, a copy of the Memorandum, Articles of Association and most recently published service reports.

Our Impact this year



1179

people benefitted from our services in 2020/21

869

people were provided with vital specialist advice or casework

422

people were supported to move on from homelessness

721

people received specialist advice to resolve immigration or asylum issues

113

people benefitted from therapeutic support provided by our counsellors - either in one to one or group sessions

41

families who were destitute and homeless were able to access the support they needed

647

people were supported by our food bank when they found themselves in crisis

Our groups and activities made a huge difference for many through the challenges of the last year.

"Women's Group was a place to feel immediate warmth and connection during lockdown. It often brightened my day and lifted my spirits."



The people we worked with came from **67** different countries

Our youth team provided specialist youth casework to 366 of the most vulnerable young migrants this year. Most were unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. Our specialist caseworkers provided holistic support to resolve issues including homelessness, health and access to education as well as providing immigration advice.

88%

of young people said that support from SLRA had made them feel less anxious

69%

of young people said they better understood their rights and entitlements

96%

of young people said they had made new friends and felt more connected

Ahmed's story

Ahmed was 20 and had been a victim of torture in his homeland when he came to our youth club asking for help. He was very worried about his asylum claim and that he would be sent outside London to a place with no support.

Our counsellor referred Ahmed for specialist therapeutic support and advocated for him to stay in London. We supported him to access education and applied for grants for his transport costs to college.

We made a referral to a hosting organisation and he was placed with a lovely family. He continues to live there very happily. Both his mental health and his college work have greatly improved since moving there.

We quickly realised that Ahmed's solicitor was not providing appropriate care with his asylum claim - causing very long delays. We supported Ahmed to submit a complaint about the firm representing him and to transfer to a trusted solicitor.

He was granted refugee status soon after and now he can focus on his dream of becoming a chef!



Risk management

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board meets every two months and is responsible for ensuring that there are written financial procedures in place and that these are adhered to.

A Director is appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Director has delegated authority, within the terms of the delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and practice related issues.

The SLRA Trustee Board ensures that the area of operational risk is reviewed regularly and has in place a strategy document that is updated annually. The SLRA Trustee Board receives quarterly reports on performance against the milestones and objectives of the Strategic Plan

The Board identifies, reviews and ensures management of risk on a regular basis, and our risk register is presented at Board meetings. To address strategic risk the current priorities are to develop the organisational and management infrastructure to support growth, ensure legal and financial compliance, to improve impact and efficiency, as well as ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the Charity and the wellbeing of staff and volunteers. These risk areas have been highlighted by the substantial changes to ways of working required by our response to the ongoing pandemic.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and used this to help them plan current and future activities. The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the Charity annually. This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the Trustees ensure the Charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated charitable purpose.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Staff & Volunteer Team

We have a skilled, experienced and committed staff team. Staff bring experience in the refugee sector, youth-work, social care, counselling and community development.

Our volunteers are also vital members of our team. In addition to our Trustees, 41 volunteers supported our work this year.

All our frontline volunteers are DBS checked and provided with induction and ongoing training and supervision.

Our aims

Our Strategic Plan 2019 to 2022 identifies the following aims for this period:



Reduce the impact of hardship and poverty



Increase migrants' capacity to advocate for themselves to gain access to justice.



Use our learning to amplify the voices of those we work with in order to influence policy and practice.



Involve our service users in decisions and actions at all levels of our organisation



Our activities

The principal activities of the organisation are to develop and provide services and activities which support refugees, asylum seekers or other migrants at risk.

Most of those we worked with this year were in crisis - experiencing severe hardship and destitution due to irregular or insecure immigration status. Our free, high quality advice has allowed people to resolve their immigration issues and move on from destitution.

Involvement in our groups and activities has allowed people of all ages to gain the knowledge and confidence needed to advocate for themselves and others. We have supported participants to come together to challenge the injustice and discrimination they face.

Advice & Support

Cuts to frontline services and to Legal Aid as well as the increased use of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' condition' mean that many of the most at-risk migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum are unable to access the advice and support they need and so face homelessness and destitution.

SLRA's Advice and Casework services provide specialist advice to migrants at risk. Our specialist teams provide accessible support to adults, families and young people who are in crisis.

We are registered to provide immigration advice to OISC Level 3 and hold the Advice Quality Standard.

This year we have worked with partners including Merton and Southwark Children's Services to provide an early intervention advice and support service for young migrants, with specialist homeless services to ensure we reach those who are most at risk and with a range of community and faith groups to provide food parcels and small hardship grants.

Therapeutic Support

Our counselling service has been vital this year. We were able to double our capacity to provide one to one counselling and our counsellors provided group sessions in our user-led groups and supported staff and volunteers to recognise and respond to service users' mental health needs.

Training

We have provided training to increase the knowledge and understanding of professionals in other organisations, enabling them to better identify the needs of, and provide support for, migrants and refugees in South London. This has included work with social workers, foster carers and housing workers.

This year some of our service users have also been supported to develop and deliver workshop sessions focusing on the impact of 'No Recourse to Public Funds' restrictions and the need for free, high quality immigration advice in London. These workshop sessions have been attended by more than 100 participants, who have gained a better understanding of these issues thanks to the facilitator's impactful sharing of their lived experience.

Advocacy, Policy and Influencing

This year we worked with a group of service users to gather evidence of the impact of homelessness and destitution on families. Our report ***"Improving Outcomes for Migrant Families In Lambeth: Learning from Lived Experience"*** has been the impetus for ongoing joint working with Lambeth Council to improve assessment, access and support.

We are using our specialist expertise in working with young migrants to work in partnership with Coram Children's Legal Centre to improve local authority support for young migrants right across the country.

Groups and Activities

SLRA's user-led groups, activities, classes and events have supported 350 people to reduce their isolation, build resilience and strengthen their voices this year. These sessions were a lifeline for many during lockdown periods and have continued to thrive and provide incredible peer support. Groups include weekly youth club sessions for 14 to 19 year olds, a women's group which has focused on wellbeing and confidence building this year, a therapeutic group for men and a youth participation group which has worked on influencing local authority policies and procedures for young migrants in care. We have also provided group and individual ESOL tutoring online.

More details of our activities can be found at www.slr-a.org.uk/services

Our Vision

Migrants are welcomed and valued participants in our community.

Our Mission

To ensure that migrants in South London are active participants with access to justice and opportunity.

Our response to the Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic had an immediate impact on the people we support. Increased numbers of people contacted SLRA who were facing destitution and homelessness. Many were experiencing declining mental health due to anxiety and isolation and many presented serious safeguarding issues due to the breakdown of community support. From March 2020, we responded quickly and effectively, redesigning our services so that they could be effectively delivered remotely. We worked hard to ensure that our services remained accessible and that we were able to meet the changing needs of those we work with, while maintaining the safety of staff, volunteers and service users.

In 2020 we:

- Moved all our services including advice and casework and group sessions and classes to remote provision.
- Undertook regular assessments and feedback exercises to better understand changing needs.
- Developed new services to help cope with the crisis, including a foodbank and a team of telephone support volunteers.
- Increased our capacity to provide counselling and therapeutic group support.
- Provided additional support to enhance the wellbeing of staff and volunteers.
- Increased our specialist and expert knowledge, including raising our OISC regulation level from Level 2 to level 3 in order to meet the increasingly complex needs of our service users.
- Adapted working practices and activities to allow safe face to face working as soon as this was possible.
- Developed our expertise in using the evidence from our service delivery to influence policy, improve service provision and build a more welcoming community in which people can integrate and thrive. Supporting people to speak for themselves has been an integral part of our work this year.

Our Future Plans

In 2021 we will develop our new three year Strategic Plan. We aim to take time to thoroughly evaluate our situation and to identify opportunities and challenges. This work will begin with a comprehensive Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Review and will involve as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.

We will continue to focus on staff wellbeing with new opportunities for staff to access supervision and support.

We anticipate that in 2021 the mental health repercussions for those we work with will be significant and we are focussed on being able to address these through increased capacity for counselling provision and additional group sessions.

We will be reflecting on the learning from our response to Covid-19 and the opportunities that arose. We will continue to develop partnerships and systemic influencing with local authorities and specialist homelessness organisations and we will develop our work in providing capacity building support to small local community groups - sharing our expertise within the migrant sector and beyond.



Financial Review

for the year ending 31 March 2021

The results for the year end and financial position of the Charity are shown in the statements on pages 16 to 23.

The Charity's net surplus is £92,057 (£25,759 surplus 2020). This leaves final balances to carry forward of £151,211 unrestricted and £118,211 restricted. Since the Balance Sheet date no significant changes have taken place.

Our accounts reflect the careful budget setting and regular monitoring which the Director, Treasurer and Trustee Board carry out. This has allowed us to ensure effective use of our resources throughout the year and we have been able to expand and develop services in order to respond to changing needs and, in particular, to increase our capacity and expertise in response to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on those we work with.

SLRA continues to rely mainly on grants from Trusts and Foundations to fund its activities. The Trustees are confident that these grants will continue to be available for the valuable work the Charity is doing with the local refugee, asylum seeker and vulnerable migrant population. The Trustees are, however, continuing to take steps to diversify the Charity's income in order to ensure long term sustainability. Some progress in this is already evident with a substantial increase in the proportion of funding received this year from individual and community donors.

During the year the Charity Trustees and Director have monitored the financial position of the service to ensure that the Charity's funds, both restricted and unrestricted are correctly applied and accounted for. During 2020-21 the funding received totalled £669,177 compared to £438,113 received in 2019-20. The Trustee Board regularly reviews the use of our resources in light of changing needs and with a view to the long term sustainability of the organisation.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Trustees aim is to have cash reserves to keep a minimum of three months operating costs, building to a maximum of six months when funds allow. The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually by the Trustee Board.

At 31 March 2021 unrestricted reserves were £151,211. Trustees have undertaken a thorough review of the level of reserves required to meet requirements, paying particular attention to the projected medium and long term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the financial year 2021/22 we plan to add to these reserves in order to increase current reserves levels.

Grantmaking Policy

SLRA does not provide grants directly as a method of furthering its charitable objectives. The Charity applies for and distributes hardship payments according to need and the criteria of the donors. We are particularly grateful to London Catalyst Samaritan Grant and the Trusts and Foundations and generous individuals who have contributed to our hardship funds. We also provide hardship payments to destitute residents in our housing projects. In 2020/21 we distributed £21,543 in hardship grants.

Trustees Responsibilities

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period.

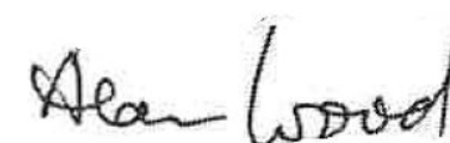
In preparing those Financial Statements the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

A resolution proposing Community Action Sutton be appointed as Independent Examiners of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



Alan Wood (Treasurer)



Mandeep Soor (Chair)

Date ...29th November 2021...

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the South London Refugee Association

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages 16 to 23 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on pages 14 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for Independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent review

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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

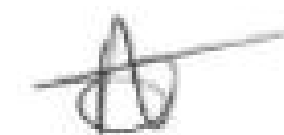
Independent Examiner's statement

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 requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities; or

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



Name: Dunstanette Kuti ACCA MCSI

Position: Community Accountant

Community Action Sutton
Granfers Community Centre,
73-79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey,
SM1 3AA

Date: 30th November 2021

South London Refugee Association

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2021

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income from:				
Charitable Activities	26,170	596,162	622,332	415,826
Voluntary Income	8,174	38,665	46,839	22,287
Total Income	34,344	634,8276	669,171	438,113
Expenditure				
Fundraising	204	24,337	24,541	11,956
Charitable Activities	19,962	532,610	552,572	400,398
Total Expenditure	20,166	556,947	577,113	412,354
Net Income / (Expenditure)	14,178	77,879	92,057	25,759
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Total Funds brought forward	137,033	40,332	177,365	151,606
Total Funds carried forward	151,211	118,211	269,422	177,365

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

South London Refugee Association

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

Note	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash at bank and in hand	381,973	178,350
Accrued income	-	-
	<u>381,973</u>	<u>178,350</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7 985	985
Deferred income	8 111,566	-
	<u>112,551</u>	<u>985</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS:	269,422	177,365
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	269,422	177,365
FUNDS		
General reserve fund	9 151,211	137,033
Restricted reserve	9 118,211	40,332
TOTAL FUNDS	269,422	177,365

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Director acknowledges their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 7/12/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

----- Mandeep Soor (Chair)

 ----- Alan Wood (Treasurer)


The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts.

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation of Accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015), effective January 2015.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of SLRA.

Restricted funds are made up of grants received for the specific projects including salary payments and may only be applied for this purpose. Any changes to the agreed budgets must be agreed with the funders considered before being actioned.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when SLRA has entitlement to the income and there is a certainty of receipt and the amount is quantifiable. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts are included 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.

Interest receivable is included when receivable.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities				
Grants Received				
Other Grants	26,170	596,162	622,332	415,826
	<u>26,170</u>	<u>596,162</u>	<u>622,332</u>	<u>415,826</u>
Voluntary Income				
Donations	8,174	38,665	46,839	22,287
	<u>8,174</u>	<u>38,665</u>	<u>46,839</u>	<u>22,287</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>34,344</u>	<u>634,826</u>	<u>669,171</u>	<u>438,113</u>

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted 2021	Restricted 2021	Total Expenses 2021	Total Expenses 2020
	£	£	£	£
Freelance Workers	-	7,641	7,641	14,183
Salaries inc HMRC	12,532	376,476	389,007	265,527
Staff Travel & Subs	1,946	6,042	7,987	5,101
Staff Training & Supervision	225	11,228	11,453	11,174
Volunteer Costs	149	2,246	2,396	2,856
Project Activities	211	4,512	4,723	9,695
Office Rent	2,200	24,108	26,308	18,130
Office Maintenance	-	1,615	1,615	656
Materials & Equipment	-	4,585	4,585	1,786
IT Equipment & Support	575	22,996	23,571	5,729
Telephone	568	6,426	6,994	8,405
Stationery, Postage and Printing	-	3,117	3,117	3,084
Hall Hire	347	3,760	4,107	8,818
Hardship & Grants	200	21,342	21,542	5,577
Trips, Outings, Events	40	951	991	5,467
Insurance	-	1,315	1,315	1,639
Recruitment	-	619	619	2,461
Fundraising	18	24,427	24,445	11,956
Subs, Accreditation	-	3,150	3,150	2,677
Payroll Exp	-	1,106	1,106	652
Miscellaneous	-	380	380	1,699
Food Bank	-	8,245	8,245	-
Interpreting	-	12,569	12,569	1,858
Communications	-	4,872	4,872	5,022
Covid 19 equip/measures	-	720	720	-
Daaro	485	2,500	2,985	11,753
Youth Projects	-	-	-	851
Grants for Individuals	-	-	-	4,812
Accounting	785	-	785	785
Bank discrepancy	(114)	-	(114)	-
	<u>20,166</u>	<u>556,947</u>	<u>577,113</u>	<u>412,353</u>

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

4. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Insurance	1,315	1,639
Independent Examiners Fees	785	785
Total Governance Costs (Note 3)	<u>2,100</u>	<u>2,424</u>

5. NET (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR

(a) This is stated after charging:	2021 £	2020 £
Independent Examiners Fee	<u>785</u>	<u>785</u>
(b) Donated goods in the year	Nil	Nil

6. STAFF COSTS

Trustee and Employee information

Trustees

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any trustee during the year (2020: nil).

Employees

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff Salaries include SS & Pension costs	413,344	276,853
Staff Training	11,453	11,174
Other Staff Costs	7,987	5,101
	<u>432,785</u>	<u>293,128</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments amounted to over £60,000 during the year was nil (2020: nil).

The average number of persons employed in the year was 14.5 FTE (2020: 9.5)

The average number of service volunteers in the year was 41 (2020: 67)

Volunteer costs paid were £2,396 (2020: £2,859)

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

7. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals		
Others	200	200
Independent Examiners Fee	785	785
	985	985
TOTAL	985	985

8. DEFERRED INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
Esmee Fairbairn -May 2021 to April	60,000	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (EIP) -April to Aug 2021	25,417	-
Sam and Bella Sebba Trust (Core) -April to Oct 2021	13,533	-
Sam and Bella Sebba Trust (Counselling) -April to Oct 2021	10,616	-
Childhood Trust	2,000	-
	111,566	-

9. TOTAL FUNDS

	At 31 March 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted Funds	40,332	595,576	(517,694)	-	118,214
Barrow Cadbury Fund	-	39,250	(39,253)	-	(3)
Total Restricted funds	40,332	634,826	(556,947)	-	118,211
General Fund	137,033	34,344	(20,166)	-	151,211
Total Unrestricted funds	137,033	34,344	(20,166)	-	151,211
	177,365	669,171	(577,113)	-	269,422

South London Refugee Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or any other person related to a trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Charity during the year (2020: none)

11. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.



Visit our website to see how you can get involved in our work [here](#) or join our mailing list to receive our monthly newsletter [here](#)