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SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR 31 DECEMBER 2024

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REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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The trustees present their report and the financial statements of Soka Gakkai International - UK (referred to as "SGI-UK") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The charitable objectives for which SGI-UK is established are stated in the current governing document as follows:

To promote in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the World the study and practice of Nichiren Buddhism as taught by Soka Gakkai International by such means as the trustees think fit including, but not limited to:

- (A) The promotion of peace and understanding between peoples of different cultures and races;
- (B) The education of the public in arts of cultural and educational value (including the arts of music, song, dance, drama, literature, painting, drawing and sculpture);
- (C) The education of the public about conservation, protection and improvement of the environment;
- (D) The education of the public about human rights and their maintenance and observation;
- (E) The relief of poverty, sickness, infirmity and old age; and
- (F) The education of the public about peaceful means of conflict resolution.

Charitable Activities

In pursuance of its charitable objectives, and in order to achieve the overall aims of its mission, the principal charitable activity of SGI-UK is the "advancement of religion" as it relates to the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin.

Each year, this overall single charitable activity is undertaken in a number of ways by SGI-UK:

- Providing and maintaining centres for the study and practice of Nichiren Buddhism and other activities directed towards the furtherance of the charity's mission;
- Commissioning, printing, publishing, displaying and circulating newspapers, pamphlets, books, circulars, magazines, recordings, tapes, films, electronic information, and any other educational materials;
- Organising or supporting lectures, seminars, courses, classes, workshops, conferences and meetings;
- Promoting and staging artistic, musical, cultural and dramatic performances, shows, exhibitions, concerts and other events; and
- Co-operating with and supporting other voluntary, non-governmental and statutory bodies and organisations including the United Nations whose purposes are compatible with the objectives of the charity.

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Indicators, Milestones & Benchmarks

The trustees monitor a range of measures to determine the success of the charity in meeting its objectives. These measures include:

- Level of membership of SGI-UK and the trend over time.
- Changes in the number of districts and other organisational units.
- Attendance at courses, meetings and events to study and share the teachings of Nichiren.
- Circulation and readership of publications.
- Feedback from delegates and the public more generally.
- The extent of, and feedback from, other entities with whom SGI-UK co-operates or to whom SGI-UK provides support.
- Numbers of weddings and funerals.
- Academic research on SGI-UK.
- Study exam statistics.

Public Benefit

The trustees have taken The Charity Commission's specific guidance on public benefit (contained within the guidance publication "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit") into consideration in preparing their statements on public benefit contained within this trustees' annual report.

Benefits & Beneficiaries

In accordance with its charitable objectives, SGI-UK strives to advance religion as it relates to the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin. The charity's principal beneficiaries are therefore:

- The members of SGI-UK;
- People exploring whether they wish to become members of SGI-UK; and
- Members of the public who come to any SGI-UK activity or look at any of our resources in order to find out about Buddhism in the Nichiren tradition.

In addition, beneficiaries include people who visit Taplow Court Open Days and attend cultural activities that we hold whether in person or online, both being ways of opening ourselves to society and making friends, as well as communicating our attitude to life, without explicitly teaching about Buddhism, and school children who visit Taplow Court as an educational resource also benefit. Finally, those groups in the local community whom we allow to use Taplow Court without charge in order to hold charitable or educational activities also benefit.

The benefits provided to beneficiaries by SGI-UK are:

- The practice of Buddhism is a benefit in itself, being a practice and philosophy that enables the individual to strengthen their lives, overcome weakness and achieve goals. This growth in the individual affects their families, communities and places of work. [Indeed, in the words of the President of SGI Daisaku Ikeda, we find: "A great human revolution in the life of one person can change the destiny of humankind and our entire planet"];
- The organisation of monthly discussion meetings throughout the UK open to all at no charge, where Buddhism in the Nichiren tradition is communicated through short presentations, experiences and open discussion;
- The organisation of monthly study meetings throughout the UK where the writings of Nichiren are studied also open to all at no charge;
- The provision of seminars, other study opportunities and courses, as expanded elsewhere in this report;
- Explanations about Buddhism to school children and students at Taplow Court and in schools and other institutions countrywide, where local members speak by invitation as Buddhist practitioners during Religious Education lessons and at other times;
- Introductory talks about Buddhism held at our London centres and at various venues country wide;

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- Conduct of religious ceremonies – weddings and funerals; and
- A leadership network which exists to provide continuous support to people in their practice of Buddhism.

Trustees' Assessment of Public Benefit

In relation to their assessment of the delivery by the charity of public benefit, the trustees take into consideration the following sources of evidence:

- Members' experiences of practice shared at meetings and published in our monthly magazine;
- Numbers of members and guests attending discussion meetings, study meetings and taking part in the annual study course and attending Buddhist courses;
- Number of school and student visits to Taplow Court and the positive responses elicited by these; and
- Number of weddings and funerals conducted.

We appreciate that the benefit cannot best be conveyed through numbers, and that the best gauge of benefit is the first one above, members' experiences.

Grant Making Policy

The charity does not currently give grants in any formal structured manner as a means by which it fulfils its charitable objectives, and therefore, the trustees have not set a grant making policy.

However, from time to time, SGI-UK will provide funding by way of donations to certain other voluntary, non-governmental and statutory bodies and organisations where the trustees are satisfied that such support will help to promote the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin through peace, culture and education.

Relationships with Related Parties

SGI-UK is a member of the Network of Buddhist Organisations in the United Kingdom and a corporate member of UNICEF and the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. SGI-UK is an active member of Religions for Peace UK. In 2021 SGI-UK was accredited as an Observer Organisation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and representatives have attended their conferences (COP26 in Glasgow, COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, COP28 in Dubai and COP29 in Baku); this status will be ongoing for future conferences. As a member of the Soka Gakkai International ("SGI") community worldwide, SGI-UK is implicitly related to all similar SGI entities and in particular works closely with the founding Soka Gakkai entity based in Tokyo, Japan.

Representation on Other Bodies

SGI-UK does not currently pursue its charitable objectives through representation on any other external bodies.

New Soka Gakkai Charter

In 2021, the updated Soka Gakkai Charter replaced the SGI Charter to further articulate the organization's purposes, the ideals motivating its activities and its guiding principles in the realm of social engagement as a global organization promoting peace and culture. The text of the Charter is set out below, and where appropriate the relevance of each principle to our activities will be highlighted elsewhere in this Report.

Preamble

We, the Soka Gakkai organizations and members throughout the world, share the aim and mission of promoting peace, culture and education based on the Buddhist teaching of respect for the dignity of life.

In the face of multiple, interlocking crises, it is clear that humanity's survival and flourishing must be a shared, cooperative undertaking founded in an awareness of our intimate connections with all forms of life. Everyone's contribution is needed, and no one must be left behind.

We believe that the teachings of Nichiren Buddhism offer a means for each of us to manifest within the realities of daily life the unlimited capacity for wisdom, courage and compassion we all possess. We therefore seek to foster individuals who are empowered to take on the daunting challenges we face and are committed to building a more just and sustainable world for future generations.

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We, the respective organizations of the Soka Gakkai, raising high the banner of global citizenship, the spirit of active tolerance and respect for human dignity, and determined to confront the threats facing humankind based on an unwavering commitment to nonviolence and the culture of peace, hereby adopt this charter, affirming the following purposes and principles.

Purposes and Principles

1. The Soka Gakkai will contribute to peace, culture and education based on the Buddhist teaching of respect for the dignity of all life.
2. The Soka Gakkai will promote an understanding of Nichiren Buddhism through grassroots dialogue and exchange, thereby contributing to the realization of human happiness and well-being.
3. The Soka Gakkai will respect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
4. The Soka Gakkai will, based on the Buddhist spirit of tolerance, respect other religious and philosophical traditions, engaging in dialogue and working together with them toward the resolution of the fundamental challenges confronting humankind.
5. The Soka Gakkai will respect local cultures and customs, and the autonomy of each organization. Each organization will develop its activities in accordance with the laws and conditions prevailing in that country or territory and will encourage its members to contribute to society as responsible citizens.
6. The Soka Gakkai will work for peace and a world free from nuclear weapons and will promote just and sustainable development.
7. The Soka Gakkai will safeguard and promote human rights. It will not discriminate against any individual and will oppose all forms of discrimination. It will contribute to the achievement of gender equality and promote the empowerment of women.
8. The Soka Gakkai will respect cultural diversity and promote intercultural exchange, thereby contributing to mutual understanding and cooperation among the world's peoples.
9. The Soka Gakkai is committed to building a sustainable world for future generations, addressing the climate crisis, and protecting and caring for the ecosystems of Earth.
10. The Soka Gakkai will promote education, learning and scholarship, to enable all people to cultivate their individual character and enjoy contributive, fulfilling and happy lives.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Activities & Events

Members of SGI-UK were involved in organising and broadcasting an event held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 20th February to commemorate the life and activities of SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, hosted by Vice President of the Parliament Pina Picierno MEP, in collaboration with SGI Europe. Vice President Picierno had written a message of condolence to the Ikeda family, and Co-Chair of SGI Europe and SGI-UK vice General Director Suzanne Pritchard read the moving message of appreciation that Daisaku Ikeda's eldest son, Hiromasa Ikeda had written in response on behalf of the family. Stefano Bettera, President of the European Buddhist Union, Sandrine Dixon-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome, Melissa Parke, Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and Robert Harrap, Co-Chair of SGI Europe and SGI-UK Executive Advisor all spoke. They each shared how President Ikeda's life had impacted and influenced different aspects of European culture. The event was live streamed on SGI-UK's YouTube platform and viewed more than 70,000 times.

Most of SGI-UK's activities were held in person in 2024, with some events being held as hybrid meeting using online video platforms such as zoom to leave no one behind.

Our shops at Taplow Court and our other centres selling Buddhist books and items were able to open regularly, and our online shop and mail order continued to provide a service.

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Impact of Core activities to Promote the Study and Practice of Nichiren Buddhism as taught by SGI

Our basic method of introducing people to SGI-UK and Nichiren Buddhism is through inviting them to the monthly discussion meetings held by our 623 districts around the country. Study lectures, introductory talks and public lectures also continued in a variety of ways. The London Ikeda Peace Centre at 7 Wakefield Street, London WC1, the South London National Centre in Brixton and the West London Centre in Acton opened for use by our members.

Our average monthly attendance at monthly discussion meetings is 3959, with an average of 371 guests.

The number of districts at the end of 2024 was 623 (2023: 627).

We continued to hold Membership and Gohonzon Bestowal Ceremonies with national ceremonies in August and November. 245 new members (2023: 207) joined SGI-UK at in-person ceremonies at our national HQ Taplow Court and at other regional ceremonies.

Our monthly magazine, the Art of Living ("AOL"), has over 3100 subscriptions for our print version and the print run continued at 4,000. Single issues were bought through our various centres and by mail order. Our digital version of the AOL by the end of 2024 has increased its subscriptions to 1184. We expect this number to continue increasing and the demand for the print version to continue to reduce over time.

Districts as referred to above are organised into chapters, usually consisting of 2 to 4 districts. Study of Nichiren Daishonin's writings are organised monthly, usually on a chapter level. There are 171 Chapters. Preparation for lectures is held some months before each lecture, support material being sent electronically to all lecturers. Introductory lectures continued online.

There were 10 residential courses and 18 one day courses held at Taplow Court with 2,270 participants. Some Areas held local summer courses between June and September.

Meetings to inspire and support Leaders were held in person with a hybrid option and were organised nationally and locally. In April two consecutive days of representative chapter and district level leaders' inspiration meetings were held at Taplow Court with an overall attendance of one thousand. In November representative leaders' meeting was held with five hundred participants to kick-off the organisation towards 2025.

Study courses give a structured study syllabus for all members to take advantage of. The Grade 1, 2 and 3 exams were held in 2024. 234 participants took the Grade 1 exam (and 223 passed) and 213 took the Grade 2 exam (and 152 passed). 166 took Grade 3 exam (and 96 passed).

Our study courses continued with online meetings, and gradually introduced face to face opportunities. Study courses give a structured study syllabus for all members to take advantage of.

The SGI-UK Study Department has split into four subgroups, which focus on particular areas of study. These are: study courses and exams, study lecturers' training, study materials and publications, and study admin.

Numbers of weddings and funerals: SGI-UK conducted 10 weddings (2023: 11) and 33 funerals (2023: 13).

SGI-UK Outreach activities in 2024

The SGI theme for 2024 was 'Year of Fresh Departure for a Youthful Soka Gakkai Worldwide'. In addition to the activities for SGI-UK members mentioned earlier in this report, this section highlights a selection of SGI-UK's outreach activities and events that took place in 2024, referencing the Soka Gakkai Charter principles. These short articles were originally reported in the AOL on-line news, a rolling news service for SGI-UK members.

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'This is Our Age' Campaign and Festival through 2024 to 26th January 2025

The 'This is Our Age' campaign (which demonstrated all ten of the Soka Gakkai Charter principles) included a range of events towards the 50th anniversary of the founding of SGI on 26th January 2025 with the aim to transform our future into one that is just, sustainable and prosperous.

The events were centred around public engagement while supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through the exhibition created through a collaboration between SGI and Earth Charter International called 'Seeds of Hope and Action.' The campaign was driven by our core values which support us to transform our world and support the SDGs. Four main events took place through the year: at Taplow Court in March, at the University of Glasgow in June, at the University of Warwick in September, and at University Trinity St David's in Carmarthen in November. The exhibition was also displayed at Goldsmiths College in South London.

The 'This is Our Age Festival' took place on sixteenth March at the SGI-UK Grand Culture Centre Taplow Court and launched an initiative to inspire ten thousand young people in the United Kingdom to stand up in solidarity in 2024 to open the way to a brighter future for society and the world. The event hosted over one thousand two hundred young people in two sessions, ranging from seven to eighteen years old. The festival was a public-facing event aiming to highlight how SGI addresses global issues such as poverty, peace, sustainability, climate change and inequality. By educating ourselves and the wider public on these issues, the festival sought to raise awareness and foster collective action towards building a society on the foundation of respect for the dignity of life. Various activities were available, including DJs playing music in the gardens, a clothing caravan demonstrating how to upcycle clothes and avoid waste, and quizzes and workshops focussing on sustainability. The event closed with the participants invited to respond to a call to action together with this pledge: 'I decide to: stand up and unite in solidarity with the young people of the world to create a brighter future for our planet; to shine with the light of humanity and realise my full potential in every area of my life; to be a beacon of hope demonstrating that another world is possible.'

15th June SGI-UK celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of SGI President Daisaku Ikeda receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow with a special event, titled 'Leave No One Behind: Humanistic Education for the Flourishing of Each Person'. The event was held in Bute Hall, in the University of Glasgow. Bute Hall echoed with music, voices and dialogue, exploring a return to the true purpose of education as expressed in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 4: 'a source of personal dignity and empowerment'. The seven hundred guests were welcomed by ceilidh music and song. A key part of the event was a dialogue hosted by teenagers with Professor Sinead Gormally (Professor of Community Development and Youth, University of Glasgow), Dr. Wanda Diaz-Merced (University of Glasgow alumna and astrophysicist), and Greg Duncan (University of Glasgow alumna and Deputy Headteacher of Perth Grammar School) based around three questions: what does it mean to leave no one behind, what are the key ingredients in humanist education, and what does it mean to bring out someone's full potential and help them flourish? Also in attendance was Professor Emeritus – J. Forbes Munro, who proposed the honorary degree be awarded to Daisaku Ikeda in 1994.

On 8th September the third in a series of events as part of 'This is Our Age' initiative took place in the University of Warwick Arts Centre, in collaboration with likeminded external partners, reaching out into wider society and was co-hosted along with University of Warwick (UoW). More than three hundred people were welcomed, along with local schools who were invited through UoW's UNESCO outreach programme. The festival showcased 'The Seeds of Hope and Action' exhibition alongside a Peace Fayre that consisted of many stalls with creative and dialogue-based workshops, aiming to raise awareness on the themes of nuclear abolition and Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers included Kyoko Gibson, a second-generation survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, ICAN representative Daniel Hogsta, with the Mayor of Solihull Shahin Ashraf MBE in attendance.

From 14th to 19th October the exhibition 'Seeds of Hope and Action' was put up in Goldsmiths College in southeast London, in collaboration with the College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team. There were talks and live music, a panel discussion on the exhibition themes, family-friendly workshops, a clothes caravan, arts and crafts, and films. This event connected approximately seven hundred and fifty people to the exhibition, sowing the seeds of hope through team-work and a creative and joyful spirit, inspiring visitors to take action towards co-creating a better world for all.

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From 27th to 30th November the 'This is Our Age' Festival was held at the Halliwell Conference Centre at University Trinity St David's in Carmarthen, Wales. The festival was free to attend, and included the 'Seeds of Hope and Action' exhibition, school workshops and educators' forums delving into the SDGs, offering practical insights for daily life and education. These sessions aimed to inspire a lifelong commitment to sustainable living and knowledge-sharing. In addition, there were panel talks and live music. The event opened with an opening ceremony that included, Justine Marchant, SGI-UK General Director, Hayley Morgan, Chief Executive of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, Jill Evans, Vice Chair CND Cymru, Dr Luci Attalla, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wales and Director of UNESCO-MOST Bridges, and Kyoko Gibson, second generation hibakusha and member of SGI-UK. The festival also included a student production of 'Oh What a Lovely War!' On the last day, the talks and performance included contributions from Abel Pearson from Glasbren, Pam Evans O.B.E. from Peace Mala, Dan Llewellyn from Coetiranian/Cambrian Wildwood, a choir performance from Sweet Harmonies and Preseli Voices and Jill Sutton from Fairtrade.

The following reports give some examples of how our other activities in 2024 touched on the principles in the Soka Gakkai Charter:

1 The Soka Gakkai will contribute to peace, culture and education based on the Buddhist teaching of respect for the dignity of all life.

Friday 8th March saw the return of Maidenhead Rotary Club's annual charity fundraiser called 'Maidenhead's Got Talent'. This event has been held annually for fifteen years, but due to the Covid pandemic it had been four years since this event was last held at Taplow Court. This is an opportunity for local schools and youth clubs to present group and solo performances of singing and dancing. In thanking SGI-UK the Rotary Club reported that they were able to donate £4,500 to two local charities.

On 9th May, twenty-three members of Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust paid a visit to Taplow Court for the first time and were given a guided tour of the gardens and grounds. They were particularly keen to see the way the historical framework of the gardens, whilst still very evident, has been adapted over the last century through the changing ownership of Taplow Court.

2nd November SGI-UK young people of East London Area organised an informal jazz concert at the London Ikeda Peace Centre, to explore the music of SGI-USA members Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter (1933-2023). The concert was complemented by a panel discussion which explored the lives of these two iconic artists, explaining how their Buddhist practice shaped their worldview and creative vision.

2. The Soka Gakkai will promote an understanding of Nichiren Buddhism through grassroots dialogue and exchange, thereby contributing to the realization of human happiness and well-being.

On 16th May, Tring and Berkhamsted District members held an 'Introduction to Buddhism' talk at the 'Open Door' community café in Berkhamsted. Once the formal talks had been completed hot drinks and cakes were served, and guests were free to ask any questions of the SGI-UK members seated at their table and formed a bond with them.

On 29th May 'The Well@ Lent Rise', a community group of residents of Burnham, the village next to Taplow, visited Taplow Court. They were welcomed with refreshments and then an introduction to Nam-myoho-renge-kyo.

Members of Many Treasures District (Exeter) joined and supported the Exeter Respect Festival held on 8th June. Thousands of people attended the event in Belmont Park, where there was music, food and culture from across the world. The SGI was one of the faith groups represented at the Devon Faith and Belief Forum.

On 9th October SGI-UK members had a joyful day speaking with students and staff at the well-being event for World Mental Health Day held at East Sussex College in Hastings.

An 'Introduction to Buddhism' talk was given on 24th November at Raynes Park Library Hall, in southwest London. The speakers covered various topics including a brief history of Buddhism; this was followed by two personal testimonials, and a short question and answer session.

3. The Soka Gakkai will respect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

A conference co-organised by the Soka Gakkai, SGI-UK, the Centre for Applied Buddhism, the Club of Rome and the 50 Percent, took place at Taplow Court and online on 9th October, under the title 'It's Time for a Human Revolution!' Young people played a central role in the event and intergenerational dialogue and collaboration was promoted. The conference welcomed one hundred and thirty people in person and four hundred and fifty online. The participants included youth leaders, represented NGOs and international organisations from nineteen countries. All the participants engaged in dynamic discussions, honouring the fortieth and forty-fifth anniversaries of the publications: 'Before It Is Too Late' and 'No Limits to Learning'. These dialogues focused on the critical theme of inner transformation, referred to as 'human revolution' and mutual learning. The Secretary of the Club of Rome, Carlos Alvarez Pereira emphasized the importance of asking challenging questions to overcome blind spots. He stressed the human potential for learning as key to fostering realistic yet hopeful approaches to global issues. Co-Chair of Europe and SGI-UK Executive Advisor Robert Harrap provided an introduction to the book 'Before it is too Late' which was a dialogue held between Aurelio Peccei, founder of the Club of Rome and Daisaku Ikeda, President of the SGI.

On Thursday 13 June, sixty-five people attended the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF) interfaith Reception at the Norden Farm Arts Centre, including representatives of SGI-UK. The reception included representatives from nine faith/belief groups, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire representing King Charles, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and the local Police Inspector, as well as community leaders.

On 13th July, SGI-UK members in Northwest Kent joined Medway Interfaith Action's annual walk. The walk included a visit to a Sikh Gurudwara, a Hindu Mandir and an Islamic Mosque. The day ended at a local church where there was entertainment and refreshments.

4. The Soka Gakkai will, based on the Buddhist spirit of tolerance, respect other religious and philosophical traditions, engaging in dialogue and working together with them toward the resolution of the fundamental challenges confronting humankind.

SGI-UK members of Devon joined people of various faiths to plant one hundred and fifty trees in a community orchard in the city of Exeter on 10th February, with the help of a Nature Reserves Officer from the Devon Wildlife Trust, and the Chair of the Devon Faith and Belief Forum said the SGI had brought 'youth and brightness' to the day. A prayer and reflection meeting was held prior to the tree planting, during which inspiration about nature from SGI President Daisaku Ikeda was shared.

SGI-UK members living in Waltham Forest in northeast London provided a stall at Walthamstow Town Hall's Interfaith Festival and brought with them a handmade 'Tree of Hope' on which visitors could write their hopes for the future on leaves made out of card which were then hung on the tree. The tree was then going to go on a tour of local libraries and schools.

5. The Soka Gakkai will respect local cultures and customs, and the autonomy of each organisation. Each organisation will develop its activities in accordance with the laws and conditions prevailing in that country or territory and will encourage its members to contribute to society as responsible citizens.

SGI-UK hosted Cliveden National Trust at Taplow Court on Thursday 22nd February for their Spring Gathering. Three hundred Cliveden volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on their achievements in 2023 and make plans for the coming year of 2024. The participants gathered for a welcome from SGI-UK Executive Advisor Robert Harrap, as well as thanks and forward vision from Robert Miles, General Manager of the Cliveden estate and Sandy Nairne, Deputy Chair of the National Trust.

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The SGI-UK Grand Culture Centre Taplow Court began its series of six Open Days on 5th May, when the general public are invited to visit Taplow Court. The month of May 2024 commemorated the thirty-fifth anniversary of the formal opening of Taplow Court in May 1989 by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. Open Days were held on the first Sunday of the month from May to September, and the National Heritage day in mid-September.

Each year, three nurses from across the United Kingdom are selected to lead a procession for a commemoration service at Westminster Abbey, London to remember the life and spirit of Florence Nightingale. On 15th May SGI-UK member Matt Brayford, from Wales, was one of the chosen three – the first ever mental health nurse selected.

SGI-UK acknowledged the legacy of William Grenfell, Lord Desborough, the last private owner of Taplow Court with is support of the book launch 'Titan of the Thames', a newly published biography on 19th June at Taplow Court Grand Culture Centre. As a member of the Thames Conservatory for over forty years, Lord Desborough was instrumental in reshaping and modernising the river, enabling better access to drinking water in London, and a clean and safe environment for underwater life as well as those working and living on the river. Based at Taplow Court, Lord Desborough was also a noted supporter of many community projects and concerns. The Chairman of Buckinghamshire Council and Deputy Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead underlined the extent to which his spirit of service continues to be recognised in the local community today and modern-day users of the River Thames and descendants of the Grenfell family enjoyed meeting the book's authors Sandy Nairne and Peter Williams.

On 23rd November Lorna Hunter from the University of Reading who is working closely with the British Museum to investigate the full contents of the Saxon Mound located at Taplow Court, and its 1883 excavation, gave a talk sharing her lines of enquiry at Taplow Court Grand Culture Centre. She was joined by Paul Sneddon of Maidenhead Archaeological Society and Julian Munby of the Diocese of Oxford, who spoke about the saxon church that formerly stood next to the mound. The talk was organised by St. Nicolas Church in the village of Taplow and hosted by SGI-UK in support of raising funds for the repair of the vault, which partially fell in some years ago, and is now resealed.

A celebration of outstanding contributions of the voluntary sector across the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead took place at Taplow Court on 5th December. The event provided an opportunity to thank over seventy local individuals and groups for their invaluable work. Asma Aziz, of the Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership, praised the night for its spirit of unity and gratitude, saying: 'it was a testament to the power of collaboration and the unwavering commitment of those who support our communities. Thank you to SGI-UK for providing such a stunning venue.

6. The Soka Gakkai will work for peace and a world free from nuclear weapons and will promote just and sustainable development.

SGI-UK welcomed the Slough Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra and the Marlow Community Choir on 18th May to Taplow Court. They performed Karl Jenkin's 'The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace'. There were one hundred singers and a fifty-piece orchestra and there were three hundred and fifty in the audience. The money raised from the event was donated to 'Soundabout' a small national charity that uses sound and music for learning disabled children and adults with complex needs to express their voices. SGI-UK Vice General Director Sue Thornton welcomed everyone and explained that Karl Jenkin's Mass for Peace was very fitting with the current difficulties in the world, and she promised that the members of SGI-UK would continue their prayers for peace by chanting Nam-myoho-enge-kyo.

As part of the International Mayors for Peace initiative, members of SGI-UK contributed to an event held by the Mayor of Winchester in August to mark the seventy-ninth anniversary of the devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The occasion was an important opportunity to reflect on the past and to look into the future, promoting a more peaceful and cooperative world. It was a solemn but hopeful gathering with many Winchester officials present, together with forty representatives from local organisations.

7. The Soka Gakkai will safeguard and promote human rights. It will not discriminate against any individual and will oppose all forms of discrimination. It will contribute to the achievement of gender equality and promote the empowerment of women.

On 27th February, the Arts University Bournemouth held their LGBTQ+ Human Library event, and SGI-UK was invited to attend. Representatives had each written a foreword to their 'human book' which was published into a reading list catalogue. From there students reviewed the catalogue to choose who they would like to have a fifteen-minute dialogue with, before putting the representative 'back on the shelf' for another student. The event was based on the idea that human stories are powerful, and dialogue can transform people. The human book of the SGI-UK representative was the most picked book and they have been invited to return for future events.

SGI-UK representatives took part in the UK Black Pride event that was held in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 11th August. With an attendance in the region of 20,000 people, it proved a great opportunity to welcome many conversations about Buddhism at the stall that was set up.

8. The Soka Gakkai will respect cultural diversity and promote intercultural exchange, thereby contributing to mutual understanding and cooperation among the world's peoples.

On Sunday fourteenth January members of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Pool Interfaith Group came together for a vigil to acknowledge all those caught up in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Prayers were given from all faiths; candles were lit in remembrance and songs were sung together. Even a small number of people of multi-faiths coming together is symbolic and shows that prayers and reflections can help at a time when many people are feeling shared pain. The whole event was recorded and shown on BBC South news.

The Twenty-first Biennial Conference of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) took place in the city of Chennai from the 22nd November to the 3rd December with two hundred and fifty participants from eighteen countries under the theme 'Buddhist Heritage: Towards an Inclusive Society'. INEB is a global network of individuals and organisations who are committed to promoting and working toward building compassionate societies, environment sustainability and world peace. SGI-UK's Centre for Applied Buddhism (CfAB) took part in this conference. The conference was structured around a series of parallel workshops on engaged Buddhism on the themes: Archaeological Justice and Community Participation; Marginalised Communities on Gender, Social Justice and Inclusiveness; Eco-Dharma and Sustainability; Youth Empowerment. Key issues examined and explored included: the promotion of peace and social harmony; Buddhist heritage and culture since antiquity; grassroots support for environmental sustainability, gender equality, children's well-being, and social justice; spiritual development and practice; strengthening networks and relationships within the global Buddhist community; and encouraging young people to explore and engage with Buddhist teachings and practices.

9. The Soka Gakkai is committed to building a sustainable world for future generations, addressing the climate crisis, and protecting and caring for the ecosystems of Earth.

Twenty pupils from Claire's Court School in Maidenhead made Taplow Court their home for an Eco Day on twenty-ninth February. With support from local SGI-UK members, they learned about Buddhism from the point of view of oneness of self and environment, designed ordnance survey maps of the grounds, and held lively group meetings around how to engage daily with each of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On sixth June SGI-UK co-organised a side event at the UNFCCC climate change conference in Bonn, known as SB60, with the SGI Office for Un Affairs and the Quakers. The event focused on how ethical values can guide more successful and effective climate policies and brought together speakers from various realms of climate change discussions, including biodiversity loss, techno-fixes, adaptation, farming and agriculture, energy transitions and intergenerational equity. The SGI representative spoke about the Buddhist principle of nonviolence and the role of intergenerational equity in enhancing the meaningful and productive participation of young people in climate policy discussions and decision making. The SGI continues to work with other faith groups and representatives to promote human rights-based approaches to tackling the issues of climate change and the meaningful inclusion of marginalised voices in society.

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As part of an initiative called 'A Thousand Seeds of Hope and Happiness' local SGI-UK members visited Cambourne Village College near Cambridge on tenth July to share Buddhism with over one hundred and twenty fourteen and fifteen year olds. The SGI-UK members had been invited to give their perspective on the question, 'How do beliefs influence actions in relation to the environment?' As one of six religious and non-religious groups they presented a fifty-minute session to six different classes during the day. The central theme from SGI-UK was the power of inner generated hope as a resource to win in life and initiate great action in society.

Between 19-23 August an SGI-UK representative attended the European Association of the Studies for Religion (EASR) 2024 Conference in Gothenburg Sweden. This representative was part of a panel on 'Buddhist responses to the ecological crisis and climate change', which had been convened by Italian academic Prof. Massimo Introvigne, to honour Daisaku Ikeda. Massimo Introvigne, Rosita Soryte and Nicole Bauer gave papers on the Soka Gakkai's Interpretation of the Principle 'Three Thousand Realms in a Single Moment of Life'; Ikeda's 'Climate Action', 'The Treasure Tower'; The Peace Proposal 2020, Daisaku Ikeda's 'Last Word on Climate Action'; 'Between Buddhism and Postmodern Spirituality: The Popularisation of Soka Gakkai and its Ecological Teachings in Austria and Germany'.

The Green Festival was held in Nottingham on eighth September. It is an annual outdoor event where local charities and organisations committed to creating a greener future come together. SGI-UK had a stall at this event and handed out home made bookmarks with inspirational quotes on them; they also accompanied 'The Coat of Hope' which is a coat embroidered with people's hopes for the future; this coat had been worn on a walk from Lincoln to the Green Festival by volunteers.

10 The Soka Gakkai will promote education, learning and scholarship, to enable all people to cultivate their individual character and enjoy contributive, fulfilling and happy lives.

Members from across Dorset hosted an SGI-UK information stall at Bournemouth University Refreshers Fair on Tuesday 6th February. The Fair offers a chance for students to refresh their university experience by joining a club, society or sports team. As part of the University Faith and Reflection Team, the SGI-UK members were invited to participate and talk with students about Nichiren Buddhism and the Soka Gakkai.

On thirty-first October SGI-UK members in Wigan visited All Saints Church of England Primary and Nursery School. At the request of the school, they shared Buddhism with the students through workshops tailored to the school year; one was a craft activity that involved mirrors. The children were able to express the Buddhist concept of the ten worlds using their bodies.

For the fifth year running, Year five students (aged nine to ten) of North Ealing Primary School were treated to an interactive talk by the local SGI-UK members as part of the UK Schools' Interfaith week.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Results of Activities & Events

SGI-UK generated total income of £3,201,786 (2023: £3,337,436) including total income on endowment funds of £274,633 (2023: £162,191).

Total expenditure amounted to £4,115,420 (2023: £3,762,264) the vast majority of which was incurred furthering the principal activity of the charity that being the advancement of religion.

Grant Making

The charity does not currently give grants as a means by which it fulfils its charitable objectives.

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Reserves Policy

SGI-UK relies upon the support of its members to continue its work in the United Kingdom. Because of this recurring need for annual voluntary income, which by its nature is inevitably unpredictable, it is the current policy of the trustees to endeavour to build up a reserve of unrestricted funds equal to three to six months operating costs and which are not designated for any other specific purpose. The trustees consider reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

At the balance sheet date, SGI-UK had "free reserves" of £1,184,125 (2023: £1,457,314) which represents 4.0 months of operating costs less depreciation. The operating costs for Shop, Publications and Courses have differing income streams. With regard to covering the income received specifically from Donations and Legacies (£2,364,959) free reserves represents 6.0 months' income. Free reserves are therefore considered to be adequate but not excessive.

The trustees have agreed to designate £200,000 of reserves for major maintenance projects at Taplow Court, and £500,000 to finance local centres in the future. Area leaders around the UK are able to bid for funding when a suitable building has been found.

In 2024 £25,797 of the Designated Taplow Court Fund was spent on preparation works to improve accessibility to the Canteen by creating a new entrance to allow wheelchair access.

In addition, the trustees allocated £59,558 on preparation for major access improvements to the London Ikeda Peace Centre.

In addition to "free reserves", at the balance sheet date, the trustees were holding £15,970,677 (2023: £16,365,754) of unrestricted funds in a designated fund known as the Designated Fixed Assets Fund, representing the resources required to finance the net book value of all functional fixed assets, and also £34,164,899 (2023: £32,354,297) in an expendable endowment fund known as the Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund.

Investments Policy

The trustees have wide ranging powers to invest the funds of SGI-UK as they see fit, and in practice, they use a range of banking facilities to ensure that funds generate appropriate levels of return, whilst minimising risk.

For the year ended 31 December 2024, the charity's cash deposits generated investment income of £298,669 (2023: £174,257) which represents an average income return of 4.2% (2023: 2.4%). The Trustees target for the Charity's investments is to achieve steady growth.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Future Strategy

The trustees envisage a steady increase in the size of SGI-UK in the next 10 years. As indicated earlier, as local areas reach about 500 active members, it will become appropriate to open community centres in localities around the UK in the same way as the three centres in London. The trustees monitor the regional growth in membership and in consultation with local areas, will look for and open community centres as they become required. The trustees also envisage improving the residential facilities for courses at Taplow Court within this time frame. In 2018 SGI-UK invited local Areas to make proposals when they feel they are ready to support a Centre in their Area. The change in approach to activities because of the pandemic has paused discussions on regional Centres, but this is expected to be revisited in 2025.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The trustees of the charity, who are also the directors of the company, have held office, as follows:

S J Ball
K Fujii
R P Harrap
F J Harrow
G Holman
C R Loewe
J Marchant (appointed 1 February 2024)
A Oakley
J Y E Peters-Smith
R A Samuels
S Wilson (resigned 11 April 2025)

The principal address of the charity and the registered office of the company is the offices of SGI-UK at Taplow Court, Berry Hill, Taplow, Near Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 0ER.

The charity is registered under the charity number 1104491, and the company is incorporated with the company registration number 05114516. Toni-Ann Hirayama is the company secretary.

The trustees have made the following professional appointments:

Solicitor:	Womble, Bond, Dickinson, 4, More, London Riverside, SE1 2AU Horsey Lightly Solicitors, Devon House, 12/15 Dartmouth Street, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BL
Auditor:	HaysMac LLP, 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG
Bankers:	Triodos Bank, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS Investec Bank plc, 2 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7QP Lloyds Bank plc, SME Banking, High Wycombe and Amersham Barclays Bank plc, Slough - East Berkshire Group, Leicester, Leicestershire LE87 2BB The Charity Bank Limited, Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge TN9 1BE
Investment Managers:	Columbia Threadneedle Global Equity Fund Royal London Ethical Bond Fund Stewart Investors Asia Pacific Fund Stewart Investors Worldwide Fund Montanaro Better World Fund Generation

The following additional key members of staff assist the trustees with the day-to-day management of the charity:

S McWilliam	General Manager
J Fagence	Senior Manager
M Mehta	Senior Manager
T-A Hirayama	Senior Manager

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Status & History

Soka Gakkai International (“SGI”) is a Buddhist association with more than 12 million members in 192 countries and territories worldwide. For SGI members, Buddhism is a practical philosophy of individual empowerment and inner transformation that enables people to develop themselves and take responsibility for their lives. As lay believers and ‘engaged Buddhists,’ SGI members strive in their everyday lives to develop the ability to live with confidence, to create value in any circumstances and to contribute to the well-being of friends, family and community. The promotion of peace, culture and education is central to SGI’s activities.

‘Soka’ is a Japanese word meaning ‘value creation’, and ‘Gakkai’ means ‘society’.

Although the first members of SGI in the UK appeared in 1961, SGI-UK was originally set up in the United Kingdom under a declaration of trust dated 2 January 1975 and became an unincorporated registered charity in England and Wales on 28 January 1975. Having updated its declaration of trust on 17 June 1993, SGI-UK was then incorporated on 28 April 2004 and was re-registered as an incorporated charity on 22 June 2004.

In its current legal form, SGI-UK is a registered charity, and a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital. Every member of the company is also a trustee and director, and undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of the charity being wound-up during the period of membership, or within one year thereafter.

SGI-UK is governed by its rules and regulations, as set down in the company’s Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 April 2004.

Organisational Structure

The overall strategic direction of the charity is approved by the trustees, who have delegated to the National Committee to deliberate and propose the organisational activities. The trustees usually meet formally every two months, in the evening.

SGI-UK members are organised into local districts nationwide. These districts are further organised into chapters, headquarters, regions and areas, all with volunteer leaders in faith. The districts meet several times a month in members’ homes and hold a monthly discussion meeting open to members and guests.

The General Director and two Vice-General Directors have been appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations and to make decisions in this regard on behalf of the trustees. The General Director and the two Vice-General Directors are assisted by a management team for the following functions/departments:

- Conference services
- Courses and administration
- Facilities management
- General administration
- Membership
- Publications production and distribution
- External relations
- Shop
- Accounts
- Weddings and funerals
- Human resources
- Content management (publications and website)

Subcommittees

At the present time, there are three formal subcommittees of the board of trustees and directors. These are the National Committee, the SGI-UK Finance Committee and the Endowment Fund Finance Committee.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

National Committee

Role:

To make all the initial decisions about the activities and direction of SGI-UK within the strategic framework and budgetary constraints set by the trustees and directors.

Current membership:

Justine Marchant, General Director (appointed 27 January 2024)
Robert Harrap, Executive Advisor and Vice General Director (appointed 27 January 2024)
Robert Samuels, General Men's Division Leader
Kazuo Fujii, Vice General Director
Sue Thornton, Vice General Director
Suzanne Pritchard, Vice General Director
Sanda McWilliam, General Women's Division Leader and Vice General Director
Tobi Keryk, Women's Division Leader
Fiona Harrow, Women's Division Secretary General
Colette Ferns, Vice Women's Division Leader
Jacqueline Kington, Vice Women's Division Leader
David Woodger, Men's Division Leader
Munish Mehta, Men's Division Secretary General
Chris Nembhard, Vice Men's Division Leader
Donald Cameron, Vice Men's Division Leader
Koichi Samuels, Youth Division Leader
Anna Hashimoto, Vice Youth Division Leader
Gabrielle Westhead, Young Women's Division Leader
Jenny Balba, Vice-Young Women's Division Leader
Amy Hamdoon Clough, Vice Young Women's Leader
Max Erle, Young Men's Division Leader
Chris Chung, Vice-Young Men's Division Leader
Ryan Williams, Vice-Young Men's Division Leader

Responsibilities:

To meet once a month to deliberate and determine national direction and activities.

SGI-UK Finance Committee

Role:

To deal with detailed financial matters on behalf of the trustees and directors.

Membership:

The following trustees currently comprise the Finance Committee - S J Ball, K Fujii, R P Harrap, R A Samuels, S Wilson.

Responsibilities:

- To review the finances of SGI-UK every two months;
- To make recommendations about investment decisions; and
- To approve unbudgeted expenditures up to £1,000.

Endowment Fund Finance Committee

Role:

To manage the Endowment Fund on behalf of the trustees and directors.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Membership:

The following trustees currently comprise the Finance Committee – J Marchant, R P Harrap, R A Samuels, F Harrow, S Thornton, K Fujii, C Loewe, Y Tanigawa

Responsibilities:

- To review the Endowment Fund finances
- To make recommendations about investment decisions

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel are the General Director, Justine Marchant and the four senior managers: S. McWilliam, J. Fagence, M. Mehta and T-A. Hirayama.

Pay of key management personnel is set by members of the Remuneration committee of the Trustees in consultation with the General Director. The General Director's pay is based on the pay of their predecessor.

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Working with Volunteers

SGI-UK relies upon the continuing assistance of a wide range of volunteers, the vast majority of whom are members. All local activities are organised and conducted by members who are volunteers. Planning and decision making committees are all held on a volunteer basis. The three London centres are manned entirely by volunteers and at Taplow Court teams of volunteers staff the reception 5 days a week. Steps are being taken to increase this level of activity. Youth members in dedicated groups support all activities at a local and national level. Volunteers give their time and efforts with an open heartedness based on the Buddhist spirit of contribution. The trustees would like to express their gratitude and deep respect for these members' tireless efforts.

Method of Recruitment, Appointment, Election, Induction & Training of Trustees

Recruitment

At present, the trustees are members of SGI-UK who offer certain skills and attributes. As and when a need is identified by the trustees for additional skills and attributes to be included within the composition of the board, the trustees look to the membership of SGI-UK to recruit suitable candidates.

Appointment & Election

The trustees are empowered to appoint additional trustees under the terms of the governing document as and when the need arises. Trustees are appointed by way of a recommendation and a vote. A simple majority of the existing trustees is required to elect a new trustee.

Induction & Training

New trustees undergo an orientation day to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, on the content of the current governing document, on the decision making processes utilised by the charity, and on the recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will assist them to undertake and fulfil their role.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

The charity has taken out a trustees' indemnity insurance policy that provides professional indemnity cover amounting to £1 million in respect of any one claim for the trustees of the charity. The cost of this insurance policy to the charitable company for the year was £4,055.

Risk & Corporate Governance Matters

SGI-UK's risk management strategy identifies and defines (through assessing uncertainty) whether SGI-UK will achieve its objectives; deciding upon the action to be taken to control them and monitoring the progress of the action taken. The risks that would qualify for the SGI-UK risk register and that the Trustees see as being critical to the effective running of the organisation include:

- Those risks that could seriously impact on the achievement of SGI-UK's key objectives and interests, including its reputation; and
- Those risks where action at National Committee and/or Trustee level in SGI-UK is needed.

A sub-group of SGI-UK Trustees has developed a structured approach to managing risk and has developed a 'living' risk register. Looking at different Risk Categories - areas where risks are found - the Trustee sub-group considered:

- External: risks not wholly within our control, but where action can be taken to mitigate the risk;
- Organisational: risks relating to our existing organisation and membership; and
- Assets and Facilities: risks relating to our finances, estate and IT.

SGI-UK's risk management process:

1. Identify risks

- Identify risks: what could stop the objectives from being achieved?
- Define risk descriptions: describe the risk, its cause and its possible effects.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

2. Assess risks

- Identify current controls: what's already in place to control the risk?
- Assess current risk: score the risk according to its potential impact and likelihood of occurrence - specifying what will be done, by when and by whom.

3. Managing risk

- Identify and select further controls: what new measures are needed to control the risk?
- Assign target risk: what new score do we want these measures to achieve for the severity score of the risk, and by when? We worked on the following basis;
 - Impact: Catastrophic, Severe, Moderate, Minor, Low using the five point scale.
 - Probability: Very unlikely, Unlikely, Possible, Likely, Very likely.
- Identify and assign risk and control owners: who's responsible for what?

4. Monitor and report

At the monitoring and reporting stage:

- Complete the Risks Register – this was undertaken by a sub-group of the Trustees with experience in risk management.
- Report and escalate as appropriate – to the Trustees.
- Monitor and review – on a quarterly basis.

SGI-UK has a Risks Register which classifies all perceived risks under the following headings:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Reputation | 5. Financial issues |
| 2. Commercial issues | 6. Staffing issues |
| 3. Organisational issues | 7. Members' experience |
| 4. Information and IT | 8. Estates and facilities |

SGI-UK's principal risks and how they are mitigated:

Security risk of physical assets

SGI-UK has a business continuity and disaster recovery plan in place in the event that our headquarters at Taplow Court becomes unavailable for the administration of the organisation. We continue to maintain and improve our centres so that they are safe and comfortable places for our members to conduct Buddhist activities.

Cyber security

SGI-UK's IT committee has put in place systems to ensure the IT infrastructure and data of SGI-UK are protected from cyber-attack. Members of the committee have had training since spring 2017 in the general Data Protection Regulations to ensure that SGI-UK complies with this change in the law, and protects our members' data.

Safeguarding

SGI-UK updates our safeguarding policies on an annual basis, and carries out training for volunteers involved in activities with children. We have appointed supervisors of volunteers who have appropriate DBS checks and who have training in ensuring the well-being of children involved in our activities.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Fundraising Approach and Performance

Contributions to the SGI-UK Kosen-rufu Fund, which supports our activities are only made by members of SGI and SGI Centre.

We have an SGI-UK Kosen-rufu Fund Contributions and Donations Policy, based on the Charity Commission guidance CC20, which is posted on the members' website.

Contributions are freely given. The decision to make a contribution and how much to contribute is the choice of each member. Encouragement around contribution must not put any member under pressure to make a contribution.

The Trustees consider carefully the question of accepting contributions from non-SGI sources and any anonymous donations.

Donors of single donations of £5,000 or more will be contacted to confirm that the donation complies with all relevant regulations

SGI-UK will make sure that vulnerable people are protected. The Charity does not generally accept donations from members of the public, and as it says in the line above donors of £5,000+ are contacted to check the circumstances of them making the donation.

Expansion of these and other points are all contained in the policy document. No complaints were received during the year in relation to the Charity's fundraising practices.

Our overall fundraising performance was total contributions to the Kosen-rufu Fund £1,545,115 (2023: £1,595,291) with an additional £295,502 (2023: £299,975.) received in the form of Gift Aid and Bequests £524,342 (2023: £778,235).

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also the directors of Soka Gakkai International - UK for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

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Trustees' & Directors' Responsibilities in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Companies Acts 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from the legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to the Auditor

The trustees at the date of approval of this trustees' annual report confirm that so far as each of them is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.


SMALL COMPANY EXEMPTIONS

In preparing this report the directors have taken advantage of small company exemptions.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN

Although SGI-UK maintains restricted funds to deal with incoming resources that are earmarked for a particular purpose by donors, sponsors, and other funders, SGI-UK does not currently hold, and the trustees do not anticipate that it will in the future hold, any funds as custodian for any third party.

This report was approved by the trustees on 25 September 2025, and was signed for and on behalf of the board by


.....
J Marchant - General Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Soka Gakkai International – UK for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024, and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report (which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report (which incorporates the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and UK tax law.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries and management bias in certain accounting estimates and judgements such as the recognition of income from legacies and grants. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL
- UK**

- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Lee Stokes (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of HaysMac LLP, Statutory Auditor

**10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG**

Date: 25/09/2025

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations, legacies and grants	3	2,364,959	-	2,364,959	2,673,502
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Advancement of religion	4	523,758	-	523,758	471,640
Investments	5	38,436	274,633	313,069	188,857
Other Income – Gain on sale of asset		-	-	-	3,437
Total income		<u>2,927,153</u>	<u>274,633</u>	<u>3,201,786</u>	<u>3,337,436</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
• Advancement of religion	6	<u>4,115,419</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4,115,420</u>	<u>3,762,264</u>
Total expenditure		<u>4,115,419</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4,115,420</u>	<u>3,762,264</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME BEFORE GAINS/(LOSSES)		(1,188,266)	274,632	(913,634)	(424,828)
Gains on revaluation of heritage assets	10	-	-	-	213,775
Net gains on investments	11	<u>-</u>	<u>2,055,970</u>	<u>2,055,970</u>	<u>2,083,941</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(1,188,266)	2,330,602	1,142,336	1,872,888
Transfers between funds		<u>520,000</u>	<u>(520,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(668,266)	1,810,602	1,142,336	1,872,888
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Fund balances brought forward At 1 January 2024		<u>18,523,068</u>	<u>32,354,297</u>	<u>50,877,365</u>	<u>49,004,477</u>
Fund balance carried forward At 31 December 2024	18	<u><u>17,854,802</u></u>	<u><u>34,164,899</u></u>	<u><u>52,019,701</u></u>	<u><u>50,877,365</u></u>

The notes on pages 28 to 42 part of these financial statements.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

**PRIOR YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCORPORATING THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations, legacies and grants	3	2,673,502	-	2,673,502
<i>Charitable activities:</i>				
Advancement of religion	4	471,640	-	471,640
Investments	5	26,666	162,191	188,857
Other Income – Gain on sale of asset		3,437	-	3,437
Total income		<u>3,175,245</u>	<u>162,191</u>	<u>3,337,436</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities				
• Advancement of religion	6	3,762,193	71	3,762,264
Total expenditure		<u>3,762,193</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>3,762,264</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME BEFORE GAINS/(LOSSES)				
		(586,948)	162,120	(424,828)
Gains on revaluation of heritage assets	10	213,775	-	213,775
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	-	2,083,941	2,083,941
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		<u>(373,173)</u>	<u>2,246,061</u>	<u>1,872,888</u>
Transfers between funds		520,000	(520,000)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>146,827</u>	<u>1,726,061</u>	<u>1,872,888</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Fund balances brought forward At 1 January 2023		18,376,241	30,628,236	49,004,477
Fund balance carried forward At 31 December 2023	18	<u>18,523,068</u>	<u>32,354,297</u>	<u>50,877,365</u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

BALANCE SHEET

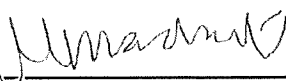
AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Company Number: 05114516

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	14,499,762	14,894,839
Heritage assets	10	1,470,915	1,470,915
Investments	11	33,962,367	32,294,883
		<u>49,933,044</u>	<u>48,660,637</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	12	200,890	192,424
Debtors	13	297,654	225,469
Cash at bank and in hand		1,773,722	1,960,396
		<u>2,272,266</u>	<u>2,378,289</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(185,609)	(161,561)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>2,086,657</u>	<u>2,216,728</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>52,019,701</u>	<u>50,877,365</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Endowment funds			
Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund	17	34,164,899	32,354,297
Unrestricted income funds			
General Fund	17	1,184,125	1,457,314
Designated Taplow Court Fund	17	200,000	200,000
Designated Local Centres Fund	17	500,000	500,000
Designated Fixed Assets Fund	17	15,970,677	16,365,754
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			
		<u>52,019,701</u>	<u>50,877,365</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements on pages 28 to 42 were approved by the trustees and authorised for issued and are signed on their behalf by:


J Marchant – General Director

Date: 25 September 2025

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024 £	2023 £
	Note		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	20	(713,474)	23,955
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		313,069	188,857
Purchase of tangible assets		(174,755)	(124,861)
Decrease in fixed term deposits		388,486	347,195
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		526,800	411,191
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD		(186,674)	435,146
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,960,396	1,525,250
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,773,722	1,960,396
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

All cash and cash equivalents were held as cash at bank or in hand during both the current and prior year.

The notes on pages 28 to 42 part of these financial statements.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information

Soka Gakkai International – UK is a private charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England (company number 05114516, charity number 1104491). The registered office and principal place of business is at Taplow Court Berry Hill, Taplow, Near Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 0ER.

The charitable company's principal activity is the "advancement of religion" as it relates to the Buddhism of Nichiren Daishonin.

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and under the historical cost convention, except as modified for the annual revaluation of fixed asset investments. Within the definitions of FRS 102, the charitable company is a public benefit entity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in more detail below, to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the charitable company, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019). Figures are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The Trustees have looked at the potential impact of the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and the pressure on government to bring a large budget deficit under control whilst continuing to maintain essential services.

SGI-UK has free reserves of £1,184,125 as of 31 December 2024, plus the Designated Taplow Court Fund (£200,000) and the Designated Local Centres Fund (£500,000). The Trustees are holding £1,556,649 in a business premium account which can be easily accessed if required whilst still earning interest at 1.6% pa.

The Trustees consider the current level of reserves to be sufficient to allow for the continued operation of SGI-UK. The trustees consider there to be no material uncertainties and therefore the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

At the balance sheet date, the trustees were holding £15,970,677 of unrestricted funds in a designated fund known as the Designated Fixed Assets Fund representing the resources required to finance the net book value of all functional fixed assets, and also £34,164,899 of restricted funds in an expendable endowment fund known as the Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund.

Due to global economic factors the value of investments fell sharply in 2022 however these had begun to recover in 2023, and 2024. Markets have since been changeable and investments were valued at £32,410,490 on the 14th May 2025.

Income

General donations and other similar types of voluntary income are brought into account when receivable and donated income is included gross of any attributable tax recoverable, where relevant. Donations given for specific purposes are treated as restricted income.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case-by-case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator or executor of the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date of the legacy income. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash, or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition as income in the financial statements is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charitable company.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Income claimed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is recognised when the associated expenditure on staff costs is incurred.

Investment income is accounted on a receivable basis once the dividend has been declared or the interest has been earned. Credit is taken in the financial statements for the proportions of all other types of income which are receivable in the financial period.

Expenditure

Expenditure is allocated to the charitable company's principal activity as directed costs where the costs can be identified as being directly related to the activity. All costs that cannot be identified as relating directly to the charitable company's principal activity are categorised as either support costs or governance costs. Any costs that cannot be specifically categorised are allocated in proportions based upon a suitable ration applicable to the nature of the cost involved.

Governance costs are the costs associated with running the charitable company as a charitable company, and include a proportion of staff costs, costs of the trustees' meetings and audit fees.

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which the rights and obligations that relate to goods received by, or services performed for, the charitable company are materially fulfilled, with the relevant liability to pay the suppliers concerned being recognised as a liability.

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible assets purchased that have an expected useful economic life that exceeds one year and have a cost of £1,000 or more are capitalised and classified as fixed assets. Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land. A full year of depreciation is charged in the year of purchase. The rates calculated to write each asset down to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold properties	at 2% on a straight-line basis
Short leasehold properties	over the remaining life of the lease
Plant and machinery	at 15% or 20% on a reducing balances basis

Heritage assets

Heritage assets, consist of garden statuary, ornaments, and art collections, which were either identifiable items acquired with the purchase of Taplow Court or were purchased by or gifted to SGI-UK as an enhancement to Taplow Court. The garden statuary and substantial proportion of the ornaments and art works are on display at Taplow Court and may be viewed during open days, receptions and other events held in the house.

The heritage assets are included in the balance sheet at fair value. The gains or losses arising upon their annual revaluation are included in the statement of financial activities. They are not depreciated as they are considered to have indefinite lives.

Currently SGI-UK are not seeking to purchase or sell such assets. SGI-UK are currently reviewing their policy regarding the recording, valuation, and preservation of their heritage assets to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the Heritage asset register.

Investments

The charitable company's investments are included in the balance sheet at fair value (their market value). The gains or losses arising upon their annual revaluation are included in the statement of financial activities.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of the cost (using first in first out basis) and net realisable value.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Leased assets and obligations

Where assets are financed by leasing agreements that give rights approximating to ownership ("finance leases"), the assets are treated as if they had been purchased outright. The amount capitalised is the present value of the minimum lease payments payable during the lease term. The corresponding leasing commitments are shown as obligations to the lessor.

Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements, and the interest is charged to the statement of financial activities in proportion to the remaining balance outstanding.

All other leases are "Operating leases", and the annual rentals are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Financial instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments are therefore classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the entity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Financial assets and liabilities

The charitable company's debtors and creditors that meet the definition of either a financial asset or a financial liability are initially recognised at the transaction value and thereafter are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairments.

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Pension contributions

The charitable company makes contributions into defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of certain employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charitable company in independently administered funds. The amount charged to the statement of financial activities in respect of pension costs is the total contributions payable for the year.

Fund accounting

The general fund comprises the accumulated surpluses of unrestricted income over expenditure, which are available for use in furtherance of the general objective of the charitable company.

Designated funds are a particular form of unrestricted funds consisting of amounts which have been allocated or designated for specific purposes by the trustees. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific conditions imposed by donors. The purpose and use of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements. Amounts unspent at the year-end are carried forward in the balance sheet.

Expendable endowment funds allow the capital of the fund to be spent if the trustees so determine, subject to any specific requirements of the fund.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and further periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

In the opinion of the trustees, there were no specific judgements and assumptions that were critical to the preparation of these financial statements. The only estimate considered to be critical is estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General donations and other similar types of voluntary income	2,364,959	2,673,502

4. ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Publications income	149,274	146,150
Shops income	246,567	249,903
Courses and events	98,696	50,421
Other income	29,221	25,166
	<u>523,758</u>	<u>471,640</u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Bank interest receivable on short term cash deposits	24,036	274,633	298,669	174,257
Rent receivable under operating leases	14,400	-	14,400	14,600
	<u>38,436</u>	<u>274,633</u>	<u>313,069</u>	<u>188,857</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	
Bank interest receivable on short term cash deposits	12,066	162,191	174,257	
Rent receivable under operating leases	14,600	-	14,600	
	<u>26,666</u>	<u>162,191</u>	<u>188,857</u>	

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6. COSTS OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Costs of events & courses, regional, divisional, national and group costs:				
Direct costs	191,606	-	191,606	93,329
Staff costs	1,572,848	-	1,572,848	1,490,704
Provision of facilities	1,864,687	-	1,864,687	1,725,906
Publications costs	112,544	-	112,544	121,799
Shop costs	132,721	-	132,721	102,634
Other direct costs	13,994	-	13,994	10,306
Costs of the Centre for Applied Buddhism (CfAB)	5,531	-	5,531	8,901
	<u>3,893,931</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,893,931</u>	<u>3,553,579</u>
Support costs (see note 7)	<u>221,488</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>221,489</u>	<u>208,685</u>
	<u><u>4,115,419</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>4,115,420</u></u>	<u><u>3,762,264</u></u>

Comparative figures:

COSTS OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
Costs of events & courses, regional, divisional, national and group costs:			
Direct costs	93,329	-	93,329
Staff costs	1,490,704	-	1,490,704
Provision of facilities	1,725,906	-	1,725,906
Publications costs	121,799	-	121,799
Shop costs	102,634	-	102,634
Other direct costs	10,306	-	10,306
Costs of the Centre for Applied Buddhism (CfAB)	8,901	-	8,901
	<u>3,553,579</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,553,579</u>
Support costs (see note 7)	<u>208,614</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>208,685</u>
	<u><u>3,762,193</u></u>	<u><u>71</u></u>	<u><u>3,762,264</u></u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7. SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	151,330	-	151,330	152,972
Auditor's remuneration:				
Audit fees	-	24,442	24,442	20,710
Other fees	-	2,176	2,176	2,044
Legal and professional fees	39,399	-	39,399	28,552
Bank interest, bank charges and other finance costs	4,142	-	4,142	4,407
	<u>194,871</u>	<u>26,618</u>	<u>221,489</u>	<u>208,685</u>

Included within auditors' remuneration are amounts payable to HaysMac LLP in respect of audit services of £22,250 (2023: £19,250).

Comparative figures:

SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	152,972	-	152,972
Auditor's remuneration:			
Audit fees	-	20,710	20,710
Other fees	-	2,044	2,044
Legal and professional fees	28,552	-	28,552
Bank interest, bank charges and other finance costs	4,407	-	4,407
	<u>185,931</u>	<u>22,754</u>	<u>208,685</u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. STAFF COSTS

	2024 No.	2023 No.
The average monthly number of persons employed by the charitable company (excluding non-executive trustees) during the year was as follows:		
Advancement of religion	39	40
	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs for the above persons:		
Wages and salaries	1,441,774	1,382,211
Social security costs	145,055	134,599
Other pension costs	93,932	87,045
Staff training and health insurance	43,417	39,821
	1,724,178	1,643,676

Total emoluments and pension contributions were payable to the following trustees solely in relation to their roles as senior members of staff under the authority set down in the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 April 2004:

2024

	Remuneration £	Pension Contributions £	Other Benefits £	Total £
R P Harrap – General Director	73,428	5,402	-	78,830
Sanda McWilliam	55,320	4,070	2,480	61,870
	128,748	9,472	2,480	140,700

2023

	Remuneration £	Pension Contributions £	Other Benefits £	Total £
R P Harrap – General Director	71,321	5,209	-	76,530
K Fujii – Vice General Director	42,983	-	3,206	46,189
	114,304	5,209	3,206	122,719

No other trustee received remuneration from the charitable company during the current or previous year.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. STAFF COSTS (continued)

Other than as disclosed above during the current and previous year, no employee received total emoluments in excess of £60,000.

However, including the amounts disclosed above, the aggregate remuneration and benefits for the key management personnel for their services to the charity amounted to £482,150 (2023: £386,991).

During the year no trustees (2023: Nil) were reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred in their role as trustee on behalf of the charity.

The charity has taken out a trustees' indemnity insurance policy that provides professional indemnity cover amounting to £1 million in respect of any one claim for the trustees of the charitable company. The cost of this insurance policy to the charitable company for the year was £4,055 (2023: £3,798).

Contribution of volunteers

In addition to the trustees, the charitable company is also reliant upon the major contributions made by thousands of volunteers who contribute significant amounts of their time in the delivery of charitable activities.

The Trustees estimate that volunteers provide at least 85,000-man hours per year towards the work of the charitable company at its four centres and an incalculable number of hours in support of its activities throughout the country, for which the trustees express their sincere thanks.

9. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold properties £	Short Leasehold properties £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost:				
1 January 2024	22,859,340	91,440	2,072,195	25,022,975
Additions	61,807	-	112,948	174,755
Disposals	-	-	(408,018)	(408,018)
	<u>22,921,147</u>	<u>91,440</u>	<u>1,777,125</u>	<u>24,789,712</u>
31 December 2024	<u>22,921,147</u>	<u>91,440</u>	<u>1,777,125</u>	<u>24,789,712</u>
Depreciation:				
1 January 2024	8,517,584	17,829	1,592,723	10,128,136
Charge for year	456,713	8,333	86,923	551,969
Disposals	-	-	(390,155)	(390,155)
	<u>8,974,297</u>	<u>26,162</u>	<u>1,289,491</u>	<u>10,289,950</u>
31 December 2024	<u>8,974,297</u>	<u>26,162</u>	<u>1,289,491</u>	<u>10,289,950</u>
Net book value:				
31 December 2024	<u>13,946,850</u>	<u>65,278</u>	<u>487,634</u>	<u>14,499,762</u>
31 December 2023	<u>14,341,756</u>	<u>73,611</u>	<u>479,472</u>	<u>14,894,839</u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

9. TANGIBLE ASSETS (Continued)

The cost of the charitable company's interest in freehold land has been assessed by the trustees to be so immaterial that it has been treated as £Nil for the purposes of calculating depreciation.

Certain elements of the charitable company's property assets are let, when surplus to requirements, to tenants in order to generate rental income under operating leases.

10. HERITAGE ASSETS

Ornaments and art collection	2024	2023
	£	£
1 January 2024	1,470,915	1,257,140
Revaluation	-	213,775
Fair value at 31 December 2024	<u>1,470,915</u>	<u>1,470,915</u>

The ornaments and art collection were valued by Covington Fine Art Limited, independent art advisors and valuers, at 15 July 2024.

11. INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Listed investment portfolio	27,652,821	25,596,851
Fixed term deposits	<u>6,309,546</u>	<u>6,698,032</u>
Total investments	<u>33,962,367</u>	<u>32,294,883</u>
Investment listed on a recognised stock exchange, held primarily to provide an investment return, at market value:		
At 1 January 2024	25,596,851	23,512,910
Gains on investments	<u>2,055,970</u>	<u>2,083,941</u>
Cash held by investment managers	<u>27,652,821</u>	<u>25,596,851</u>
Market value at the end of the year	<u>33,962,367</u>	<u>32,294,883</u>
Historical cost at the end of the year	<u>21,867,422</u>	<u>21,867,422</u>
At the balance sheet date, the market value of the charity's listed investment portfolio comprised:		
UK Investments	<u>27,652,821</u>	<u>25,596,851</u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. STOCKS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	200,890	192,424

13. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	2,501	1,260
Other debtors	256	41
Prepayments and accrued income	294,897	224,168
	297,654	225,469

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	127,125	86,052
Other taxation and social security costs	18,747	24,598
Accruals	39,737	50,911
	185,609	161,561

15. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The charitable company makes contributions into defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of certain employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charitable company in independently administered funds. The amount charged to the statement of financial activities in respect of pension costs (as shown in note 9) is the total contributions payable for the year. There is no amount payable at the balance sheet date to be included in creditors: amounts falling due within one year as this was paid before year end.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

16. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 December 2024, the charitable company was committed to make the following total future minimum payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	2024	2023
	£	£
In respect of land and building leases:		
Within one year	89,709	89,709
Between one and five years	467,330	467,330
After five years	358,147	447,856
	<u>915,186</u>	<u>1,004,895</u>

The current land and buildings lease was renegotiated and finalised in December 2024.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17. THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY

	1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/losses fixed assets & Investments £	Transfers Between Funds £	31 December 2024 £
Endowment funds:						
Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund	32,354,297	274,633	(1)	2,055,970	(520,000)	34,164,899
Unrestricted income Funds:						
General Fund	1,457,314	2,927,153	(4,030,064)	-	829,722	1,184,125
Designated Taplow Court Fund	200,000	-	(25,797)	-	25,797	200,000
Designated local Centres Fund	500,000	-	(59,558)	-	59,558	500,000
Designated Fixed Assets Fund	16,365,754	-	-	-	(395,077)	15,970,677
Total unrestricted funds	<u>18,523,068</u>	<u>2,927,153</u>	<u>(4,115,419)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>520,000</u>	<u>17,854,802</u>
Total funds	<u>50,877,365</u>	<u>3,201,786</u>	<u>(4,115,420)</u>	<u>2,055,970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,019,701</u>

The commemorative Expendable Endowment fund was set up in 2006 upon receipt of an initial donation from Soka Gakkai international Centre in Japan to mark the 75th anniversary of the foundation of Soka Gakkai. The investment income generated, as well as the principal amount of the endowment, is available to be spent at any time by the trustees in promoting the charitable purposes of Soka Gakkai International – UK after consultation with the representatives of the donor. Funds are transferred into the General Fund once agreement has been reached to do so. At the balance sheet date, gains of £2,055,970 (31 December 2023: gains £2,083,941) arising upon the revaluation of investments were included within the Commemorative Expendable Endowment fund balance.

The Designated Taplow Court Fund was re-established in 2022 by way of a transfer of £200,000 funding from the General Fund which will be used for major maintenance projects at Taplow Court. As this fund will be utilised in the event of unforeseen major maintenance, there is no set time frame for its use.

The Designated local centres fund was re-established in 2022 by way of a transfer of £500,000 in funding from the General Fund which will be used to finance local centres in the future. As this fund will be utilised in the event that charity decides to purchase a new centre, there is no set time frame for its use.

The Designated Fixed Assets Fund has been set up to clearly identify the funds of the charity that are being held as tangible and heritage assets used to promote the charitable purposes of Soka Gakkai International – UK. Accordingly, transfers are made to or from the Designated Fixed Assets Fund at each balance sheet date to reflect additions and disposals of tangible assets, depreciation charged thereon and any impairment.

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17. THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY – comparative figures

	1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/losses fixed assets & Investments £	Transfers Between Funds £	31 December 2023 £
Endowment funds:						
Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund	30,628,236	162,191	(71)	2,083,941	(520,000)	32,354,297
Unrestricted income Funds:						
General Fund	1,087,145	3,175,245	(3,685,540)	-	880,464	1,457,314
Designated Taplow Court Fund	200,000	-	(57,351)	-	57,351	200,000
Designated local Centres Fund	500,000	-	(19,302)	-	19,302	500,000
Designated Fixed Assets Fund	16,589,096	-	-	213,775	(437,117)	16,365,754
Total unrestricted funds	<u>18,376,241</u>	<u>3,175,245</u>	<u>(3,762,193)</u>	<u>213,775</u>	<u>520,000</u>	<u>18,523,068</u>
Total funds	<u>49,004,477</u>	<u>3,337,436</u>	<u>(3,762,264)</u>	<u>2,297,716</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,877,365</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Current Assets £	Current Liabilities £	TOTAL 2024 £
Endowment funds:					
Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund	-	33,962,367	202,532	-	34,164,899
Unrestricted income funds:					
General Fund	-	-	1,369,734	(185,609)	1,184,125
Designated Taplow Court Fund	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
Designated Local Centres Fund	-	-	500,000	-	500,000
Designated Fixed Assets Fund	15,970,677	-	-	-	15,970,677
NET ASSETS	<u>15,970,677</u>	<u>33,962,367</u>	<u>2,272,266</u>	<u>(185,609)</u>	<u>52,019,701</u>

SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL - UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS – comparative figures

	Tangible Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Current Assets £	Current Liabilities £	TOTAL 2023 £
Endowment funds:					
Commemorative Expendable Endowment Fund	-	32,294,883	59,414	-	32,354,297
Unrestricted income funds:					
General Fund	-	-	1,618,875	(161,561)	1,457,314
Designated Taplow Court Fund	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
Designated Local Centres Fund	-	-	500,000	-	500,000
Designated Fixed Assets Fund	16,365,754	-	-	-	16,365,754
NET ASSETS	<u>16,365,754</u>	<u>32,294,883</u>	<u>2,378,289</u>	<u>(161,561)</u>	<u>50,877,365</u>

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Sgi-UK is a member of the Network of Buddhist Organisations in the United Kingdom and a corporate member of UNICEF and the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. As a member of the Soka Gakkai International (“SGI”) community worldwide SGI-UK is implicitly related to all similar SGI entities and particular works closely with the founder SGI entity based in Tokyo, Japan.

During the year trustees donated a total of £24,550 (2023: £17,605) to the charity.

20. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD	1,142,336	1,872,888
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(313,069)	(188,857)
Gains on listed investments	(2,055,970)	(2,083,941)
Gains on revaluation of heritage assets	-	(213,775)
Depreciation charges	551,969	550,748
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	17,863	11,230
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(8,466)	35,057
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(72,185)	51,203
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	24,048	(10,598)
NET CASH (USED IN)/GENERATED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>(713,474)</u>	<u>23,955</u>