

FORWARD THINKING

England & Wales · Charity number 1105206

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2004-07-29

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

Contact

Address Forward Thinking
Millbank Tower
21-24 Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

Phone 02080641396

Email admin@forward-thinking.org

Website www.forward-thinking.org

Activities

Objects: THE TRUSTEES MUST APPLY THE INCOME OF THE CHARITY IN FURTHERING THE FOLLOWING OBJECTS ("THE OBJECTS") TO PROMOTE RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HARMONY BY SUCH CHARITABLE MEANS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROMOTING MORE INFORMED DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DIFFERENT FACTIONS WITHIN SAME FAITH COMMUNITIES AND BETWEEN DIFFERENT FAITH AND RACIAL GROUPS.

Activities: An independent and non-denominational charity, addresses the social isolation of Muslim communities in Britain. Over the past year, the Middle East Programme has sought to engage in and promote an inclusive dialogue with a variety of Israeli and Palestinian actors, as well as with opinion-shapers and key figures in neighbouring and EU countries.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORLDWIDE
- Egypt
- Finland
- Israel
- Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£966,339	£698,178	£531,687	5
2024-07-31	£736,647	£600,522	£263,526	5
2023-07-31	£572,825	£701,568	£127,401	8
2022-07-31	£623,277	£814,852	£256,145	9
2021-07-31	£563,424	£603,543	£447,720	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
WILLIAM MATTHEW TIMOTHY SIEGHART	Chair	
Christopher Paul Bake		2024-07-18
Dympna May		2021-06-03
Francis Campbell		2014-11-03
Jeremy Quentin Greenstock		2019-07-01
Laurence Justin Dowley		2019-07-01
MICHAEL HOLLAND		
MR CHRIS DONNELLY		
Professor Cav. Simon David Mordant AO		2025-01-20
Samuel George William Holland		2025-08-08

FORWARD THINKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1105206

Accounts

Charity registration number 1105206 (England and Wales)

FORWARD THINKING
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025



FORWARD THINKING

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	W Sieghart S Holland S Mordant C Bake D May J Greenstock L Dowley F Campbell M Holland C Donnelly	(Appointed 8 August 2025) (Appointed 20 January 2025)
Charity number (England and Wales)	1105206	
Principal address	1 Quality Court Chancery Lane London Greater London WC2A 1HR	
Auditor	Xeinadin Audit Limited 36 Old Jewry London Greater London EC2R 8DD	

FORWARD THINKING

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FORWARD THINKING

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and activities

The charitable trust was established on the 29th of July 2004.

The trust deed gives the trustees the power to apply the funds for the benefit of any charitable objectives. The trust's charitable objectives are to promote racial and religious harmony by such charitable means and in such parts of the world as the trustees determine from time to time, in particular but not exclusively by promoting more informed dialogue and understanding between different factions with same faith communities and between different faith and racial groups.

The focus of charitable activities has been to promote a more inclusive peace process in the Middle East, to reduce the potential for conflict across the Gulf-MENA region, and to address the problem of social isolation of the Muslim community in Britain.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The delivery of charitable activities rests with the Director, the Director of Programmes, and programme assistants.

Over the course of the year the charity utilised the services of several interns and consultants.

Overview

During the year, we held a total of 507 meetings in our programmes. The number ranges from bilateral meetings to large conferences. We held many of our meetings and activities overseas, with expenditure rising accordingly.

Despite the complex challenges facing the region, we have continued to work to implement the charity's core objectives, maintaining active engagement with our political, civil, and academic networks in Israel, Palestine, and the wider region through regular visits and daily communication. It is through this engagement that we have been able to respond to the needs of our interlocutors and ensure our analysis of developments in the region is accurate.

FORWARD THINKING

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Middle East Programme

We continued to engage a group of eight PA ministers, primarily from Gaza, in Ramallah through in-country visits. These ministers, including the Ministers of Justice, Labour, Health, and Education, sought assistance in governance, technical expertise, and connections with our international network of parliamentarians and policymakers.

In August, we successfully connected Dr. Sharhabeel Al Zaeem (Minister of Justice) with a South African legal expert involved in drafting South Africa's post-apartheid constitution. This online discussion shared concepts for rebuilding Gaza's legal system, with plans for an in-person seminar to follow.

In October, an introductory online session was held between Dr. Majed Abu Ramadan (Minister of Health) and the UK-based charity IDEALS, whose surgeons have extensive experience in Gaza. This aims to inform the Ministry of Health's efforts to address on-the-ground challenges.

On 23-24 February 2025, we convened a conference in Cairo, co-hosted with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population and the SHAF Centre, under the auspices of the League of Arab States. The PA Ministers of Social Development, Justice, Health, and Education presented their immediate priorities. International experts then developed actionable solutions in workshops to support Palestinian-led planning for restoring Gaza's essential health, legal, education, and economic infrastructure and avert involuntary displacement.

A follow-up workshop was hosted in Amman on 9 April by HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal to continue this dialogue with senior Jordanian officials and experts.

A cross-party delegation of influential political advisors from the Knesset visited the UK and Ireland from 28-31 October. The visit, which was delayed and faced challenges due to the ongoing conflict, aimed to explore the relevance of the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement process to the Israeli-Palestinian context. Participants met with key figures, including former Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, and UK, Irish, and US government officials.

Conversations revealed profound post-7 October trauma and an increased focus on "total victory," perceiving the conflict as a struggle against "radical Islam" and citing a lack of viable Palestinian peace partners. Delegates showed little interest in meaningful Palestinian self-governance.

A follow-up meeting in the Knesset in November led to the decision to convene a future conference in Jerusalem with Irish/Northern Irish leaders and alumni of our Irish Peace Process Programme.

A trauma expert was introduced to senior political advisors in Likud to discuss historical, community, and individual trauma in Israeli society, with the idea of developing a 'trauma-informed Knesset' to support societal healing.

We met with the newly elected Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Kalman Meir Ber, who reaffirmed his commitment to peace and decreasing tensions at the Temple Mount/Haram Al Sharif (TM/HAS). He sent a positive message on interfaith relations to HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan.

We continued to convene online discussions to allow our international network of diplomats and political figures to hear diverse perspectives from key figures. These included academics from the Iranian IPIS think tank, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti (Palestinian National Initiative), and opposing viewpoints on stalled ceasefire negotiations from Dr. Basem Naim (former Gaza Health Minister) and Ariel Bulshtein (former special advisor to Benjamin Netanyahu).

Oliver provided commentary to over 130 national and international television and radio programmes, including BBC's HARDTalk, to share analysis of developments in the conflict. We facilitated connections between media, such as the BBC, and local organisations like SEEDS in Nablus.

FORWARD THINKING

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

UK Programme

Three members of the UK programme took part in the WSF conference held in Belfast in January 2025. These roundtable discussions created opportunities for engagement with government ministers, a cross-party group of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and senior representatives of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Conversations focused on the rise of Islamophobia, far-right mobilisation, and broader social pressures affecting diverse communities.

Additionally, a series of online roundtables with women parliamentarians from across the WANA region and Europe has addressed growing concerns about escalating Islamophobia and far-right extremism in Europe.

We have also continued to hold regular bilateral meetings with members of our network, including in-person engagements with parliamentarians in the House of Lords.

Women for a Sustainable Future (WSF) Network

Over the current financial year, the WSF network has held nine online meetings addressing a range of critical issues, including the effects of water scarcity on women's livelihoods in Europe and the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region, the gendered impacts of rising Islamophobia in Europe, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

The WSF has also convened twice in person this year. In January 2025, members met to discuss the rise of Islamophobia and far-right extremism in Europe, as well as the public health implications of increasing water scarcity.

In July 2025, the network met in Amman under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Faisal Al-Fayez, President of the Jordanian Senate, and with the support of Jordan's Minister of Social Development, H.E. Wafa Bani Mustafa. Discussions centred on developing effective care-economy policies and identifying policy responses to water scarcity in both the WANA region and Europe.

Plans for the future period

We will continue to work on supporting the restoration of Gaza's social fabric in the legal and education sectors to prevent the involuntary displacement of Palestinians and to support the development of a Palestinian-led recovery effort. Additionally, we will engage our network of influential political and religious leaders from across the spectrum in Israel and the oPt to support dialogue on the challenges and potential opportunities that they face in leading their constituencies towards a durable, just, and realistic settlement to the conflict.

We will continue to engage at the international level to share analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing the Gulf-MENA region.

In the coming year, the WSF will build on its recent discussions by strengthening collaboration between women leaders in the WANA region and Europe and by supporting the development of practical, gender-responsive policy solutions. The network will continue to convene regular exchanges and help translate shared insights into meaningful action at national and regional levels.

Moving forward, the UK Programme will expand opportunities for constructive dialogue between British Muslim communities and policymakers, with a focus on addressing rising Islamophobia and social exclusion. We will continue to support young people's political and civic participation, strengthen relationships across our diverse network, and create trusted spaces where concerns can be openly discussed and solutions developed.

Fundraising activities

The charity does not have any material fund raising activity objectives set. When needed, the trustee's and management will raise funds from trusts or individual donors who are invited to support the work. There are a few small donations from individuals who visit the charities website.

Financial review

FORWARD THINKING

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that 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 current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

W Sieghart

(Appointed 8 August 2025)

S Holland

(Appointed 20 January 2025)

S Mordant

C Bake

D May

J Greenstock

L Dowley

F Campbell

M Holland

C Donnelly

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

There must always be at least three trustees. Apart from the first trustee, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a board meeting.

In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the existing trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

The existing trustees must make available to each new trustee on their appointment:

- A) A copy of the Trust Deed
- B) A copy of charity's latest annual report and the financial statements
- C) A copy of the charity's conflict of interests policy and a declaration of interests
- D) A trustee's eligibility declaration form
- E) A copy of the charity's governance code
- F) A copy of the "Essential Trustee"

Organisational structure

The board is made up of ten trustees who meet on a quarterly basis and who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity.

The trustees have delegated the daily running of operations to Oliver McTernan, who acts as the charity's Director.

Statement of trustee's responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

FORWARD THINKING

TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

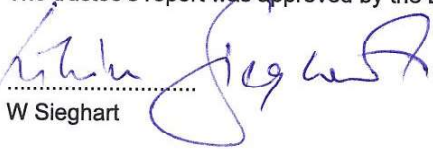
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustee's report was approved by the Board of Trustees.


.....
W Sieghart


.....
J Greenstock

Date: 05/03/2026

FORWARD THINKING

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FORWARD THINKING

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Forward Thinking (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements, including 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 trustee's 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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustee's report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

FORWARD THINKING

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF FORWARD THINKING

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustee's responsibilities, the trustees 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 charity'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 cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

As part of designing our audit, we determined the materiality level and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management.

Discussions with and enquiries of management and those charged with governance were held with a view to identifying those laws and regulations that could be expected to have a material impact on the financial statements. During the engagement team briefing, the outcomes of these discussions and enquiries were shared with the team, as well as consideration as to where and how fraud may occur in the entity. The following laws and regulations were identified as being of significance to the entity:

- Those laws and regulations considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements include UK financial reporting standards, Tax and Pensions legislation.
- Those laws and regulations for which non-compliance may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the business and therefore may have a material effect on the financial statements include health and safety legislation, Charities SORP, GDPR, and the Fundraising Regulator.

FORWARD THINKING

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TRUSTEES OF FORWARD THINKING

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and noncompliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: inquiries of management and those charged with governance as to whether the entity complies with such laws and regulations; enquiries with the same concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims; inspection of relevant legal correspondence; review of board minutes; testing the appropriateness of journal entries; and the performance of analytical review to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://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 charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Xeinadin Audit Limited

Xeinadin Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
36 Old Jewry
London
Greater London
EC2R 8DD
Date:10/03/2026

Xeinadin Audit Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FORWARD THINKING

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	638,122	328,217	966,339	345,570	391,077	736,647
Total income		638,122	328,217	966,339	345,570	391,077	736,647
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	80,235	617,943	698,178	73,373	527,149	600,522
Total expenditure		80,235	617,943	698,178	73,373	527,149	600,522
Net income/(expenditure)		557,887	(289,726)	268,161	272,197	(136,072)	136,125
Transfers between funds		(350,000)	350,000	-	(30,000)	30,000	-
Net movement in funds	6	207,887	60,274	268,161	242,197	(106,072)	136,125
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		243,768	19,758	263,526	1,571	125,830	127,401
Fund balances at 31 July 2025		451,655	80,032	531,687	243,768	19,758	263,526

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

FORWARD THINKING


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION


AS AT 31 JULY 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	10		3,329		7,099
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	11	3,550		15,778	
Cash at bank and in hand		595,218		276,992	
		598,768		292,770	
Current liabilities	12	(70,410)		(36,343)	
Net current assets			528,358		256,427
Total assets less current liabilities			531,687		263,526
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	14		80,032		19,758
Unrestricted funds	15		451,655		243,768
			531,687		263,526

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 05/03/2026


 W Sieghart


 J Greenstock

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is an unincorporated charity operating in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is Forward Thinking, 1 Quality Court, London, WC2A 1HR.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	25%
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	568,122	-	568,122	317,421	-	317,421
Grants	70,000	328,217	398,217	25,000	391,077	416,077
Other	-	-	-	3,149	-	3,149
	<u>638,122</u>	<u>328,217</u>	<u>966,339</u>	<u>345,570</u>	<u>391,077</u>	<u>736,647</u>

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Programme s 2025 £	Programme s 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	274,960	275,847
Martha memorial fund	1,008	5,787
Travel	64,937	61,684
Consultancy fees	906	-
Workshop costs	25,259	23,821
Research, books etc	452	333
Accomodation	23,230	24,971
Subsistence	5,850	4,538
Passports & Visas	1,181	1,032
Flights - Delegates	113,679	29,305
Taxi, Train bus & coach - internal transport delegate	20,922	19,704
Accomodation - delegates	73,276	25,758
Subsistence - delegates	2,886	4,988
Helsinki Policy Forum	1,238	13,305
HPF Steering Group	1,776	10,770
Other charitable expenditure	6,383	25,306
	<u>617,943</u>	<u>527,149</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	80,235	73,373
	<u>698,178</u>	<u>600,522</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	80,235	73,373
Restricted funds	617,943	527,149
	<u>698,178</u>	<u>600,522</u>

5 Support costs allocated to activities

	Programmes 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance	80,236	73,373
	<u>80,236</u>	<u>73,373</u>

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

5	Support costs allocated to activities	(Continued)	
		2025	2024
		£	£
	Governance costs comprise:		
	Audit fees	9,000	9,000
	Accountancy	7,084	1,602
	Legal and professional	570	448
	Support costs	63,582	62,323
		<u>80,236</u>	<u>73,373</u>
6	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	9,000	9,000
	Depreciation of owned property, plant and equipment	3,771	3,410
		<u>12,771</u>	<u>12,410</u>
7	Trustees		
	None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.		
8	Employees		
	The average monthly number of employees during the year was:		
		2025	2024
		Number	Number
		5	5
		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	Employment costs	2025	2024
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	251,374	249,444
	Social security costs	20,018	23,063
	Other pension costs	3,568	3,340
		<u>274,960</u>	<u>275,847</u>

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

8 Employees (Continued)

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£90,001 to £100,000	1	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

10 Property, plant and equipment

		Computers £
Cost		
At 1 August 2024		15,085
At 31 July 2025		<u>15,085</u>
Depreciation and impairment		
At 1 August 2024		7,985
Depreciation charged in the year		3,771
At 31 July 2025		<u>11,756</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 July 2025		<u>3,329</u>
At 31 July 2024		<u>7,099</u>

11 Trade and other receivables

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other receivables	2,620	14,919
Prepayments and accrued income	930	859
	<u>3,550</u>	<u>15,778</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

12 Current liabilities

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	4,519	7,337
Other payables	24,335	8,259
Accruals and deferred income	41,556	20,747
	<u>70,410</u>	<u>36,343</u>

13 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	3,568	3,340
	<u>3,568</u>	<u>3,340</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

14 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2025 £
Women for a sustainable future fund	19,758	137,434	(135,909)	-	21,283
Middle East fund	-	155,783	(480,783)	350,000	25,000
UK Programme fund	-	35,000	(1,251)	-	33,749
	<u>19,758</u>	<u>328,217</u>	<u>(617,943)</u>	<u>350,000</u>	<u>80,032</u>
Previous year:					
	At 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2024 £
Women for a sustainable future fund	-	140,000	(120,242)	-	19,758
Middle East fund	125,830	251,077	(406,907)	30,000	-
	<u>125,830</u>	<u>391,077</u>	<u>(527,149)</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>19,758</u>

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

14 Restricted funds

(Continued)

The Middle East fund is for usage in conflict resolution across the Middle East area.
The Women for a sustainable future fund is for usage in addressing the impacts of climate change, global health challenges, and economic instability on women.
The UK program is for usage in challenging UK policies that affect British Muslims.

During the year the charity incurred significant expenditure on the Middle East programme work undertaken, to supplement the income of the fund the trustees transferred unrestricted income to this fund of £350,000.

15 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 August 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 July 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	243,768	638,122	(80,235)	(350,000)	451,655
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 August 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	1,571	345,570	(73,373)	(30,000)	243,768
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
At 31 July 2025:			
Property, plant and equipment	3,329	-	3,329
Current assets/(liabilities)	448,326	80,032	528,358
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	451,655	80,032	531,687
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
At 31 July 2024:			
Property, plant and equipment	7,099	-	7,099
Current assets/(liabilities)	236,669	19,758	256,427
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	243,768	19,758	263,526
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

FORWARD THINKING

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

17 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	21,168	-

18 Related party transactions

During the year, the charity received donations from organisations connected to trustees of the charity.

The Bake Foundation made donations totalling £350,000. Chris Bake, a trustee of the charity, is also a trustee of The Bake Foundation.

Dowley Charitable Trust made donations totalling £10,000. Justin Dowley, a trustee of the charity, is also a trustee of Dowley Charitable Trust.

Mordant Group Pty Ltd made donations totalling £25,000. Simon Mordant, a trustee of the charity, is a director of Mordant Group Pty Ltd.

All donations were made on an arm's length basis. No trustee received any personal benefit from these transactions.

FORWARD THINKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1105206

Accounts

**FORWARD THINKING
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR-ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Charity no: 1105206

XEINADIN AUDIT LIMITED

**Statutory Auditors
8th Floor, Becket House, 36 Old Jewry
London EC2R 8DD**

FORWARD THINKING

Financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2024

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FORWARD THINKING

Reference and administrative information

Charity name – Forward Thinking

Charity registration number – 1105206

Principal address & registered office – 1 Quality Court, London, WC2A 1HR

Trustees

- ❖ Francis Campbell
- ❖ Justin Dowley
- ❖ Christopher Donnelly
- ❖ Jeremy Greenstock
- ❖ Dympna Hayes
- ❖ Michael Holland
- ❖ Christopher Bake
- ❖ William Sieghart (chairman)

Director – Oliver McTernan

Auditor – Xeinadin Audit Limited, 8th Floor, Becket House, 36 Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8DD.

Bankers – NatWest Bank plc, PO Box 2021, 10 Marylebone High Street, London. W1A 1FH

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2024

This report relates to the operation of Forward Thinking during the year-ended 31 July 2024.

History, objectives and activities of the trust

The charitable trust was established on the 29th of July 2004.

The trust deed gives the trustees the power to apply the funds for the benefit of any charitable objectives. The trust's charitable objectives are to promote racial and religious harmony by such charitable means and in such parts of the world as the trustees determine from time to time, in particular but not exclusively by promoting more informed dialogue and understanding between different factions with same faith communities and between different faith and racial groups.

The focus of charitable activities has been to promote a more inclusive peace process in the Middle East, to reduce the potential for conflict across the Gulf-MENA region, and to address the problem of social isolation of the Muslim community in Britain.

Structure, governance, and management

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

There must always be at least three trustees. Apart from the first trustee, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a board meeting.

In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the existing trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

The existing trustees must make available to each new trustee on their appointment:

- A) A copy of the Trust Deed
- B) A copy of charity's latest annual report and the financial statements
- C) A copy of the charity's conflict of interests policy and a declaration of interests
- D) A trustee's eligibility declaration form
- E) A copy of the charity's governance code
- F) A copy of the "Essential Trustee"

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business, and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that procedures are in place to regularly review the current risks of the charity.

In considering the direction of the charity and its activities, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Organisational Structure

The charity is made up of seven trustees who meet on a quarterly basis and who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The trustees have delegated the daily running of operations to Oliver McTernan, who acts as the charity's Director.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

During the financial year two members of staff moved to other employment and new members were recruited. The year ended with four full-time and one part-time employees, who come from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. In addition, the charity utilised the services of several interns and consultants over the course of the year.

The delivery of charitable activities rests with the Director, the Director of Programmes, and programme assistants.

Achievements and Performance

Overview

During the year, we held a total of 329 meetings in our programmes. The number ranges from bilateral meetings to large conferences. We held many of our meetings and activities overseas, with expenditure rising accordingly.

Despite the complex challenges facing the region, we have continued to work to implement the charity's core objectives, maintaining active engagement with our political, civil, and academic networks in Israel, Palestine, and the wider region through regular visits and daily communication. It is through this engagement that we have been able to respond to the needs of our interlocutors and ensure our analysis of developments in the region is accurate.

Middle East Programme

In August 2023, we held meetings in Gaza with cross-party political and religious leaders, as well as members of the business community, university professors, young journalists, and UN officials. The visit provided the opportunity to assess the pre-war social and political challenges, including unemployment and dependency on aid, and to have in-depth discussions on ways to address them.

A delegation of Palestinian academics from the House of Wisdom in Gaza met with senior South African political leaders and negotiators who were involved in South Africa's transition from apartheid to constitutional democracy. The visit provided an opportunity to share experiences and lessons from the process of negotiation and transformation in South Africa. It was organised in collaboration with In-Transformation Initiative (ITI).

We conducted five visits to Israel and Palestine (November, December, February, April, July) to engage our diverse networks of political and religious leaders and address the escalation of the conflict following the events of 7 October 2023.

In Israel, we met with cross-party Members of the Knesset (MKs), political advisors, and chiefs of staff from Likud, Shas, Yesh Atid, Labor, Meretz, Otzma Yehudit, and other national religious parties. Discussions explored the charged political atmosphere in the Knesset, assessments of developments in the conflict, and planning for an external visit to allow Israeli political advisors to engage in intensive and introspective conversations with selected political leaders involved in previous peace processes.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

Middle East Programme

In Palestine, we engaged cross-factional leaders, including ministers from the Palestinian Authority (PA), the Fatah Central Committee, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, Palestinian National Initiative, and independent Palestinian leaders; as well as academics from SEEDS in Nablus and PASSIA in East Jerusalem. Themes explored included political unity, increased violence in the West Bank, and the ongoing challenges there and in Gaza. We have been working with ministers from the new technocratic PA government to support their efforts to address these challenges through connecting them with relevant international experts.

In March 2024 we convened a conference in Cairo, bringing together participants from Gaza, Ramallah, Egypt, and the international community. It aimed to provide a space for a group of evacuated Gazans (including businessmen and a lawyer) and Palestinian leaders in the West Bank to share their experiences and perspectives on the complex challenges on the ground in Gaza. The participants underlined the need for prompt action in restoring the health, education, legal, and economic systems in Gaza.

We continued to convene online discussions to allow diverse perspectives on the conflict and developments in the region to be shared with our international network of diplomats, senior foreign ministry officials, journalists, academics, and parliamentarians.

Outside of Israel and Palestine, we have participated in several international conferences, including the Second Shusha Global Media Forum in Azerbaijan, the Foreign Policy and Security Conference at King's College London, a Social Change Initiative conference in Belfast.

UK Programme

In August 2023, we had several meetings with Muslim community groups from across London, Manchester and Bradford to discuss our UK Programme strategy and activities.

The discussions highlighted the need to address the serious challenges that Muslim communities, including young Muslims, currently face. Many feel that politicians do not represent British Muslim communities or respond to their needs. Islamophobia in the media and politics was also underlined as a significant issue.

Women for a Sustainable Future (WSF) Network

The WSF Steering Group held four online meetings of the Steering Group to draw up action plans and agendas for the WSF's work moving forward. In December, the network met in-person at St George's House, Windsor. The meeting convened parliamentarians as well as health and childcare officials from Finland, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Northern Ireland, Oman, Sweden, and the UK. The meeting provided the opportunity to share understandings of how climate change disproportionately affects the health of women, and how a lack of access to childcare can limit women's economic participation.

Online meetings of the network have addressed challenges that pose a disproportionate threat to women's livelihoods in the Gulf-MENA region and Europe.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

Financial Review

The charity had reserves of £263,526 at the end of the financial year, an increase of £136,125 from 2023.

Principal funding sources

The leading funding sources for the charity in this financial year came from three main sources:

- Project grants from European governments
- Grants from charitable foundations and trusts
- Private donations

In 2023-24, grants from charitable trusts, European governments and private donations, were the main funding sources for the Middle East Programme. The Helsinki Policy Forum was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The Women for a Sustainable Future Programme was funded by Porticus.

Investment Policy

The trust deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using the funds of the charity, but no such investments are presently held. Any surplus general funds are invested in short-term deposits.

Reserves policy

The charity's primary responsibility is to meet the costs of its programme expenses on a year-to-year basis and then to build sufficient reserves. The trustees continue to aim to generate a surplus to guarantee the charity's long-term financial health and stability.

Plans for the future period

Following the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on 7 October, one of our main priorities for the future period will continue engaging with our networks in Israel and Palestine.

This escalation risks widespread regional insecurity. Therefore, we will continue to work in an inclusive way with our network of influential political and religious leaders from across the spectrum in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories to support dialogue on the challenges and potential opportunities that they face in leading their constituencies towards a durable, just, and realistic settlement to the conflict.

We will continue to engage at the international level to share analysis of the challenges and opportunities between Europe, the US, and the Gulf-MENA region.

In the UK, we will seek further opportunities to engage diverse British Muslim communities and the establishment (policymakers, parliamentarians, and the media) so they may have their perspectives heard and inform positive changes to legislation and policy.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

At the request of members of the Women Parliamentarian Network, we will continue to convene meetings between European and Gulf-MENA women parliamentarians, as well as relevant experts in the field of health and environment. Under the name Women for a Sustainable Future (WSF), the agenda of the group will continue to be driven by its members, with Forward Thinking playing a facilitative role.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Charities Act requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- d) State whether applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act of 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

The trustees intend to ask the auditor, Xeinadin Audit Limited, to undertake the audit of the charity in the following year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS (effective 1st of January 2015).

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on the 20th of January 2025 and signed on their behalf:

William Sieghart

William Sieghart
Chairman of the board of trustees

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year-ended 31 July 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Forward Thinking ('the charity') for the year-ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities SORP.

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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual 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.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on pages 4 to 10], the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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 statement.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

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:

As part of designing our audit, we determined the materiality level and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion, we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls including testing journals and evaluation whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils 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 charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Charities SORP. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees 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 charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Lee FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
8th Floor Becket House
36 Old Jewry
London
EC2R 8DD

Date:

FORWARD THINKING

Statement of financial activities for the year-ended 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Private donations		317,421	-	317,421	10,629
Grants		25,000	391,077	416,077	562,196
Other incoming resources		<u>3,149</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,149</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>345,570</u>	<u>391,077</u>	<u>736,647</u>	<u>572,825</u>
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		-	527,149	527,149	630,807
Governance costs	7	<u>73,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,373</u>	<u>70,761</u>
Total resources expended	6	<u>(73,373)</u>	<u>(527,149)</u>	<u>(600,522)</u>	<u>(701,568)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		272,197	(136,072)	136,125	(128,744)
Other recognised gains		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		272,197	(136,072)	136,125	(128,744)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		1,571	125,830	127,401	256,145
Transfer between funds		<u>(30,000)</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>243,768</u>	<u>19,758</u>	<u>263,526</u>	<u>127,401</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2024 other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

There were no acquisitions or discontinued operations during the current year.

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

FORWARD THINKING
Balance Sheet at 31 July 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	7,099	4,141
Current assets			
Debtors	10	15,778	34,595
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>276,992</u>	<u>157,620</u>
		292,770	192,215
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(36,343)</u>	<u>(68,955)</u>
Net current assets		<u>256,427</u>	<u>123,260</u>
Total assets less current Liabilities		<u>263,526</u>	<u>127,401</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		19,758	125,830
Unrestricted funds		<u>243,768</u>	<u>1,571</u>
	12	<u>263,526</u>	<u>127,401</u>

The notes on pages 15 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 14 were approved by the trustees on 20th of January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
William Sieghart
Trustee

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2024

1 Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The financial statements are in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and with the Charities Act 2011.
- b) Donations and project grants are accounted for as received by the charity.
- c) Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is included with the amount received.
- d) Expenditure on grants is recorded once the trust has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier. The trust has not made any grant commitments of more than one year.
- e) Other expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.
- f) All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation on office equipment is charged on a straight-line basis over 4 years; is included under overheads within support costs and is allocated to governance costs.
- g) Restricted funds are carefully managed by the trustees with regard to the restrictions placed upon the documentation provided by the donor.
- h) Governance costs include costs of governance arrangements for the general running of the charity as opposed to the management functions inherent in generating funds. This includes such items as external audit, legal advice and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- i) Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.
- j) The Financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

2 Taxation

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3 Analysis of employee costs:	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries	249,444	321,600
Social security costs	27,560	30,904
Pension contributions	<u>3,340</u>	<u>5,929</u>
	<u>280,344</u>	<u>358,433</u>

The average number of employees for the year was 5 (2023: 8).

One employee of the charity received emoluments in excess of £90,000 during the year.

The charity has paid pension contributions of £3,340 (2023: £5,929) for 5 employees during the year.

4 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

5 Related party transactions

During the year there were no related party transactions.

6 Funding of Resources Expended and Governance costs

	Private Donations £	Grants £	2024 £	2023 £
Middle East	-	123,077	123,077	305,752
Programme	320,570	25,000	345,570	35,629
Helsinki Forum	-	128,000	128,000	231,444
Women for a Sustainable Future	-	140,000	140,000	-
Totals	<u>320,570</u>	<u>416,077</u>	<u>736,647</u>	<u>572,825</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2024 (continued)

7	Governance costs	2024	2023
		£	£
	Accountancy & payroll fees	1,602	3,120
	Audit fees	9,000	9,000
	Professional fees	448	5,658
	Support costs	<u>62,323</u>	<u>52,983</u>
		<u>73,373</u>	<u>70,761</u>

8 Allocation of support costs

The charity allocates support costs on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

	Staff costs	Overheads	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Middle East programme	127,435	-	127,435	188,446
UK programme	-	-	-	7,875
Helsinki programme	75,778	-	75,778	162,112
Women for a sustainable future programme	77,132	-	77,132	-
Governance costs	<u>-</u>	<u>73,373</u>	<u>73,373</u>	<u>70,761</u>
	<u>280,344</u>	<u>73,373</u>	<u>353,717</u>	<u>429,194</u>

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 August 2023	8,716	8,716
Additions	<u>6,368</u>	<u>6,368</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>15,084</u>	<u>15,084</u>
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 August 2023	4,575	4,575
Depreciation for the year	<u>(3,410)</u>	<u>(3,410)</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>7,985</u>	<u>7,985</u>
Net book values		
As at 31 July 2024	<u>7,099</u>	<u>7,099</u>
As at 31 July 2023	<u>4,141</u>	<u>4,141</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2024 *(continued)*

10	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Other debtors	14,919	2,304
	Prepayments and accrued income	<u>859</u>	<u>32,291</u>
		<u>15,778</u>	<u>34,595</u>
11	Creditor: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Other creditors	8,259	12,566
	PAYE control account	7,337	6,979
	Accruals & deferred income	<u>20,747</u>	<u>49,410</u>
		<u>36,343</u>	<u>68,955</u>
12	Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets
		£	£
	Restricted funds		
	Private donations	-	-
	Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>19,758</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>19,758</u>
	Unrestricted funds		
	Private donations	<u>7,099</u>	<u>236,669</u>
		<u>7,099</u>	<u>236,669</u>
	Total Funds	<u>7,099</u>	<u>256,427</u>
		<u>256,427</u>	<u>263,526</u>

The unrestricted funds of the charity may be applied for any charitable purpose at the discretion of the trustees.

FORWARD THINKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1105206

Accounts

**FORWARD THINKING
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR-ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Charity no: 1105206

XEINADIN AUDIT LIMITED

**Statutory Auditor
15-19 Cavendish Place
London W1G 0DD**

FORWARD THINKING

Financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2023

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FORWARD THINKING

Reference and administrative information

Charity name – Forward Thinking

Charity registration number – 1105206

Principal address & registered office – 1 Quality Court, London, WC2A 1HR

Trustees

- ❖ Francis Campbell
- ❖ Justin Dowley
- ❖ Christopher Donnelly
- ❖ Jeremy Greenstock
- ❖ Dympna Hayes
- ❖ Michael Holland
- ❖ William Sieghart (chairman)

Director – Oliver McTernan

Auditor – Xeinadin Audit Limited, 15-19 Cavendish Place, London, W1G 0DD

Bankers – NatWest Bank plc, PO Box 2021, 10 Marylebone High Street, London. W1A 1FH

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023

This report relates to the operation of Forward Thinking during the year-ended 31 July 2023.

History, objectives and activities of the trust

The charitable trust was established on the 29th of July 2004.

The trust deed gives the trustees the power to apply the funds for the benefit of any charitable objectives. The trust's charitable objectives are to promote racial and religious harmony by such charitable means and in such parts of the world as the trustees determine from time to time, in particular but not exclusively by promoting more informed dialogue and understanding between different factions with same faith communities and between different faith and racial groups.

The focus of charitable activities has been to promote a more inclusive peace process in the Middle East, to reduce the potential for conflict across the Gulf-MENA region, and to address the problem of social isolation of the Muslim community in Britain.

Structure, governance, and management

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

There must always be at least three trustees. Apart from the first trustee, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a board meeting.

In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the existing trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

The existing trustees must make available to each new trustee on their appointment:

- A) A copy of the Trust Deed
- B) A copy of charity's latest annual report and the financial statements
- C) A copy of the charity's conflict of interests policy and a declaration of interests
- D) A trustee's eligibility declaration form
- E) A copy of the charity's governance code
- F) A copy of the "Essential Trustee"

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business, and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that procedures are in place to regularly review the current risks of the charity.

In considering the direction of the charity and its activities, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Organisational Structure

The charity is made up of seven trustees who meet on a quarterly basis and who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The trustees have delegated the daily running of operations to Oliver McTernan, who acts as the charity's Director.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

During the financial year four members of staff moved to other employment and new members were recruited. The year ended with six fulltime employees, who come from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. In addition, the charity utilised the services of several interns and consultants over the course of the year.

The day-to-day responsibility for the delivery of charitable activities rests with the Director and the relevant Programme Managers, who employ a scheme of delegation amongst the team.

Achievements and Performance

Overview

During the year, we held a total of 256 meetings in our three programmes. The number ranges from bilateral meetings to large conferences. We held many of our meetings and activities overseas, with expenditure rising accordingly.

In early 2022 we became acutely aware of the risk of an explosion of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories. It was clear to us from our frequent visits and active engagement at the political, civil, and academic levels that the status quo was unsustainable. In our frequent visits to the Israeli Knesset, we became aware that most members were preoccupied with internal domestic matters. An entrenched belief in the ability of the security forces to contain any threat of widespread violence led to a level of complacency despite obvious signs of growing Palestinian unrest.

Despite complex challenges, we continued to work to implement the charity's core objectives.

Middle East Programme

In October 2022, we facilitated the visit of South African negotiators Roelf Meyer and Mohammed Bhabha to Nazareth, Nablus, Gaza, Hebron, and Jerusalem, where they met with diverse Palestinian leaders. The aim was to share the South African experience of conflict resolution, democracy building, and the process which led to the end of the apartheid system. Discussions were focused on how to build unity, reach consensus, the role of the international community, and the importance of an inclusive peace process. More than 230 Palestinian cross-factional leaders, diplomats, academics, and activists participated in these meetings. They also met with leaders and Knesset members from the High Follow-Up Committee. As a follow up to this visit, it was arranged to bring a group of Gazan intellectuals to South Africa for meetings with those who helped lead the move from a system of apartheid to a constitutional democracy.

In November 2022, we held a conference of religious leaders in St George's House, Windsor. Muslim, Jewish, and Christian leaders, including the Chief Sephardi Rabbi of Israel, convened to discuss the role of religious leaders in addressing the threat of violent conflict. This conference was the culmination of discussions previously held with Sunni and Salafi scholars in Gaza, national religious and ultra-Orthodox rabbis in Israel, as well as Shia, Sunni, Salafi, Catholic, Protestant, Methodist, and Evangelical leaders from Iraq, Northern Ireland, the Vatican, the US, and the UK.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Middle East Programme

We successfully developed a Palestinian education initiative with Harvard Graduate School for Education and Maynooth University in Ireland to train the next generation of Palestinian educators. We discussed with young journalists ways of effectively presenting the Palestinian narrative to an international audience.

During visits to Gaza in February 2023, we delivered conferences and roundtables on conflict resolution, the Irish peace process, and the implications of the Russia-Ukraine war for Palestine and the region. These meetings provided a unique opportunity for young students who had never been able to have discussions on international issues with outside speakers. We held similar meetings with the University Professors and Teacher Associations.

In Israel, we maintained our network of political and religious leaders from across the political spectrum, including current and former MKs from most of the Coalition and Opposition parties; government ministers; diplomats; political advisors; and Rabbinical leaders. Many of these leaders have previously travelled with us to Northern Ireland as part of Forward Thinking's Irish Peace Process Programme.

Outside of Israel and Palestine, we have participated in a number of international conferences, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Shusha Global Media Forum in Azerbaijan, and the Istanbul Security Forum in Türkiye.

Our Forward Thinking Online series continued to bring our European diplomatic and political network into online discussions with senior regional political figures to share insights and inform the policy of foreign ministries in real time. The speakers included MK Aida Touma-Suleiman (Hadash), Ariel Bulshtein (former advisor to Benjamin Netanyahu), Faruk Loğoğlu (former Turkish Ambassador to the United States), and Ambassador Ahmet Yıldız (Justice and Development Party, Türkiye).

The Helsinki Policy Forum

The Helsinki Policy Forum provided an unofficial space for senior foreign ministry officials from Europe and the Gulf-MENA region to meet and explore ways to de-escalate tensions and build confidence and cooperation.

Two Steering Group meetings took place in Helsinki in March and July 2023. Officials participated from the European External Action Service (EEAS), Finland, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

The Health Working Group continued to provide a space for health officials from across Europe and the Gulf-MENA region to identify shared health-related challenges and opportunities for cooperation to address these challenges. The group met in Helsinki in September 2022, and included government officials and health experts from Finland, France, Iran, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Also present were representatives from the Order of Malta, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean and European Offices.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

The Environment, Energy, and Economy (EEE) Working Group convenes officials and experts to discuss environmental challenges and energy security. In February and May 2023, online meetings were held to discuss the growing challenges associated with desertification and sand and dust storms. Participants included officials from Egypt, the European Union, Finland, France, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, the Sovereign Order of Malta, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations.

In March 2023, we convened a HPF Youth meeting in Helsinki to provide young climate leaders with a space to share their insights on climate action. Participants attended from Finland, Egypt, Iran, Sweden, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates, and were hosted by the then Finnish Foreign Minister, Pekka Haavisto.

In November 2022, the Women Parliamentarian Network met in Turku, Finland, to discuss the effects of climate change on women and the global south. Women parliamentarians and relevant decisionmakers participated from Algeria, the European Parliament, Finland, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Tunisia, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom. They identified current and future policies for addressing climate change and outlined ways in which parliamentarians could develop shared responses in their own national contexts.

We were invited to attend and speak at the Women, Peace, and Security Focal Points Network meeting in Washington DC in June 2023. Four WPN members attended. They included representatives from Europe and the Gulf-MENA region.

UK Programme

In October 2022, we brought a delegation of prominent Muslim community leaders from England, together with current and former UK parliamentarians and other relevant experts, to Northern Ireland. The group met with a range of individuals, including academics, ex-combatants, youth workers, police officers, MLAs, clergy, and senior civil servants from the Northern Ireland Education Authority and Department of Justice. Discussions explored the relationships between grassroots communities and state institutions in Northern Ireland.

Following their in-person meeting in July 2022, we held a series of online meetings with the Youth Policy Network, which includes participants from the Northwest of England, Yorkshire, the East Midlands, and London. These meetings continued to discuss the overall goals of the Network and opportunities for young British Muslims to work collaboratively to influence policy change on issues of importance that they identified.

In February 2023, Forward Thinking produced a paper on the Independent Review of Prevent that was published earlier in the month. The paper contained insights from diverse Muslim communities, as well as from the October visit to Northern Ireland.

In March, we facilitated a roundtable discussion with Muslim community representatives from London and the Northwest of England to identify how to broaden existing discussions on the challenges faced by Muslim communities in the UK. The aim of these dialogues is to ensure community perspectives are fed to parliamentarians and policymakers in the absence of other channels to do so.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Financial Review

The charity has reserves of £127,401 at the end of the financial year, a decrease of £128,744 from 2022.

Principal funding sources

The leading funding sources for the charity in this financial year came from three main sources:

- Project grants from European governments
- Grants from charitable foundations and trusts
- Private donations

In 2022-23, grants from charitable trusts were the main funding sources for the Middle East Programme. The Helsinki Policy Forum was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The UK Programme was funded by British charitable trusts.

Investment Policy

The trust deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using the funds of the charity, but no such investments are presently held. Any surplus general funds are invested in short-term deposits.

Reserves policy

The charity's primary responsibility is to meet the costs of its programme expenses on a year-to-year basis and then to build sufficient reserves. The trustees continue to aim to generate a surplus to guarantee the charity's long-term financial health and stability.

Plans for the future period

Following the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on 7 October, one of our main priorities for the future period will be engaging our networks in Israel and Palestine and from our Helsinki Policy Forum to prevent further risk of violence.

This escalation risks widespread regional insecurity. Therefore, we will continue to work in an inclusive way with our network of influential political and religious leaders from across the spectrum in Israel and the oPt to support dialogue on the challenges and potential opportunities that they face in leading their constituencies towards a durable, just, and realistic settlement to the conflict.

We will continue to engage at the international level to share analysis of the challenges and opportunities between Europe, the US, and the Gulf-MENA region.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

In the UK, we will seek further opportunities to engage diverse British Muslim communities and the establishment (policymakers, parliamentarians, and the media) so they may have their perspectives heard and inform positive changes to legislation and policy.

At the request of members of the Women Parliamentarian Network, we will continue to convene meetings between European and Gulf-MENA women parliamentarians, as well as relevant experts in the field of health and environment. Under the name Women for a Sustainable Future (WSF), the agenda of the group will continue to be driven by its members, with Forward Thinking playing a facilitative role.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Charities Act requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- d) State whether applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act of 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

The trustees intend to ask the auditor, Xeinadin Audit Limited, to undertake the audit of the charity in the following year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS (effective 1st of January 2015).

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on the 12th February 2024 and signed on their behalf:



.....

William Sieghart
Chairman of the board of trustees

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year-ended 31 July 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Forward Thinking ('the charity') for the year-ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities SORP.

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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual 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.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on pages 4 to 10], the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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 statement.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

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:

As part of designing our audit, we determined the materiality level and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls including testing journals and evaluation whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils 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 charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with [the relevant legislation]. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees 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 charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Narendrakumar Mistry FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
15-19 Cavendish Place
London
W1G 0DD

Date: *12th February 2024*

FORWARD THINKING

Statement of financial activities for the year-ended 31 July 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Private donations		10,629	-	10,629	16,613
Grants		25,000	537,196	562,196	606,664
Other incoming resources		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>35,629</u>	<u>537,196</u>	<u>572,825</u>	<u>623,277</u>
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		-	630,807	630,807	744,978
Governance costs	7	<u>70,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,761</u>	<u>69,874</u>
Total resources expended	6	<u>(70,761)</u>	<u>(630,807)</u>	<u>(701,568)</u>	<u>(814,852)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		(35,133)	(93,611)	(128,744)	(191,575)
Other recognised gains		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(35,133)	(93,611)	(128,744)	(191,575)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		36,704	219,441	256,145	477,720
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>1,571</u>	<u>125,830</u>	<u>127,401</u>	<u>256,145</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2023 other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

There were no acquisitions or discontinued operations during the current year.

The notes on pages 16-20 form part of these financial statements.

FORWARD THINKING
Balance Sheet at 31 July 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	4,141	4,813
Current assets			
Debtors	10	34,595	5,430
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>157,620</u>	<u>427,425</u>
		192,215	432,855
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(68,955)</u>	<u>(181,523)</u>
Net current assets		<u>123,260</u>	<u>251,332</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>127,401</u>	<u>256,145</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		125,830	219,441
Unrestricted funds		<u>1,571</u>	<u>36,704</u>
	12	<u>127,401</u>	<u>256,145</u>

The notes on pages 16-20 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 15 were approved by the trustees on 12th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
William Sieghart
Trustee

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2023

1 Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The financial statements are in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and with the Charities Act 2011.
- b) Donations and project grants are accounted for as received by the charity.
- c) Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is included with the amount received.
- d) Expenditure on grants is recorded once the trust has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier. The trust has not made any grant commitments of more than one year.
- e) Other expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.
- f) All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation on office equipment is charged on a straight line basis over 4 years; is included under overheads within support costs and is allocated to governance costs.
- g) Restricted funds are carefully managed by the trustees with regard to the restrictions placed upon the documentation provided by the donor.
- h) Governance costs include costs of governance arrangements for the general running of the charity as opposed to the management functions inherent in generating funds. This includes such items as external audit, legal advice and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- i) Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.
- j) The Financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

2 Taxation

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3 Analysis of employee costs:	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	321,600	371,521
Social security costs	30,904	36,295
Pension contributions	<u>5,929</u>	<u>7,545</u>
	<u>358,433</u>	<u>415,361</u>

The average number of employees for the year was 8 (2022: 9).

One employee of the charity received emoluments in excess of £90,000 during the year.

The charity has paid pension contributions of £5,929 (2022: £7,545) for 8 employees during the year.

4 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

5 Related party transactions

During the year there were no related party transactions.

6 Funding of Resources Expended and Governance costs

	Private Donations	Grants	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Middle East Programme	-	305,752	305,752	312,545
Helsinki Forum	10,629	25,000	35,629	16,613
UK Programme	-	231,444	231,444	118,134
Tunisia Programme	-	-	-	90,000
EU- PD	-	-	-	85,985
Totals	<u>10,629</u>	<u>562,196</u>	<u>572,825</u>	<u>623,277</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2023 (continued)

7	Governance costs	2023	2022
		£	£
	Accountancy & payroll fees	3,120	5,880
	Audit fees	9,000	9,000
	Professional fees	5,658	48,618
	Support costs	<u>52,983</u>	<u>6,376</u>
		<u>70,761</u>	<u>69,874</u>

8 Allocation of support costs

The charity allocates support costs on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

	Staff costs	Overheads	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Middle East programme	188,446	-	188,446	221,281
UK programme	7,875	-	7,875	60,375
Tunisia programme	-	-	-	9,280
Helsinki programme	162,112	-	162,112	124,425
Governance costs	<u>-</u>	<u>70,761</u>	<u>70,761</u>	<u>69,874</u>
	<u>358,433</u>	<u>70,761</u>	<u>429,194</u>	<u>485,235</u>

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 August 2022	7,396	7,396
Additions	<u>1,320</u>	<u>1,320</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>8,716</u>	<u>8,716</u>
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 August 2022	2,583	2,583
Depreciation for the year	<u>(1,992)</u>	<u>(1,992)</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>4,575</u>	<u>4,575</u>
Net book values		
As at 31 July 2023	<u>4,141</u>	<u>4,141</u>
As at 31 July 2022	<u>4,813</u>	<u>4,813</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2023 *(continued)*

10	Debtors		2023	2022
			£	£
	Net wages control		-	817
	Other debtors		2,304	417
	Prepayments and accrued income		<u>32,291</u>	<u>4,200</u>
			<u>34,595</u>	<u>5,430</u>
11	Creditor: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
			£	£
	Other creditors		12,566	21,926
	PAYE control account		6,979	11,752
	Accruals & deferred income		<u>49,410</u>	<u>147,845</u>
			<u>68,955</u>	<u>181,523</u>
12	Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible	Net current	
		fixed assets	assets	Total
		£	£	£
	Restricted funds			
	Private donations	-	-	-
	Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>125,830</u>	<u>125,830</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>125,830</u>	<u>125,830</u>
	Unrestricted funds			
	Private donations	<u>4,141</u>	<u>(2,570)</u>	<u>1,571</u>
		<u>4,141</u>	<u>(2,570)</u>	<u>1,571</u>
	Total Funds	<u>4,141</u>	<u>123,260</u>	<u>127,401</u>

The unrestricted funds of the charity may be applied for any charitable purpose at the discretion of the trustees.

FORWARD THINKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1105206

Accounts

**FORWARD THINKING
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR-ENDED 31 JULY 2022**

Charity no: 1105206

XEINADIN AUDIT LIMITED

**Statutory Auditor
15-19 Cavendish Place
London W1G 0DD**

FORWARD THINKING

Financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2022

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FORWARD THINKING

Reference and administrative information

Charity name – Forward Thinking

Charity registration number – 1105206

Principal address & registered office – 1 Quality Court, London, WC2A 1HR

Trustees

- ❖ Francis Campbell
- ❖ Justin Dowley
- ❖ Christopher Donnelly
- ❖ Jeremy Greenstock
- ❖ Dympna Hayes
- ❖ Michael Holland
- ❖ William Sieghart (chairman)

Director – Oliver McTernan

Auditor – Xeinadin Audit Limited, 15/19 Cavendish Place, London, W1G 0DD

Bankers – NatWest Bank plc, PO Box 2021, 10 Marylebone High Street, London. W1A 1FH

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022

This report relates to the operation of Forward Thinking during the year-ended 31 July 2022.

History, objectives and activities of the trust

The charitable trust was established on the 29th of July 2004.

The trust deed gives the trustees the power to apply the funds for the benefit of any charitable objectives. The trust's charitable objectives are to promote racial and religious harmony by such charitable means and in such parts of the world as the trustees determine from time to time, in particular but not exclusively by promoting more informed dialogue and understanding between different factions with same faith communities and between different faith and racial groups.

The focus of charitable activities has been to promote a more inclusive peace process in the Middle East, to reduce the potential for conflict across the Gulf-MENA region, and to address the problem of social isolation of the Muslim community in Britain.

Structure, governance, and management

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

There must always be at least three trustees. Apart from the first trustee, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a board meeting.

In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the existing trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

The existing trustees must make available to each new trustee on their appointment:

- A) A copy of the Trust Deed
- B) A copy of charity's latest annual report and the financial statements
- C) A copy of the charity's conflict of interests policy and a declaration of interests
- D) A trustee's eligibility declaration form
- E) A copy of the charity's governance code
- F) A copy of the "Essential Trustee"

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business, and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that procedures are in place to regularly review the current risks of the charity.

In considering the direction of the charity and its activities, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Organisational Structure

The charity is made up of seven trustees who meet on a quarterly basis and who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The trustees have delegated the daily running of operations to Oliver McTernan, who acts as the charity's Director.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

During the financial year the charity hired several members of staff and ended the year with ten fulltime employees. Staff come from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. In addition to these members of staff, the charity utilised the services of several interns and consultants over the course of the year.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the delivery of charitable activities rests with the Director and the relevant Programme Managers.

Achievements and Performance

Overview

Across the year, we held a total of 662 meetings in our three programmes, broadly stable with our level of activity in 2020-2021.

While risks from Covid-19 remained, travel restrictions largely ended around the globe. This allowed us to hold a growing proportion of our activities overseas, with expenditure rising accordingly. A priority for us was to take the time to properly re-engage with our networks after two years of holding almost all activities online, to gain a deeper understanding of how situations had evolved in that time and to explore how our work should be adapting in response.

Demands for Forward Thinking's work remained high, amidst a particularly challenging content in the Middle East. The current impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is leading to increased frustration within the Palestinian Territories. This sense of desperation is exacerbated by the widespread belief that the international community no longer cares about Palestine. In particular, the Western response to Russia's attempted annexation of Ukraine led to accusations of 'double standards' by the international community, who are perceived as tacitly enabling the continued expansion of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian lands by failing to enforce international law. Meanwhile in Israel, another change in government does not appear to have brought a change in thinking about the conflict. Rather there seems to be a renewed emphasis on attempting to manage the conflict through aggressive security tactics, with 2022 seeing the highest number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since the Second Intifada.

In the wider region, conflicts continue in Syria and Yemen, while the JCPOA negotiations remain unresolved. The conflict in Ukraine has also spill over effects for the Middle East, increasing the price of food and turmoil in energy markets. Meanwhile in the UK a report released in January 2022 found that holding prejudiced views towards Islam is almost three times more likely among the British public than of other religions. Further evidence shows that 73 percent of British Muslims reported that they faced discrimination in July 2022 alone.

However, despite these difficult realities, Forward Thinking made continued progress towards the charity's core objectives.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

Middle East Programme

In 2022 we launched a training programme to develop Gazan journalists' capacity to communicate the Palestinian narrative more effectively with the international community. Between March-May, we facilitated workshops on news verification, countering cognitive bias and developing shared values and media editing. Participants were all journalists for radio programmes or government ministries in Gaza, giving them a wide media outreach. The participants went on to establish a working group to ensure comprehensive coverage of developments in the Gaza Strip. One participant said, "out of all the courses I have taken, this course provided me with the most professional tools and new information."

We have re-established a network of 25 diverse Palestinian women to support the empowerment of their voices and roles within conflict-affected divided societies. We convened meetings in Stormont and Leinster House, developing five relationships with key women parliamentarians, whom we will introduce to our Palestinian women's networks. Furthermore, we convened roundtable meetings with our Palestinian Women's Network in Ramallah, identifying challenges they face and opportunities for future cooperation and discussing how the issue of Palestine is understood at the international level.

In Israel, we held seminars with political and religious leaders from across the political spectrum, including current and former MKs, government ministers, diplomats, political advisors, and Rabbinical leaders. We linked speakers with European officials to better inform European policy in real time enabling a more detailed understanding of issues than one might get from reading the news or listening to public statements.

To build on the successful religious leader's conference facilitated by Forward Thinking in Netanya in May 2021 we have deepened our engagement with the Sephardi Chief Rabbi, Yitzhak Yosef, and Rabbi Shemtov Menachem, the Chairman of the Rabbinic Union of Israel. As a result, a successful dialogue has developed that has empowered the Chief Rabbi to reiterate to both religious and political leaders the long-standing prohibition of Jews from ascending the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif complex.

We have further developed our engagement with the Likud party. Our network within the party is made up of Ministerial advisors with profound influence and who are willing to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is significant given that Likud holds the most seats in the Knesset and is the leading party of the newly formed Israeli government.

We have built a diverse network of Israeli women leaders, including senior Knesset Members, political advisors, campaigners, religious and secular, Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli and LGBTQ+ women. Bilateral meetings have highlighted a divergence in thinking among network members regarding normalisation with Arab countries and underlined misunderstandings by political figures in Israel regarding how Palestinians view normalisation. In addition, we have built relationships with both the Irish and Northern Irish political women's caucuses to provide a safe umbrella for Israeli women to meet and address issues of shared concern and explore the role women played in developing the conditions for peace in Northern Ireland.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

Between January-September 2022, we deepened our engagement with senior officials from Egypt, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, OSCE, Qatar, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, United Nations, the US and the Vatican. The purpose of this intense outreach was to both raise awareness of the growing risks of escalation within the conflict and to explore how to reinvigorate diplomatic efforts to achieve a durable resolution. We have worked extensively to share Palestinian and Jordanian concerns with the United States, Europe and the region about the challenges facing the status quo of the Jerusalem's Holy Sites.

The Helsinki Policy Forum

The Helsinki Policy Forum provided a confidential space where senior policymakers from across the region can meet and explore ways to de-escalate tensions and build confidence.

Four Steering Groups were held over the course of the year – in August and December 2021 and then March and June 2022. Participating states included: the EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UAE, and the UK. Discussions focused on de-escalating regional crises and identifying where there are opportunities for cooperation to be intensified.

The Health Working Group developed substantially over the year, providing a space for health officials from across Europe and the Gulf-MENA region to not only share analysis but to enhance cooperation on issues of mutual concern. The aim is to see if health can serve as a mechanism to build confidence in the region by demonstrating the shared benefits of states working together. In January 2022 the Health Working Group met online with H.E. Dr Ahmed al Saeedi, the Minister of Health for the Sultanate of Oman and Dr Ahmed Al Mandhari, the WHO's Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, to raise awareness of the GHPI ahead of the 150th Executive Board Meeting of the WHO. Over the coming months the Working Group continued to build support for the GHPI amongst its network, ensuring that it passed at the Executive Board and was advanced at the 75th World Health Assembly.

After a couple of years of meeting online due to Covid-19, the Women's Parliamentary Network was able to meet twice in Helsinki in 2021-2022. The first meeting took place in December 2021, bringing together parliamentarians from Egypt, Finland, France, Iraq, Ireland, Libya, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom to examine the challenges facing women in leadership positions. The second physical meeting took place in June 2022, this time on the role of women in economic and financial decision-making. Discussions focused on mechanisms to promote financial literacy amongst the general public.

As a consequence of the war in Ukraine, discussions on energy security featured prominently towards the end of the year. This led to the decision to create an Environment, Energy and Economy Working Group that will meet in 2023.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

UK Programme

Ensuring that decision makers engage with community perspectives regarding the Prevent strategy and the Independent Review of Prevent has been a priority, ever since the Review was announced in 2019. While still waiting for the report to be published, we have continued to raise awareness of why so many community representatives have concerns about how the Review has been conducted and the current Prevent Strategy. We held bilateral meetings with parliamentarians from a range of political parties who represent the regional diversity of the UK. Our engagement resulted in parliamentarians asking several parliamentary questions regarding the Review and its timeline and many have asked to remain updated on how the Review progresses. This work culminated in June 2022 with a parliamentary roundtable, chaired by Afzal Khan MP, to share further insights about the Review ahead of its release. These insights, along with others garnered during our longstanding engagement, have informed a final briefing paper which we will circulate with parliamentarians once the Independent Review is made public.

In March 2022 we launched a Youth Policy Network for alumni of our political literacy training - Pathways into Politics. The purpose of the Network is to provide opportunities for young British Muslims to work collaboratively to influence policy change on issues of importance they identify. In a meeting in July 2022, the group shared that despite being British, they did not feel as if they fully belonged in the UK due to discrimination. The group want to challenge Islamophobia and are working to humanise narratives about Muslim communities in Britain. Establishing this Network is an important way of ensuring that our work with youth is sustainable and enabling them to use the skills they have gained during the programme to enact change themselves.

Financial Review

The charity has reserves of £256,145 at the end of the financial year, a decrease of £191,349 from 2021.

Principal funding sources

The leading funding sources for the charity in this financial year came from three main sources:

- Project grants from European governments
- Grants from charitable foundations and trusts
- Private donations

In 2021-22, Irish Aid and grants from charitable trusts were the main funding sources for the Middle East Programme. The Helsinki Policy Forum was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The UK Programme was funded by British charitable trusts.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

Investment Policy

The trust deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using the funds of the charity, but no such investments are presently held. Any surplus general funds are invested in short-term deposits.

Reserves policy

The charity's primary responsibility is to meet the costs of its programme expenses on a year-to-year basis and then to build sufficient reserves. The trustees continue to aim to generate a surplus to guarantee the charity's long-term financial health and stability.

Plans for the future period

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict a priority will be developing renewed diplomatic impetus to pursue a resolution to the conflict. To achieve this, we will mobilise our network of contacts across foreign ministries to explore convening a high-level meeting on the conflict.

We will intensify activities with our networks of women leaders in both Israel and Palestine, introducing them separately to the Irish experience of peacebuilding. This will help them gain a deeper understanding of their own context and to identify where there are relevant insights that can be applied.

Building on our recent work with religious leaders, we will seek to convene a conference on the role that faith leaders can play in conflict resolution. This is particularly pressing in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict due to the rise in tensions around holy sites.

The Helsinki Policy Forum will focus on developing its working groups. These will explore how a focus on common challenges in the MENA region can provide an opportunity to develop cooperation. The working groups will look at three areas: health cooperation; addressing climate change and promoting the role of women in policymaking. The Forum will also maintain its role as a space for confidential dialogue between policymakers from Europe and the MENA region with the goal of building confidence and reducing tensions.

The UK programme will continue to explore challenges around the Prevent programme. A priority will be helping policymakers develop ideas around what alternatives to the current policy might look like. This will draw on the experience of Northern Ireland, which has developed its own model for addressing violent extremism and paramilitarism. The development of the Youth Policy Network will continue, with the aim of supporting the Network in launching its first initiative. The overall goals of the UK programme remain unchanged: linking figures in the Muslim community with the UK establishment to contribute to more informed policymaking and greater societal resilience.

Across all three areas of activity we envision a similar level of activity and expenditure to the current financial year.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Charities Act requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- d) State whether applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act of 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

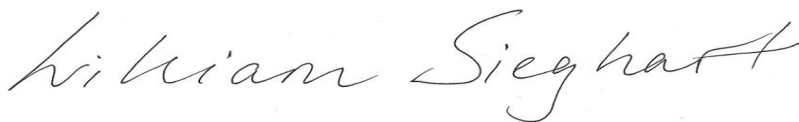
Auditor

The trustees intend to ask the auditor, Xeinadin Audit Limited, to undertake the audit of the charity in the following year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS (effective 1st of January 2015).

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on the 20th March 2023 and signed on their behalf:



.....
William Sieghart
Chairman of the board of trustees

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking
for the year-ended 31 July 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Forward Thinking ('the charity') for the year-ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities SORP.

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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual 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.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking
for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on pages 4 to 10], the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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 statement.

Independent auditor’s report to the trustees of Forward Thinking
for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

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:

As part of designing our audit, we determined the materiality level and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls including testing journals and evaluation whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils 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 charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with [the relevant legislation]. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees 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 charity’s trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Narendrakumar Mistry FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
15-19 Cavendish Place
London
W1G 0DD

Date:

FORWARD THINKING

Statement of financial activities for the year-ended 31 July 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021 (Restated)
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Private donations		16,613	-	16,613	62,600
Grants		-	606,664	606,664	500,824
Other incoming resources		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources		<u>16,613</u>	<u>606,664</u>	<u>623,277</u>	<u>563,424</u>
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		-	744,978	744,978	544,495
Governance costs	7	<u>69,874</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,874</u>	<u>61,822</u>
Total resources expended	6	<u>(69,874)</u>	<u>(744,978)</u>	<u>(814,852)</u>	<u>(606,317)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		(53,261)	(138,314)	(191,575)	(42,893)
Other recognised gains		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(53,261)	(138,314)	(191,575)	(42,893)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		39,013	408,707	447,720	490,613
Transfer between funds		<u>50,952</u>	<u>(50,952)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>36,704</u>	<u>219,441</u>	<u>256,145</u>	<u>447,720</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2022 other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

There were no acquisitions or discontinued operations during the current year.

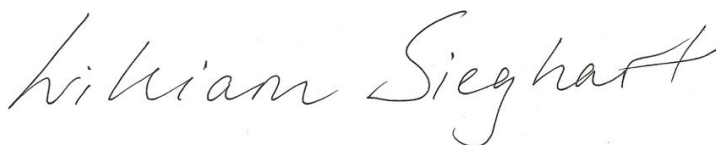
The notes on pages 16-20 form part of these financial statements.

FORWARD THINKING
Balance Sheet at 31 July 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	4,813	4,086
Current assets			
Debtors	10	5,430	5,936
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>427,425</u>	<u>516,015</u>
		432,855	521,951
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(181,523)</u>	<u>(78,317)</u>
Net current assets		<u>251,332</u>	<u>443,634</u>
Total assets less current Liabilities		<u>256,145</u>	<u>447,720</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		219,441	408,707
Unrestricted funds		<u>36,704</u>	<u>39,013</u>
	12	<u>256,145</u>	<u>447,720</u>

The notes on pages 16-20 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 15 were approved by the trustees on 20th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
William Sieghart
Trustee

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2022

1 Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The financial statements are in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and with the Charities Act 2011.
- b) Donations and project grants are accounted for as received by the charity.
- c) Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is included with the amount received.
- d) Expenditure on grants is recorded once the trust has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier. The trust has not made any grant commitments of more than one year.
- e) Other expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.
- f) All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation on office equipment is charged on a straight line basis over 4 years; is included under overheads within support costs and is allocated to governance costs.
- g) Restricted funds are carefully managed by the trustees with regard to the restrictions placed upon the documentation provided by the donor.
- h) Governance costs include costs of governance arrangements for the general running of the charity as opposed to the management functions inherent in generating funds. This includes such items as external audit, legal advice and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- i) Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.
- j) The Financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

2 Taxation

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3 Analysis of employee costs:	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries	371,521	356,355
Social security costs	36,295	33,739
Pension contributions	<u>7,545</u>	<u>7,048</u>
	<u>415,361</u>	<u>397,142</u>

The average number of employees for the year was 9 (2021: 10).

One employee of the charity received emoluments in excess of £90,000 during the year.

The charity has paid pension contributions of £7,545 (2021: £7,048) for 12 employees during the year.

4 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

5 Related party transactions

During the year there were no related party transactions.

6 Funding of Resources Expended and Governance costs

	Private Donations £	Grants £	2022 £	2021 £
Middle East	-	312,545	312,545	217,188
Programme	16,613	-	16,613	62,600
Helsinki Forum	-	118,134	118,134	213,821
UK Programme	-	90,000	90,000	45,000
Tunisia Programme	-	85,985	85,985	24,815
EU- PD	-	-	-	-
Totals	<u>16,613</u>	<u>606,664</u>	<u>623,277</u>	<u>563,424</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (continued)

7	Governance costs	2022	2021 (Restated)
		£	£
	Accountancy & payroll fees	5,880	2,556
	Audit fees	9,000	10,440
	Professional fees	48,618	26,044
	Support costs	<u>6,376</u>	<u>22,782</u>
		<u>69,874</u>	<u>61,822</u>

8 Allocation of support costs

The charity allocates support costs on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

	Staff costs	Overheads	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Middle East programme	221,281	-	221,281	182,069
UK programme	60,375	-	60,375	63,000
Tunisia programme	9,280	-	9,280	-
Helsinki programme	124,425	-	124,425	114,382
General programme	-	-	-	37,691
Governance costs	-	<u>69,874</u>	<u>69,874</u>	<u>61,822</u>
	<u>415,361</u>	<u>69,874</u>	<u>485,235</u>	<u>458,964</u>

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 August 2021	7,396	7,396
Additions	-	-
At 31 July 2022	<u>7,396</u>	<u>7,396</u>
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 August 2021	3,310	3,310
Depreciation for the year	<u>(727)</u>	<u>(727)</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>2,583</u>	<u>2,583</u>
Net book values		
As at 31 July 2022	<u>4,813</u>	<u>4,813</u>
As at 31 July 2021	<u>4,086</u>	<u>4,086</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2022 (*continued*)

10	Debtors		2022	2021
			£	£
	Net wages control		817	4,920
	Other debtors		413	-
	Prepayments and accrued income		<u>4,200</u>	<u>1,016</u>
			<u>5,430</u>	<u>5,936</u>
11	Creditor: amounts falling due within one year		2022	2021
			£	£
	Other creditors		21,926	6,959
	PAYE control account		11,752	62,918
	Accruals & deferred income		<u>147,845</u>	<u>8,440</u>
			<u>181,523</u>	<u>78,317</u>
12	Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets	Total
		£	£	£
	Restricted funds			
	Private donations	-	-	-
	Grants	<u>-</u>	<u>219,441</u>	<u>219,441</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>219,441</u>	<u>219,441</u>
	Unrestricted funds			
	Private donations	<u>4,813</u>	<u>31,891</u>	<u>36,704</u>
		<u>4,813</u>	<u>31,891</u>	<u>36,704</u>
	Total Funds	<u>4,813</u>	<u>251,332</u>	<u>256,145</u>

The unrestricted funds of the charity may be applied for any charitable purpose at the discretion of the trustees.

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year-ended 31 July 2022 *(continued)*

13 Prior year adjustments

2021 Restated:

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		36,923	507,572	544,495	598,574
Governance costs	7	<u>59,422</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>61,822</u>	<u>34,614</u>
Total resources expended	6	<u>(96,345)</u>	<u>(509,972)</u>	<u>(606,317)</u>	<u>(633,188)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		(33,745)	(9,148)	(42,893)	(8,007)

2021 Filed with Charities Commission

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		36,697	507,572	544,495	598,574
Governance costs	7	<u>59,648</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>62,048</u>	<u>34,614</u>
Total resources expended	6	<u>(96,345)</u>	<u>(509,972)</u>	<u>(603,543)</u>	<u>(633,188)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		(33,745)	(9,148)	(40,119)	(8,007)

We have restated the prior year figures for 2021, due to an immaterial casting error, which has come to light.

‘Governance costs’ has been reduced by £226 for 2021 and then ‘Total resources expended’ has been properly cast to £606,317, in comparison with £603,543, which was filed with the Charities Commission.

The ‘Total funds carried forward’ was correct and is properly reflected in the restated 2021 column.

FORWARD THINKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1105206

Accounts

**FORWARD THINKING
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2021**

Charity no: 1105206

BOWKER ORFORD

**Statutory Auditor
Accountants & Business Advisers
15-19 Cavendish Place
London W1G 0DD**

FORWARD THINKING

Financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2021

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Report of the auditor	10 - 12
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Balance sheet	14
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FORWARD THINKING

Reference and administrative information

Charity name – Forward Thinking

Charity registration number – 1105206

Principal address & registered office – 1 Quality Court, London, WC2A 1HR

Trustees

- ❖ Francis Campbell
- ❖ Justin Dowley
- ❖ Christopher Donnelly
- ❖ Jeremy Greenstock
- ❖ Dympna Hayes
- ❖ Michael Holland
- ❖ William Sieghart (chairman)

Director – Oliver McTernan

Auditor – Bowker Orford, 15/19 Cavendish Place, London, W1G 0DD

Bankers – NatWest Bank plc, PO Box 2021, 10 Marylebone High Street, London. W1A 1FH

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year ending 31 July 2021

This report relates to the operation of Forward Thinking during the year ending 31 July 2021

History, objectives and activities of the trust

The charitable trust was established on the 29th of July 2004.

The trust deed gives the trustees the power to apply the funds for the benefit of any charitable objectives. The trust's charitable objectives are to promote racial and religious harmony by such charitable means and in such parts of the world as the trustees determine from time to time, in particular but not exclusively by promoting more informed dialogue and understanding between different factions with same faith communities and between different faith and racial groups.

The focus of charitable activities has been to promote a more inclusive peace process in the Middle East, to reduce the potential for conflict across the Gulf-MENA region, and to address the problem of social isolation of the Muslim community in Britain.

Structure, governance, and management

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

There must always be at least three trustees. Apart from the first trustee, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution of the trustees passed at a board meeting.

In selecting individuals for appointment as trustees, the existing trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

The existing trustees must make available to each new trustee on their appointment:

- A) A copy of the Trust Deed
- B) A copy of charity's latest annual report and the financial statements
- C) A copy of the charity's conflict of interests policy and a declaration of interests
- D) A trustee's eligibility declaration form
- E) A copy of the charity's governance code
- F) A copy of the "Essential Trustee"

Risk management

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business, and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that procedures are in place to regularly review the current risks of the charity.

In considering the direction of the charity and its activities, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Organisational Structure

The charity is made up of seven trustees who meet on a quarterly basis and who are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The trustees have delegated the daily running of operations to Oliver McTernan, who acts as the charity's Director.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

During the financial year the charity hired several members of staff and ended the year with ten fulltime employees. Staff come from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. In addition to these members of staff, the charity utilised the services of several interns and consultants over the course of the year.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day-to-day responsibility for the delivery of charitable activities rests with the Director and the relevant Programme Managers.

Achievements and Performance

Overview

Across the year, we held a total of 691 meetings in our three programmes, a slight increase on 2019-2020.

Covid-19 shaped Forward Thinking's work in 2021, with most activities taking place online. Online meetings have proved extremely valuable and will remain a part of our work going forward. However, they do have limitations. Physical meetings offer a greater degree of confidentiality and more opportunities for relationships to build between participants. Therefore, it was important that we seized openings throughout the year to hold in-person meetings wherever possible.

The context has remained extremely challenging throughout the Middle East. Progress towards peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains slow, impeded by continued divisions between Palestinian factions and the indifference of a significant element of Israeli society. Renewed fighting in May 2021 resulted in several hundred deaths and highlights how, in the absence of a durable settlement, small incidents can still rapidly escalate into widespread violence. In the wider Middle East, conflicts continued to rage in Libya, Syria, and Yemen, while the Taliban's conquest of Afghanistan threatened to provoke another wave of mass displacement in the region. Meanwhile hopes that the Biden Administration would make rapid progress on the JCPoA were not borne out, creating fears that could yet be armed confrontation over the Iranian nuclear programme. Closer to home, the Muslim community in the UK have faced unique issues throughout the pandemic, including a dramatic increase in Islamophobic attacks.

Yet despite this difficult context, Forward Thinking made real advances towards the charity's core objectives and secured several key achievements.

Middle East Programme

Throughout the year, we facilitated a series of discussions on annexation in the West Bank between a group of influential US Evangelical leaders with direct access to US President Donald Trump's Administration. We were informed that those discussions contributed to the US decision not to make a public statement of support for Israeli annexation. The evangelical Pastors also developed the foundations of a long-term programme of engagement that could help them make a positive contribution to the Middle East peace process by better informing US politicians of the realities of the conflict.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

Recognising that the Covid-19 pandemic represented the biggest threat to human life in Palestine, we partnered with the Order of Malta to support the Palestinian healthcare sector. We facilitated conversations between senior European immunologists, virologists, doctors, and health policy makers with 35 senior doctors from the Palestinian Ministries of Health and medical NGOs. The findings of these meetings helped Palestinians develop best practice, highlighted the importance of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, and developed Gaza's quarantine measures.

In the build-up to Palestinian elections (which were later suspended) we developed a programme of work to support Palestinian political factions to try and support a free, fair, and inclusive process. An example of our work was engaging Sinn Fein leaders who met with Palestinian political independents to share their experience of building credible political agendas and overcoming political divisions, which contributed to calls for unified lists.

In response to the conflict in Israel-Palestine in May 2021, the influential Rabbinical Union convened a conference which Forward Thinking helped to facilitate (30th May-1st June 2021). Over seventy senior ultra-Orthodox Rabbinical leaders attended, including Israel's Chief Safadi Rabbi, Yitzak Yosef. The Chief Rabbi issued a public statement prohibiting Jews from ascending the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif complex (one of the incidents that contributed to the outbreak of fighting). This was subsequently shared with figures in Jewish Orthodox communities and across the Western and Arab-Muslim world. The statement served as an important reminder for Orthodox Jews of the historic halachic ruling. Moreover, it was greatly appreciated by Muslims globally, as well by Palestinian factions, which helped reduce tensions.

The Helsinki Policy Forum

The Helsinki Policy Forum provided a confidential space where senior policymakers from across the region can meet and explore ways to de-escalate tensions and build confidence. Channels for dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been maintained and strengthened and new relationships formed with figures at the heart of government. Discussions have taken place on Yemen, the stabilisation of Iraq, the political crisis in Tunisia, and the JCPOA negotiations, enabling a real-time exchange of analysis and confidential messages to be passed.

In November 2020 the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Adel Al Jubeir travelled to Finland to address the Helsinki Policy Forum. This marked the first visit of a Saudi Minister of State to Finland and provided an opportunity to hear the Saudi perspective on dynamics in the Gulf-MENA region. During discussions the need to meet the aspirations of the region's youth for economic security was particularly emphasised.

Health remained a notable focus of the Forum's work in 2021, culminating in a high-level online meeting of Health Ministers to discuss Covid-19. The meeting was hosted by H.E. Krista Kiuru, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services of Finland, and attended by representatives from: Iran, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the UAE, United Kingdom, as well as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, COVAX, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, the Sovereign Order of Malta, and WHO EMRO. It was the first time that several Ministers had shared the same platform and provided a timely opportunity for them to exchange ideas on how to strengthen the Europe and the Gulf-MENA region's defences against pandemics.

FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

UK Programme

In the UK we focused on three key areas of work:

- ❖ Developing the skills, knowledge, and awareness of Muslim youth to enable effective engagement in political and public life.
- ❖ Facilitating dialogue with state institutions on issues that impact Muslim communities in the UK.
- ❖ Building understandings and seek to address the root causes of discrimination toward Muslims, including through situating Islamophobia in the UK within a European context.

The Pathways into Politics Programme, which develops the capacity of young British Muslims to participate in politics and address challenges in their local community, recruited a new cohort of 30 participants. Training workshops took place throughout the year, with participants later sharing that they used the skills they learned to successfully secure internships and employment in politics.

Following the announcement of the Independent Review of Prevent, Forward Thinking has also worked with diverse Muslim communities to help develop thinking on how they would like to respond. Our work in this area has been significant, and community members have been eager to ensure that, in absence of direct engagement with the Review process, their insights were not lost. We have engaged with Parliamentarians and other relevant decision makers to ensure that the perspectives of Muslim communities are considered within analysis and policymaking relating to the Independent Review of Prevent, and that the reasons for a reluctance to formally participate in the Review are fully understood.

Financial Review

The charity has a net £447,494 at the end of the financial year (a decrease of £42,893)

Principal funding sources

The leading funding sources for the charity in this financial year came from three main sources:

- Project grants from European governments
- Grants from charitable foundations and trusts
- Private donations

In 2020-21, Irish Aid and grants from charitable trusts were the main funding sources for the Middle East Programme. The Helsinki Policy Forum was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The UK Programme was funded by British charitable trusts.

Investment Policy

The trust deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments using the funds of the charity, but no such investments are presently held. Any surplus general funds are invested in short-term deposits.

Reserves policy

The charity's primary responsibility is to meet the costs of its programme expenses on a year-to-year basis and then to build sufficient reserves. The trustees continue to aim to generate a surplus of charitable to guarantee the charity's long-term financial health and stability.

Plans for the future period

We hope that in 2022 we will return to a more normal pattern of work and will be able to travel to the Middle East with greater regularity. This will enable us to consolidate relationships across our network and carry out activities that have been in development throughout the pandemic.

In Israel we will continue to introduce political figures to the Irish experience of peacebuilding, to help them gain a deeper understanding of their own context and to identify where there are relevant insights that can be applied to local challenges. We will also work with religious figures, supporting them in their efforts to reduce tensions and develop a theological framework for peace.

In Palestine we will work with groups across the spectrum to help development the capacity of leaders to address political divisions and to work towards a new process of negotiations.

In the Helsinki Policy Forum, we will maintain channels for direct dialogue between key governments in the Gulf-MENA region so they can explore how tensions might be reduced. We will also seek to develop understanding of where they are common challenges and interests in the Gulf-MENA region that could form the basis for cooperation. Two areas of focus will be on health and the environment. The activities of the Women's Parliamentary Network – a group of women parliamentarians from across Europe and the MENA region – will also be intensified.

Finally, in the UK Programme our activities will continue to focus on linking figures in the Muslim community with the UK establishment to contribute to more informed policymaking and greater societal resilience. Activities will respond focus on the ongoing Independent Review of Prevent, the criminal justice system and the challenge of Islamophobia. The Pathways into Politics will also provide ongoing support to young British Muslims to strengthen their political literacy and capacity to participate in British political life.



FORWARD THINKING - Trustees' annual report for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Charities Act requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the charity and its financial activities for that year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- d) State whether applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act of 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

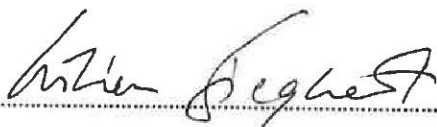
Auditor

The trustees intend to ask the auditor, Bowker Orford, to undertake the audit of the charity in the following year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS (effective 1st of January 2015).

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on the 8th April 2022 and signed on their behalf:



William Sieghart
Chairman of the board of trustees

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking
for the year ended 31 July 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Forward Thinking ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities SORP.

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 director's 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual 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.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking
for the year ended 31 July 2021 (continued)

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement [set out on pages 4 to 9], the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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 statement

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Forward Thinking

for the year ended 31 July 2021 (continued)

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:

As part of designing our audit, we determined the materiality level and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud. As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls including testing journals and evaluation whether there was evidence of bias by the Directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Councils 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 charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with [the relevant legislation]. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees 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 charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

R. Parmar

Rashpal Parmar FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of

Bowker Orford

15-19 Cavendish Place

London

W1G 0DD

Date: 8 April 2022

FORWARD THINKING

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31 July 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Private donations		62,600	-	62,600	100,977
Grants		-	500,824	500,824	524,204
Other incoming resources		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		<u>62,600</u>	<u>500,824</u>	<u>563,424</u>	<u>625,181</u>
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		36,697	507,572	544,495	598,574
Governance costs	7	<u>59,648</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>62,048</u>	<u>34,614</u>
Total resources expended	6	<u>(96,345)</u>	<u>(509,972)</u>	<u>(603,543)</u>	<u>(633,188)</u>
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains		(33,745)	(9,148)	(40,119)	(8,007)
Other recognised gains		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(33,745)	(9,148)	(40,119)	(8,007)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		72,758	417,855	490,613	498,620
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		<u>39,013</u>	<u>408,707</u>	<u>447,720</u>	<u>490,613</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2021 other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

There were no acquisitions or discontinued operations during the current year.

The notes on pages 15-18 form part of these financial statements.

FORWARD THINKING
Balance Sheet at 31 July 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		4,086		3,828
Current assets					
Debtors	10	5,936		931	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>516,015</u>		<u>525,274</u>	
		521,951		526,206	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(78,317)</u>		<u>(39,420)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>443,634</u>		<u>486,785</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>447,720</u>		<u>490,613</u>
Funds of the charity					
Restricted funds			408,707		417,855
Unrestricted funds			<u>39,013</u>		<u>72,758</u>
	12		<u>447,720</u>		<u>490,613</u>

The notes on pages 15-18 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 14 were approved by the trustees on 8th April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



William Sieghart
 Trustee

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2021

1 Accounting policies

- a) The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The financial statements are in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)" and Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and with the Charities Act 2011.
- b) Donations and project grants are accounted for as received by the charity.
- c) Gift aid reclaimable on donations to the charity is included with the amount received.
- d) Expenditure on grants is recorded once the trust has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this is communicated to the beneficiary or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier. The trust has not made any grant commitments of more than one year.
- e) Other expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.
- f) All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation on office equipment is charged on a straight line basis over 4 years; is included under overheads within support costs and is allocated to governance costs.
- g) Restricted funds are carefully managed by the trustees with regard to the restrictions placed upon the documentation provided by the donor.
- h) Governance costs include costs of governance arrangements for the general running of the charity as opposed to the management functions inherent in generating funds. This includes such items as external audit, legal advice and costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- i) Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing at the accounting date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the date of the transactions. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.
- j) The Financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, as there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

2 Taxation

The trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3 Analysis of employee costs:	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries	356,355	327,352
Social security costs	33,739	34,898
Pension contributions	<u>7,048</u>	<u>6,529</u>
	<u>397,142</u>	<u>368,779</u>

The average number of employees for the year was ten (2020, nine).

One employee of the charity received emoluments in excess of £90,000 during the year.

The charity has paid pension contributions of £7,048 (2020: £ 6,529) for ten employees during the year.

4 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year.

5 Related party transactions

During the year there were no related party transactions.

6 Funding of Resources Expended and Governance costs

	Private Donations	Grants	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Middle East Programme	-	217,188	217,188	133,028
Helsinki Forum	62,600	-	62,600	100,977
UK Programme	-	213,821	213,821	295,176
Tunisia Programme	-	45,000	45,000	90,000
EU- PD	-	24,815	24,815	5,999
Totals	<u>62,600</u>	<u>500,824</u>	<u>563,424</u>	<u>625,181</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

7	Governance costs	2021	2020
		£	£
	Accountancy & payroll fees	2,556	-
	Audit fees	10,440	9,000
	Professional fees	26,044	2,950
	Support costs	<u>23,008</u>	<u>22,664</u>
		<u>62,048</u>	<u>34,614</u>

8 Allocation of support costs

The charity allocates support costs on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

	Staff costs	Overheads	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Middle East programme	182,069	-	182,069	207,366
UK programme	63,000	-	63,000	58,392
European Union -PD	-	-	-	-
Helsinki programme	114,382	-	114,382	103,021
General programme	37,691	-	37,691	-
Governance costs	-	<u>62,048</u>	<u>62,048</u>	<u>34,614</u>
	<u>397,142</u>	<u>62,048</u>	<u>459,190</u>	<u>403,393</u>

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Office Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 August 2020	5,289	5,289
Additions	<u>2,107</u>	<u>2,107</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>7,396</u>	<u>7,396</u>
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 August 2020	1,461	1,461
Depreciation for the year	<u>1,849</u>	<u>1,849</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>4,086</u>	<u>4,086</u>
Net book values		
at 31 July 2021	<u>4,086</u>	<u>4,086</u>
at 31 July 2020	<u>3,828</u>	<u>3,828</u>

FORWARD THINKING

Notes to the financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2021 (continued)

10	Debtors	2021	2020
		£	£
	Net wages control	4,920	113
	Other debtors	-	818
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,016	-
		<u>5,936</u>	<u>931</u>
11	Creditor: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
		£	£
	Other creditors	6,959	157
	PAYE control account	62,918	32,463
	Accruals	<u>8,440</u>	<u>6,800</u>
		<u>78,317</u>	<u>39,420</u>
12	Analysis of net assets between funds	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets
		£	£
	Restricted funds		
	Private donations	-	-
	Grants	-	408,707
		<u>-</u>	<u>408,707</u>
	Unrestricted funds		
	Private donations	<u>4,086</u>	<u>34,927</u>
		<u>4,086</u>	<u>39,013</u>
	Total Funds	<u>4,086</u>	<u>443,634</u>

The unrestricted funds of the charity may be applied for any charitable purpose at the discretion of the trustees.