

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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Website: www.dsnuk.org
Registered Charity Number: 1107022**

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Board present their annual report and the accounts of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity Dalit Solidarity Network UK (DSN UK) is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution, adopted on 14th July 2003, amended 4th July 2004, and last amendment was in the Annual General Meeting on 5th July 2011. The charity is governed by Board of Trustees, made up of between four and twelve trustees elected by the charity's members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the Board of Trustees. The board must meet at least twice in the period from one AGM to the next, but in practice meets quarterly.

The charity's Director, from 24th January, 2022 is Gazala Shaikh. The Director is responsible for day-to-day management to ensure the charity's strategic objectives and operational priorities are met.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

DSN-UK is an advocacy and campaigning organisation working towards equality and social justice for Dalits in the UK and other caste affected countries. The mission of DSN UK is to promote the elimination of discrimination on the basis of caste and analogous systems of oppression and to ensure equality and human rights for those affected by such discrimination. We lobby for law and policy changes. DSN-UK links grassroots priorities with national and international mechanisms and institutions to make an effective contribution to the lives of those affected by caste discrimination.

Key Activities of DSN UK

1. Campaign on policy change for caste discrimination in the UK and in other countries where caste discrimination is practised.
2. Work with the corporate sector in the UK and internationally on addressing caste-based discrimination, descent based slavery and other human and labour rights abuses.
3. Address caste related issues in higher education institutions in the UK through DSN UK's Casting out Caste on Campuses campaign.
4. Raising Awareness on caste discrimination, exclusion, and abuse of human rights in the UK through Everyday Casteism campaign.
5. Creating a shared understanding and advocacy on caste discrimination in the UK and internationally in partnership and collaboration with Network members and partners in the UK.

Key Achievements 2022/2023

- DSN-UK has made significant progress and engagement in Caste in Business and Human Rights work in partnership with ETI.
- DSN UK was invited for a talk on "Caste Discrimination in India, South Asia and the Diaspora" at the Sonnenberg Association Conference at Kent University, Canterbury. The theme for the international conference was, "India: History, Current Developments and Culture".
- Contributed to ICAI – UK AID India Review Stakeholder Roundtable
- Promoted Everyday Casteism campaign during Writing with Fire show casing by Southhall Black Sisters.
- An article on DSN UK was on <https://goodnewsshared.com/2022/05/25/dalit-solidarity-network-uk/> a web portal sharing stories on community spirit and inspirational people.
- A letter of statement in support Caste Legislation in the UK to Dr. Annalise Dodds, Shadow Secretary of State – Women and Equality

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity Registration Number: 1107022

Governing Document: Constitution (adopted July 2003, fully amended July 2011)

Principal Office in 2022-23: Thomas Clarkson House
The Stableyard
Broomgrove Road
London
SW9 9TL

Board of Trustees: Honorary Chair: Jeremy Corbyn, MP
Chair: Corinne Lennox
Vice Chair: Tom Palakudiyil
Treasurer: Kate Solomeyina (resigned 5 December 2022)
Ramani Leatherd
Bala Gnanapragasam
Perna Tambay
Dabir Ahmed (appointed 5 December 2022)
Dinesh Kumar Pariyar (appointed 5 December 2022)

Patrons: Singh Bahal
Professor Mary Grey
Jean Lambert
Vincent Manoharan
Rob Marris
Aidan McQuade
John Montagu, Earl of Sandwich

Bankers: Lloyds TSB
East Dulwich Branch
London
SE22 8NA

Independent Examiner: Simon Lewcock
Chartered Certified Accountant
Windsor Lodge
Millfield Road
Hounslow
TW4 5PN

1. Campaign on policy change for caste discrimination in the UK and in other countries where caste discrimination is practised.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dalits (APPG)

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dalits continues its work to ensure that the issues surrounding caste-based discrimination remain on the government's agenda, particularly regarding the closer ties with India surrounding possible new trade agreements.

Lord Richard Harries of Pentregarth (Co-Chair of the APPG) had called for a stakeholder meeting with the APPG for Dalits in March 2023 to discuss the current work by the stakeholder group members in support of caste legislation. The meeting was called in the background of caste legislations being successfully passed in the US and UK at various levels. The meeting was attended by civil society activists, academics and members of the House of Lords engaged in the caste legislation advocacy in the UK. During the meeting, it was discussed to share a letter of support for the caste legislation to the Shadow Secretary of State, Women and Equality, Dr. Annalise Dodds of the Labour Party. DSN UK took the responsibility of preparing the letter on behalf of the stakeholder group. The letter uprised Dr. Dodds on the global development on legislations and on the current status of caste in the Equality Law in the UK. The letter had support from 33 signatories comprising civil society organisations, Ambedkarite organisations, academics and individuals.

Casting out Caste from Campus

The Everyday Casteism campaign of DSN UK has been receiving reports of caste based discrimination especially from university students. India has crossed China as the largest number of international students in universities in the UK. Also, there has been a significant increase of students from Pakistan and Bangladesh in universities in the UK. Giving due consideration to this increase in international students from South Asian countries where caste-discrimination is rooted, DSN-UK continues its engagement with the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) departments of UK Higher Education Institutes to partner on caste discrimination being recognised in university DEI policies and including this topic in courses and in raising awareness. School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London is the first institute where the student union has recognised caste as a protected characteristic for protection against caste-discrimination in its student union policy. This is a significant first step towards universities recognising caste discrimination on the lines of ethnicity, sex and disability in its DEI policies. To strengthen and achieve its work on creating awareness and working with higher education institutes, DSN UK has received a small grant for three year period from the Matrix Causes Fund.

2. Providing technical advice and analysis in the UK and internationally on addressing caste-based discrimination and other labour rights abuses

Caste in Business and Human Rights

DSN UK continues its engagement with Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) on through its regular NGO Caucus meetings. DSN UK has participated in Future World of Work – Gender Perspective and Apparel and Textile Strategy Consultation with ETI partners (NGO and company members of ETI). In these consultations, DSN UK has raised issues and challenges of caste-discrimination and mechanisms in which companies can address grievance redressal especially in its supply chain in South Asian countries.

DSN UK also engaged with Business and Human Rights Centre (BHRC), Trade and Justice Movement (TJM) and ETI on HREDD (Human Rights and Environment Due Diligence) processes considerations in the currently being negotiated UK-India-Foreign Trade Agreement (FTA). DSN UK highlighted issues around caste and gender intersectionality specifically in the apparel and textile sector which is one of the key sectors in the trade deal. DSN UK also engaged with Bond group and participated on Bond discussion on UK-India trade negotiations and explore the ways in which a deal could jeopardise sustainable development. DSN UK shared its thoughts on how the trade agreement and its impact on caste affected communities.

DSN UK also participated on a side event on Making Human Rights Due Diligence work for Homeworkers as part of 2023 OECD Garment and Footwear Due Diligence Forum by Homeworkers Worldwide and Transform Trade. Shared concerns on Dalit caste homeworkers and informal workers inclusion in due diligence process especially in the leather sector.

Grant for a short-term project on Caste in Business and Global Supply chain project supported by University of London – Knowledge Exchange Fund (UCL-KEF) was received to support UK businesses on caste discrimination in workplace and in global supply chain. The main components of the project were to conduct a survey of selected companies on caste discrimination in their workplace and supply chain, a pilot training with businesses on identification and prevention of caste-based discrimination in workplace and in global supply chain and a dissemination of the learnings from the training to the wider audience. In this reporting period, the survey tool was developed and shared with ETI member companies on the businesses understanding of caste and if so, how is it being addressed in their business operations. The survey indicated the lack of understanding on caste and caste related issues among the respondent. Hence, prior to the training, an orientation webinar was planned for businesses on caste and caste issues and challenges for discriminated communities for businesses in partnership with ETI. The webinar had 15 participants from 14 different companies.

- 3. Raising awareness of all aspects of discrimination, exclusion and abuse of human rights on the grounds of caste-based discrimination**
- 4. Strengthening the network**

DSN UK has engaged with diverse set of groups on creating awareness on caste and caste based discrimination. Engagement with members of the stakeholder group who belong to a diverse set has been the corner stone of DSN UK for creating a shared understanding and collaborative working on issues and challenges to caste and caste discrimination in the UK.

DSN UK was invited by the Sonnenberg Association of Great Britain (SAGB) to give a presentation on Caste System in India and the Impact of the System in the UK at its Conference on "India: History, Current Developments and Culture" in University of Kent, Canterbury. The conference had participants from Germany, Czech Republic, Ukraine and the UK. Sonnenberg movement started in 1948 in the aftermath of the second world war by Danish and German teachers. 1954 was the establishment of Sonnenberg Association of England and Wales now called the Sonnenberg Association of Great Britain (SAGB). The Director of DSN UK made the presentation at the conference and was well received with the participants showing a keen interest in understanding and engaging with DSN Networks in Europe.

The Director of DSN UK was also invited to give a talk on Situation of Dalits in the UK for Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination (CNACD) to its members. This was an online session with members of CNACD. The CNACD (Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination) vision is to conscientize, sensitise, and motivate the Western public, the agents of development and human rights and other key groups, on the reality of extreme poverty, discrimination and all forms of human rights violations and abuses faced by Dalits on a daily basis.

DSN UK was invited for a stakeholder review on UK Aid to India. In this we shared the importance of understanding and addressing caste discrimination in a more systemic way. We also expressed that given the low dependence of India on Aid, UK Aid needs to work on its programme which may be small scale but has replicability and larger impact on addressing systemic issues of inequity and poverty in India. DSN UK was also invited for a pre-publication briefing meeting of the report on UK Aid to India.

Promoted Everyday Casteism campaign during Writing with Fire show casing by Southhall Black Sisters. Writing with Fire (which was also shown on the BBC) is a documentary on Dalit women-led newspaper Khabar Lahariya, based in India, and its move from print to digital by teaching their reporters how to use smart phones and modern technology.

Director of DSN UK shared insights on Caste Affected Communities in the UK as part of the research study on Racial Wealth Divide by Mike Savage, Professor of Sociology, Convenor, 'Wealth, elites and tax justice' (International Inequalities Institute), London School of Economics (LSE).

Membership numbers continue to rise, and we have had some good feedback about why people are interested in joining DSN UK, their backgrounds and expertise, and how they found us. We continue with our outreach to other organisations and are delighted to also interact with the new members of IDSIN from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, and look forward to collaborating with them in the future.

DSN UK also participated in meetings of IDSIN and other DSNs (Dalit Solidarity Networks in Europe) on the work and advocacy on caste and caste-based discrimination in their countries and engagement with their governments on addressing it in their domestic and international policies.

Engagement with Bond groups on Caste and development, SDGs and Small NGOs have been a good forum for raising issues on caste descent based discrimination in international development. DSN UK has actively engaged in the forum and building alliances for combating caste based discrimination including raising awareness of the development and human rights impact of caste and the need for effective responses among the development community

An article on DSN UK was on <https://goodnewsshared.com/2022/05/25/dalit-solidarity-network-uk/> a web portal sharing stories on community spirit and inspirational people.

DSN UK twitter followers have continued to increase to almost 20,000, and the @CasteintheUk handle has also seen an upturn in followers. DSN UK linkedin page has seen an increase in followers from 7 to 59 in the reporting period.

Other Administrative

DSN UK office lease with Anti-Slavery International (ASI) has come to an end with ASI putting up the office space for sale. DSN UK has moved office to Canopi-Borough,, 7-14, Great Dover Street, London – SE1 4YR.

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 (Continued)

STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees are required under the Charities Act 1993 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year (unless the charity is entitled to prepare accounts on the alternative receipts and payment basis). In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
4. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 applicable law and regulations. 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.

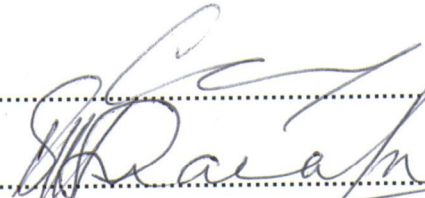
FINANCIAL REVIEW

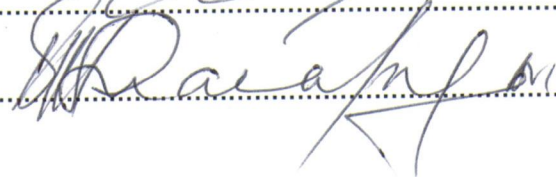
The financial result for the year, and the financial situation at 31st March 2023, which the Board of Trustees considers to be satisfactory, are set out on pages 9 to 14.

The Board confirms that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the charity's governing document and the requirements of the Charity SORP 2015 for small entities.

The charity's policy on reserves is to maintain unrestricted reserves of between three and six months' core expenditure. This is to ensure that the organisation can continue to operate in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Currently our reserves set aside cover 3 months' expenditure at £18,000.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

 Date 18 Dec 2023

 Date 18 Dec 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

To the Trustees of the Dalit Soidarity Network UK

This report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out attached to the report, is in respect of an examination carried out under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and which comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act, as also contained in the Regulations, have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S.A. Lewcock FCCA
Windsor Lodge
Millfield Road
Hounslow
Middlesex TW4 5PN

7th December 2023

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Year to 31.3.23	Year to 31.3.22
		£	£	£	£
Grants receivable	2	7,950	23,985	31,935	19,986
Other fundraising	3	-	8,249	8,249	6,228
IDSN consultancy		-	-	-	3,600
Bank and other interest		-	34	34	5
Total income and endowments		7,950	32,268	40,218	29,819
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	3,000	57,615	60,615	56,639
Fundraising costs	4	-	4,145	4,145	3,300
Governance costs	4	-	3,437	3,437	2,878
Total expenditure		3,000	65,197	68,197	62,817
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		4,950	(32,929)	(27,979)	(32,998)
Fund balances brought forward 1st April 2022		-	49,344	49,344	82,342
Fund balances carried forward 31st March 2023		4,950	16,415	21,365	49,344

In both the current and the prior year, all recognised gains and losses are included in the profit and loss account and therefore a statement of recognised gains and losses has not been presented.

The accompanying notes on pages 12 to 14 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.


**DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

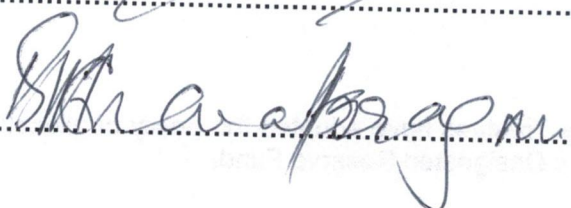
	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets for charity's use		-	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	5	2,061	769
Bank deposit account		6,964	42,798
Cash at bank and in hand		14,292	10,776
		23,317	54,343
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	1,952	4,999
		21,365	49,344
Financed by:			
Restricted Funds	7	4,950	-
Unrestricted Funds:			
General Fund	7	-	13,344
Designated Reserve Fund	7	16,415	36,000
		21,365	49,344

The accompanying notes on pages 12 to 14 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

Approved by the Board at the AGM on 15th November 2023

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees


 Date 18 Dec 2023


 Date 18 Dec 2023

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of Dalit Solidarity Network UK (the Charity)'s operations which are described in the Trustees' Report and all of which are continuing.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) No. 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (the SORP 2015).

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS No. 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a small entity.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for use at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of any objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to the area or purpose and the restriction means that the funds can only be used for specific projects or activities.

1.3 Income

Voluntary income and donations are accounted for as received by the Charity. Income from fundraising ventures is shown gross with associated costs included in fundraising costs.

1.4 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the Charity and is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities and in Fixed Assets.

1.5 Fundraising costs

Fundraising costs comprises costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute financially to the Charity's work. This comprises principally a proportion of the cost of meetings and other events.

1.6 Governance costs

Expenditure on governance costs include a percentage of relevant categories of expenditure, such as salary costs, travel and office costs.

1.7 Designated Reserve fund

In order to finance future unexpected expenditure, the Trustees have adopted the policy of allocating an amount equal to three months core expenditure to a Designated Reserve Fund.

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 2023 (continued)

2.	GRANTS RECEIVABLE		Restricted	Unrestricted	Year to	Year to
			Funds	Funds	31.3.23	31.3.22
			£	£	£	£
	Christian Aid		-	15,000	15,000	-
	ETI BOAG		-	3,285	3,285	3,286
	Lush Charity Pot		3,000	-	3,000	1,000
	Matrix Causes Fund		450	-	450	
	St Clare & St Francis Trust		-	4,000	4,000	4,000
	University of London-Knowledge Exchange Fund		4,500	-	4,500	
	Water Aid		-	-	-	10,000
	Wyndham Trust		-	1,700	1,700	1,700
			7,950	23,985	31,935	19,986
3.	OTHER FUNDS RAISED					
		Membership fees	-	3,207	3,207	4,168
		Donations	-	2,981	2,981	1,506
		Gift Aid	-	2,061	2,061	554
			-	8,249	8,249	6,228
4.	EXPENDITURE	Charitable Activities	Fundraising	Governance	Year to	Year to
	Unrestricted	£	£	£	31.3.23	31.3.22
					£	£
	Staff Costs					
	Salaries and N.I.	50,966	4,054	2,896	57,916	44,814
	Pension	174	14	10	198	1,308
	Payroll costs	564	-	-	564	629
	Office Costs					
	Staff recruitment	465	-	-	465	749
	Telephone	411	72	-	483	432
	Governance costs	-	-	-	-	48
	Insurance	464	-	51	515	490
	Membership subscription	-	-	178	178	173
	Office and computer costs	26	5	2	33	41
	Office rent	3,000			3,000	42
	Website	346	-	-	346	233
	Examiner's fee and expenses	-	-	300	300	300
	International Project Costs					
	International Advocacy	1,200	-	-	1,200	12,600
		57,615	4,145	3,437	65,197	61,859
	Restricted					
	Office Rent (Lush)	3,000	-	-	3,000	1,000
		3,000	-	-	3,000	1,000

DALIT SOLIDARITY NETWORK UK
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023
(continued)

5. DEBTORS				2023		2022
				£		£
Gift Aid claims				2,061		-
Donations				-		376
Membership Fees				-		393
				2,061		769
6. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS				2023		2022
				£		£
Lush Charity Pot - deferred income				-		3,000
HMRC - Paye & N.I.				1,545		554
Accruals				407		1,445
				1,952		4,999
7. FUND DETAILS						
The Unrestricted funds comprise the following:						
	Balance as at 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Transfer of funds	Balance as at 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£		£
General Fund	13,344	32,268	65,197	(32,929)	19,585	-
Designated Reserve Fund	36,000	-	-	-	(19,585)	16,415
	49,344	32,268	65,197	(32,929)	-	16,415
The Restricted funds comprise the following:						
	Balance as at 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Transfer of funds	Balance as at 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£		£
Lush Charity Pot	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Matrix Causes Fund	-	450	-	450	-	450
University of London-Knowledge Exchange Fund	-	4,500	-	4,500	-	4,500
	-	7,950	3,000	4,950	-	4,950
Total movement of funds	49,344	40,218	68,197	(27,979)	-	21,365