



Inspiring hope & change

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 MARCH 2025**

Company Registration Number 04692860
Charity Number 1110688

Prime Chartered Accounts
Corner Oak
1 Homer Road
Solihull
West Midlands
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**SHPRESA PROGRAMME
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees have the pleasure of presenting their report and the financial statements of Shpresa Programme for the year ended 31 March 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name: Shpresa Programme
Company Registration Number: 04692860
Charity Registration Number: 1110688

Registered Office and Principal Address: Mansfield House
 30 Avenons Road
 London
 E13 8HT

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Gani Nashi | Chair (joined 23 November 2024) |
| Shannon Helene Griffin | Chair (resigned 23 Nov 2024) |
| Leonard Dedgjonaj | Vice Chair |
| Elona Gega | Treasurer |
| Jeremond Emric During | Trustee |
| Hatixhe Demushi | Trustee |
| Ergest Zejnelaj | Trustee (resigned 23 November 2024) |
| Swati Vyas | Trustee (joined 23 November 2024) |
| Marzena Cichon Balcerowicz | Trustee (joined 23 November 2024) |
| Iris Nobile Costa | Trustee (joined 23 November 2024) |

The Trustees have delegated day to day responsibilities to Luljeta Nuzi, CEO. Flutura Shega has been acting as standing CEO from January 2025, and the Trustees have delegated such responsibilities to her.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Luljeta Nuzi (passed 12 February 2025)
 Flutura Shega (appointed acting CEO 11 Jan 2025)

BANKERS: HSBC Bank Plc
 118 High Street North
 East Ham
 London
 E6 2HX

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Jeremy Kitson
 Prime Chartered Accountants Corner Oak
 1 Homer Road
 Solihull
 West Midlands B913QG

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Shpresa Programme ('Shpresa') is a registered charity and is incorporated as a limited company with the dispensation to omit the word limited. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the objectives are the same as those set out in its charity registration.

The date of incorporation of the company is 11th March 2003, and its formal charity registration is 2 August 2005.

Trustees' Selection, Induction and Training

The governance of the charity is overseen by the board of Trustees (the 'Board'). Trustees are recruited by the Board who consider the skills currently available and then identify the requirements needed for any additional or replacement trustees. Potential trustees are invited to a preliminary discussion with the Board. In the successful appointment of a trustee, the CEO provides an induction pack to introduce the potential trustee to the work and objectives of the organisation.

Organisation of the Charity

The Board agrees on policy and strategy issues and delegates the day-to-day management of Shpresa's operation to the CEO who is supported by a team of appropriately qualified people. Shpresa's team, comprises of 4 full-time staff and 5 part-time staff.

Risk Management

The Board meets regularly to discuss risks and make efforts to mitigate such risks. Their decisions are based on the four columns of the Charity Commission's recommended categories which are: Governance and Management, Operational, Financial and Environmental and External Risk.

Public Benefit

The Board has had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit and is of the view that Shpresa Programme is of immense benefit to the Albanian speaking community.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects

Shpresa is established for the benefit of the Albanian speaking people in the United Kingdom, both seeking asylum and granted refugee status, migrants and their dependents in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

In July 2024, Shpresa formally updated its charitable objectives with the Charity Commission and Companies House, reflecting a growing commitment to serve a wider range of migrant communities while staying rooted in the Albanian-speaking community.

Shpresa's objects are restricted specifically, in each case only for the benefit of those people from minority backgrounds, either seeking asylum or granted refugee status or who are migrants and their dependents:

- to advance their education and training particularly so as to advance them in them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community;

- the relief of the financial hardship in particular but not exclusively by providing advice other assistance;
- to preserve and protect their good physical and mental health;
- the provisions of the facilities of recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances;
- to promote any further charitable purposes for the benefit of people from minority backgrounds as the trustees may time to time decide; and
- to form partnerships with anyone and anywhere in the world with the aim of furthering any of the objectives listed in the paragraphs above.

Introduction

Shpresa ('hope' in Albanian) is a dynamic, user-led charity founded in 2002 by Albanian-speaking asylum-seeking women. Shpresa works to empower and uplift the Albanian-speaking community ('ASC') and, more recently, other migrant communities across the United Kingdom. Shpresa's holistic approach addresses immediate needs while building long-term resilience, leadership and integration.

In 2024–25, Shpresa supported over 3,000 individuals through a wide range of services including advice and advocacy, children and young people's programmes, support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, women's empowerment, language and heritage projects, leadership and campaigning and cross-community partnerships.

In July 2024, Shpresa officially updated its charitable objectives to reflect its expanded remit: supporting all migrant communities while maintaining a strong foundation in the ASC.

Albanian-speaking and other migrant communities continue to face increasing hardship and discrimination, compounded by hostile immigration policies and far-right rhetoric. Shpresa's work remains rooted in hope, resilience and solidarity, ensuring safe spaces, trusted services and opportunities to thrive.

Core Areas of Impact

- **Children & Young People:**
Activities across six London centres including sports, language, arts, youth-led leadership, mental health support, healthy relationships and weekly peer support groups. Jack Petchey Awards awarded to 24 young achievers annually.
- **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children:**
Under Breaking the Chains, in partnership with MiCLU, Shpresa offers trauma-informed support including legal advocacy, mental health support, immigration advice training, sports and other activities.
- **Women's Empowerment:**
Through the Empowering Women and We Can programmes, over 200 women accessed support groups, English as a second language, employability skills, domestic violence ('DV') and mental health resilience sessions in Newham, Barking & Dagenham, Enfield, Redbridge and online.
- **Supplementary Schools & Heritage Projects:**
Offering Albanian language and culture classes, arts and dance to maintain cultural identity and improve self-esteem among young people.

- **Leadership & Social Action:**
Through mentoring and community organising, ASC and emerging migrant leaders engage with policymakers to advocate for systemic change in immigration, housing and employment policies.
- **Research & Academic Partnerships:**
Our involvement in the *Lives on Hold, Our Stories Told* (LOSTH) research with leading English universities has empowered young people as researchers and led to further funding to continue this impactful work.

Some of the Partnerships Driving Change

- **MiCLU – Migrant and Refugee Children’s Legal Unit** – ensuring access to high quality legal representation for young people, up to date information, trusted advocates by their side, standing up against injustice and harmful policies and championing the rights of vulnerable, young migrants.
- **Shpresa Programme Partnership with London Citizens** - Shpresa Programme is proud to be an active partner of London Citizens, a broad alliance of community organisations working together to build power for social justice across the capital. Through this partnership, Shpresa strengthens its voice and influence, collaborating with diverse communities to advocate for policies that improve the lives of refugees and migrants in London.
- **The Alternatives Trust East London** - Increased advocacy capacity for Newham-based women, especially from the Albanian community, with dedicated staffing and multi-site delivery. Together the partnership has created safe, culturally sensitive spaces for mental health and wellbeing and supported women and families navigating the toughest moments in their lives.
- **Croydon Drop-In** – mental health support rooted in care and community. This partnership has been essential in helping young people feel seen, supported and safe. Through this collaboration we have provided one to one therapeutic support, group wellbeing sessions and a safe space to talk and listen, ensuring every young person’s mental health matters and is met with care and understanding.
- **Youth Zone Forest Gate, Norwood Junction Croydon, Barking and Dagenham Library, The Arc Edmonton, Frenford Clubs Redbridge, The Alternative Trust Newham** – joint work and use of venues for free providing easy to reach venues close to members of the community.
- **Centre for Theology and Community (CTC)** – Joint work with St. Anthony’s Church, Forest Gate, to challenge anti-migrant attitudes and promote shared storytelling and relationship-building.
- **Power to Prosper Programme** (Runnymede Trust & New Economics Foundation)
– A key partner in the Newham “hub” to tackle poverty, inequality and debt by strengthening grassroots influence.
- **Protection Approaches** – Staff training on hate crime and community cohesion, followed by our “*Educate, Not Hate*” campaign to raise awareness within the ASC.
- **University college, Liverpool and Southampton University** - “Lives on Hold, Our Stories Told” (LOSTH) Research programme, conducting research on the ‘right to work for asylum seekers’ and ‘Co-Developing Trauma’ - informed guidelines. Shpresa was able to involve and train young people as researchers, to widen their network of connections in higher education, enabling them to open doors for young Albanians and to establish credibility for the organisation as a research partner. At the same time, through the partnership and research, the voices of young people with lived experience are being heard.

Building and Infrastructure Challenges

In 2023–24, Shpresa was proud to secure ownership of Mansfield House, the building Shpresa has operated from since 2007. Despite setbacks, renovation work has been done during 2024-2025 thanks to pro bono contributions from community led companies and funding from Screwfix and the Clothworkers Foundation. The goal is to have a fully accessible community centre and social housing units on the top floor. The community centre is planned to be opened by September 2025, while the work to secure permission and funding for the renovation to turn the top floor into social housing units continues.

The refurbished ground floor will provide:

- A community café offering affordable food and a warm, inclusive space
- Employment, advice and training support from upgraded offices
- Volunteering and peer leadership roles
- Space for exhibitions, entertainment and multicultural events
- A central hub for civic and social infrastructure, particularly benefiting local refugee communities

This project will transform Mansfield House into a welcoming, multi-functional community hub where marginalised groups are not just supported, but seen, heard and empowered. It will unlock the full potential of Shpresa's model, allowing Shpresa to serve not only the ASC, but also other migrant and refugee groups seeking connection, support and belonging in the United Kingdom.

Our community centre is more than just a space, it's a launchpad for new leaders from the communities we serve. Rooted in lived experience and local knowledge, we nurture and support individuals to step into leadership roles that drive real change. By offering training, mentorship, and opportunities to lead organising and campaigning efforts, we empower people who have traditionally been excluded from decision-making to take the lead. The centre acts as a hub for grassroots action, where issues are identified by the community, solutions are co-created, and collective power is built to challenge inequality and injustice.

Achievements - Free Bus Travel for asylum seekers

In February last year, in partnership with Citizens UK and other organisations, Shpresa started the first action to secure Free Bus Travel for asylum seekers. This campaign was followed by several actions and meetings with key people.

Asylum seekers across London receive on average £8.86 a week to cover all expenses beyond food and accommodation. As is laid out in the Helen Bamber Foundation's report, bus travel in London is therefore unaffordable for people seeking asylum as one return bus journey costs them 40% of their weekly allowance.

Following this campaign, there is a commitment from Transport for London to provide asylum seekers with better access to travel concessions, such as those for under 18s and over 60s, by the end of 2025.

Shpresa is continuing to advocate for travel concessions to be extended to young people 18-25 years old. Although what London Citizens and Shpresa have secured so far is a significant win, the challenge continues.

Awards

This year's **Barking and Dagenham Women's Empowerment Month** shone a well-deserved spotlight on two incredible women from the Shpresa Programme, whose dedication, leadership, and passion have created lasting change in the lives of many.

Anne Eastlea Lifetime Achievement Award Winner – Flutura Shega

The Anne Eastlea Lifetime Achievement Award recognises women who have dedicated their lives to serving the community, more than well-deserved by Flutura.

Educator of the Year – Saime Dushku

The Educator of the Year Award recognises women who go above and beyond in educating, inspiring and motivating their communities, and Saime Dushku is a shining example of this spirit.

Outgoing Chair's Report, Ms Shannon Griffin

It has been an honour to serve as Chair of Shpresa Programme during the past five years. As Chair, I had the privilege of working alongside Luljeta Nuzi. Her clarity of purpose and deep love for the community shaped everything Shpresa is today.

Reflecting on this year, I am immensely proud of how the organisation has continued to flourish despite the challenges, including the deeply felt loss of Shpresa's founder, Luljeta Nuzi. Shpresa's dedicated staff and community have remained resilient and committed to the vital mission of supporting the migrant community, including Albanian-speaking refugees.

I am confident that under Gani Nashi's leadership, Shpresa will continue to grow its impact and adapt to meet new challenges. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, energy and passion to Shpresa's success during my tenure.

Incoming Chair's Report, Mr Gani Nashi

I am honoured to take on the role of Chair at such a pivotal time for Shpresa Programme. Building on the strong foundation laid by my predecessor and the inspiring legacy of Luljeta Nuzi, I look forward to leading the organisation through the next chapter of growth and innovation.

This year's achievements demonstrate the power of community and collaboration. I am committed to supporting our dedicated team and partners as we deepen our impact, ensuring that Shpresa remains a beacon of hope and empowerment for refugee communities.

This has been a year marked by major milestones and transformative progress that signal a new era in Shpresa's development.

Among the most significant achievements is the transformation of Mansfield House into a vital community space. Shpresa's renovation plans are ambitious and deeply rooted in its values. The ground floor is being transformed into a welcoming hub with a community kitchen, café and flexible gathering spaces. The first floor will house Shpresa's offices alongside affordable workspace for grassroots and community-led organisations. In time, the Trustees and staff hope the top floor will be

developed into safe and secure living units for the most vulnerable members of our community. This redevelopment is more than a construction project, it is a symbol of Shpresa's enduring commitment to long term, practical support for those it serves.

Another major milestone was securing approval from the Charity Commission to formally expand Shpresa's charitable objectives. With Shpresa's updated Articles of Association passed at a general meeting in summer of 2024, Shpresa is now positioned to extend its support beyond the Albanian-speaking community, reaching out to other migrant and minority groups facing similar barriers. This evolution reflects Shpresa's ethos: inclusive, community-led and responsive to those in need.

None of this would be possible without the remarkable resilience, energy and commitment of Shpresa's staff, volunteers and supporters. In a year of continued challenges, their passion and hard work have kept Shpresa not only moving forward but thriving.

As we look ahead, these achievements lay a strong foundation for even greater impact. I have every confidence that Shpresa Programme will continue to grow, adapt and inspire, and I look forward to seeing the community flourish through the work we do together.

In Loving Memory of Luljeta Nuzi, Our Founder and Heart of Shpresa Programme 2002 -2025

This year, we said goodbye to someone truly extraordinary, **Luljeta Nuzi** – the founder, leader and the heart and soul of the Shpresa Programme. After a brave and difficult battle with cancer, Luljeta passed away in February 2025, leaving a profound void in all our lives.

Luljeta founded Shpresa Programme in 2002, and dedicated her life to championing the rights, inclusion and empowerment of the Albanian-speaking community in the United Kingdom. As the heart and soul of the organisation, she worked tirelessly to ensure that dignity, integration and opportunity were at the forefront of everything she did. A visionary leader, Luljeta believed in integration with dignity, not assimilation. Through social entrepreneurship and community organising, she created pathways for migrants and refugees to contribute meaningfully to society. Her commitment to justice, empowerment and collective action shaped the lives of countless individuals.

Luljeta was more than a CEO; she was a mother to this community, a fierce protector of Shpresa's people and a source of endless warmth, courage and hope. Her passion for justice and her deep love for the Albanian-speaking community inspired everything she did. She built Shpresa not just as an organisation but as a family, a place where people could feel seen, heard and valued.

Her strength in the face of adversity was remarkable. Even during her illness, Luljeta's spirit shone brightly. She never stopped believing in the power of community and the potential within every person she met. She was a tireless advocate, a mentor and a guiding light for many of us.

The impact she made will ripple through generations. The innovative projects she created, especially the Breaking the Chains initiative, changed lives, giving young refugees not only legal protection but also dignity, hope and the opportunity for a future.

In 2022, Luli launched the Leadership Programme for Migrant Community Leaders, an initiative designed to equip individuals with lived experience with the skills and confidence to lead. She understood that migrant communities were often overlooked as leaders, and that many did not see themselves as such. Rooted in her own journey of transforming challenges into opportunities, this programme became a testament to her lifelong mission: turning dreams into reality, anger into justice and problems into solutions. Through her mentorship, she nurtured a new generation of leaders who will carry forward her vision.

We carry her legacy in our hearts and in her work that we continue with every day. Though we miss her deeply, we feel honoured to have walked alongside her, to have learned from her and to carry forward her dream.

Her final message to us:

*"Our time on this planet is limited,
So don't waste it.
Don't hate—love.
Don't destroy—build.
Don't judge—offer solutions.
Don't just speak—act.
Help, and be grateful.
Never feel powerless.
If no one fights for you, fight for yourself.
Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition,
Because they always know what you truly want."*

If I, a refugee who came without knowing the language, managed to rebuild my life, build an organisation to inspire hope to over 3,000 people, build partnerships to solve identified needs, and develop leaders with lived experiences, anyone can."

For Luli, With Love

A message of thanks from those who walked beside her:

Thank you for being the hope when we could see no light at the end of the tunnel,
For being the courage and the warmth that shaped our days,
Thank you for being the voice raised from quietness,
the strength that gave us freedom in every way.

Thank you for holding our hand, listening and fighting with care,
Thank you for helping us learn, for helping us stand,
You lifted hope where others failed,
And left your footprints everywhere.

You led by example, showing the way,
Showed us power born of grace and care,
To rebuild lives and revive dreams,
To build roots, planting love in everything.

Thank you for teaching us to celebrate each other and life,
not to let anger and injustice rob us of our rights,
Thank you for teaching us to keep fighting, to hold on, challenge any hardship,
to live fully, love deeply, be kind, chase our dreams.

So, Thank you, Luli, for your light,
For being the most beautiful garden, warmest smile, shining bright,
With hearts still grieving, we promise, in every cause, every day,
You are and will always be, our living legacy.

Thank you for your love, your courage and your unshakable belief in the power of community. You made us stronger, kinder, more hopeful; you broke the silence and gave us a voice. We will never forget you.

Rest in peace, dear Luli. Your light lives on in all of us.

New Chief Executive Report

It is with great humility and deep respect that I step into the role following our founder, Luljeta Nuzi, who passed away in February after a courageous and dignified battle with cancer. Luli's legacy is felt in every part of Shpresa, and her vision will continue to guide our future.

As I step into the role of Chief Executive Officer of the Shpresa Programme, I am deeply honoured and humbled to lead an organisation that stands as a beacon of hope, resilience and empowerment for the Albanian-speaking and wider refugee communities in the United Kingdom.

This year has been a time of profound change and reflection for Shpresa. We mourned the loss of our founder and visionary leader, Luljeta Nuzi. Luljeta's passion, courage and unwavering commitment laid the foundation upon which all of Shpresa's work is built. Her legacy inspires us every day to push forward with the same dedication to community, justice and inclusion that she embodied.

Despite the challenges, Shpresa has continued to grow and evolve, expanding its reach and deepening the impact of its programmes. Shpresa's commitment to creating safe, supportive spaces where women, young people and families can thrive remains stronger than ever. From the success of the Breaking the Chains project to the growth of the Leadership Programme, Shpresa is building a future where every individual feels valued, connected and empowered.

I am particularly proud of how Shpresa has fostered collaboration, working closely with partners, volunteers and the community to co-create solutions that address the unique challenges the community faces. Shpresa's culturally sensitive approach, including the motto "All together we can make a difference", and as Luli used the adage "*Never let a crisis go to waste*", continues to be one of Shpresa's guiding principles and helps set Shpresa apart as a leader in refugee support.

This year, Shpresa continued to strengthen community power through mentoring, social entrepreneurship and grassroots organisation. The Leadership Programme enabled marginalised voices to influence key areas such as immigration, employment and housing. New leaders from the ASC and other migrant communities emerged, setting up valuable programmes and being a strong voice challenging issues faced by the communities Shpresa serves.

Shpresa expanded its influence through key new collaborations with Centre for Theology and Community, building inclusive church spaces that support and advocate for migrants. Another important partnership is with Power to Prosper, part of the Newham Hub. Through joint efforts organisations are tackling poverty and inequality through grassroots empowerment, in partnership with The Runnymede Trust and NEF. Protection Approaches is another collaboration that increase staff training on hate crime and advocacy informed by Shpresa's "Educate, Not Hate" campaign, promoting awareness and community resilience.

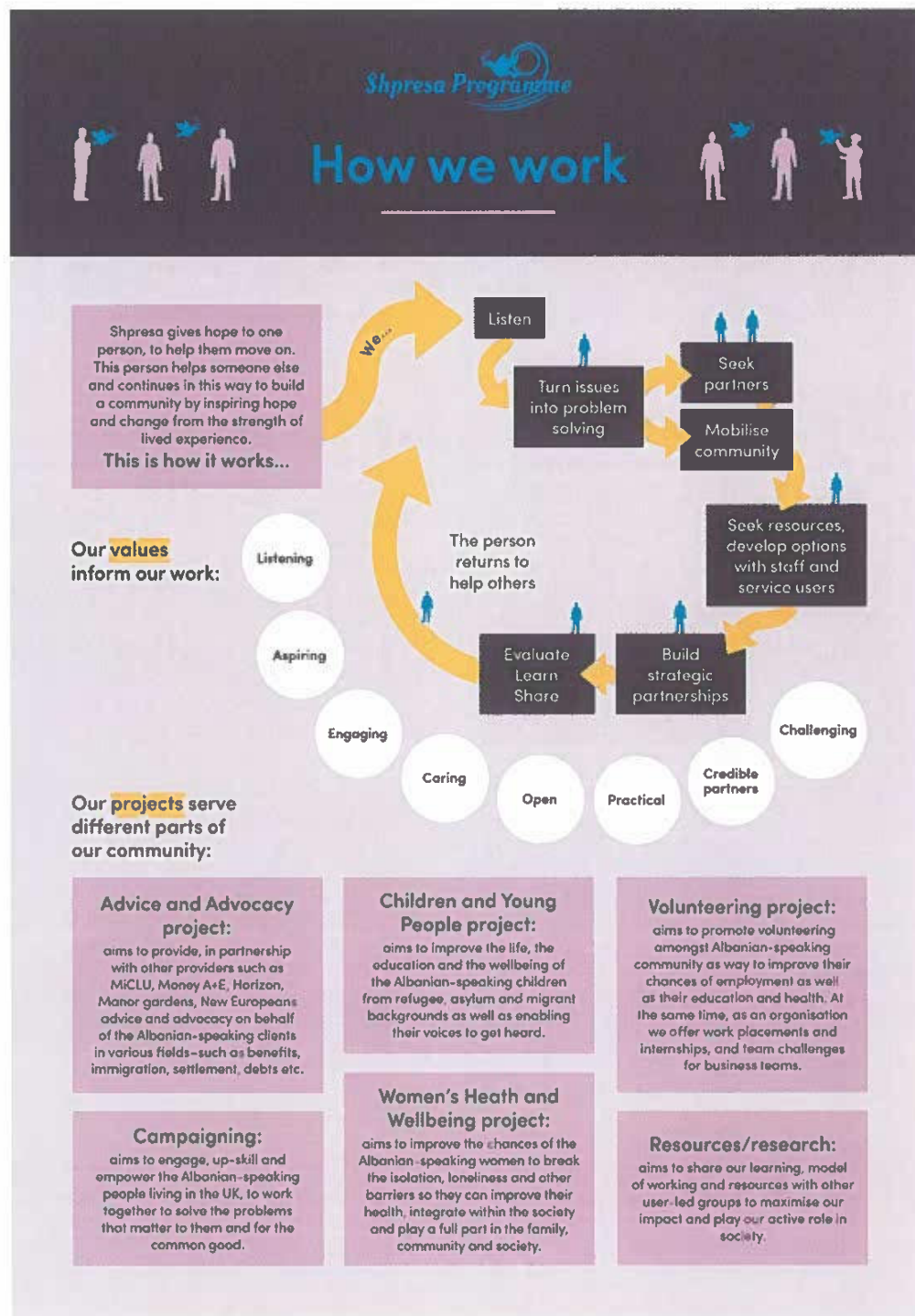
Breaking the Chains continues to be an innovative project in the refuge and migrant children sector. The project has responded to a shifting, increasingly hostile landscape for the ASC and other migrant communities. Shpresa's work in partnership with MICLU is focused on advocacy against two imminent threats: Section 59 of the Illegal Immigration Act (wrongly designating Albania as a safe

country) and the upcoming Country Guidance case on trafficked Albanian men, which could erode protection for many.

Looking ahead, Shpresa's focus will be on sustaining this momentum, enhancing its services, growing collaboration with like-minded partners and broadening Shpresa's impact, protecting the rights and wellbeing to the ASC and other migrant communities across the United Kingdom. Shpresa remains committed to systematic changes by being innovative, inclusive and ensuring sustainability. Shpresa's safeguarding not only meets the immediate needs of the communities Shpresa serves feel safe, heard and empowered, but it also helps build long term resilience and opportunities for the communities.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Shpresa's dedicated staff, volunteers, partners and supporters who make Shpresa's work possible. Together, we will honour Luljeta's vision and carry her legacy forward by continuing to empower individuals, strengthen families and build a vibrant, inclusive community.

Thank you for your ongoing belief in Shpresa's mission. I look forward to the journey ahead and to sharing many more successes with you. Together, Shpresa will continue to turn crises into opportunities and dreams into reality.



Our Theory of Change



Inspiring hope & change

Problem:

Members of the Albanian Speaking Community (ASC) are marginalised, excluded, stigmatised and at risk

So we...

Have inputs – investing in our organisation

Invest in developing website & social media

Invest in internal communications/ infrastructure

Invest in monitoring and evaluation

Our inputs enrich our activities



Our activities create our outputs...

Learning shared with
70 agencies

120
individuals' needs
are assessed

600
individuals access support
services

100
individuals gain training

80
individuals are volunteering /
employed / role models

... outcomes for the Albanian Speaking Community, who...

Are better informed and have greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities

Have improved skills

Experience improved health and well-being (physical and mental)

Have a stronger sense of positive Albanian / British cultural identity

Are less isolated and have more support networks

Shpresa is trusted, respected, and listened to by providers, policy makers, funders, commissioners

and outcomes for Shpresa

This is shown by the indicators for our members, who...

Are informed and aware of their rights and responsibilities

Are confident and self-assured

Have a positive sense of identity

Have skills, volunteer, or are in training or employment

Have support networks

Feel safe
Are healthy

And in our impact:

The Albanian Speaking Community (ASC) is integrated with dignity and plays an active role in society.

6 Pillars of Success

These six factors act as the pillars supporting all Shpresa work, creating a consistent and coherent philosophy for the organisation.

I was accepted as part of a family

G, MAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS/EX-SERVICE USERS - ADULTS FOCUS GROUP

Friendship here is very important

M, WOMAN IN THE SERVICE USERS FOCUS GROUP

Inclusiveness

Shpresa has a very strong culture of family, friendship, solidarity and warmth which gives rise to high levels of trust and openness. It sends out messages of inclusiveness to newcomers, so they can take full advantage of the opportunities as quickly as possible. In the focus groups, service users often referred to Shpresa, its staff and users, as 'family'.

Shpresa gives you pride in Albania and you need that to integrate

Y, WOMAN IN EARLY 20S, VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

If families can't afford to go home, the Shpresa Programme can replicate the experience

N, MAN IN HIS 40S, EX-SERVICE USERS/VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

Cultural Identity

Our programme and provision of a space for the Albanian-speaking community provides a clear reinforcement of what it means to be Albanian through language, dances and cultural activities. Reinforced family ties promote communication between generations. This clarity of identity is experienced as providing a way of finding one's place in British society and giving rise to respect from others outside the Albanian community.

[Shpresa] put me through many, many training... they brought my confidence back. If [the staff] can't help, they find someone else to help

L, WOMAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

Problem Solving Know-How

Shpresa's staff act as role models to service users and volunteers, and demonstrate consistent patterns of behaviour. This includes:

- Acting as though every problem can be solved
- Knowing enough to be able to be useful to others, but also admitting limits and finding experts who do know.

- Not compartmentalising problems, but seeing people in the round.
- Stressing self-help, encouraging active experimentation and personal development.
- Encouraging honest reflection and openness in facing difficulties.

We stress the skills of problem solving so that participants can transfer this approach to all other problems they face.

Focus on family

The Shpresa Programme provides a range of specific projects for children, young people and women, men, and old people. This focus has had the effect of reaching those who are the most significant holders and transmitters of cultural values.

Shpresa is currently looking for ways to involve more male service users over 25.

Men were involved in the Talent show, but women are the ones who take part in the projects. Men are getting the benefits of Shpresa from their wives and children

D, WOMAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

I have been coming since Shpresa was in Manor Park. Since then I feel at home, it is like my family

P, MAN 60S, SERVICE USERS FOCUS GROUP

Progressive Steps

Participants continue to take on progressive challenges to suit their stage of development both within Shpresa, such as the volunteering programme, or outside, such as courses to further their career aspirations. Staff take an active hand in encouraging and supporting this climate of self-development. There is a strong feeling amongst women who are current and ex-service users that by being in the UK and in contact with Shpresa, that they can achieve things that would not have been possible at home in their personal development and careers.

They made me feel good for myself. Previously, I was isolated, waiting for a decision on my refugee status. (Once in contact with Shpresa) I felt useful working for other people. I got my self-esteem and have gone on to higher education

B, WOMAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

Understanding the UK & Getting the UK to Understand Albanians

Many people reported how the Shpresa Programme had fostered integration rather than separation. Many commented on the programmes, visits and activities to give insight and understanding and encourage appropriate involvement with UK society - for example visits to the House of Parliament. There was evidence that the Shpresa Programme helps service users of all ages to understand and feel comfortable with British culture.

The Shpresa Programme helps you with English culture

F, TEENAGE MALE, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S FOCUS GROUP

Shpresa Programme

inspiring hope & change

The Impact of Shpresa's Work and What was Achieved in 2024 – 2025

A Message from the Board

We're proud to share with you the Shpresa Programme's Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2025. As our founder Luljeta Nuzi would say, while navigating through the challenges faced by our organisation and communities we serve: *"Never let a crisis go to waste."*

This past year has been one of deep connection, learning and growth, both for the communities we serve and for all of us at Shpresa. As we look back, what stands out most is the strength, courage and resilience of the over 3,000 individuals who came through Shpresa's doors, each with a unique story and deserving of care, dignity and the opportunity to thrive.

From unaccompanied minors and survivors of trafficking to refugees, asylum seekers and families seeking safety and stability, Shpresa has been there, walking beside them with heart, community and, above all, a shared sense of belonging.

At Shpresa, we believe in working with the whole family to build trust and relationships that last. Many of Shpresa's team members have walked similar paths, and this shared experience is at the heart of everything Shpresa does. It's what allows those at Shpresa to truly understand the hearts and minds of the people that Shpresa serves. This approach helps individuals feel safe, grow in confidence and most importantly, realise that they're not alone.

And it's not just the team, it's the people who were once users of Shpresa's services who now give back as volunteers, leaders and role models. Their lived experiences, compassion and skills are invaluable. They are the heart of Shpresa and proof that when a person is given the chance to flourish, they don't just rise, they lift others with them.

Shpresa's partnerships have been another essential part of the journey this year. By working side by side with organisations like MiCLU, Garden Court Chambers, Human Trafficking Foundation, Croydon Drop-In, The Alternatives Trust, Manor Gardens, Our Newham Learning and Skills, Citizens UK, Kazzum and so many others, Shpresa has been able to offer more complete, culturally aware support, from counselling and legal advice to arts, sports, English lessons and vocational training. These partnerships are a two-way street, while Shpresa's users benefit from expert support, Shpresa's partners gain insight into the unique cultural challenges Shpresa's communities face, allowing them to support in more informed, sensitive ways.

One of the biggest changes this year came from the Listening Campaign. After many conversations with Shpresa's community and partners, it became clear that Shpresa's mission was ready to grow. So Shpresa applied to the Charity Commission to update its objectives, from supporting only the "Albanian speaking community" to reaching all people in the United Kingdom from minority backgrounds. That change has now been approved, and it's a powerful step forward that will allow Shpresa to reach even more people who need support. Shpresa has run significant projects in the past supporting and sharing its model of work with other communities (the latest being the Ukrainian community). During 2024-2025 Shpresa started a new partnership with CTC which provides advice, advocacy and support to the challenges facing migrants and refugee members of the St Anthony's church in Newham and identifies leaders within St Anthony's diverse communities.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the trust and engagement of Shpresa's users, staff, volunteers, funders and friends. Shpresa remains deeply committed to listening, learning and adapting and strives for openness, compassion and a drive to always improve.

This year has been full of events that brought people together, celebrated identity and culture, created joy and inspired change. From community festivals to advocacy campaigns, youth events to workshops, each moment reminded us of the beauty of coming together and lifting each other up.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We hope as you read through this report, you'll feel as proud and inspired as we do.

Leadership Programme: A Journey of Growth, Legacy & Empowerment

This year, the Shpresa Leadership Programme has been nothing short of inspiring. Over the past 12 months, we've seen people grow into confident changemakers, take the lead and, most powerfully, pass the baton onto others.

One of Shpresa's greatest achievements is that six of this year's sessions were led by graduates of previous cohorts. That says so much: this programme isn't just working, it's lasting. It's growing roots. Former participants are now mentoring, guiding and running sessions themselves, proof that leadership isn't just being taught at Shpresa, it's being lived.

The Leadership Programme was honoured to welcome incredible guest speakers who gave their time and expertise so generously. Emma Mortoo, CEO of Day One, delivered brilliant sessions on Fundraising and Mission & Vision. Louise Garner, Head of Grants at SSE, gave practical and empowering insights during her session on Legal Structures and even went the extra mile by offering 1:1 support to leaders afterwards to help turn their ideas into real, structured plans.

But more than just skills and knowledge, the Leadership Programme has been about courage, confidence and community. Participants haven't just learned how to lead, they've learned how to believe in themselves. They now know how to access their rights, speak up about injustice and turn ideas into action.

This year we welcomed 29 new leaders and 29 incredible mentors, representing MPs, councillors, CEOs, lawyers, charity leaders and people who shared not just advice but real-life experience. Their guidance has been invaluable.

What really moves us is that the programme is now being run by people who were once just starting out themselves. That full-circle moment means everything to us. One of our alumni said it best in her blog:

"The programme isn't just about learning, it's about paying it forward, sharing knowledge, and empowering others to do the same. From a personal perspective, my experience with Shpresa and the leadership programme played an important factor into my success. And just the fact that I once was taking this programme, and now I am delivering this programme, showcases its power. To me, and to everyone at Shpresa, the Leadership Programme is not just a training initiative, it's a journey. I saw this as a great opportunity to learn, to connect, and most importantly, to thrive. It pushed me to step outside the comfort zones, to challenge myself, to think outside the box, and to grow as a young leader in every sense of the word. But, the beauty of Shpresa lies not just in the programme itself, but in the larger community it fosters. The Shpresa family is one that motivates, supports, and encourages you to improve and to strive to be the best version of yourself."

These stories remind us that leadership isn't about titles, it's about showing up, speaking up, and lifting others as you climb. Leaders from across every cohort are now part of a powerful network connected with Citizens UK, SSE, local councillors and MPs. Together, they're making real change.

We also want to highlight Merita Avdyli, founder of *Successful Mothers CIC*, who started her journey in the very first cohort. With a passion for empowering women to take control of their lives, Merita used the tools and confidence gained through the programme to expand her initiative and make a lasting difference for mothers in her community. Her journey embodies everything Shpresa hopes for in its leaders: purpose, passion and power.

Of course, there have been challenges too. We've learned how important it is to acknowledge the barriers women face, like caring responsibilities and transport issues, and we're committed to tackling these, so that every woman has an equal chance to lead.

We've also seen the emotional weight that leadership can carry, especially for those with lived experience. That's why we worked with Jonathan Ellis to offer sessions focused on building safe, supportive mentor relationships, a space to hold vulnerability as well as ambition.

As the programme continues to grow, the demand keeps rising. Shpresa is still supporting previous cohort leaders while welcoming new ones, and Shpresa's staff is doing its best to ensure that even those who didn't get into formal programmes like SSE, don't lose their momentum.

We know Shpresa can't do this alone. With continued support from The Trust for London, City Bridge Foundation and other stakeholders, Shpresa can keep building strong partnerships, finding new opportunities for its alumni and unlocking small grants, venues and resources to keep this movement going.

The slogan created by our founder and the founder of this programme, Luljeta Nuzi, perfectly captures the soul of the programme:

"Turn dreams into reality, anger into justice, and problems into solutions."

And that's exactly what they're doing.

We Can Project: Volunteering Programme

This year, thanks to the incredible support from Shpresa's funders, including The National Lottery Reaching Communities, the We Can project has continued to bring about real, lasting change in the lives of Albanian-speaking women in the community. This wasn't just about running activities, it was about building trust, creating safe spaces and showing women what's possible when they're seen, heard and supported.

Many of the women who joined the project this year have faced more challenges than most of us could imagine, including language barriers, isolation, cultural pressures and trauma. Mainstream services often feel out of reach for them. But through We Can, they found a place where they belonged. A place where healing, learning and laughter could take root.

The weekly Women's Support Groups welcomed 83 women who were looking not just for help but also for community. They shared stories, supported each other and formed friendships that went far beyond those meeting rooms. One woman told us, "The friendships I made here helped me through some of my hardest days." That's the kind of impact that can't be measured but means everything.

We Can runs workshops on, among other things, immigration, benefits, rights and digital skills. Even something as simple as learning how to fill out an online form or to join a Zoom call opened a whole new world of possibilities for participants. For many, it was the first step toward independence.

Together with the Race Equality Foundation and Barking and Dagenham Council, We Can introduced the Strengthening Communities, Strengthening Families programme in Albanian. One participant shared, "It was so supportive to share ideas with other parents. I didn't feel alone anymore."

22 women completed a six-week volunteer training programme, learning about workplace policies, team roles and leadership. Many of them stepped into new roles as Parenting Champions, Mental Health Champions, Walking Champions and/or Employment Champions, leading others while rewriting their own stories. Some even took the leap into further training and employment. As one woman told us, "I never thought I would be able to work here. This project showed me that I can."

Mental health has been a huge focus. Through awareness sessions and small group work, We Can created safe spaces where women could talk openly, feel understood and start to heal. Our Psychoeducational Mental Health Groups helped 14 women build emotional resilience and take steps toward recovery.

And sometimes, healing came through walking, talking, doing art or simply being together. Our walking group, joined by 47 women, explored parks, museums and the history of Newham, Enfield, Barking and Dagenham. Along the way, women reconnected with nature, themselves and each other.

These creative sessions brought joy and purpose, through knitting, tailoring and shared skills. Women rediscovered old passions and created new bonds. One woman said it best, "Coming here made me feel alive again."

We Can does more than deliver a programme. It creates a community, sparks a movement and reminds us all of the incredible strength that exists in women when they are simply given the space to shine.

Shpresa is deeply grateful to all the amazing partners who walked this journey: Manor Gardens, The Alternative Trust, Race Equality Foundation, Alisar Training, Barking and Dagenham Libraries, Newham languages and The Arc in Edmonton.

Shpresa is incredibly proud to announce that three of its outstanding volunteers (Evis Suka, Besiana Hasa and Bleranda Synaj) were nominated by Shpresa and recognised by Enfield Council for their dedication and contributions to the local community. Their commitment to supporting others has earned them *Special Recognition Awards*, a testament to their passion and service.

Shpresa is incredibly proud of Evis, Besiana and Bleranda for their outstanding contributions. Their awards reflect the values that Shpresa Programme stands for: community, empowerment and the spirit of giving back.

Shpresa thanks them for their dedication and looks forward to seeing their continued positive influence in the lives of many.

Breaking the Chains: Protecting Young Lives, Changing Broken Systems

Breaking the Chains project is a lifeline for young people who have been through unthinkable hardship. It's about standing with them, not only to defend their rights but to remind them that they are not alone, that they matter and that they deserve safety, justice and hope.

This groundbreaking partnership between MiCLU (the Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit) and Shpresa Programme, funded by City Bridge and The National Lottery, has reshaped how young asylum seekers, particularly those from Albania, are supported through the immigration and asylum system in the United Kingdom.

What makes Breaking the Chains so powerful is its unique, trauma-informed, user-led approach. It doesn't just focus on legal paperwork. Instead, it focuses on trust, care and healing. The project creates safe spaces where young people feel safe enough to open up, often for the first time. It's this trust that makes real protection possible.

Shpresa would like to pay special tribute to Luljeta (Luli) Nuzi, its founder and former CEO, whose vision sparked this project. Luli understood, long before others did, that true change happens when lived experience leads the way. She built Breaking the Chains with empathy and determination, bringing together a powerful coalition of partners, including Garden Court Chambers, Helen Bamber Foundation, Asylum Aid, Asylos, Public Law Project, leading academics and many others, whose common goal is to protect vulnerable children and young people and to challenge the broken systems that fail them.

Through casework, youth-led campaigns and community outreach, Breaking the Chains ensures that the voices of young refugees and asylum seekers are front and centre in legal cases, policy conversations and public debate. Their stories are no longer hidden. They are being heard, and they are shaping real change.

The programme reached a total of 120 young people who benefited from all the activities and services run via this programme. The project has directly supported with legal case work over 70 children and young people, helping them build strong asylum claims and access vital protection. But the impact goes far beyond individual cases. Through advocacy and partnerships, it has helped safeguard the rights of more than 3,000 young Albanians who sought asylum in the United Kingdom in the last year alone. Since the Home Office often uses young Albanians to "test" harsh policies, Breaking the Chains is also protecting other communities at risk, including children from Vietnam, Nigeria, India, Bangladesh and Georgia.

This year hasn't been easy. We've seen heartbreaking stories, young people re-trafficked, children with learning difficulties being hidden and abused and victims chained up in cannabis farms. At the same time, we've watched the system grow colder. In 2023, over 800 Albanians were granted protection. In 2024, that number dropped to just 69.

The message being sent is that Albanian asylum seekers don't matter. That message has devastating effects, including stripping young people of hope, worsening their mental health and making them more vulnerable to exploitation. In many cases, it puts them right back in the hands of traffickers.

We've also seen poor and unjust decisions from the National Referral Mechanism which leave young people with no support, violating their rights and putting them in danger all over again.

But through it all, Shpresa's young people have shown incredible resilience, and so has this project.

This work began with Luli's vision, but it continues with every young person who finds their voice, every case that changes a life and every person who refuses to let injustice win.

Shpresa's work, with the support of its partners will continue to focus on refusing to give up on young people who have already been through too much, on advocating for change and expanding the model and sharing its learning with other migrant communities. Shpresa continues to work on challenging urgent threats, such as Section 59 of the Illegal Immigration Act, which wrongly labels Albania as a "safe" country. By targeting those already most at risk, Section 59 not only strips away vital protection, but it also opens the door to similar injustices being repeated across other groups.

Together, we're not just breaking chains, we're building futures.

Empowering Women: Building Confidence, Connection and Hope

At Shpresa, it is believed that every woman deserves to live with dignity, independence and the confidence to shape her own future. The Empowering Women project, funded by Henry Smith, has been Shpresa's way of making that belief a reality, offering Albanian-speaking women a safe space to grow, connect, and rebuild their lives.

Over the past year, this project has supported 94 women through five weekly support groups held in different venues such as Frenford Club in Redbridge, Mansfield House, The Alternatives in Newham and online via Zoom. Each of these spaces has become more than just a weekly meeting, it has become a lifeline.

Many of the women the project supports face huge barriers, including language difficulties, trauma and fear of being judged or misunderstood. They often arrive in the United Kingdom with little knowledge of the system and even less support. They may be navigating complex immigration processes, raising children on their own or coping with poverty, domestic violence, depression or anxiety. Some are survivors of trafficking or abuse. Others live in temporary accommodation, such as hotels with no means to prepare a warm meal and being forced to eat what is provided.

Through one-to-one advice and advocacy, this project supported 208 women and their family members with issues such as immigration, domestic violence, mental health, homelessness and access to benefits. Shpresa walked alongside them through some of their darkest days, ensuring they weren't left to face those challenges alone. Shpresa's staff followed up personally with each woman, making sure that they received the right support, resources and protection.

One woman told us, "I am grateful to you and the volunteer that supported me. I felt I could rely on her and was not let down. I know I am very vulnerable and have lots of needs. I appreciate you treating me with respect and being there without judging, lending a helping hand whenever I need it. I can see my life put in order now, and I look forward with hope, surrounded by good friends who care for me."

Many of the women this project works with have no extended family here, no friends, no safety net. But through this project, they've built one for themselves. They've found strength in each other, resilience in shared experiences and hope in the possibilities ahead.

The Empowering Women programme has provided one to one support and advocacy to meet individual needs and has helped women to feel seen, valued and connected. It's helped them realise they are not alone, and that together, they can build a better future.

Shpresa is proud of every woman who walked through its doors this year. Their courage and determination inspire everything Shpresa does. With continued support, Shpresa looks forward to empowering even more women to heal, grow and thrive.

Creating Welcoming Spaces with the Centre for Theology and Community (CTC)

Together with the Centre for Theology and Community, Shpresa has been working to make churches places of true welcome, where harmful attitudes toward migrants are gently but firmly challenged and replaced with understanding, connection and love.

Shpresa's focus has been on St. Anthony's Church in Forest Gate, where one of its dedicated team members is based. This project offers practical support, advice and advocacy and encouragement to migrant and refugee members of the church, helping them navigate daily challenges while also identifying and nurturing emerging leaders within the community.

Through shared meals, open conversations training, and opportunities to serve and lead, this project is helping to turn the church into a space where diverse communities come together, learn from one another and take action side by side to stand against injustice.

As result of the work with communities at St. Anthony's Church in Forest Gate, we developed the **Stronger Together** Programme, funded by Near Neighbours, Bringing People Together. Through this programme we provided extra tuition support for year 6 and 11, to 43 students.

Power to Prosper, Tackling Poverty Together

Shpresa has also been proud to play a key role in the Power to Prosper programme (a national initiative led by the Runnymede Trust and the New Economics Foundation) which is all about getting to the root of poverty, inequality and debt.

Here in Newham, Shpresa is part of the local Power to Prosper Hub, alongside other passionate organisations working to lift up the communities. Each Hub is led by a host and joined by four partner groups, creating a powerful network of shared knowledge and action. Shpresa is excited about what's ahead and is already exploring ways to grow its reach, deepen the partnerships and make sure the voices of its communities are heard at both local and national levels.

Together, these partnerships are helping Shpresa move closer to accomplishing its vision: a fairer, more inclusive society where every individual feels seen, supported and empowered to thrive.

Newham Household Support Fund, Emergency Provision

Over the past year, Shpresa has continued to deliver vital emergency support through the Newham Household Support Fund, with a focus on alleviating financial hardship among the most vulnerable members of the Newham community. In partnership with Newham Council and other local organisations, Shpresa has provided essential assistance including financial aid, food and clothing.

Working closely with partners, Shpresa referred families to local food banks and distributed donations. To further support families in crisis, Shpresa distributed £3,000 in supermarket vouchers for Tesco and Asda, generously provided by Newham Council, helping Newham families meet basic living costs.

Clothing has been provided largely through community donations, and during the festive season, Shpresa ensured children received gifts through its continued partnership with the ELBA Toy Appeal.

This collaborative effort has been instrumental in providing timely relief to those experiencing hardship and exemplifies the power of community-driven support systems in addressing urgent needs.

Children and Young People's Project: A Safe Space to Grow, Belong and Shine

At Shpresa, it is understood that when children and young people are given the space to feel safe, heard and supported, they can truly thrive. That's exactly what the Children and Young People's (CYP) Project sets out to do: create spaces where Albanian-speaking children from refugee, asylum-seeking or migrant backgrounds feel seen, celebrated and empowered.

Over the past year, 350 young people took part in the CYP Project. Whether they joined a sports session, leadership training, supplementary school or simply came to hang out in a welcoming space, each young person brought their energy, dreams and stories, and each one left feeling a little more confident and connected.

For many of the children and young people Shpresa works with, settling in the United Kingdom comes with real challenges. Language barriers, unfamiliar systems, and cultural differences can lead to isolation, low self-esteem and a sense of not fitting in. The CYP Project is designed to break through those barriers.

In these sessions young people are encouraged to be themselves, to speak their truth and to support one another. Shpresa creates spaces that are local, safe, non-judgmental and filled with warmth, sometimes even with a hot meal to bring comfort and care.

Shpresa's approach with children and young people is holistic, personal and shaped by the young people themselves. Shpresa focuses on:

- Identifying young people who need targeted support
- Providing culturally sensitive activities that are both fun and educational
- Offering mental health and wellbeing support, led with care and understanding
- Making referrals to the right advice and advocacy services
- Encouraging youth leadership and ensuring their voices are not only heard but truly valued
- Creating bridges between the experiences of Shpresa's young people and the wider community

This is what makes the CYP Project feel so special, it's shaped with and for the young people.

The motto at Shpresa is "All together, we can make a difference." Shpresa has worked hand in hand with young people, their families, funders, schools and partner organisations to make this happen.

However, challenges remain. Funding is an ongoing concern, and Shpresa is working hard to find creative ways to keep these activities running, like drawing on the incredible support from its members to keep our Albanian school project alive.

Shpresa's supplementary schools and heritage projects operate from four centres across London, offering positive activities for children and young people. Shpresa continues to celebrate young people's achievements with the Jack Petchey Awards that recognise 24 young people every year. Safe, non-judgmental spaces allow participants to engage fully, overcoming language and cultural barriers.

Shpresa have also expanded its youth work through *Healthy Relationship* workshops, reaching students across virtual schools and community centres in Barking and Dagenham and Croydon.

Celebrating Shpresa's Young Changemakers, Jack Petchey Award Winners

Shpresa is incredibly proud to support young people who not only dream big but also give back, lifting up their peers and communities in the process. That's why it's such a joy to celebrate two of Shpresa's young champions who were recognised this year through the Jack Petchey Achievement Award, a programme that celebrates outstanding young people who go the extra mile.

X – A Champion of Heritage, Walking and Togetherness

X was nominated by her peers for her exceptional role as a Heritage and Walking Champion. With energy, kindness and dedication, she's helped lead Shpresa's walking projects, bringing together parents and young people across generations to explore nature, their local area and each other's stories. Her gentle encouragement has made these walks more than just exercise, they've become moments of connection, learning and healing.

However, her contribution didn't stop there. X also brought her passion into Shpresa's traditional cooking project, sharing beloved Albanian recipes and tailoring them in creative, youth-friendly ways. Thanks to her, many of her peers not only discovered new culinary skills, but also picked up money management and independence tips, gaining confidence that extends far beyond the kitchen. Her joy in sharing culture and community is truly inspiring.

Y – A Voice of Culture and Kindness in the Classroom

Y, one of our brilliant Albanian school students, was also nominated by her classmates for her remarkable contributions to the Heritage Project and her dedication to learning. Passionate about Albanian language, history and culture, she has played a key role in interpreting and performing traditional Albanian lullabies and poems, bringing these beautiful expressions of heritage to life for others.

Her classmates describe her as motivating, generous, caring and a natural leader in the classroom. Always ready to help, always showing up with a smile and always setting an example of how to learn with both heart and mind, Y embodies the spirit of Shpresa, where every young person is supported to grow, lead and share.

These two young people remind us that leadership comes in many forms, whether it's walking beside others, singing a lullaby or simply showing up with compassion and curiosity.

Shpresa is incredibly proud of X and Y and grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation for recognising the powerful potential within Shpresa's community. Their stories are a beautiful reminder that when young people are trusted, encouraged and celebrated, they can change the world around them.

Healthy Relationships focused workshops

Shpresa's Healthy Relationships sessions, funded by The Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund, have become such an important part of Shpresa's work with young people, in particular young migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Healthy Relationships focused on giving young people the tools they need to understand the English education system, school policies and how to build safe and respectful relationships. It offered clear explanations, often with translations, to make sure every young person felt included and informed.

These sessions included into topics like gender and gender equality, healthy friendships and romantic relationships, consent and English laws around underage relationships, mental health, managing emotions like anger, understanding safeguarding and knowing where to go for help.

For many of the young people Shpresa supports, the English laws and cultural expectations around relationships are completely new. Some didn't realise that certain behaviours or relationships were considered illegal here. Others, especially those from male-dominated cultures, needed help unlearning harmful gender stereotypes and learning how to build equal, respectful connections.

Shpresa worked closely with students to help them understand these differences, always without judgment, always with care.

Shpresa delivered workshops at Oasis Academy and has expanded the network to work with virtual schools in Barking and Croydon, engaging 37 young people in total, 17 in Croydon and 14 in Barking. Shpresa also welcomed a new, experienced social worker with a background in human trafficking to help guide and grow the project further.

This project has reinforced Shpresa's learning that awareness and education really do make a difference. When young people understand their rights, their responsibilities and how to take care of their mental health, they begin to make better choices, avoid risks and build healthier lives.

Shpresa is proud of the progress made so far and is committed to continuing this work with compassion, clarity and care.

As one young person shared, *"No one had ever explained these things to me before. Now I feel like I understand how to live better and stay safe."*

Educate, Not Hate: Standing Together Against Discrimination

This year, with the support of Protection Approaches, Shpresa has deepened its capacity to stand up to hate and build stronger, more inclusive communities. Through specialist training on hate crime, advocacy and community building, Shpresa's team has become better equipped to not only support those affected by discrimination but also to lead powerful conversations around belonging, equality and justice.

This training laid the foundation for something very close to Shpresa's staff's hearts: the launch of our "Educate, Not Hate" campaign – a bold and beautiful initiative that brings light to dark places and reminds every one of the power of education, culture and compassion.

On November 28, Shpresa came together at Barking Town Hall to celebrate Albanian Independence Day, a moment full of joy, pride, music and community spirit. Shpresa raised the Albanian flag high, standing shoulder to shoulder in celebration of the community's resilience, roots and heritage.

But it wasn't just a day to celebrate, it was also a day to reflect.

Many in Shpresa's community still face serious challenges here in the United Kingdom, especially around discrimination and prejudice. For years, Albanians have been unfairly portrayed in politics and the media. These stereotypes hurt, not just emotionally, but also practically. They impact policies, fuel hate speech and worsen the mental health of people who already carry the weight of trauma, displacement and difficult journeys.

That's why "Educate, Not Hate" was born.

15 Days of Activism, Changing the Narrative

As part of the "Educate, Not Hate" campaign, Shpresa launched a 15-day activism programme, shining a light on the many forms of hate that can affect people in Shpresa's community, including racism, xenophobia, bullying (online and in-person), gender-based violence, ableism, religious intolerance and discrimination based on sexuality or immigration status.

The message was simple but powerful: Hate has no place here. Education and empathy do.

Shpresa's young people, asylum seekers and women were at the heart of the campaign, taking part in events, conversations and storytelling sessions. Their courage, voices and ideas brought the campaign to life and reminded all why this work is so vital.

The "Educate, Not Hate" campaign isn't just a one-off initiative. It marks the beginning of Shpresa's long-term commitment to making Shpresa a third party hate crime reporting centre – a place where people can safely and confidently report hate incidents and know that they will be listened to, supported and protected.

Those at Shpresa believe that every person deserves to live free from fear and that together, we can build a society that celebrates diversity, respects human rights and offers hope to everyone, no matter where they came from.

Shpresa knows that education is a powerful force for change. And when everyone comes together, as was done in Barking Town Hall and through many other events and activities, we remember just how powerful our voices, our stories and our communities truly are.

Throughout the year, Shpresa's users didn't just participate in groups, they led and shone. Across seasons and events, their voices, experiences and talents took centre stage. Here's a look at some of the events held broken down by month throughout the year:

April 2024

- Eid Party, Easter egg hunts and storytelling
- Residential camping – rest, recharge, reconnect
- Continuing the Free Bus Campaign

May 2024

- Mental Health Awareness Week – launching a mental health booklet created by young people

June 2024

- Listening Campaign & Children's Congress – voices that matter
- Volunteer Week: "Together We Can" – stories of impact from our champions
- *Our Home* celebration at Barking Town Hall – building a shared future
- Kosovo & Albanian photo exhibition in partnership with Tara Lucas
- Advocating for voting rights and free transport for asylum seekers

July 2024

- Summer Programme – from beach trips to sewing classes, joy was everywhere

August 2024

- National Senior Citizens Day – celebrating the wisdom of Shpresa's elders
- International Youth Day – honouring the next generation
- Heritage Project Showcase – preserving and sharing the Albanian culture

September 2024

- Honouring new leaders and celebrating Mother Teresa
- Parenting and leadership certificates awarded
- "Realities We Share" event with MiCLU – raw, moving stories from young asylum seekers

November 2024

- Celebrating Albanian Independence Day at Barking Town Hall
- Launching the Free Bus Campaign for asylum seekers¹

December 2024

- End-of-year celebration with joy, toys and warmth for every child
- "Educate, Not Hate" campaign continues

February 2025

- Raising the Kosovo flag at Barking Town Hall, performance at the Kosovo Embassy
-

- Report launched in Westminster: “*Punishing the Victim*” with MiCLU – real stories from the asylum system

March 2025 – International Women’s Month

- “Educate, Not Hate” campaign – reminding the world that gender equality is a human issue
- Women Thriving event – celebrating women-led businesses and wellbeing
- Teacher’s Day – honouring the educators among us
- Domestic Violence Awareness Day – raising voices and breaking the silence

Refuge Week Event June 2024 blog:

This year, Shpresa marked Refugee Week with a powerful celebration at Barking and Dagenham Town Hall. The theme, “Our Home,” resonated deeply with those at Shpresa, as everyone gathered to reflect on what it means to find a new home away from home. From stories of displacement to journeys of integration, this week was a testament to the strength, resilience and hope that defines the refugee experience.

The day began with individuals sharing stories of courage and survival and of overcoming hardship to find stability and belonging in a new place. These personal accounts were a poignant reminder of the incredible strength refugees possess that is often born out of the necessity to leave behind everything familiar and rebuild lives from scratch. The voices spoke not just of loss but of the perseverance that drives them forward. Refugee Week is about honouring these journeys, and this year, their journeys were celebrated with pride.

The day continued in true Shpresa Programme style, with vibrant traditional dancing and food, celebrating the Albanian culture. For many, the familiar tastes and smells of the dishes are a reminder of home, but more than that, the dishes symbolize community and the new home the users are building together in the United Kingdom.

Shpresa supports journeys of hope through its work in mental health, youth programmes, immigration advice and financial guidance. The mental health initiatives offer a safe space for people to heal and rebuild after trauma, helping them regain their sense of self and belonging.

Shpresa empowers the next generation through youth programmes, offering educational support in both English and Albanian and creating a multilingual space that fosters integration. Shpresa also provides crucial immigration advice and financial guidance to help families secure their futures and achieve stability in their new lives.

Shpresa is committed to raising awareness of equality, diversity and accessibility. Through workshops and outreach programmes, Shpresa promotes inclusion and ensures its services are accessible to everyone, regardless of physical or mental abilities. A truly inclusive society gives everyone the opportunity to thrive.

Shpresa's partnerships with local councillors, MPs and other organisations have been key to its growth. These collaborations help Shpresa support people on their journeys toward integration and leadership. Together, the partnerships are creating spaces where refugees can become leaders and change-makers in their communities.

Refugee Week is a time for reflection and celebration. Everyone has stories of loss and rebuilding, especially after the pandemic. However, Refugee Week is about more than loss, it's about strength, connection and finding a new home. For refugees, this means building a life in a new country and finding safety and belonging in a community that feels like home. As Refugee Week is celebrated, remember that the journey to integration and leadership is ongoing. Shpresa remains committed to creating spaces where refugees not only survive but thrive, enriching their communities with their resilience, talents and stories.

Overall data for 2024-25

Over 3,000 users have benefited from services provided by Shpresa Programme, including events, seminars, weekly groups and workshops, emergency services and other activities. They:

- are better informed and have greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities;
- have increased support networks;
- feel more confident and self-assured;
- feel safe and have a positive sense of identity; and
- have received direct support from the organisation depending on their needs.

Moreover:

- 104 users accessed volunteering opportunities and have reported improvement on skills and work experience;
- 29 have undertaken the leadership programme;
- 534 adults, mostly women, have reduced isolation, increased their knowledge and taken part regularly in weekly sessions and one-to-one support;
- 3750 ASYP have taken part on weekly youth activities;
- 24 ASYP received a Jack Petchey Achievement Award; and
- 37 families were supported with food vouchers.

Fundraising

Funding secured:

- TNL - A 5 year grant towards the We Can project, aiming to reduce loneliness, increase social contact, employment related skills, learn about life in the United Kingdom and improve mental health resilience and wellbeing of women from the ASC. TNL uplift was added to support with the cost of living crisis;
- Henry Smith Charity - 2 year grant starting in Oct 2023 for the women advocacy project;
- London Youth - to deliver the Heritage Programme Jan to June 2024;
- TNL Community Fund – Awards for All - To develop Shpresa's Community Café;
- My London Programme - Provides engagement with young people typically underrepresented on youth forums and leads them through a programme of education in social action, leadership and development;
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation MiCLU led partnership - Addresses challenges in the area of migration and integration, providing advocacy capacity and training and capacity building sessions with Albanian speaking children and young people. Funding ends March 2025;
- TNL MiCLU led partnership - To work on the "Breaking the Chains" project addressing challenges in the area of migration and integration, providing advocacy capacity and training and capacity building sessions with Albanian speaking children and young people. Funding ends Sep 2024;
- The Jack Petchey Foundation - Youth Achievements and Leadership Awards. This is reviewed every year on the submission of award reports;
- Trust for London - 3 year funding starting June 2022 for a programme to create new leaders from the Albanian-speaking community;
- AB Charitable Trust - from Jul 2023 to Jul 2027 - To support the organisation's running costs and work with young people;
- Access to work – PA to the CEO and travel costs up to December 2026 as long as needs do not change;
- Money A&E – grown your own advice partnership;
- GLA Migrant advice fund – providing direct support to young migrant Londoners through advocacy, peer support and drop in specialist support, ended May 2024;
- Charity Bank – a one off grant towards the building and core costs;
- City Bridge – 2 year funding started Apr 2023 towards the Leadership Programme, extended for another year;
- Our Money Newham – Vouchers supporting Newham families. Vouchers are offered by our money Newham based on availability of funds;
- Protection Approaches – Hate Crime Community Outreach, response and prevention programme;
- New Economics Foundation - Power to Prosper programme is a transformative programme addressing the United Kingdom's foundational causes of poverty, inequality and debt problems. The programme is delivered in partnership and includes collaboration, community organising and asset building work in Newham;
- Near Neighbours Grant - Stronger Together, a programme of tuition for year 6 and 11 students;
- The London Community Foundation - Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund - towards a programme of healthy relationships focused workshops to engage 60 students in schools across Barking & Dagenham & Croydon;
- Centre for Theology and Community - providing advocacy and advice for the Mercy of Justice project at CTC;
- The Clothworkers' Foundation - refurbishment of the building of Mansfield House; and
- The Screwfix - fix, repair and improve the community facilities at Mansfield House.

Funding Shpresa's Work

Shpresa recognises the increasingly challenging funding environment for small to medium-sized NGOs. In response, Shpresa has adopted a prudent approach to budgeting for the current financial year, with flexibility to adjust planned expenditure in line with the pace of fundraising success.

Shpresa's key funding strategies for the coming year include:

Sustaining and Strengthening Relationships with Charitable Trusts and Foundations: Despite increased competition and demand on funders, Shpresa continues to secure vital grants from many major trusts and foundations, including Trust for London, Henry Smith Charity, The City Bridge Trust, The National Lottery Reaching Communities, AB Charitable Trust, The London Community Foundation, Jack Petchey Foundation and others. Shpresa remains committed to nurturing these partnerships to ensure ongoing support, while actively seeking new funders whose priorities align with its mission.

Pursuing Statutory Funding Opportunities: Shpresa is actively exploring opportunities for increased statutory funding, particularly in boroughs such as Newham, Croydon, Enfield, Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham.

Maximising Income Generation: Shpresa is progressing with the refurbishment of Mansfield House, which will enable Shpresa to generate sustainable income through affordable office spaces and community facilities. Shpresa is also working to set up an online training platform that would help it to reach users out of London and generate income to make the training sustainable.

Maintaining Rigorous Financial Oversight: Financial controls are closely monitored at each Board meeting. The Board ensures timely adjustments to expenditure in line with income secured to safeguard organisational stability.

Expanding Outreach through Innovation and Partnerships: Shpresa is building new partnerships that broaden its reach and service capacity, reaching out to other users from refuge and migrant communities.

Quality Assurances

Shpresa proudly achieved the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) in September 2023, reflecting its commitment to delivering high-quality, reliable services. Shpresa is actively preparing for the upcoming renewal of this certification in August/September 2025 to maintain its high standards of advice and support.

Policies

Shpresa's governance framework is underpinned by a comprehensive suite of policies, which are reviewed annually to ensure they remain current and aligned with best practice. Any updates or amendments are formally approved by the Board to maintain transparency and accountability.

Key summary of our strategy to 2030

Shpresa Programme is a charity that promotes the participation and contribution of Albanian-speaking refugees and migrants in the United Kingdom. Through its services and projects, Shpresa supports individuals and families to play an active role in British society.

Strategy Review: Shpresa's 2024 review assessed the needs of the ASC, Shpresa's progress and its vision for 2030. It also considered major developments: expanding Shpresa's scope beyond the ASC, acquiring Mansfield House, strengthening political influence and planning for leadership transition. Conducted by an independent consultant, the review included input from community members, staff, trustees and external partners.

Key Findings: Shpresa continues to make strong progress towards its vision, staying true to its core values. Shpresa's mutual approach fosters respect, collaboration and long-term partnerships. The lived experience of Shpresa's Board, staff and volunteers enhances the credibility and impact of its work. Shpresa's values also attract partnerships that extend its reach and influence.

Achievements:

- Continued and expanded programmes, particularly for young people and women
- Increased political engagement, amplifying Albanian voices and influencing decision-makers
- Successful outreach to young and newly arrived Albanians
- Shared Shpresa's leadership model with other nationalities and communities through training and partnerships
- Advanced Shpresa's digital strategy, improving visibility and efficiency
- Strengthened advocacy and evidence-based project design
- Served as the key reference point for Albanians in the United Kingdom seeking support
- Promoted the positive contributions of the Albanian community while countering hostile rhetoric
- Contributed to the British heritage scene through work with museums and councils

Priorities to 2030: Shpresa's strategy identifies five key areas for development:

1. Strengthening Shpresa as a role model in community development
2. Deepening existing relationships and building new partnerships
3. Expanding Shpresa's influence in political, funding and community sectors
4. Ensuring long-term resilience and sustainability
5. Establishing Mansfield House as a central hub for Shpresa's work

These priorities will help Shpresa achieve a thriving, integrated Albanian-speaking community while making Shpresa a stronger, impact-driven organisation.

Shpresa's Plans for 2025–2026

Contributing to our 2030 Vision

Shpresa will continue delivering responsive, inclusive and empowering services that reflect the evolving needs of the Albanian-speaking community and wider migrant groups in the United Kingdom. Building on the key strategic developments from Shpresa's 2024 review, Shpresa's work over 2025–2026 will focus on deepening impact, widening reach and preparing for long-term sustainability.

1. Listening, Learning and Responding

- Actively engage with Shpresa's service users, volunteers and staff to understand emerging needs through regular consultation and feedback mechanisms.
- Use insights to inform service design, resource allocation and funding priorities.
- Strengthen Shpresa's identity as a learning organisation by integrating feedback into planning, delivery and advocacy efforts.
- Continue engaging underrepresented voices across generations, genders and newly arrived Albanians.

2. Expanding Reach and Partnerships

- Scale up national outreach through enhanced use of digital platforms and a revitalised social media strategy.
- Strengthen partnerships with specialist organisations (e.g., mental health, legal, housing) to provide holistic, wraparound support.
- Extend services to more London boroughs and other British areas with high Albanian and migrant populations.
- Prioritise securing multi-year and flexible funding to enhance organisational capacity and service sustainability.

3. Enabling Empowered and Integrated Communities

- Support Albanian-speaking and wider migrant communities to become confident, connected and active participants in society.
- Promote integration by enabling access to local services (healthcare, employment, housing, education) and encouraging civic engagement.
- Provide training, one-to-one support and information to increase awareness of rights and entitlements.
- Build bridges between communities, encouraging intercultural dialogue and shared initiatives.

4. Shpresa as a Trusted, Expert Voice

- Strengthen Shpresa's position as a respected leader in supporting Albanian-speaking and migrant communities.
- Uphold Shpresa's role in protecting the rights of its users while delivering services with care, compassion and cultural competence.
- Continue contributing to local and national policy debates through evidence, research and community voices.
- Share Shpresa's model with other communities and partners to drive broader systems change.

5. Delivering Tailored, Responsive Services

- Co-design in-person services with lived experience at the core, addressing needs in mental health, benefits, immigration, employment and housing.
- Expand online provision to ensure accessibility for users across different locations and circumstances.
- Provide targeted support to meet individual needs.
- Promote digital inclusion and strengthen internal systems for communication and case management.

6. Innovation, Flexibility and Community Presence

- Build on Shpresa's hybrid delivery model, combining digital services with in-person programmes across community settings.
- Pilot nature-based projects using local parks and green spaces to promote wellbeing and integration.
- Design and test scalable service models transferrable to other ethnic and migrant communities.

7. Influencing through Community Voice and Evidence

- Amplify the voices of Shpresa's community members in shaping research, policy and service design.
- Deepen collaboration with universities, think tanks and local authorities to conduct and disseminate participatory research.
- Use lived experience to drive evidence-based policy change and influence public narratives.

8. Celebrating Culture, Contributions and Resilience

- Host at least five major cultural and community celebration events annually, promoting pride, visibility and inclusion.
- Champion the positive contributions of the Albanian-speaking community and other minor refugee and migrant communities in the United Kingdom across sectors and platforms.

9. Developing Future Leaders

- Continue our successful leadership training programme for emerging community leaders, including young people.
- Support participants to become change agents in their communities, advocating for rights, social justice and representation.
- Develop partnerships with institutions to scale the model across other communities and contexts.

10. Mansfield House – Shpresa's Future Home

- Advance the phased refurbishment of Mansfield House, Shpresa's first permanent home.
- Develop the site into a vibrant community hub, featuring:
 - community space, including a community café, for service delivery and events;
 - affordable office and training rooms; and
 - social housing and accommodation.
- Secure funding and partnerships to complete renovations and activate the space in line with Shpresa's long-term strategy.

Shpresa's plans for 2025–2026 reflect its unwavering commitment to justice, integration, empowerment and sustainability. Shpresa will continue listening, evolving and responding, ensuring the Albanian-speaking community and other migrants not only survive but thrive.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Shpresa reports a deficit of £27,684 for the year ending 31 March 2025 (2024: surplus of £105,508).

Total income for the year was £531,883 (2024: £659,531). This comprised:

- Donations from supporters of 20,592 (2024: £18,356)
- Rental income of £2,402 (2024: £1,110)
- Grant income of £500,503 (2024: £618,091), which continues to be the primary source of funding supporting Shpresa's project activities
- Fees for services and others totalling £8,386 (2024: £21,974)

Expenditure for the year, including direct project costs and operational running expenses, amounted to £559,566 (2024: £554,023).

A detailed summary of income and expenditure is provided in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 35, with Shpresa's assets and liabilities outlined in the Balance Sheet on page 36.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees maintain a designated reserve fund currently valued at £150,000, intended to cover between three to six months of committed expenditure, ensuring financial stability during unforeseen circumstances. Additionally, a separate designated reserve for building running costs stands at £80,000.

The Charity's fixed asset fund is valued at £171,891, with the Help Them Grow programme holding £3,718 in designated funds. General unrestricted funds stand at £15,373.

The Board is actively reviewing the designated reserve levels with the aim of increasing them in line with budget projections, ultimately targeting reserves sufficient to cover six months of committed expenditure.

As of 31 March 2025, Shpresa holds long-term loans totalling £613,069 from The Charity Bank, Trust for London and Impact Alchemy, secured for the acquisition of Mansfield House.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees (who are also director of Shpresa Programme for purposes of the company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statement 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 the reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities FRS 102 (January 2019) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Gani Nashi
Chair



Approved by the trustees on

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHPRESA PROGRAMME

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shpresa Programme ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Jeremy Kitson BA FCA
Prime
Chartered Accountants
Corner Oak
1 Homer Road
Solihull
B91 3QG

Date: 24/11/2025

(REGISTERED NUMBER: 04692860)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

| | Notes | Year ended 31 March 2025 | | | Year ended 31 March 2024 | | |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | <u>Restricted Funds</u> £ | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £ | <u>Total</u> £ | <u>Restricted Funds</u> £ | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £ | <u>Total</u> £ |
| Income from: | | | | | | | |
| Donations | 2 | | 20,592 | 20,592 | | 3,356 | 3,356 |
| Income from charitable activities: | | | | | | | |
| Grants | 3 | 500,504 | - | 500,504 | 618,092 | - | 618,092 |
| Fees | 4 | - | 8,386 | 8,386 | 360 | 20,819 | 21,179 |
| Other | 4 | - | - | - | - | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Other trading activity: | | | | | | | |
| Rental income | | - | - | - | - | 1,110 | 1,110 |
| Investment income | | - | 2,402 | 2,402 | - | 795 | 795 |
| Total Income | | <u>500,504</u> | <u>31,380</u> | <u>531,884</u> | <u>618,452</u> | <u>41,080</u> | <u>659,531</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 5 | 2,740 | - | 2,740 | 6,855 | - | 6,855 |
| Charitable activities | 5 | 523,798 | 33,028 | 556,826 | 534,568 | 12,600 | 547,168 |
| Total Expenditure | | <u>526,538</u> | <u>33,028</u> | <u>559,566</u> | <u>541,423</u> | <u>12,600</u> | <u>554,023</u> |
| Net income & net movement of funds for the year | | (26,034) | (1,648) | (27,682) | 77,028 | 28,480 | 105,508 |
| Transfer of funds | | - | - | - | (16,166) | 16,166 | - |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 246,815 | 422,630 | 669,445 | 185,953 | 377,984 | 563,937 |
| Total funds carried forward | 15 | <u>220,781</u> ===== | <u>420,982</u> ===== | <u>641,763</u> ===== | <u>246,815</u> ===== | <u>422,630</u> ===== | <u>669,445</u> ===== |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

(REGISTERED NUMBER: 04692860)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2025

| | <u>Notes</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible assets | 10 | 784,960 | 794,616 |
| Total Fixed Assets | | <u>784,960</u> | <u>794,616</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 11 | 21,774 | 11,540 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 501,927 | 541,640 |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>523,701</u> | <u>553,180</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year | 12 | (83,590) | (65,063) |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>440,111</u> | <u>488,117</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>1,225,071</u> | <u>1,282,733</u> |
| Creditors: more than one year | | (583,308) | (613,288) |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>641,763</u> | <u>669,445</u> |
| CHARITY FUNDS | 14,17 | | |
| Restricted Funds | | 220,781 | 246,815 |
| Unrestricted Funds: | | | |
| Designated | | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| General | | 190,982 | 272,630 |
| TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS | | <u>420,982</u> | <u>422,630</u> |
| | | <u>641,763</u> | <u>669,445</u> |

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:


- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf by:

2025


Gani Nashi - Chair


Elona Gega - Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Cash flow from operating activities | (19,724) | 112,732 |
| Cash flow from investing activities: | | |
| Interest received | 2,402 | 795 |
| Fixed asset additions | (130,114) | (802,880) |
| Fixed asset disposal | 132,800 | - |
| Net cash flow from investing activities | 5,058 | (802,085) |
| Cash Flow from financing activities : | | |
| Loans received in the year | - | 645,000 |
| Loans repayment in the year | (25,047) | (6,884) |
| Net Cash flow from financing activities | (25,047) | 638,116 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year | (39,713) | (51,237) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | 541,640 | 594,877 |
| Total cash equivalents at the end of the year | 501,927 | 541,640 |
| Cash and cash equivalents consist of: | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 501,927 | 541,640 |
| Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities: | | |
| Net movement in funds | (27,684) | 105,508 |
| Interest receivable | (2,402) | (795) |
| Depreciation | 7,000 | 9,929 |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | (10,231) | 1,598 |
| (Decrease)/increase in creditors | 13,592 | (3,508) |
| Net cash flow from operating activities | (19,724) | 112,724 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

Shpresa Programme is a registered charity in the United Kingdom. The address of its principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given on page 2 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period.
- Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.
- Donated facilities and donated professional services recognised as income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.
- No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report, where relevant.
- Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as term deposit.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under activities that aggregate all costs related to any particular activity. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties; it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:-

- Expenditure on charitable activities include those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.
- All categories of costs include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises costs, office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated to expenditure on a basis which may be based on activity as represented by direct costs expended on that activity or based on a proportion of staff costs. The analysis of these costs is included in Note 5.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Office equipment | - 20% straight line basis |
| Computer equipment | - 33% straight line basis |

Assets costing less than £500 are not capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either: -

- i) Unrestricted general funds - these are funds without specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- ii) Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.
- iii) Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Transfers between funds are made to cover deficits on individual restricted funds and to recognise fixed assets acquired with restricted income, but with no further restrictions on use, within unrestricted funds.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

2. DONATIONS

| | <u>Year to 31 March 2025</u> | | | <u>Year to 31 March 2024</u> | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Other Donations | - | 20,592 | 20,592 | - | 3,356 | 3,356 |
| | - | 20,592 | 20,592 | - | 3,356 | 3,356 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

3. GRANTS

| | <u>Year to 31 March 2025</u> | | | <u>Year to 31 March 2024</u> | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| AB Charitable Trust | 24,000 | - | 24,000 | 20,000 | - | 20,000 |
| Access to work | 4,200 | - | 4,200 | 6,572 | - | 6,572 |
| Awards for All | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TFL Reaching Communities | 105,343 | - | 105,343 | 33,783 | - | 33,783 |
| Charity Bank | - | - | - | 29,980 | - | 29,980 |
| City Bridge | 56,000 | - | 56,000 | 42,500 | - | 42,500 |
| Connect Newham | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| CTC | 10,857 | - | 10,857 | - | - | - |
| East End Community Fund | - | - | - | 3,000 | - | 3,000 |
| Evening Standard Disposed Fund | 18,750 | - | 18,750 | - | - | - |
| GLA - Intergeneration Programme | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| GLA - Migrant advice fund | 13,963 | - | 13,963 | 121,435 | - | 121,435 |
| Henry Smith | 67,700 | - | 67,700 | 65,700 | - | 65,700 |
| Lloyds Banking Group | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| London Youth | 800 | - | 800 | 2,200 | - | 2,200 |
| Mopac VAWG | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Money A&E | - | - | - | 1,333 | - | 1,333 |
| My London Programme | 3,952 | - | 3,952 | 15,500 | - | 15,500 |
| Near Neighbourhood Fund | 12,000 | - | 12,000 | - | - | - |
| New Economics | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - | - |
| New Europeans | - | - | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| Our Newham Money | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 7,000 | - | 7,000 |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation (MiCLU led partnership) | 1,122 | - | 1,122 | 74,873 | - | 74,873 |
| Protection Approach | 2,500 | - | 2,500 | - | - | - |
| School for Social Entrepreneurs | 15,000 | - | 15,000 | - | - | - |
| TNL uplift | - | - | - | 15,932 | - | 15,932 |
| The Clothworkers Foundation | 45,000 | - | 45,000 | - | - | - |
| TNL Reaching Commun | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| The London Community Foundation VAWG | - | - | - | 29,997 | - | 29,997 |
| The Jack Petchey Foundation | 7,200 | - | 7,200 | 7,200 | - | 7,200 |
| The Screwfix | 4,720 | - | 4,720 | - | - | - |
| TNL (MiCLU led) | 42,397 | - | 42,397 | 47,937 | - | 47,937 |
| Trust for London | 57,000 | - | 57,000 | 81,000 | - | 81,000 |
| VRU - Stronger Futures Programme | - | - | - | 11,149 | - | 11,149 |
| | 500,504 | - | 500,504 | 618,091 | - | 618,091 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

4. FEES AND OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | <u>Year to 31 March 2025</u> | | | <u>Year to 31 March 2024</u> | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | |
| | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> |
| Membership Fees | - | 290 | 290 | - | 780 | 780 |
| Consultancy | - | 8,096 | 8,096 | 360 | 20,039 | 20,399 |
| Other Income | - | - | - | - | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>8,386</u> | <u>8,386</u> | <u>360</u> | <u>35,819</u> | <u>36,179</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

| | <u>Year to 31 March 2025</u> | | | <u>Year to 31 March 2024</u> | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <u>Basis of Allocation:</u> | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | | <u>Restricted</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | |
| Unless stated allocated on a usage basis | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Funds</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Charitable Activities | | | | | | |
| Direct Costs: | | | | | | |
| Wages and Salaries | 222,004 | - | 222,004 | 259,689 | - | 259,689 |
| Employer's NI Contributions | 16,759 | - | 16,759 | 20,572 | - | 20,572 |
| Staff Money Purchase Pension Costs | 9,855 | - | 9,855 | 11,656 | - | 11,656 |
| Staff Training and Subsistence | 1,945 | - | 1,945 | 5,756 | - | 5,756 |
| Sessional Staff | 15,922 | - | 15,922 | 32,058 | - | 32,058 |
| Training | 9,931 | - | 9,931 | 6,558 | - | 6,558 |
| Volunteer Expenses | 6,889 | - | 6,889 | 10,455 | - | 10,455 |
| Activities, Trips and Performances | 9,266 | - | 9,266 | 20,102 | - | 20,102 |
| Resources and Web | 5,561 | - | 5,561 | 5,975 | - | 5,975 |
| Consultation Events, Information & Publicity | 2,269 | - | 2,269 | 2,681 | - | 2,681 |
| Equipment and Materials | 3,278 | 648 | 3,926 | 4,935 | (2,856) | 2,079 |
| Consultancy | 7,000 | - | 7,000 | 6,950 | - | 6,950 |
| Evaluation | 2,562 | - | 2,562 | 9,015 | - | 9,015 |
| Beneficiaries support | 30,656 | - | 30,656 | 25,391 | - | 25,391 |
| Kitchen items | 3,542 | - | 3,542 | - | - | - |
| Donations | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 7,000 | - | 7,000 |
| Partnership Payments (MiCLU) | - | - | - | 18,706 | - | 18,706 |
| Support Costs: | | | | | | |
| Rent and Rates | 3,065 | - | 3,065 | 11,468 | 34 | 11,502 |
| Utilities | 5,644 | - | 5,644 | 8,931 | 226 | 9,157 |
| Premises Maintenance | 10,748 | 15,412 | 26,160 | 4,529 | 76 | 4,605 |
| Insurance | 3,767 | - | 3,767 | 2,879 | 156 | 3,035 |
| Printing, Postage & Stationery, Publicity | 3,545 | 8 | 3,554 | 4,176 | 92 | 4,268 |
| Telephone and Internet | 3,911 | - | 3,911 | 5,399 | 271 | 5,670 |
| Consultancy Fees | 1,465 | - | 1,465 | 1,301 | 80 | 1,381 |
| General Expenses | 4,080 | - | 4,080 | 1,696 | 5 | 1,701 |
| Subscriptions | 4,075 | - | 4,075 | 2,798 | 869 | 3,667 |
| Depreciation on Fixtures and Equipment | 1,656 | - | 1,656 | - | 1,929 | 1,929 |
| Depreciation of land and buildings | 8,000 | - | 8,000 | - | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Building purchase costs | 82,845 | 16,960 | 99,805 | 10,550 | 898 | 11,448 |
| Charity bank loan interest | 25,469 | - | 25,469 | 22,243 | - | 22,243 |
| Impacht Alchemy loan interest | 1,692 | - | 1,692 | 1,444 | - | 1,444 |
| Trust for Loan interest payments | 11,435 | - | 11,435 | 8,779 | - | 8,779 |
| Governance Costs: | | | | | | |
| Fundraising costs | 2,740 | - | 2,740 | 6,855 | - | 6,855 |
| Trustees' costs | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Independent examiner's fees | 1,962 | - | 1,962 | 876 | 2,820 | 3,696 |
| Total | 526,538 | 33,028 | 559,566 | 541,423 | 12,600 | 554,023 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Net incoming resources is stated after charging: | | |
| Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets | 9,656 | 9,929 |
| Independent Examiner's fees | 1,962 | 3,696 |
| | ===== | ===== |

7. TRUSTEES AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The trustees did not receive any remuneration nor reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £Nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Board of Trustees and its CEO.

The total amount of employee benefits including employer's pension contributions received by key management personnel were £79,412 (2024: £61,307).

Staff Costs and Employee Benefits

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Gross salaries | 222,004 | 259,689 |
| Employer's national insurance | 16,759 | 20,572 |
| Pension costs | 9,855 | 11,656 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 248,617 | 291,917 |
| | ===== | ===== |

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was 7 (2024: 7).

One employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 pa (2024: None).

8. PENSION COSTS

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension scheme charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £9,855 (2024: £11,656).

Payments to be collected for 31 March 2025 £1499 (2024: £1,499)

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and it is considered that its activities are such that no taxation liability will arise.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

| | <u>Investment Property</u> | <u>Land & Building</u> | <u>Computer Equipment</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| COST | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | | 800,000 | 15,689 | 815,689 |
| Additions | 130,144 | | | 130,144 |
| Disposals | | (132,800) | | (132,800) |
| At 31 March 2025 | <u>130,144</u> | <u>667,200</u> | <u>15,689</u> | <u>813,033</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| DEPRECIATION | | | | |
| At 1 April 2024 | - | 8,000 | 13,073 | 21,073 |
| Charge for the Year | - | 8,000 | 1,656 | 9,656 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | (2,656) | - | (2,656) |
| At 31 March 2025 | <u>-</u> | <u>13,344</u> | <u>14,729</u> | <u>21,073</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | | |
| At 31 March 2025 | <u>130,144</u> | <u>653,856</u> | <u>960</u> | <u>784,960</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| At 31 March 2024 | <u>-</u> | <u>792,000</u> | <u>2,616</u> | <u>794,616</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

11. DEBTORS

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade debtors | 17,653 | - |
| Grant debtors | - | 7,948 |
| Other debtors | - | - |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 4,121 | 3,592 |
| | <u>21,774</u> | <u>11,540</u> |
| | ===== | ===== |

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Trade creditors | 50,275 | 34,342 |
| Other creditors | 120 | 121 |
| Taxation and social security | 862 | 1,500 |
| Accruals | 2,340 | 4,041 |
| Third Party Funds | 230 | 231 |
| Bank Loans | 29,764 | 24,828 |
| | <u>83,590</u> | <u>65,063</u> |
| | ===== | ===== |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due over one year

| | <u>2025</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Bank loans | 583,306 | 613,288 |
| | <u>583,306</u> | <u>613,288</u> |
| | ===== | ===== |

14. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

| | <u>Fixed Assets</u> | <u>Current Assets</u> | <u>Current Liabilities</u> | <u>Non – current Liabilities</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | | £ |
| Restricted Funds | | 50,275 | 753,814 | (583,308) | 220,781 |
| Unrestricted Funds | 784,961 | 473,426 | (837,404) | | 420,982 |
| | <u>784,961</u> | <u>523,701</u> | <u>(83,590)</u> | <u>(583,308)</u> | <u>641,763</u> |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

15. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

| | <u>At 1 Apr</u> <u>2024</u> £ | <u>Incoming</u> <u>Resources</u> £ | <u>Outgoing</u> <u>Resources</u> £ | <u>Transfers</u> £ | <u>At 31 Mar</u> <u>2025</u> £ |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Restricted Funds: | | | | | |
| AB Charitable Trust | 17,877 | 24,000 | 33,609 | - | 8,268 |
| Access to work | - | 4,200 | 4,200 | - | - |
| Awards for All | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | - | - |
| CTC | - | 10,857 | 10,857 | - | - |
| Charity Bank | 29,980 | - | 20,179 | - | 9,801 |
| City Bridge | - | 56,000 | 56,000 | - | - |
| Evening Standard Disposed Fund | - | 18,750 | 9,375 | - | 9,375 |
| GLA Migrant advice and support | 1,687 | 13,963 | 15,650 | - | - |
| Henry Smith | 46,214 | 67,700 | 66,420 | - | 47,494 |
| Jack Petchey Foundation | 4,200 | 7,200 | 7,500 | - | 3,900 |
| Languages Campaign | 64,729 | - | - | - | 64,729 |
| London Youth | 2,200 | 800 | 3,000 | - | - |
| My London Programme | 6,500 | 3,952 | 10,452 | - | - |
| New Neighbourhood Fund | - | 12,000 | 800 | - | 11,200 |
| New Economics | - | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | - |
| Our Money Newham | - | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | - |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation | 37,437 | 1,122 | 38,559 | - | - |
| Protection Approach | - | 2,500 | 2,500 | - | - |
| School For Social Entrepreneurs | - | 15,000 | 7,905 | - | 7,095 |
| TNLCF (MiCLU led) | - | 42,397 | 42,397 | - | - |
| The National Lottery Community Fund | - | 105,343 | 69,548 | - | 35,795 |
| TNLCF uplift | 10,560 | - | 10,561 | - | - |
| The Clothworkers Foundation | - | 45,000 | 45,000 | - | - |
| The Screwfix | - | 4,720 | 4,720 | - | - |
| Trust For London | 15,431 | 57,000 | 49,307 | - | 23,124 |
| Total Restricted Funds | 246,815 ===== | 500,504 ===== | 526,538 ===== | - ===== | 220,781 ===== |
| Unrestricted Funds: | | | | | |
| Designated Funds: | | | | | |
| Running Cost Reserves | 150,000 | - | - | - | 150,000 |
| Building Running Cost Reserve | | | | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| General Funds | | | | | |
| General Fund | 116,130 | 31,380 | 33,028 | (99,109) | 15,373 |
| Help The Grow | - | - | - | 3,718 | 3,718 |
| Fixed Assets | 156,500 | - | - | 15,391 | 171,891 |
| Total Unrestricted Funds | 422,630 ===== | 31,380 ===== | 33,028 ===== | - ===== | 420,982 ===== |
| Total Funds | 669,445 ===== | 531,884 ===== | 559,570 ===== | - ===== | 641,763 ===== |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

16. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Purposes of Restricted Funds:

| | |
|--|--|
| AB Charitable Trust | To support organisations running costs |
| Access to Work | PA to the CEO and travel costs |
| Access Reach Fund | Funds to use for survey and other pre building acquisition costs |
| TNL Community Fund - Awards for All | To develop Shpresa Community Café |
| City Bridge Trust | Towards a leadership programme for the Albanian speaking community in London |
| Centre for Theology and Community | Providing Advocacy and Advice for the Mercy of Justice project at CTC |
| Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund - The London Community Foundation | Towards a programme of Healthy relationships focused workshops to engage 60 students in schools across Barking & Dagenham & Croydon |
| GLA Migrant Advice fund | Providing direct support to young migrant Londoners through advocacy, peer support and drop in specialist support. |
| Henry Smith Charity | Funding the salary and the running costs of the project providing support to women and girls in the Albanian-speaking community in London. |
| Languages Campaign | This fund represents various donations towards the Albanian Language Campaign. |
| London Youth | To deliver sports and run the "Getting Active" programme |
| My London Programme | To engage with young people typically underrepresented on youth forums and lead them through a 6-month programme of education in social action, leadership and development. |
| Near Neighbours Grant -Bringing People Together | |
| New Economics Foundation - Power to Prosper | The Power to Prosper programme is a transformative programme addressing the UK's foundational causes of poverty, inequality, and debt problems. The programme is delivered in partnership and includes collaboration, community organising and asset building work in Newham. |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation - MiCLU led Partnership | The grant is to support MiCLU and Shpresa Programme's partnership project 'Breaking the Chains – surviving and thriving'. Funding will contribute to a Senior Advocate post at Shpresa and a Senior Caseworker at MiCLU who will identify, advise, support and engage with Albanian children/young people, empowering them to take on the role of Immigration Champions. |

16. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

Purposes of Restricted Funds:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Protection Approaches programme. | Hate Crime Community Outreach, response, and prevention |
| The Jack Petchey Foundation | These funds were used to run different activities and events for young people and their parents so they could show their achievements and present what they have learnt in front of a wider audience. It also helped to build up confidence, improve presentation and leadership skills of these young people. |
| TNL (MiCLU led) | MiCLU led partnership project, to work on "Breaking the Chains" project addressing challenges in the area of migration and integration, providing advocacy capacity and training and capacity building sessions with Albanian speaking children and young people. |
| TNL Uplift | Added on top of current funding to assist with the cost of living crisis. |
| Trust for London | Violence Against Women and Girls cost of living fund to support women and girls from minority ethnic backgrounds using various interventions and programs. |
| The Screwfix | Fix, repair, and improve the community facilities at Mansfield House. |
| The Clothworkers' Foundation | Refurbishment of the building of Mansfield House. |
| School for Social Entrepreneurs | To provide workshops and 1:1 coaching activities on behalf of SSE |
| Our Money Newham | Vouchers from Newham Household support fund |

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: £Nil)

18. CAPITAL

The company has no share capital being limited by guarantee. There are 8 members of the company each of whom has undertaken to contribute up to £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2025

19. COMPARATIVES for FUND MOVEMENTS

These show fund movements in the year to 31 March 2024.

| | <u>At 1 Apr</u> <u>2023</u> £ | <u>Incoming</u> <u>Resources</u> £ | <u>Outgoing</u> <u>Resources</u> £ | <u>Transfers</u> £ | <u>At 31 Mar</u> <u>2024</u> £ |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Restricted Funds: | | | | | |
| AB Charitable Trust | - | 20,000 | 2,123 | - | 17,877 |
| Access to work | - | 6,572 | 6,572 | - | - |
| Awards For All | 10,000 | - | - | - | 10,000 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,607 | - | 3,607 | - | - |
| BBC Children in Need | 18,153 | - | 18,153 | - | - |
| Charity Bank | - | 29,980 | - | - | 29,980 |
| City Bridge | - | 42,500 | 42,500 | - | - |
| East End Community Fund | 4,125 | 3,000 | 7,125 | - | - |
| GLA Migrant Advice Fund | - | 121,435 | 119,748 | - | 1,687 |
| Henry Smith | 11,543 | 65,700 | 31,029 | - | 46,214 |
| Languages Campaign | 64,729 | - | - | - | 64,729 |
| London Community Foundation | - | 29,997 | 29,998 | - | - |
| London Youth | - | 2,200 | - | - | 2,200 |
| Money A&E | - | 1,333 | 1,333 | - | - |
| My London Programme | - | 15,500 | 9,000 | - | 6,500 |
| New Europeans | - | 1,360 | 1,360 | - | - |
| Our Money Newham | - | 7,000 | 7,000 | - | - |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation MiCLU | - | 74,873 | 37,436 | - | 37,437 |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation | 25,057 | - | 25,057 | - | - |
| The Jack Petchey Foundation | 3,300 | 7,200 | 6,300 | - | 4,200 |
| TNL (MiCLU led) | - | 47,937 | 47,937 | - | - |
| TNL Reaching communities | 33,783 | 33,783 | 67,566 | - | - |
| TNL uplift | 11,656 | 15,932 | 17,028 | - | 10,561 |
| Trust for London | - | 81,000 | 49,867 | (15,702) | 15,431 |
| Violence Reduction Unit - Stronger Futures Programme | - | 11,149 | 10,685 | (464) | - |
| Total Restricted Funds | <u>185,953</u> ===== | <u>618,451</u> ===== | <u>541,424</u> ===== | <u>(16,166)</u> ===== | <u>246,815</u> ===== |
| Unrestricted Funds: | | | | | |
| Designated Funds: | | | | | |
| Working Capital | 150,000 | - | - | - | 150,000 |
| General Funds | <u>227,984</u> | <u>41,080</u> | <u>12,600</u> | <u>(16,166)</u> | <u>272,630</u> |
| Total Unrestricted Funds | <u>377,984</u> | <u>41,080</u> | <u>12,600</u> | <u>(16,166)</u> | <u>422,630</u> |
| Total Funds | <u>563,937</u> ===== | <u>659,531</u> ===== | <u>554,024</u> ===== | <u>-</u> ===== | <u>669,445</u> ===== |

