

# ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE

England & Wales · Charity number 1122057

## Details

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Other names	HUMAN SECURITY ACTION, LANDMINE ACTION CHARITABLE TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">06381573</a>
Registered	2007-12-19
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** 1 TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES FROM THE EFFECTS OF HUMAN CONFLICT, AND IN PARTICULAR BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION FROM LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE;2 TO PROVIDE REHABILITATIVE SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY HUMAN CONFLICT, AND IN PARTICULAR BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION BY LANDMINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE;3 TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, DECISION MAKERS, POLICY MAKERS, RESEARCHERS AND THE NATIONAL AND INTERNTIONAL MEDIA ABOUT THE HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENTAL, MEDICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OF DIFFERENT WEAPON TECHNOLOGIES;4 TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS TO ASSESS, CONTROL AND ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT WEAPON TECHNOLOGIES; AND5 TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE IMPROVEMENT, UNIVERSALISATION AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNTIONAL LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE PROTECTION FOR CIVILIANS FROM THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT WEAPON TECHNOLOGIES AND TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE IMPROVEMENT, UNIVERSALISATION AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE ASSIST IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS.

**Activities:** AOVAV researches the threat and impact of weapons in order to reduce the risks that provoke violence and conflict and to support the recovery of victims. We work with civil society partners and with governments to strengthen international laws on the use of conventional weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims of armed violence.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Tower Hamlets

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£192,422	£185,085	-	-
2023-12-31	£170,242	£169,076	-	-
2022-12-31	£163,880	£183,335	-	-
2021-12-31	£201,815	£196,150	-	-
2020-12-31	£170,670	£170,298	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Saleyha Ahsan		2021-03-18
Martin Butcher		2025-12-11
Mira Naseer		2025-12-11
Olivia Helena Mary Dix		2023-12-21
PROFESSOR MICHAEL SPAGAT		2025-12-11
Professor Theodora-Ismene Gizelis		2021-12-15

**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1122057

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# Accounts

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**ACTION ON  
ARMED VIOLENCE**

**AOAV**

**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2024**

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Legal and Administrative Information**

**Board**

Dr Saleyha Ahsan  
Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis  
Rocco Faustus Blume  
Leanna Burnard  
Andrew Maber-Jones (Resigned Apr 2025)  
Dr Jack Denny  
Olivia Dix

**Chief Executive**

Dr Iain Overton

**Principal Office**

405 Mile End Road  
London  
E3 4PB

**Company Number**

06381573

**Charity Number**

1122057

**Independent Examiners**

Shruti Soni  
Shruti Soni Limited  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL

**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
City Offices  
80 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3NJ

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

We are pleased to present the Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) Annual Report for 2024. This document underscores AOA's unwavering commitment to documenting abuses and defending civilians from the impacts of armed violence.

2024 was a year that laid bare the fragility of civilian life in modern war. Across Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar, explosive weapons turned homes, markets and streets into frontlines. For Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), it was a year of unflinching observation: counting the dead, documenting the injured, and tracing the chain of responsibility from battlefield to boardroom.

The numbers were hard to fathom. AOA's Explosive Violence Monitor recorded the highest civilian casualty levels since our work began in 2010. Gaza became the defining tragedy, where Israeli airstrikes and artillery flattened neighbourhoods and left women and children as the majority of the dead. Lebanon, dragged back into conflict, endured its heaviest civilian toll since 2006. Ukraine's war of attrition entered a third year, with Russian drones, missiles and thermite-based incendiaries raining down on cities. In Sudan and Myanmar, the killing continued in near-obscurity, with urban sieges, airstrikes and famine reinforcing the cruelty of wars the world prefers to ignore.

Beneath the human toll lies a system that rewards violence. AOA's investigations exposed how profit and impunity underpin the machinery of modern militarism. Britain's BAE Systems sold arms to almost half the world, including states implicated in civilian harm. UK-made F-35 components were found in Israeli jets bombing Gaza. Western weapons slipped into sanctioned theatres, from Russian stockpiles to Myanmar's airfields. Meanwhile, Britain's own Special Forces remained under scrutiny for alleged extrajudicial killings and cover-ups, while historical cases from Northern Ireland to Kenya reminded us that institutional secrecy has long shadowed accountability.

AOA's response is to pair evidence with persistence. Our work is not designed for spectacle. It is the painstaking verification of incidents, the maintenance of open-source datasets, and the release of findings that others—journalists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), parliamentarians—can use to challenge official narratives. In 2024, that quiet labour underpinned media coverage from the BBC to Al Jazeera, informed United Nations (UN) discussions on explosive weapons in populated areas, and shaped parliamentary debate on the ethics of UK arms exports.

Despite its small size—two core staff, a consultant and a committed network of volunteers—AOA continues to punch far above its weight. In 2024, we embarked upon a global civilian mass-shooting database, expanded documentation of Iraqi civilian deaths linked to UK forces, and produced Voice Notes from Palestine, a short film giving voice to young people with disabilities living under bombardment, which was screened at the United Nations.

The lessons of the year are unambiguous. Urban warfare is no longer an exception but a norm. International law is invoked more often than it is enforced. Arms manufacturers and the governments that enable them prosper, while civilians absorb the shock. Small, independent organisations like AOA remain vital to countering that indifference—transforming documentation into accountability, and data into a form of moral leverage.

As we move into 2025, the mission endures: to ensure that civilian harm is not invisible, uncounted, or unchallenged. Every life recorded is a reminder that accountability is still possible, and that indifference is never neutral.

Rocco Blume, Chair

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In 2024, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) navigated one of the most turbulent years since its founding. Conflicts multiplied, norms frayed, and civilians absorbed the consequences. For a small organisation that measures its success not in headlines but in the unflinching record of lives upended by war, it was a year of ceaseless vigilance and strategic adaptation.

Explosive violence surged across Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar, driving civilian casualties to their highest level in 14 years of AOAV monitoring. Urban bombardment became a default method of war, while thermite-equipped drones, improvised incendiaries and AI-assisted targeting showed how technological innovation is outpacing the laws and ethics meant to constrain it. AOAV's role was to track these trends with rigour—transforming fragmentary incident reports into reliable datasets that policymakers, journalists and advocates could trust.

The organisation's footprint remains lean: two core staff, one consultant and a committed network of volunteers. Yet this small team delivered disproportionate impact. The Explosive Violence Monitor, led by Niamh Gillen following a careful handover from Chiara Torelli, produced 12 monthly reports and several thematic studies. Behind our damning statistics lay the quiet, methodical work of verifying incidents, logging data and maintaining an open-source record that has become indispensable to NGOs, international bodies and the press.

Our impact in 2024 unfolded across three fronts.

Evidence generation remained the backbone of AOAV's mission. Over 30,000 civilian casualties were documented, with equal attention given to the high-profile wars of Gaza and Ukraine and to the conflicts that risk international invisibility, from Khartoum to Sagaing. These datasets fuelled debate on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) and provided the empirical foundation for advocacy and media scrutiny.

Policy and accountability formed the second pillar. AOAV's investigations into the global arms trade, particularly Britain's role, connected boardrooms to battlefields. Research tracing UK-made F-35 components to Israeli jets flattening Gaza neighbourhoods was cited in Parliament and reported across the BBC, Reuters, Al Jazeera and Anadolu Ajansi. Our findings informed Oxfam's visual campaign outside the UK Parliament and contributed to UN and Foreign Office discussions on civilian protection, arms transfers and improvised explosive devices. By examining militarism not just on the battlefield but in the policies, contracts and supply chains that sustain it, AOAV reinforced the link between profit and civilian harm.

Public engagement was the third strand. Recognising that data alone rarely drives change, AOAV invested in storytelling. Our short film *Voice Notes from Palestine*, screened at the United Nations, gave a human voice to statistics through the testimonies of young Gazans with disabilities. Regular bulletins, social-media updates and media commentary extended our reach.

The pressures of the year were considerable. Conflicts overlapped, verification demanded triage, and volunteer coordination required care. Financially, AOAV remained stable thanks to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, the Swiss government and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) project support, though sustaining high-quality monitoring beyond 2026 will require roughly £50,000 in new annual income.

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

Three lessons stand out. First, the civilian burden of war continues to rise, even as the machinery of militarism grows more sophisticated. Second, transparency in arms trading is as urgent as casualty documentation. Third, small, independent monitors can shape global debates if they pair discipline with persistence. In 2025, AOA V will deepen its monitoring, expand its visual storytelling, and continue to expose the moral and legal costs of modern militarism—ensuring that civilian harm is counted, communicated and, wherever possible, prevented.

Dr Iain Overton, Executive Director

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Board of Trustees are pleased to present their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024. The Trustees' Annual Report contains a Directors' Report as required by company law. The report and accounts comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019).

## **MISSION AND APPROACH**

### **Mission**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) central mission is to carry out research and advocacy in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

To help reduce this burden, AOA V carries out research and advocacy campaigns to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence and to research, understand and act effectively on the root causes of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOA V is committed to:

- *reducing civilian harm from the use of indiscriminate explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support and agreement to this end.*
- *reducing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on civilian populations by advocating for international action that prevents the spread and usage of such devices or their precursor materials*
- *addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons against civilian groups, with a focus on abuses by state actors, government responses to gun massacres, and the trade in illicit small arms*
- *recording the harm from explosive violence and gun violence, with an eye to pursuing the above advocacy goals.*

AOAV's advocacy and research can help it reach its goals:

- By increasing awareness of the key issues in the public, private and political spheres, through the dissemination of target research, so that state parties and international bodies are made aware of the immediate and long-term human damage caused by explosive weapons in populated sectors, which affect wide areas, and the repercussions of such use on national and regional insecurity;

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

- By providing information about the international community's legal and humanitarian responsibilities in relation to tackling the use and dissemination of explosive weapons, and through articulating how existing legal and humanitarian instruments need to be created to foster a cogent, coordinated international response;
- By promulgating policy recommendations and relevant research to key parties so as to strengthen existing humanitarian protection instruments, and to hold governments accountable for disproportionate use of force against civilians
- By fostering dialogue and disseminating research between private, military, governmental and non-governmental parties, so as to share knowledge on how best to reduce the impact of armed violence.

**Key Reports and Research**

Throughout 2024, AOAV has published critical analyses and detailed reports that have fuelled international conversations on armed violence and its containment. Our research has highlighted the intricate dynamics of conflict and its repercussions on vulnerable populations. Here, we delve deeper into some of our pivotal publications and their broader implications.

**Global Explosive Violence Monitoring 2024:**

War in 2024 was defined by blast and shockwave. AOAV's Explosive Violence Monitor - now in its 14th year - recorded the highest civilian casualty levels since tracking began in 2010, with conflicts in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar pushing global totals to grim new records. The data revealed not just the scale of destruction, but the speed with which local conflicts became mass-casualty events, leaving civilians as the invariable victims.

The first quarter of the year was dominated by Gaza, where sustained Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire accounted for much of the world's recorded civilian harm. February's twin bombings in Pakistan, timed to the eve of national elections, were a reminder that politically-driven explosive violence remained a persistent regional threat. By mid-year, Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities surged again, while spillover strikes in southern Lebanon entered the ledger. September and October became the deadliest months, with AOAV documenting over 8,000 casualties in a single month—nine in ten of them civilians.

Compared with 2023, the escalation was notable. Civilian harm from explosive weapons rose by more than a third, and the map of incidents widened. Where the previous year's casualties were clustered around Ukraine, Gaza and Myanmar, 2024 saw major incidents in Lebanon, Sudan and Ethiopia. Urban areas remained the most lethal settings: in September, 91% of all global casualties were civilians, confirming AOAV's long-standing warning that explosive weapons and cities are an intolerable mix.

Gaza epitomised the year's pattern. Israeli strikes flattened residential streets in Shuja'iyya and Rafah, producing the highest monthly civilian tolls in AOAV's 14 years of monitoring. Lebanon experienced its heaviest civilian impact since 2006, as airstrikes reached into Beirut and forced thousands to flee the south. Ukraine remained a grim case study in the normalisation of urban bombardment, with markets, apartment blocks and energy infrastructure repeatedly hit, and the use of thermite-based incendiaries highlighting the shifting arsenal of modern war.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

Novel methods sharpened the threat. AOAV documented the growing use of thermite bombs, incendiary drones and improvised devices with AI-assisted targeting. In Lebanon, explosive-laden pagers injured hundreds of Hezbollah members and risked indiscriminate harm; in Ukraine, “dragon drones” fused low-cost improvisation with high-tech lethality. These weapons made urban life ever more precarious, accelerating the tempo and unpredictability of harm.

The Monitor’s work is not just a statistical exercise. Its month-by-month reports provide governments, journalists and humanitarian actors with verifiable evidence of the civilian cost of modern warfare.

In 2024, the message was blunt: explosive violence remains the leading driver of civilian suffering in conflict, and the world is failing to insulate ordinary people from the blast.

**Investigations and Research**

War was lucrative in 2024. From Gaza to Myanmar, the business of violence thrived on profit, secrecy and pliant oversight. Britain’s BAE Systems sold arms to nearly half the world; components made in the UK surfaced in Israeli jets that levelled city blocks; Western weapons seeped into sanctioned states; and Britain’s Special Forces faced allegations of extrajudicial killings and cover-ups. The pattern was familiar: civilians paid the price, while those who armed and enabled the bloodshed prospered. Tracing these networks—from boardrooms to battlefields—is more than record-keeping; it is a rare challenge to systems that reward profit and tolerate impunity.

With support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, AOAV exposed these systems across a wide range of investigations, reports and interventions.

**BAE Systems and the Global Arms Web**

AOAV’s 2024 flagship investigation into BAE Systems laid bare the reach of Britain’s biggest arms firm. Over the past decade, its weapons have turned up in 93 countries, almost half the globe. Eighty-one relationships were confirmed, a dozen more were likely. The client list ranged from allies like Australia to serial human-rights abusers such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Twenty-eight confirmed customers have used explosive weapons against civilians since 2013. The inquiry revealed how profit and bloodshed are coupled: BAE’s share price rose by 35% in the six months to April 2024, buoyed by wars in Gaza and Ukraine, while executives cashed in shares as the bombs fell.

Further reporting exposed conflicts of interest at the heart of government. AOAV highlighted the role of Julia Sutcliffe, Chief Scientific Advisor at the Department for Business and Trade, whose previous senior post at BAE raised questions about impartiality in arms-export decisions. Separate reports revealed how former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace accepted an advisory position with Saudi Arabia, deepening the revolving door between Whitehall and authoritarian regimes.

**UK Arms to Israel**

Britain’s supply chain to Israel became a political fault line. AOAV traced UK-made F-35 components to Israeli jets that struck Gaza’s apartment blocks and markets. By September, the UK government had suspended 30 export licences, but the move was partial and reactive. Supply routes remained open and the risk of complicity in breaches of international humanitarian law persisted.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

AOAV reported on Parliament's debate on recognising Palestine, the legal review of F-35 exports, and growing pressure from civil society, including legal challenges from GLAN and Al-Haq. We noted the resignation of a British diplomat in protest at continued sales, and exposed how Northrop Grumman, Smartshooter and other firms with ties to Gaza operations were simultaneously expanding their UK footprint. The conclusion was clear: Britain's export-licensing regime functions less as a moral safeguard than a political shield.

**Western Arms in Prohibited Theatres**

AOAV tracked how Western-made arms appeared where they should not. Russian forces obtained diverted firearms despite sanctions; Myanmar's junta secured parts to fuel campaigns in Sagaing and Rakhine. An analysis of sanctioned corporations showed how embargoes and end-user agreements are porous, undermined by intermediaries, offshore finance and weak oversight.

**UK Special Forces and the Culture of Secrecy**

Britain's elite soldiers remained under scrutiny. The Afghanistan Inquiry inched forward amid allegations of extrajudicial killings, cover-ups and deleted data. AOAV documented whistleblower testimony, exposed the veto exercised by UK Special Forces over Afghan allies' resettlement, and tracked the Ministry of Defence's reliance on anonymity orders and Freedom of Information (FOI) denials.

Nine Special Forces soldiers came under review for alleged war crimes in Syria. AOAV analysed political interventions, from Johnny Mercer's refusal to disclose whistleblower identities to Ben Wallace's legislative manoeuvres limiting prosecutions. The portrait was of an institution where loyalty outweighed law and secrecy shielded scrutiny.

**Historical Misconduct and Overseas Abuses**

AOAV charted Britain's failure to confront its past and present abuses. In Northern Ireland, the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) crawled through Troubles-era cases, while the Omagh inquiry denied participant status to a key spy. FOI requests revealed that the MoD quietly transferred a Falklands war-crime allegation to an unnamed agency.

Overseas, the 2012 killing of Agnes Wanjiru in Kenya continued to symbolise misogyny and silence within the Army. AOAV reported on testimony of rape and abandonment at British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK), as well as on systemic abuse of child soldiers at the Army Foundation College. We documented £12.5m paid out in Troubles legacy claims, £150m for training-related injuries, and preventable deaths ranging from Corporal Chris Gill's fatal training incident to Royal Air Force (RAF) sergeant Anna Irwin's cancer linked to toxic helicopter fumes. Rising suicide rates among service personnel added to the portrait of an institution failing its duty of care.

**Militarism, Oversight and Narrative Control**

AOAV interrogated how the Ministry of Defence controls information and public debate. Our investigation into FOI refusals showed how exemptions obstruct scrutiny. Reports revealed how media calls for higher defence spending spiked around fiscal events, suggesting coordinated messaging.

We challenged senior figures directly: rejecting Sir John McColl's claim that Israel was "doing all it could" to protect civilians, and countering Special Air Service (SAS) veterans' calls for immunity from prosecution. Investigations into racism, sexual abuse, and misogyny inside the armed forces showed how a culture of denial persists.

## **Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

### **Veteran Welfare and Preventable Deaths**

AOAV widened scrutiny beyond combat. Reporting on preventable deaths — from Corporal Chris Gill's fatal Brecon training incident to RAF sergeant Anna Irwin's cancer from helicopter fumes — showed repeated failures in military duty of care. Our analysis of armed-forces mortality revealed that over a quarter of deaths in 2023 were suicides, pointing to a deep mental-health crisis. We also highlighted the hidden scale of veteran homelessness, showing how official figures mask structural neglect. Together these investigations punctured the Ministry's rhetoric of protection, exposing instead an institution that struggles to safeguard its own.

### **The Military Justice Gap**

AOAV analysed the failings of the Royal Military Police and military courts. Conviction rates for rape and sexual assault remained far lower than in civilian justice. Our reporting showed how the new Defence Serious Crime Unit, while a step forward, still lacks independence. The passage of the Overseas Operations Act, limiting prosecutions after five years, underscored how law is shaped to shield rather than scrutinise. These findings reinforced AOAV's consistent argument: Britain's military justice system is structurally biased towards impunity.

### **Secrecy and the FOI Battleground**

AOAV repeatedly confronted a culture of concealment. Freedom of Information requests on Special Forces operations and alleged Falklands war crimes were rejected on grounds of cost or security. In one case, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed it had transferred a Falklands allegation to an unnamed agency without informing the local government. Analysis of FOI data showed refusals are not neutral procedures but active tactics to frustrate oversight. By documenting these patterns, AOAV built evidence for reform of access-to-information laws as they apply to defence.

### **Arms, Politics and Influence**

AOAV exposed how the arms trade seeps into political life. Our reports revealed how defence companies sponsored party events, how Labour accepted a £4m donation from a hedge fund invested in weapons, and how ex-Defence Secretary Ben Wallace leveraged his office into Saudi contracts. We highlighted the Oxford Economics report on the Army's supposed economic benefits, debunking its "military Keynesianism" narrative. These findings showed how commercial and political power reinforce each other, leaving little space for accountability.

### **Civil Society, Media and Narrative Control**

AOAV challenged the narratives that sustain militarism. We criticised media claims that Israel was "doing all it could" to protect civilians, exposing their hollowness against casualty figures. We showed how calls for greater defence spending cluster around fiscal announcements, and how veterans in Parliament remain over-represented, skewing debate. Engagement work included seminars, student training and public op-eds, ensuring civil society voices entered defence discussions too often dominated by official spin.

### **Overseas Bases and Foreign Entanglements**

AOAV reported on Britain's overseas footprint. From Cyprus, where RAF Akrotiri quietly supported US and Israeli operations in Gaza, to Kenya, where troops faced allegations of rape, murder and environmental harm, Britain's foreign bases became flashpoints for abuse and secrecy. We also documented how Afghan interpreters and Special Forces allies were left stranded, sometimes blocked by the MoD itself.

## **Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

Together these findings painted a picture of imperial legacy and modern expediency entwined — bases abroad bringing exposure, but little accountability.

### **Technology, Militarism and Emerging Weapons**

AOAV assessed Britain's turn to new technologies of war. We published analyses of AI-driven drones, laser weapons like DragonFire, and "swarm" systems tested with US forces. Each raised legal and ethical concerns: insufficient regulation, lack of transparency, and risks of civilian harm. AOAV argued for strengthened safeguards in international law to keep pace with rapid technological change, lest humanitarian principles be left behind.

### **UK Special Forces: Afghanistan and the Question of Justice**

Few stories in 2024 revealed Britain's culture of secrecy more starkly than the drip of revelations about its Special Forces. The Afghanistan Inquiry, established to examine allegations of extrajudicial killings, was beset by obstruction. Whistleblowers such as the senior officer codenamed N1466 described night raids where the tally of dead far exceeded the weapons recovered, raising the spectre of summary executions. At least 84 Afghans, including children, were reported killed in dubious circumstances across 26 operations in Helmand. Yet those who tried to speak were met with resistance. Veterans Minister Johnny Mercer repeatedly refused to provide whistleblower names to the inquiry, earning judicial rebukes and ultimatums. Former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace pushed legislative changes that might have shielded Special Forces from prosecution. Sir Stephen Lovegrove, then at the MoD, advised against any inquiry at all. When pressed, Wallace resorted to social-media deflections. The pattern was one of institutional evasion: tweets in place of testimony, vetoes in place of accountability.

The costs were borne not only by Afghan civilians but also by Britain's allies. Afghan commandos who fought alongside the SAS — the so-called "Triples" — were denied safe haven in the UK, often on the say-so of the very units under scrutiny. Left stranded, they faced Taliban reprisals. Their exclusion looked less like bureaucratic oversight than a calculated effort to silence potential witnesses. Meanwhile, SAS veterans at home demanded immunity from human-rights law, while politicians such as Robert Jenrick argued that killings were preferable to captures, lest lawyers interfere. Such rhetoric stripped away the pretence: loyalty and impunity were being defended as virtues. The contrast was striking. Britain, once proud of Special Forces' secrecy as a mark of excellence, now found that secrecy synonymous with misconduct.

By year's end, even the new head of the Army felt compelled to declare "full support" for the inquiry. But AOAV's reporting suggested that culture, not compliance, remained the obstacle. From concealed evidence to obstructed resettlements, the Afghanistan story showed how an elite unit once synonymous with military honour has become emblematic of Britain's struggle with accountability.

### **Global Mass Shooting Database**

Beyond state violence, AOAV advanced its global mass-shooting project, cataloguing incidents outside war zones. The database revealed distinct geographies: gang-driven killings in Brazil and Mexico, militia violence in sub-Saharan Africa, insurgent shootings in South-East Asia. By 2024, the project was feeding directly into the Lancet Commission on Global Gun Violence and Health, reframing mass shootings as a global governance and public-health challenge rather than a uniquely American pathology.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

**Advocacy**

In 2024, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) continued its role as a bridge between rigorous research and the policy and media arenas. While the organisation's core mission remains data-driven documentation of armed violence, its growing advocacy footprint ensured that evidence translated into influence in Westminster, international forums and global media.

AOAV kept up its visibility. Executive Director Iain Overton, a co-commissioner on the Lancet Inquiry into Global Gun Violence and Health, attended sessions in Washington, DC. He addressed the Frontline Club twice, on arms to Israel and on casualty counting in Israel and Ukraine. AOAV also engaged directly with UK parliamentarians and export-control officials to press for stricter arms-licensing rules. These interventions positioned AOAV as both a source of hard data and a credible voice in debates about civilian protection.

The organisation's calendar of events illustrated its breadth of engagement. In April, AOAV hosted a webinar on casualty-recording challenges, launched its BAE Systems report at the Royal Overseas League, and spoke at the Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas conference in Oslo. May and June were dense with stakeholder meetings, the PrOTeCT Convention, and a half-day seminar on the arms trade alongside arms-trade author Andrew Feinstein and CAAT. By summer, AOAV had woven together research on civilian harm with advocacy on disability in conflict, preparing to present the "Disability Under Siege" project at the UN, while also addressing topics from ballistics testing to the cultural impact of the suicide bomber at conferences in York and Durham.

Autumn brought a pivot toward multilateral policy and high-profile campaigns. AOAV collaborated with the UK Gun Control Network in September, linking firearms policy to public-health outcomes. It launched the #DisabledVoicesFromGaza media plan and coordinated a UN side event to amplify the experiences of young Gazans with disabilities under bombardment. A transatlantic webinar on 30 September guided journalists through investigating US-UK arms transfers to Israel. Participation in the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) Steering Committee, the Humanitarian Disarmament Forum, and workshops at the Imperial War Museum, alongside discussions on ethical arms trading and prospective grants for vulnerability-focused initiatives, kept us busy.

AOAV's film *Voice Notes from Palestine*, screened at the UN, epitomised its approach: combining data with human testimony to translate statistics into narratives that influence policy. This blend of evidence and empathy was also visible in collaborations with Oxfam, including a visual campaign outside the UK Parliament highlighting the toll of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza.

By the end of 2024, AOAV had confirmed that credibility earned in research can be leveraged into tangible advocacy. The organisation's dual role—analyst and messenger—will remain central as it pushes for civilian protection to be more than an afterthought in the conduct of war.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

**Media coverage**

In 2024, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) achieved a wide media footprint, with its data and analysis shaping international reporting on civilian harm, explosive weapons, and the arms trade. From global broadcasters to regional newspapers, AOAV's research travelled across languages and continents, reinforcing its reputation as a leading voice on the human cost of war.

Our Executive Director was a regular commentator on television and radio. He appeared on BBC News, Sky News, Good Morning Britain, ABC (Australia), CBC (Canada), and Arte (France/Germany), explaining AOAV's findings on Gaza, Ukraine, and military accountability. He also provided commentary on press freedom and human-rights reporting, with appearances connected to the Julian Assange case highlighting AOAV's work at the intersection of war reporting and state secrecy.

Major Western outlets repeatedly drew on AOAV's data. The BBC, The Guardian, and Daily Mail reported that 2023 had seen the highest global civilian casualty rate from explosive weapons since AOAV began systematic monitoring in 2010. Reuters used AOAV's data in a widely circulated fact-check debunking a misleading graph about Gaza airstrike casualties. CNBC and The Christian Science Monitor highlighted AOAV's investigations into BAE Systems and its links to states with poor human-rights records. CNN ran multiple segments and online features on Ukraine's "dragon drones" and the humanitarian impact of incendiary thermite payloads, citing AOAV as a technical and ethical reference point.

International print and online coverage was expansive. Japan Times analysed Myanmar's military vulnerability amid rebel offensives using AOAV context. Al Jazeera featured AOAV commentary on the legality of Israel's actions in Gaza and the civilian toll of its airstrikes. South Asian media including Hindustan Times, Indian Express, and The Tribune (India) covered AOAV's findings on thermite drones and arms transfers. Anadolu Ajansı (Turkey) published a string of stories referencing AOAV—on the UK's partial arms-license suspension to Israel, on BAE Systems' global sales, and on European states allegedly routing weapons through third countries.

Regional and local outlets amplified AOAV's research into niche audiences. HumAngle and Punch Newspapers in Nigeria cited AOAV data in coverage of Boko Haram suicide bombings in Borno. Fakti.bg in Bulgaria, Granma in Cuba, Tempo.co in Indonesia, Hiiraan in Somalia, and Al Mayadeen English in Lebanon reported AOAV's statistics on global IED and explosive-weapon harm.

In the UK, AOAV data on firearms and knife crime appeared in The Mirror, The Independent, Telegraph and Argus, Express & Star, St Helens Star, Brecon & Radnor Express, and Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, often in coverage of shotgun-licence revocations and public-safety concerns.

AOAV's research also resonated across thematic and advocacy platforms. ReliefWeb, CAIR, ISPI, Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Human Rights Watch integrated AOAV figures into reports on Gaza, IED threats in West Africa, and the framing of gun violence as a global public-health issue. Specialist engineering and technology media—including Interesting Engineering, Wonderful Engineering, and Top Buzz Times—covered AOAV's analysis of thermite-laden drones in Ukraine, extending the organisation's reach beyond traditional policy circles.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

By the end of 2024, AOA's name had appeared across a diverse and global media ecosystem: from the BBC and CNN to Al Jazeera, Hindustan Times, Anadolu Ajansı, HumAngle, and ReliefWeb. Its findings shaped stories on arms transfers, modern battlefield innovation, and the unrelenting civilian toll of war.

**Looking Ahead to 2025 and Beyond**

The turbulence of 2024 confirmed a sobering truth: armed violence is evolving faster than the rules and institutions meant to restrain it. Civilians continue to shoulder the heaviest burden, from the shattered streets of Gaza and the drone-haunted skies over Ukraine to the neglected frontlines of Sudan and Myanmar. Protecting those civilians remains the organisation's central mission.

The year ahead will bring an expansion of advocacy on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Political declarations are meaningless without operational change, and the organisation will press governments and multilateral institutions to translate words into restraint. Work will also intensify on the emerging challenge of AI-assisted and autonomous weapons, which risk accelerating civilian harm while eroding accountability. Alongside these efforts, the organisation will deepen its focus on civilian harm prevention—combining field-based casualty recording with concrete policy recommendations designed to reduce the human cost of contemporary warfare.

Strengthening international advocacy remains central to this vision. The organisation will sustain its contributions to UN forums, humanitarian networks and policy consultations, leveraging its datasets to influence debates on arms transfers, military transparency and the legal and ethical frameworks for new weapon systems. The approach blends evidence with narrative: pairing the authority of the Explosive Violence Monitor with human testimony, as demonstrated by the screening of *Voice Notes from Palestine* at the United Nations in 2024. The aim is to ensure that those most affected by war are not only counted but heard.

Achieving these ambitions depends on organisational resilience. Funding diversification is an immediate priority. The conclusion of Article 36 support and reliance on a narrow set of core grants make clear the need to secure new partnerships with funders, research institutions and like-minded NGOs. Expanding the volunteer base, strengthening cross-sector collaborations and maintaining lean operations will allow the organisation to deliver global relevance without compromising independence.

The underlying message is clear: the protection of civilians is neither peripheral nor optional. It is both a moral duty and a strategic necessity. The data collected over the past year show that urban bombardment, improvised explosives and poorly regulated arms flows are not incidental to conflict; they are central to a system that tolerates preventable suffering. Confronting that system requires evidence, persistence and allies.

In 2025 and beyond, the organisation invites donors, policymakers and partners to join in this effort. Rigorous documentation can become deterrence; careful research can drive reform. Every dataset, briefing and public intervention is aimed at shifting the balance from resignation to responsibility.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

The work rests on a simple conviction: every civilian life matters, and every preventable death represents a failure of law, policy and imagination. The task in the years ahead is to ensure that such failures are no longer accepted as inevitable. With evidence, advocacy and principled collaboration, the quiet work of documentation can help force change in a world where the cost of inaction is measured in human lives.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Action on Armed Violence was established as a charitable trust in 2007, originally called the Landmine Action Charitable Trust. The Trust's name was changed to Action on Armed Violence in 2010. It is also a charitable company. The charity is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company.

**Operational Decision-Making**

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charitable company, is responsible for the governance of Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include: determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Executive director (ED), monitoring performance, managing the governance process, and providing insight, guidance and wisdom. Management is provided by the ED working with the staff of the organisation.

**Recruitment & Appointment of Board Members**

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal opportunities policy. The procedure for recruiting and inducting board members is as follows:

- Skills required by new Board members are assessed on the basis of gaps within the existing board.
- Invitations are issued through the national press, existing networks and/or the website, as appropriate.
- Candidates are short-listed, contacted and interviewed by the Board Chair and ED.

Procedures for Board member recruitment, election, rotation/re-election and retirement continue to be developed.

**Induction & Training of Board Members**

New Board members are issued with an induction pack covering AOAV's work and key policies. They meet the ED and staff to discuss strategy, policy, current and planned activities. All Trustees are invited to attend network and parliamentary meetings and relevant conferences (when time and funding permit).

The directors who served in the year are:

Dr Saleyha Ahsan

Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis

Rocco Faustus Blume

Leanna Burnard

Andrew Maber-Jones

(Resigned April 2025)

Dr Jack Denny

Olivia Dix

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

**Risk Management Statement**

All procurement and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that authorisation and accountability lines are respected. AOA's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks which may affect the company in the achievement of its objectives. Internal risks are reduced by the application of appropriate controls to ensure that financial, administrative and operational procedures are effective, thus minimising the risk of financial loss and litigation against the company. All risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact on organisation, and managed accordingly

**Public Benefit**

The Board of Trustees has complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how the planned activities of the company will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives they have set.

**Principal Financial Management Policies**

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of donations from unrestricted income is decided on the basis of needs identified by AOA's Board of Trustees. Donations derived from non-institutional restricted income are allocated according to the requests of the donors.

**Reserves Policy**

The majority of AOA's work is funded from restricted funds. The contractual arrangements with donors cover the completion of such tasks and related financial commitments. AOA retains unrestricted reserves to ensure the longer-term viability of the organisation and the sustainability of its programmes against short-term funding shortfalls or emergency funding requirements. The reserves balance is reviewed regularly along with the level of the organisation's total incoming and outgoing funds. The Board considers current level of reserves to be adequate.

The minimum reserve amount is the cost of running the charity for three months; £45,000 to cover salaries and other running expenses. This is kept in general reserves. At 31 December 2024 AOA had £49,490 (2023 £58,514) in unrestricted fund reserves allowing just over 3 months operating costs. A further £49,710 (2023: £33,349) relating to restricted income funds was held.

**Financial Performance Review**

AOA closed 2024 on a stable, if cautious, financial footing. The year saw modest planned decrease in reserves alongside the end of a key funding stream, underlining both the organisation's resilience and the importance of diversifying income.

Core support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) remained the foundation of our financial stability, providing quarterly funding. Project funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs and GCRF supplemented this core income, enabling us to sustain the Explosive Violence Monitor and deliver the "Voice Notes from Palestine" film project.

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

Income in the year totalled £192,422 (2023: £170,242) of which £78,135 (2023: £76,031) related to unrestricted income funds and £114,287 (2023: 94,211) related to income restricted to specific projects. Expenditure in 2024 totaled £185,085 (2023: £169,076) of which £86,652 (2023: £100,312) was from unrestricted funds and £98,433 (2023: 68,764) related to restricted projects. There was a small operating deficit of £9,024 on unrestricted income funds in the year reduced from £24,281 in 2023, with £15,854 carried forward for restricted projects vs £25,447 in 2023.

The small deficit in unrestricted funds reduced the 2023 funds of £58,514 to £49,490 carried forward at 31 December 2024, with £49,710 (2023: £33,349) carried forward for restricted income funds.

The year also marked the conclusion of our relationship with Article 36. While anticipated, the exit reinforces the need to broaden AOAV's donor base to maintain long-term independence and capacity. We remain in early discussions with new institutional funders, including Nordic partners, to secure post-2025 continuity.

Looking at the three-year trend, AOAV has demonstrated prudent stewardship of its limited resources, with bank balances fluctuating within a narrow band reflecting the predictable rhythm of core grants. Expenditure remained focused on staff costs, project delivery, and the volunteer-supported research initiatives that form the backbone of our output.

The forward outlook is steady but demands vigilance. To ensure sustainability beyond 2026, AOAV aims to secure an additional £50,000 per year in new support.

Diversifying income—through a mix of institutional grants, project-specific funding, and strategic partnerships—remains a central priority for the board and senior management.

The lesson of 2024 is that small, independent organisations can sustain meaningful global impact without large budgets, but financial resilience cannot be taken for granted. AOAV will continue to pair careful management with proactive fundraising, ensuring that our commitment to documenting and reducing armed violence is not compromised by resource uncertainty.

**Small Company Rules**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2024: continued**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of AOAV for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom 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 principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware.
- That each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2024 was 6 (2023:6). The Trustees are members of the charity. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

Signed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

*Rocco Blume*

Rocco Blume  
Chair

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**To the Trustees of Action on Armed Violence**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 18-28

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

As the charity 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 company'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**

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 that in any material respect:

- 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.

*Shruti Soni*

Shruti Soni FCCA  
Shruti Soni Ltd  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL  
Date 25 September 2025

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>						
Donations and legacies	<b>3</b>	2,197	-	2,197	3,331	-	3,331
Charitable activities	<b>4</b>	75,718	114,287	190,005	72,700	94,211	166,911
Interest income		220	-	220	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>78,135</b>	<b>114,287</b>	<b>192,422</b>	<b>76,031</b>	<b>94,211</b>	<b>170,242</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	<b>5</b>						
Raising funds		5,757	-	5,757	4,990	-	4,990
Charitable activities		80,895	98,433	179,328	95,322	68,764	164,086
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>86,652</b>	<b>98,433</b>	<b>185,085</b>	<b>100,312</b>	<b>68,764</b>	<b>169,076</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>( 8,517)</b>	<b>15,854</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>( 24,281)</b>	<b>25,447</b>	<b>1,166</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>( 507)</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>( 9,024)</b>	<b>16,361</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>( 24,281)</b>	<b>25,447</b>	<b>1,166</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		58,514	33,349	91,863	82,795	7,902	90,697
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>£ 49,490</b>	<b>£ 49,710</b>	<b>£ 99,200</b>	<b>£ 58,514</b>	<b>£ 33,349</b>	<b>£ 91,863</b>

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

The statement of financial activities complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2024**

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	8		2,398		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	7,980		15,202	
Cash at bank and in hand		99,946		87,327	
			107,926		102,529
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10	( 11,124)		( 10,666)	
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			96,802		91,863
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>£ 99,200</b>		<b>£ 91,863</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
	13				
Restricted income funds			49,710		33,349
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			49,490		58,514
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<b>£ 99,200</b>		<b>£ 91,863</b>

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2024. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 20 to 28 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24th September 2025

*Rocco Blume*

**Rocco Blume**

**Trustee**

**Company Registration No. 06381573**

**Charity Registration No. 1122057**

# Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

### 1 Statutory information

Action on Armed Violence is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 06381573 and is registered with the Charity Commission number 1122057. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principle activities are to carry out research, advocacy and fieldwork in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

Action on Armed Violence meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Action on Armed Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are presented, to the nearest pound, in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

### 2 Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Basis of preparation

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), (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'.

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

#### 2.2 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to particular categories of income:

Where donations and grants are restricted to future accounting periods, they are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods. Grants for immediate financial support and assistance, or to reimburse costs previously incurred, are recognised immediately.

The charitable company receives government grants in respect of furthering its charitable objectives. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value.

Charitable activities includes commissioned work carried out by Action on Armed Violence staff and is recognised in the period along with other income.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charitable company. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024: continued**

#### **2.3 Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to third parties, it is probable and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the charitable company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

#### **2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

The charitable company operates a policy of capitalising fixed asset items over £1,000. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Furniture and equipment	4 years, on a straight line basis
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

#### **2.5 Leasing commitments**

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

#### **2.6 Debtors and Creditors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### **2.7 Foreign currency**

The charitable company no longer operates foreign currency bank accounts.

#### **2.8 Pensions**

The charitable company now operates an Auto Enrolment defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

#### **2.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

The charitable company does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024 £
<b>3 Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations	2,197	-	2,197
	<b>2,197</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,197</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives:</b>			<b>2023 £</b>
<i>Donations</i>	2,136	-	2,136
<i>Legacies</i>	1,195	-	1,195
	<b>3,331</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,331</b>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>			<b>2024 £</b>
Article 36	-	21,155	21,155
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	70,000	44,565	114,565
University of Birmingham	-	15,000	15,000
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	-	33,567	33,567
Other	5,718	-	5,718
	<b>75,718</b>	<b>114,287</b>	<b>190,005</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives:</b>			<b>2023 £</b>
<i>Article 36</i>	-	27,805	27,805
<i>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust</i>	71,200	-	71,200
<i>University of Birmingham</i>	-	38,528	38,528
<i>Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs</i>	-	26,548	26,548
<i>University of Bristol</i>	-	1,330	1,330
<i>Lush</i>	1,500	-	1,500
	<b>72,700</b>	<b>94,211</b>	<b>166,911</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

### 5 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds £	Research £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2024 Total £
Staff costs	4,252	113,162	4,252	-	121,667
Research and reports	-	22,592	-	-	22,592
Travel	-	15,863	-	-	15,863
Office costs	1,505	13,888	752	-	16,145
Communications	-	3,675	193	-	3,868
Legal and professional fees	-	-	198	2,936	3,134
Independent examination	-	-	1,392	-	1,392
Meetings & governance	-	-	424	-	424
	<b>5,757</b>	<b>169,179</b>	<b>7,212</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>185,085</b>
Support costs	-	2,936	-	(2,936)	-
Governance costs	0	7,212	(7,212)	0	-
<b>Total expenditure 2024</b>	<b>5,757</b>	<b>179,328</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>185,085</b>
<i>Total expenditure 2023</i>	<i>4,990</i>	<i>164,086</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>169,076</i>

Of the total expenditure:	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
2024	£ 86,652	£ 98,433	£ 185,085
2023	£ 100,312	£ 68,764	£ 169,076

<b>Prior year comparatives: 2023</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	3,860	97,355	3,860	-	105,075
Events	-	1,504	-	-	1,504
Research and reports	-	26,388	-	-	26,388
Travel	-	12,191	-	-	12,191
Office costs	1,130	9,604	565	-	11,299
Communications	-	5,110	269	-	5,379
Legal and professional fees	-	2,100	154	3,618	5,872
Grant audit and independent	-	-	1,368	-	1,368
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>154,252</b>	<b>6,216</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>169,076</b>
Support costs		3,618		(3,618)	-
Governance costs		6,216	(6,216)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2023</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>164,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>169,076</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

#### 6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	-
Independent Examination	1,392	1,368

#### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and wages	110,866	96,583
Social Security costs	7,475	5,635
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	3,326	2,857
	<b>121,667</b>	<b>105,075</b>

#### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Charitable activities	2.25	2

There was 1 employees whose annual remuneration was £70,000 or more.

The key management personnel of the charitable company included the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits paid to key management personnel including National Insurance Contributions and pension were £85,048 in 2024 (2023: £77,203).

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Furniture and Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost:</b>		
At 1 January 2024	825	825
Disposals	-	-
Additions at cost	2,398	2,398
	<b>3,223</b>	<b>3,223</b>
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>		
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
At 1 January 2024	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>		
<b>Net book value:</b>	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,398</b>
	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,398</b>
<i>At 31 December 2023</i>	-	-
	-	-

Assets purchased late December 2024.

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

<b>9 Debtors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	600	600
Prepayments and accrued income	7,380	14,602
	<hr/>	
	<b>7,980</b>	<b>15,202</b>
	<hr/>	

<b>10 Creditors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	23	1,113
Social Security and other taxes	1	-
Pension	903	832
Other creditors	5,527	5,407
Accruals and deferred income	4,670	3,314
	<hr/>	
	<b>11,124</b>	<b>10,666</b>
	<hr/>	

<b>11 Analysis of net assets between funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	2,398	-	2,398
Current Assets	56,916	51,010	107,926
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(9,824)	(1,300)	(11,124)
	<hr/>		
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>49,490</b>	<b>49,710</b>	<b>99,200</b>
	<hr/>		

<b>12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	69,180	33,349	102,529
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(10,666)	-	(10,666)
	<hr/>		
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>58,514</b>	<b>33,349</b>	<b>91,863</b>
	<hr/>		

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

#### 13 Funds - current year

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 1 Jan 2024 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer between funds £	At 31 Dec 2024 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Norwegian Funding 2024: Article 36	-	21,155	(21,662)	507	-
University of Birmingham	27,328	15,000	(42,328)	-	-
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	6,021	33,567	(29,116)	-	10,472
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ringfenced funds	-	44,565	( 5,327)	-	39,238
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>33,349</b>	<b>114,287</b>	<b>(98,433)</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>49,710</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>58,514</b>	<b>78,135</b>	<b>(86,652)</b>	<b>(507)</b>	<b>49,490</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>91,863</b>	<b>192,422</b>	<b>(185,085)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99,200</b>

#### Restricted Funds - description

**Norwegian Funding;** funding as part of a consortium bid to Norwegian People's Aid.

For AOAV this funding comes via an agreement with Article 36 and it includes monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor.

#### Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ringfenced funds

£18,750 funding to support the well being of AOAV staff, to include counselling.

£25,815 to fund travel to Afghanistan and Iraq in 2025 and future years.

#### University of Birmingham

#DisabledVoicesfromGaza –narrative methodologies with media and information literacy (MIL) to empower university students with disabilities in Palestine.

#### Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs

Funding to support AOAV research and project work.

#### UNSCAR - United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

Funding received for research utilising UNIDIR's EWIPA Indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on reducing civilian harm from conventional explosive weapons in populated areas.

#### University of Bristol

Funding to support University of Bristol students working on internships at AOAV.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 continued

**14 Funds - prior year comparative**

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	<i>At</i>	<i>Incoming</i>	<i>Outgoing</i>	<i>At</i>
	<i>1 Jan 2023</i>			<i>31 Dec 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Restricted Funds</i>				
<i>Norwegian Funding 2023: Article 36</i>	-	27,805	(27,805)	-
<i>UNSCAR</i>	7,724	-	(7,724)	-
<i>University of Birmingham</i>	178	38,528	(11,378)	27,328
<i>University of Bristol</i>	-	1,330	(1,330)	-
<i>Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs</i>	-	26,548	(20,527)	6,021
<i>Total Restricted Funds</i>	<hr/> 7,902	94,211	(68,764)	33,349
<i>Unrestricted funds:</i>				
<i>General funds</i>	82,795	76,031	(100,312)	58,514
<i>Total funds</i>	<hr/> 90,697	170,242	(169,076)	91,863

**15 Related parties**

In 2024 there are no related party transactions in the year (2023: nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business.

**16 Trustees**

No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2024 (2023: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to trustees or third parties.

**17 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments**

Defined contribution

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Contributions payable by the company for the year	3,326	2,857

At 31 December 2024 £903 was outstanding (2023: £832)

**18 Contingent assets or liabilities**

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2024 (2023: Nil).

**19 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company was under the control of the Trustees during the period under review.

There is no single ultimate controlling party.

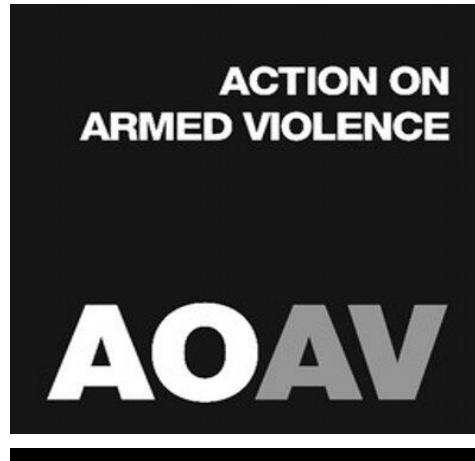
**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1122057

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# Accounts

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**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023**

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Legal and Administrative Information**

**Board**

Professor Michael Spagat	(Resigned May 2024)
Dr Saleyha Ahsan	
Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis	
Rocco Faustus Blume	(Co-Chair)
Leanna Burnard	
Andrew Maber-Jones	
Dr Jack Denny	
Olivia Dix	(Co-Chair) (Appointed Jan 2024)

**Chief Executive**

Dr Iain Overton

**Principal Office**

405 Mile End Road  
London  
E3 4PB

**Company Number**

06381573

**Charity Number**

1122057

**Independent Examiners**

Shruti Soni  
Shruti Soni Limited  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL

**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
City Offices  
80 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3NJ

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**CHAIRS' REPORT**

We are pleased to present the Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) Annual Report for 2023. This document underscores AOAV's unwavering commitment to documenting abuses and defending civilians from the impacts of armed violence. Our focus continues to be the rigorous monitoring and reporting of explosive weapon use in populated areas.

Throughout 2023, AOAV's meticulous efforts have documented a substantial number of incidents involving explosive weapons, often in densely populated areas, leading to a distressing tally of civilian casualties. These incidents demonstrate the urgent necessity for our advocacy and action. Building on the foundation of the Dublin Political Commitment on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) established in Autumn 2021, which garnered the support of over 85 countries, AOAV has been at the forefront of advancing this critical agenda.

The political commitment remains a key instrument in reducing harm from explosive weapons, ensuring aid to victims, and enforcing compliance with international humanitarian law. Our field operations have intensified, particularly in zones heavily afflicted by conflict such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Ukraine. We have catalogued the deployment of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by extremist factions and the devastation inflicted by manufactured ordnance. Our research has vividly illustrated the grave consequences of armed violence on non-combatants and highlighted the imperative for more robust measures to protect civilians.

In light of the Dublin Political Commitment on EWIPA, there is significant momentum towards mitigating civilian suffering caused by explosive weaponry in urban settings. AOAV persists in its advocacy for the safeguarding of civilian lives, championing greater accountability and clarity in the conduct of military engagements. AOAV's investigations have been instrumental in bringing to light abuses, compelling governmental accountability, and promoting a culture of transparency within military frameworks. For example, we have examined the impact of harmful British military action, scrutinising issues like the tragic deaths of numerous children during British military actions in Afghanistan, the failure to address the majority of civilian mistreatment complaints received at the height of conflict, and kept active our campaign demanding transparency surrounding allegations of civilian deaths caused by RAF airstrikes.

Our investigation has brought much needed scrutiny to the actions of UK Special Forces, where we probed into accusations of unwarranted killings by the SAS in Afghanistan. This inquiry fuelled by newly obtained military dossiers, unearthed concerns regarding potential unlawful killings by a specific unit. This investigation and the advocacy around it has led to a UK judge led review which is currently proceeding.

We are extremely grateful to our funders including Article 36, Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), and the Swiss government who have facilitated our ongoing projects and operational needs. AOAV's staunch dedication to the monitoring of armed violence and the championing of civilian rights in conflict zones and beyond remains indispensable. We applaud AOAV's relentless pursuit of this noble mission. We are proud to be associated with this work and thank our dedicated staff members, Iain Overton, Chiara Torelli and Jennifer Dathan for their outstanding work and our fellow Board members for their expert advice and support.

Olivia Dix and Rocco Blume  
Co-Chairs

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In 2023, AOA V remained at the forefront of explosive violence research and monitoring. Our detailed investigations, underpinned by robust data collection and incisive analysis, also provided troubling and important insights into the global landscape of armed conflict and its implications on civilian life.

Our team has assiduously produced reports for the Explosive Weapons Monitor in partnership with the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), bringing weekly updates on explosive violence globally with a bi-weekly focus on Ukraine. The contributions of Chiara Torelli have been pivotal in these efforts, including the creation of a comprehensive style guide to ensure consistency and ease future transitions within our research team.

In alignment with our goals, we have actively engaged in advocacy on various fronts. Notable is our representation at key events in New York and our citations in a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) briefing on explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA). Such activities reflect our strategic interventions aimed at policy influence.

Our financial stability remains solid, with sufficient funds to maintain operations through to September 2026, based on current staff and project commitments.

Throughout 2023, AOA V's advocacy has showcased its dedication to reducing the harm caused by explosive violence and influencing policy at both national and international levels. Through robust engagement with policy committees, impactful public advocacy, widespread dissemination of research, and active participation in global events, AOA V has cemented its role as a pivotal actor in the discourse on armed violence and its humanitarian impact. This concerted effort underscores the organisation's commitment to driving change and improving the lives of those affected by conflict worldwide.

These comprehensive reports and research efforts are more than just a testament to AOA V's dedication—they are a clarion call for action to the international community. Our extensive groundwork and policy advocacy continue to push for a future where explosive violence and its ramifications on human lives are mitigated through informed, compassionate, and decisive global action.

The challenges that lie ahead are profound, and the work of AOA V is more pertinent than ever. We are poised to continue our advocacy for transparency and accountability in military operations, arms trade, and international policies. Our focus on education and journalism in conflict zones remains a cornerstone of our efforts to mitigate the impact of armed violence on civilians globally. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, and dedicated staff. Without your support, our achievements in 2023 would not have been possible.

The intertwined dynamics of militarism, global politics, and human rights observed this year further substantiate the need for the work AOA V champions. As we step into the coming year, we renew our pledge to strive for a world where the impact of armed violence is understood, minimised, and ultimately prevented wherever possible.

Iain Overton  
Executive Director

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Board of Trustees are pleased to present their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023. The Trustees' Annual Report contains a Directors' Report as required by company law. The report and accounts comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019).

## **MISSION AND APPROACH**

### **Mission**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) central mission is to carry out research and advocacy in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

To help reduce this burden, AOAV carries out research and advocacy campaigns to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence and to research, understand and act effectively on the root causes of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOAV is committed to:

- *reducing civilian harm from the use of indiscriminate explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support and agreement to this end.*
- *reducing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on civilian populations by advocating for international action that prevents the spread and usage of such devices or their precursor materials*
- *addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons against civilian groups, with a focus on abuses by state actors, government responses to gun massacres, and the trade in illicit small arms*
- *recording the harm from explosive violence and gun violence, with an eye to pursuing the above advocacy goals.*

AOAV's advocacy and research can help it reach its goals:

- By increasing awareness of the key issues in the public, private and political spheres, through the dissemination of target research, so that state parties and international bodies are made aware of the immediate and long-term human damage caused by explosive weapons in populated sectors, which affect wide areas, and the repercussions of such use on national and regional insecurity;
- By providing information about the international community's legal and humanitarian responsibilities in relation to tackling the use and dissemination of explosive weapons, and through articulating how existing legal and humanitarian instruments need to be created to foster a cogent, coordinated international response;
- By promulgating policy recommendations and relevant research to key parties so as to strengthen existing humanitarian protection instruments, and to hold governments accountable for disproportionate use of force against civilians
- By fostering dialogue and disseminating research between private, military, governmental and non-governmental parties, so as to share knowledge on how best to reduce the impact of armed violence.

## Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued

### Key Reports and Research

Throughout 2023, AOA V has published critical analyses and detailed reports that have fuelled international conversations on armed violence and its containment. Our research has highlighted the intricate dynamics of conflict and its repercussions on vulnerable populations. Here, we delve deeper into some of our pivotal publications and their broader implications.

**Explosive Violence Monitor:** Our annual report on explosive violence globally in 2022 constituted the twelfth consecutive year of Action on Armed Violence's (AOAV) Explosive Violence Monitoring Project (EVMP), which records the casualties from explosive weapon use worldwide as reported in English-language media. We continued to monitor this harm through 2023.

In 2022, AOA V recorded 31,273 deaths and injuries as a result of the use of explosive weapons around the world. Civilians continued to suffer disproportionately from this harm, accounting for 20,793 of these casualties - or 66% of all those killed and injured by explosive weapons around the world. As has been demonstrated every year for the past decade, this threat to civilians is exacerbated when explosive weapons are used in populated areas: in 2022, 90% of all those reported killed and injured by explosive weapons in populated areas were civilians. Furthermore, 94% of global civilian casualties from explosive weapons over the past year occurred in locations reported as populated.

These findings reflect a consistent pattern of harm that AOA V has documented for more than a decade: on average over the last eleven years, when explosive weapons were used in populated areas, nine in every ten of those killed or wounded were civilians.

Overall, 2022 saw a 73% increase in incidents of explosive weapon use around the world, and an 83% spike in civilian casualties compared to 2021. This rise was predominantly down to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, but it was also caused by smaller flare-ups of violence between Armenia and Azerbaijan; increased volatility between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; and ongoing conflicts and armed struggles in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Last year, Ukraine was by far the worst impacted country in terms of civilian casualties from explosive weapon use. Civilian deaths and injuries from explosive violence in Ukraine increased by 36,868% between 2021 and 2022, with the highest levels of civilian harm occurring in March (1,592 civilian deaths and injuries), during the initial surge of Russia's failed push for Kyiv, and in July and September (1,265 and 1,141 civilian casualties respectively), in Russia's rush to solidify gains before the onset of winter. Afghanistan, the worst impacted country for two consecutive years (from 2020 to 2021), saw a 57% decrease in recorded civilian deaths and injuries from explosive violence over the past year, but remained the second worst impacted country in 2022.

Syria also experienced lower levels of civilian harm compared to 2021, although the reduction was smaller, with civilian casualties of explosive violence falling by 35%. Somalia saw the fourth highest level of civilian casualties from explosive weapons use in 2022. Al Shabaab increased attacks against military and civilian targets in response to the Somali government's renewed military campaign, causing civilian deaths and injuries from explosive violence in the country to increase by 128% between 2021 to 2022.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

Ethiopia's two-year civil war, from November 2020 to November 2022, saw a spike in civilian harm from explosive weapons use last year, when civilian deaths. In 2022, Ethiopia experienced the fifth highest level of civilian harm from explosive weapon use globally. Explosive weapons: Weapons that share common characteristics causing deaths, injuries, and damage by projecting explosive blast, heat and often fragmentation around a point of detonation. These weapons include a variety of munitions such as air-dropped bombs, mortars, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and artillery shells.

For the first time since 2015, Yemen was not among the five worst impacted countries for civilian casualties of explosive violence. Myanmar, which was the ninth most impacted country in 2021, saw the sixth highest level of civilian casualties in 2022. The data presented in this report quantifies exclusively the immediate harm to civilians caused by the use of explosive weapons. This form of violence, however, has widespread and enduring impacts that affect civilians and their environment long after the initial devastation.

AOAV and our colleagues continually seek to highlight some of the reverberating effects of explosive violence harm, which see even greater numbers of civilian lives affected and continue to impact communities and nations across multiple generations. Thousands more civilians are harmed by the use of explosive weapons than can possibly be hinted at in our casualty figures.

As 2023 showed, increased attacks in Ukraine and the terrible onslaught of violence in Gaza makes our monitoring ever more important and salient. We continue our work.

**Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Analysis and Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA):** This report on the ATT scrutinised its efficacy in curtailing civilian harm due to explosive weapons. Our findings pointed to stark civilian casualty disparities, where non-ATT countries were responsible for disproportionately more civilian harm from explosive weaponry than their ATT-signatory counterparts. We underlined the pressing need for stringent compliance with the treaty and identified critical areas for its strengthening. The correlation between the ATT's enactment and a global reduction in arms transfers was acknowledged, yet our analysis emphasised that the ATT's potential has yet to be fully realised.

**Russia's Dirty Dozen Report:** In a landmark study, we catalogued and examined 12 Russian weapons heavily deployed in the Ukrainian conflict. Our research did not merely list the weapons but provided context and data-driven insights into their devastating use in populated areas, highlighting the human cost of such military strategies. The report served as a sobering reminder of the need for stricter international regulations on the use of certain types of weapons and advocated for accountability in the face of evident disregard for civilian life.

**British Military Operations and Accountability:** Our commitment to scrutinising military actions for transparency extended to the examination of British military operations. We uncovered the underreported civilian deaths in RAF airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, challenging official narratives and advocating for a re-evaluation of casualty recording practices. Additionally, the investigation into allegations of unlawful killings by UK Special Forces in Afghanistan underscored the necessity for democratic oversight. Through this, AOA has demanded a higher standard of accountability within military institutions.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

**Disability and Education in Conflict Zones:** Our pioneering 'Disability Under Siege' project served as an embodiment of AOAV's holistic approach to addressing the consequences of armed violence. Focused on Gaza, the initiative developed educational resources tailored for students with disabilities, breaking new ground in inclusive education and media literacy in regions affected by conflict. This work not only aids current generations but lays the foundation for more informed future leadership in these communities.

**The Gendered Dimensions of Explosive Violence:** Our research brought much-needed attention to the gender-specific impacts of explosive violence and the suitability of international legislation in addressing these issues. The study provided evidence for policymakers to consider gender perspectives in the crafting and implementation of international laws concerning armed conflict and explosive violence.

**Media in Ukraine:** Our extensive fieldwork and journalism shed light on the plight of reporters in conflict zones, with a particular emphasis on the war in Ukraine. The published interviews and reports drew attention to the challenges and dangers faced by journalists, emphasising the importance of press freedom and the protection of media workers in such environments.

**Civilian Harm and Global Conflicts:** Detailed scrutiny of civilian casualty compensation mechanisms during UK military operations brought forth systemic flaws, advocating for reform. We persistently covered diverse facets of global conflicts, such as the Gaza situation, furthering our advocacy for civilian protection and the humane treatment of refugees.

**Media coverage and impact:** In 2023, AOAV's research and commentary have significantly impacted the media landscape, with coverage spanning a wide array of topics related to explosive violence and its consequences. The organisation's insights have been featured in major news outlets, specialised forums, and academic citations, underlining the global relevance of its work. AOAV's media coverage in 2023 has reinforced its position as a leading voice in the discussion of explosive violence and its effects. The organisation's research has effectively informed public opinion, shaped media narratives, and influenced policy debates, achieving a broad international impact that underscores the critical importance of its mission.

- **Civilian Impact of Military Actions:** Reports on AOAV's findings about civilian casualties from UK airstrikes in Iraq and Syria were highlighted by prominent news organisations, including the BBC and The Guardian. The research has sparked discussions about the accountability and transparency of military operations.
- **Global Explosive Violence:** AOAV's data and analysis on explosive violence, particularly in Ukraine and across various conflict zones, was cited in detailed media reports. This includes the specific impact on children and the broader implications for civilian protection.
- **Policy and Arms Trade:** Investigations into the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and its influence on explosive violence featured in discussions about international policy-making and the treaty's role in reducing harm to civilians.
- **Special Forces Operations:** The media has taken an interest in AOAV's revelations about UK Special Forces' secret operations in multiple countries, with attention to the implications for international law and the conduct of war.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

- Cluster Munitions and IEDs: Research on the specific threats posed by cluster munitions and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) has informed media narratives, emphasising the ongoing challenges these weapons pose to peace and security.

**Public Dialogue and Advocacy:** Coverage has not only focused on AOA's research but also its advocacy for dialogue and policy change, as seen in the organisation's calls for action in response to the escalation of violence in Gaza.

**Global Media Impact:** The organisation's research and commentary have been disseminated globally, from local news in the UK to international outlets covering Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. This wide reach demonstrates the universal relevance of AOA's work and its impact on public understanding and policy discourse.

**Executive Director's Media Engagements:** Dr. Iain Overton's media appearances, including on the BBC, have provided expert analysis on various issues, including the impact of conflict on vulnerable populations and the ethical considerations in armed violence.

**Academic Recognition:** AOA's work has not only influenced public and policy debates but has also achieved significant academic recognition, with over 300 citations of its research since 2018, highlighting the organisation's contribution to scholarly work on armed violence and conflict.

**Advocacy:** In 2023, AOA executed a strategic and impactful advocacy campaign, engaging in diverse interventions that have influenced policy discussions, contributed to research on explosive violence, and promoted humanitarian principles.

**Policy Engagement and Reports:**

- AOA actively engaged with the UK Foreign Affairs Committee, providing evidence to inquiries on university engagements with autocracies and the UK's international counter-terrorism policy.
- In Geneva and New York, AOA's representatives presented critical data on explosive violence in urban areas, influencing discussions on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the protection of children in armed conflict.
- AOA's input was sought in shaping a 'best practice' guide for casualty recorders, reflecting the organisation's expertise in addressing secondary and vicarious trauma.
- Responses from UK officials, like Minister Heapey, to AOA's concerns over RAF civilian casualties, highlight the organisation's ability to push for transparency and accountability at the highest levels.
- AOA has disseminated briefing papers and research findings, including a report on non-manufactured explosive weapons and the impact of the ATT, to a wide audience, demonstrating the organisation's role as a knowledge leader in explosive violence research. The organisation's work has been cited in UN briefings, showcasing its influence on global discussions about explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA).

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

- AOA's calls to mitigate the impact of heavy explosive weapons in conflict regions like Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories have been echoed by influential platforms like INEW, amplifying the organisation's stance on humanitarian issues.

We thank our main funders – including the Norwegian government, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Swiss government, University of Birmingham and UN bodies – for helping us continue our work independently and unblinkingly.

**OVERVIEW OF FUTURE PLANS FOR 2024**

AOAV seeks to continue its crucial research and advocacy work that focuses on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas worldwide, as well as looking more into UK issues of armed violence, militarism and counter-terrorism.

The competition for funding is, as ever, tight.

AOAV will safeguard its future by ensuring that it responds quickly and flexibly to opportunities as they arise, with hard-hitting, compelling bids.

We hope to secure multi-year funding from states for the continued support of the Monitor.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Action on Armed Violence was established as a charitable trust in 2007, originally called the Landmine Action Charitable Trust. The Trust's name was changed to Action on Armed Violence in 2010. It is also a charitable company. The charity is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company.

**Operational Decision-Making**

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charitable company, is responsible for the governance of Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include: determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Executive director (ED), monitoring performance, managing the governance process, and providing insight, guidance and wisdom. Management is provided by the ED working with the staff of the organisation.

## **Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

### **Recruitment & Appointment of Board Members**

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal opportunities policy. The procedure for recruiting and inducting board members is as follows:

- Skills required by new Board members are assessed on the basis of gaps within the existing board.
- Invitations are issued through the national press, existing networks and/or the website, as appropriate.
- Candidates are short-listed, contacted and interviewed by the Board Chair and ED.

Procedures for Board member recruitment, election, rotation/re-election and retirement continue to be developed.

### **Induction & Training of Board Members**

New Board members are issued with an induction pack covering AOA's work and key policies. They meet the ED and staff to discuss strategy, policy, current and planned activities. All Trustees are invited to attend network and parliamentary meetings and relevant conferences (when time and funding permit).

The directors who served in the year are:

Professor Michael Spagat	(Resigned May 2024)
Dr Saleyha Ahsan	
Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis	
Rocco Faustus Blume	(Co-Chair)
Leanna Burnard	
Andrew Maber-Jones	
Dr Jack Denny	
Olivia Dix	(Co-Chair) (Appointed Jan 2024)

### **Risk Management Statement**

All procurement and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that authorisation and accountability lines are respected. AOA's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks which may affect the company in the achievement of its objectives. Internal risks are reduced by the application of appropriate controls to ensure that financial, administrative and operational procedures are effective, thus minimising the risk of financial loss and litigation against the company. All risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact on organisation, and managed accordingly

### **Public Benefit**

The Board of Trustees has complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how the planned activities of the company will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives they have set.

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

**Principal Financial Management Policies**

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of donations from unrestricted income is decided on the basis of needs identified by AOA V Board of Trustees. Donations derived from non-institutional restricted income are allocated according to the requests of the donors.

**Reserves Policy**

The majority of AOA V work is funded from restricted funds. The contractual arrangements with donors cover the completion of such tasks and related financial commitments. AOA V retains unrestricted reserves to ensure the longer-term viability of the organisation and the sustainability of its programmes against short-term funding shortfalls or emergency funding requirements. The reserves balance is reviewed regularly along with the level of the organisation's total incoming and outgoing funds. The Board considers current level of reserves to be adequate.

The minimum reserve amount is the cost of running the charity for three months salaries and other running expenses, £45,000. This is kept in reserve. At 31 December 2023 AOA V had £58,514 (2022: £82,795) in unrestricted funds (this includes the reserve), allowing just under 4 months operating costs. A further £33,349 (2022: £7,902) relating to restricted income funds was held.

**Financial Position**

During 2023 Action on Armed Violence received income of £170,242 vs £163,880 in the previous year. Our expenditure was £169,076 vs £183,335 in the previous year.

Our major funding source for our research work was the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via Article 36), Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust University of Birmingham and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs.

AOA V renewed its efforts to ensure that funds for its research activities are available on a consistent basis. AOA V will continue to work closely with current and new donors to secure continuing financial support for its work.

**Small Company Rules**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2023: continued**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of AOVAV for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom 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 principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Independent Examiner is unaware.
- That each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2023 was 6 (2022:7). The Trustees are members of the charity. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

Signed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Olivia Dix and Rocco Blume  
Co-Chairs



2 September, 2024

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**To the Trustees of Action on Armed Violence**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 14-24.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

As the charity 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 company'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**

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 that in any material respect:

- 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.

*Shruti Soni*

Shruti Soni FCCA  
Shruti Soni Ltd  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL  
Date 05/09/2024

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)  
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	3,331	-	3,331	17,141	-	17,141
Charitable activities	4	72,700	94,211	166,911	57,668	89,071	146,739
<b>Total income</b>		<b>76,031</b>	<b>94,211</b>	<b>170,242</b>	<b>74,809</b>	<b>89,071</b>	<b>163,880</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	5						
Raising funds		4,990	-	4,990	8,254	-	8,254
Charitable activities		95,322	68,764	164,086	53,101	121,980	175,081
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>100,312</b>	<b>68,764</b>	<b>169,076</b>	<b>61,355</b>	<b>121,980</b>	<b>183,335</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		( 24,281)	25,447	<b>1,166</b>	13,454	( 32,909)	<b>( 19,455)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		( 24,281)	25,447	<b>1,166</b>	13,454	( 32,909)	<b>( 19,455)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		82,795	7,902	90,697	69,341	40,811	110,152
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>£ 58,514</b>	<b>£ 33,349</b>	<b>£ 91,863</b>	<b>£ 82,795</b>	<b>£ 7,902</b>	<b>£ 90,697</b>

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

The statement of financial activities complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	8		-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	15,202		18,594	
Cash at bank and in hand		87,327		80,838	
			102,529		99,432
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10	( 10,666)		( 8,735)	
			91,863		90,697
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>					
			<b>£ 91,863</b>		<b>£ 90,697</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	13		33,349		7,902
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			58,514		82,795
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<b>£ 91,863</b>		<b>£ 90,697</b>

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 16 to 24 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 September 2024



**Name: Olivia Dix and Rocco Blume**

**Co-Chairs & Trustees**

**Company Registration No. 06381573**

**Charity Registration No. 1122057**

# Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Statutory information

Action on Armed Violence is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 06381573 and is registered with the Charity Commission number 1122057. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principle activities are to carry out research, advocacy and fieldwork in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

Action on Armed Violence meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Action on Armed Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are presented, to the nearest pound, in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

### 2 Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Basis of preparation

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), (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'.

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

#### 2.2 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to particular categories of income:

Where donations and grants are restricted to future accounting periods, they are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods. Grants for immediate financial support and assistance, or to reimburse costs previously incurred, are recognised immediately.

The charitable company receives government grants in respect of furthering its charitable objectives. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value.

Charitable activities includes commissioned work carried out by Action on Armed Violence staff and is recognised in the period along with other income.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charitable company. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued**

#### **2.3 Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to third parties, it is probable and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the charitable company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

#### **2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

The charitable company operates a policy of capitalising fixed asset items over £1,000. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Furniture and equipment	4 years, on a straight line basis
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

#### **2.5 Leasing commitments**

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

#### **2.6 Debtors and Creditors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### **2.7 Foreign currency**

The charitable company no longer operates foreign currency bank accounts.

#### **2.8 Pensions**

The charitable company now operates an Auto Enrolment defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

#### **2.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

The charitable company does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023 £
<b>3 Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations	2,136	-	2,136
Legacies	1,195	-	1,195
	<b>3,331</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,331</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2022</b>			<b>2022 £</b>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>8,741</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,741</i>
<i>Legacies</i>	<i>8,400</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,400</i>
	<b>17,141</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,141</b>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>			<b>2023 £</b>
Article 36	-	27,805	27,805
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	71,200	-	71,200
University of Birmingham	-	38,528	38,528
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs		26,548	26,548
University of Bristol	-	1,330	1,330
Lush	1,500	-	1,500
	<b>72,700</b>	<b>94,211</b>	<b>166,911</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2021</b>			<b>2022 £</b>
<i>Article 36</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>37,000</i>	<i>37,000</i>
<i>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust</i>	<i>56,668</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>56,668</i>
<i>UNSCAR</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>41,179</i>	<i>41,179</i>
<i>University of Birmingham</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8,372</i>	<i>8,372</i>
<i>University of Bristol</i>		<i>2,520</i>	<i>2,520</i>
<i>Lush</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1,000</i>
	<b>57,668</b>	<b>89,071</b>	<b>146,739</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

### 5 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	3,860	97,355	3,860	-	105,075
Events	-	1,504	-	-	1,504
Research and reports	-	26,388	-	-	26,388
Travel	-	12,191	-	-	12,191
Office costs	1,130	9,604	565	-	11,299
Communications	-	5,110	269	-	5,379
Legal and professional fees	-	2,100	154	3,618	5,872
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	1,368	-	1,368
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,990	154,252	6,216	3,618	169,076
Support costs		3,618		(3,618)	-
Governance costs		6,216	(6,216)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2023</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>164,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>169,076</b>
<i>Total expenditure 2022</i>	<i>8,254</i>	<i>175,081</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>183,335</i>

Of the total expenditure:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2023	£ 100,312	£ 68,764	£ 169,076
2022	£ 61,355	£ 121,980	£ 183,335

<b>Prior year comparatives: 2022</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	7,178	114,086	3,589	-	124,853
Staff training	-	750	-	-	750
Research and reports	-	23,994	-	-	23,994
Travel	-	11,144	-	-	11,144
Office costs	1,076	9,145	538	-	10,759
Communications	-	4,019	212	-	4,231
Legal and professional fees	-	488	2,713	2,583	5,784
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	1,320	500	1,820
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	8,254	163,627	8,372	3,083	183,335
Support costs		3,083		(3,083)	-
Governance costs		8,372	(8,372)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2022</b>	<b>8,254</b>	<b>175,081</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>183,335</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

### 6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	-
Independent Examination	1,368	1,320

### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and wages	96,583	113,765
Social Security costs	5,635	7,666
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,857	3,422
	<b>105,075</b>	<b>124,853</b>

### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Charitable activities	2	3

There was 1 employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

The key management personnel of the charitable company included the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits paid to key management personnel including NIC and pension were £77,203 in 2023 (2022: £71,787).

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Furniture and Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost:</b>		
At 1 January 2023	825	825
Disposals	-	-
Additions at cost	-	-
	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>		
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
At 1 January 2023	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
On disposals	-	-
	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>		
<b>Net book value:</b>	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	-	-
	-	-
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	-	-
	-	-

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

<b>9 Debtors</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	600	<b>600</b>
Prepayments and accrued income	14,602	17,994
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>15,202</b>	<b>18,594</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>10 Creditors</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	1,113	-
Social Security and other taxes	-	-
Pension	832	657
Other creditors	5,407	5,218
Accruals and deferred income	3,314	2,860
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>10,666</b>	<b>8,735</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>11 Analysis of net assets between funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:			
Current Assets	69,180	33,349	102,529
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(10,666)	-	(10,666)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>58,514</b>	<b>33,349</b>	<b>91,863</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative 2022</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	91,530	7,902	99,432
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(8,735)	-	(8,735)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>82,795</b>	<b>7,902</b>	<b>90,697</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

#### 13 Funds - current year

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 1 Jan 2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	At 31 Dec 2023 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Norwegian Funding 2023: Article 36	-	27,805 (	27,805)	-
UNSCAR	7,724	-	( 7,724)	-
University of Birmingham	178	38,528 (	11,378)	<b>27,328</b>
University of Bristol	-	1,330 (	1,330)	-
Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs	-	26,548 (	20,527)	<b>6,021</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>7,902</b>	<b>94,211 (</b>	<b>68,764)</b>	<b>33,349</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>				
<b>General funds</b>	<b>82,795</b>	<b>76,031</b>	<b>(100,312)</b>	<b>58,514</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>90,697</b>	<b>170,242</b>	<b>(169,076)</b>	<b>91,863</b>

#### Restricted Funds - description

**Norwegian Funding;** funding as part of a consortium bid to Norwegian People's Aid.

For AOAV this funding comes via an agreement with Article 36 and it includes monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor.

#### **UNSCAR - United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation**

Funding received for research utilising UNIDIR's EWIPA Indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on reducing civilian harm from conventional explosive weapons in populated areas.

#### **University of Birmingham**

#DisabledVoicesfromGaza –narrative methodologies with media and information literacy (MIL) to empower university students with disabilities in Palestine

#### **University of Bristol**

Funding to support University of Bristol students working on internships at AOAV.

#### **Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs**

Funding to support AOAV research and project work.

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023: continued

### 14 Funds - prior year comparative

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 1 Jan 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	At 31 Dec 2022 £
<i>Restricted Funds</i>				
Norwegian Funding 2021/22: Article 36	17,601	-	(17,601)	-
Norwegian Funding 2022: Article 36	-	37,000	(37,000)	-
UNMAS	23,210	-	(23,210)	-
UNSCAR	-	41,179	(33,455)	7,724
University of Birmingham	-	8,372	(8,194)	178
University of Bristol	-	2520	(2,520)	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>40,811</b>	<b>89,071</b>	<b>(121,980)</b>	<b>7,902</b>
<i>Unrestricted funds:</i>				
General funds	69,341	74,809	(61,355)	82,795
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>110,152</b>	<b>163,880</b>	<b>(183,335)</b>	<b>90,697</b>

### 15 Related parties

In 2023 there are no other related party transactions in the year (2022: one - trustee Prof M Spagat made a donation of £4,000 to be used for general purposes).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business.

### 16 Trustees

No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2023 (2022: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to trustees or third parties.

### 17 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments

Defined contribution

	2023 £	2022 £
Contributions payable by the company for the year	2,857	3,422

At 31 December 2023 £832 was outstanding (2022: £657)

### 18 Contingent assets or liabilities

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2023 (2022: Nil).

### 19 Ultimate controlling party

The charitable company was under the control of the Trustees during the period under review. There is no single ultimate controlling party.

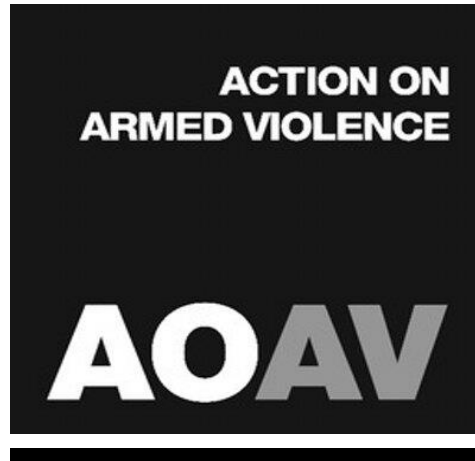
**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1122057

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# Accounts

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**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2022**

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Legal and Administrative Information**

**Board**

Professor Michael Spagat	(Chair)
Dr Marina Brilman	(resigned Dec 2022)
Colonel Steve Smith	(resigned Dec 2022)
Dr Saleyha Ahsan	
Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis	
Rocco Faustus Blume	
Leanna Burnard	(appointed Dec 2022)
Andrew Maber-Jones	(appointed Dec 2022)
Dr Jack Denny	(appointed May 2023)

**Chief Executive**

Dr Iain Overton

**Principal Office**

405 Mile End Road  
London  
E3 4PB

**Company Number**

06381573

**Charity Number**

1122057

**Independent Examiners**

Shruti Soni  
Shruti Soni Limited  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL

**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
City Offices  
80 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3NJ

**Action on Armed Violence**  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR**

We are delighted to introduce the Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) Annual Report for 2022. This report emphasizes AOA's persistent efforts to address abuses and safeguard civilians from armed violence. AOA remains devoted to monitoring and reporting on armed violence, specifically focusing on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

In 2021, AOA's vigilant monitoring resulted in the documentation of 19,473 deaths and injuries from explosive weapons in 2,489 incidents, which included 11,102 civilian fatalities and 10,326 injuries. These alarming figures spurred action and advocacy from AOA and other organizations, urging them to address the deployment of explosive weapons in populated regions.

AOA played a crucial role in the establishment of the Dublin Political Commitment on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) in Autumn 2021. With over 85 countries as signatories, this commitment seeks to mitigate the harm inflicted by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. It promotes the prevention of civilian harm, provision of assistance to victims, and adherence to international law in this domain.

AOA's monitoring initiatives have expanded to conflict-ridden areas such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Ukraine. They have documented the employment of IEDs by extremist groups and the consequences of manufactured bombs on civilians. AOA's work showcases the severe impact of armed violence on civilians and the pressing need for enhanced accountability, transparency, and civilian protection in conflict zones.

The Dublin Political Commitment on EWIPA represents a substantial stride toward achieving these objectives and diminishing civilian harm from explosive weapons in populated regions. AOA will continue to advocate for the protection and rights of civilians in conflict areas and beyond, pushing for increased accountability and transparency in military operations.

AOA's efforts have been vital in uncovering abuses, holding governments responsible, and advocating for increased transparency in military operations. They have scrutinized various aspects of British militarism, such as the deaths of an estimated 64 to 135 children during British military action in Afghanistan, the fact that the UK military did not prosecute 94% of complaints it received regarding civilian mistreatment during the peak of fighting in Afghanistan, and the ongoing campaign addressing allegations of civilian fatalities from RAF airstrikes.

AOA's reports have also raised questions about the accountability of UK Special Forces. The organization has examined allegations of numerous SAS killings of detainees and unarmed men under suspicious circumstances in Afghanistan. This research, based on recently acquired military reports, revealed concerns that a single unit may have been responsible for the unlawful killing of 54 people during a six-month tour.

In conclusion, AOA's unwavering commitment to monitoring and reporting on armed violence and advocating for the protection and rights of civilians in conflict zones and beyond is vital. We commend AOA for their dedication to this significant cause.

Sincerely,

Mike Spagat and Rocco Blume

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Action on Armed Violence's (AOAV) Annual Report 2022 highlights the organization's ongoing efforts to confront abuses and protect civilians from armed violence. In 2022, AOAV continued its crucial work in monitoring and reporting on armed violence, with a particular focus on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Throughout 2021, AOAV recorded 19,473 deaths and injuries from explosive weapons in 2,489 incidents, with 11,102 civilians killed and 10,326 injured. When explosive weapons were used in populated areas, 89% of those killed and injured were civilians, with child casualties rising by 11%. AOAV's efforts have led to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) citing their data multiple times in its report, "Explosive Weapons with Wide Area Effects: A Deadly Choice in Populated Areas."

AOAV has also been investigating alleged abuses in military operations, such as UK Special Forces (UKSF) in Afghanistan, scrutinizing the Royal Military Police's limited role in investigating misconduct. AOAV has been working to disprove the RAF's claim of responsibility for only one civilian death during their bombing of Iraq and Syria from 2014 to 2021. Through cross-referencing RAF and coalition CIVCAS reports, AOAV found several civilian casualty reports likely caused by RAF strikes.

AOAV's monitoring efforts have extended to conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Ukraine, where they documented the birth of terror, the use of IEDs by extremist groups, and the impact of bombs on the human body. Additionally, AOAV has been addressing issues related to armed violence and the protection of civilians through their work on veteran suicides in the UK, tracking the deaths of 162 children in Afghanistan where the UK military paid out compensation, and analyzing the diversity deficit in the upper ranks of the British Army.

In the United Kingdom, AOAV's report on London deaths in 2020 showed an 11% decrease in killings compared to the previous year. However, there was a 15% increase in the killing of women, with domestic violence disproportionately affecting Asian and Black communities. Mental health was identified as a significant factor in domestic killings.

AOAV's work has been instrumental in exposing abuses, holding governments accountable, and pushing for greater transparency in military operations. They have examined different aspects of British militarism, including the deaths of between 64 and 135 children in British military action in Afghanistan, the fact that the UK military did not prosecute 94% of complaints it received in relation to mistreatment of civilians during the height of fighting in Afghanistan, and the ongoing concerns of sexual violence in the British military. They have highlighted the reality of armed policing in modern Britain, the impact of the Arms Trade Treaty on civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons, and the need for accountability and transparency in military operations.

AOAV's reports have raised concerns about the accountability of UK Special Forces. The organization has investigated allegations of multiple SAS killings of detainees and unarmed men in suspicious circumstances in Afghanistan. The research was based on newly-obtained military reports and revealed concerns that one unit may have been behind the unlawful killing of 54 people in one six-month tour. AOAV has also charted how UK Special Forces have been deployed operationally in at least 19 countries over the past decade, with the units involved in missions including potential assassinations, the alleged cover-up of killings of Afghan civilians, and fighting alongside child soldiers in Yemen.

Action on Armed Violence  
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AOAV has also examined different aspects of British militarism, including the deaths of between 64 and 135 children in British military action in Afghanistan. The UK military did not prosecute 94% of complaints it received in relation to mistreatment of civilians during the height of fighting in Afghanistan, and there are ongoing concerns of sexual violence in the British military.

The organization has highlighted the reality of armed policing in modern Britain, the impact of the Arms Trade Treaty on civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons, and the need for accountability and transparency in military operations. Its efforts have been instrumental in exposing abuses, holding governments accountable, and pushing for greater transparency in military operations.

In the United Kingdom, AOAV's report on London deaths in 2020 showed an 11% decrease in killings compared to the previous year. However, there was a 15% increase in the killing of women, with domestic violence disproportionately affecting Asian and Black communities. Mental health was identified as a significant factor in domestic killings.

Overall, AOAV's ongoing efforts to monitor and report on armed violence and advocate for the protection and rights of civilians in conflict zones and beyond are crucial, and the organization remains committed to this work in the future. Through its investigations and advocacy, AOAV has demonstrated the devastating impact of armed violence on civilians and the urgent need for greater accountability, transparency, and protection of civilians in conflict zones.

Iain Overton  
Executive Director



## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Board of Trustees are pleased to present their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022. The Trustees' Annual Report contains a Directors' Report as required by company law. The report and accounts comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019).

## **MISSION AND APPROACH**

### **Mission**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) central mission is to carry out research and advocacy in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

To help reduce this burden, AOAV carries out research and advocacy campaigns to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence and to research, understand and act effectively on the root causes of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOAV is committed to:

- *reducing civilian harm from the use of indiscriminate explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support and agreement to this end.*
- *reducing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on civilian populations by advocating for international action that prevents the spread and usage of such devices or their precursor materials*
- *addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons against civilian groups, with a focus on abuses by state actors, government responses to gun massacres, and the trade in illicit small arms*
- *recording the harm from explosive violence and gun violence, with an eye to pursuing the above advocacy goals.*

AOAV's advocacy and research can help it reach its goals:

- By increasing awareness of the key issues in the public, private and political spheres, through the dissemination of target research, so that state parties and international bodies are made aware of the immediate and long-term human damage caused by explosive weapons in populated sectors, which affect wide areas, and the repercussions of such use on national and regional insecurity;
- By providing information about the international community's legal and humanitarian responsibilities in relation to tackling the use and dissemination of explosive weapons, and through articulating how existing legal and humanitarian instruments need to be created to foster a cogent, coordinated international response;
- By promulgating policy recommendations and relevant research to key parties so as to strengthen existing humanitarian protection instruments, and to hold governments accountable for disproportionate use of force against civilians
- By fostering dialogue and disseminating research between private, military, governmental and non-governmental parties, so as to share knowledge on how best to reduce the impact of armed violence.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

In 2022, we undertook a series of major research projects that examined, in turn:

1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor
2. Explosive Violence Research
3. Militarism examined

Each of these will be addressed in turn, outlining the output, lobbying and impact of each and then our work in advocacy and the media will be highlighted.

**1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor**

**Monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor**

Monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor

In 2022, we continued to monitor explosive violence harm on a daily basis and published the 2021 Annual Report. In that year, in total, AOA V recorded 19,473 deaths and injuries by explosive weapons in 2,489 incidents in 2021, as reported by English language media. Of these, 11,102 were civilians – 57%. In total, 9,147 people were killed (of which 3,376 were civilians), and 10,326 were injured (of which 7,726 were civilians). When explosive weapons were used in populated areas, 89% of those killed and injured were civilians. This compares to 10% in other areas. AOA V recorded 10,295 civilians killed and injured in populated areas. This represented 93% of globally reported civilian deaths and injuries.

Explosive Violence Monitor monthly updates:

Explosive Violence in November 2021

Explosive Violence in December 2021

Explosive Violence in January 2022

Explosive Violence in February 2022

Explosive Violence in March 2022

Explosive Violence in April 2022

Explosive Violence in May 2022

Explosive Violence in June 2022

Explosive Violence in July 2022

Explosive Violence in August 2022

Explosive Violence in September 2022

Explosive Violence in October 2022

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**2. Explosive Violence Research**

**IED report (French government)**

We published and presented our report on 'The Propaganda of the Deed' late December 2021 at a side event of the CCW UN conference. Over 80 people attended the meeting. We then published and presented our report 'How to address the harm from IEDs' at the UN's General Assembly in October 2022 in collaboration with the French Ambassador to the United Nations.

**MK84**

We published a piece on the manufacturers and producers of component parts behind the US-made MK84 bomb. This bomb was widely used by the Israeli Defence Force in Gaza in 2020.

**Beirut explosion**

We published a detail account of the Beirut explosion: An Anatomy of the Beirut Port Blast.

**EWIPA**

We published a number of reports looking at issues through the prism of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA):

A step forward: 10 countries that signed Ireland's Political Declaration have been responsible for civilian harm from explosive weapons in populated areas within last decade

**Other Explosive Violence incidence reports**

10 killed and 20 injured in IED explosion near a football stadium, Baghdad 29 Oct

10 people killed and 77 injured in rocket attack on IDP settlements in Idlib, 6 Nov

11 agricultural labourers killed, 34 injured in landmine explosion, Daraa Governorate, Syria

13 killed and 58 injured in Iranian air strikes on Iraq's Kurdish region, 28 Sept

17 killed and 32 injured in Russian missile strikes on Kharkiv, 17-18 Aug

17 killed and 35 injured in alleged Syrian shelling of Al-Bab, 19 Aug.

18 killed and 28 injured in Russian missile strike on shopping centre in central Ukraine, Monday 27 June.

19 killed and 27 injured in suicide attack on Kabul school, 30 Sept

2 killed and 28 injured in car explosion in busy Nangarhar market – latest in series of explosive attacks

20 killed and 36 injured in Al Shabaab car bomb attack on government offices in Beledweyne, 3 Oct.

21 killed and 33 injured in suicide bombing at Kabul mosque, 17 Aug.

25 killed and 31 injured in Russian rocket strike on Chaplyne railway station, 24 Aug

30 killed in Al Shabaab attacks over past week, Somalia

300 Sheltering Civilians Killed in Russian Airstrike on Theatre in Mariupol

34 killed and at least 9 injured in Russian Uragan MLRS strike on Chasiv Yar, Saturday 9 July

35 killed and 37 injured in IED ambush on a supply convoy in Burkina Faso, 5 Sept.

45 Killed and 120 Injured in Helicopter-Supported Attack on Kaduna Villages, Nigeria

600 Killed in Russian Strike on Mariupol Theatre

7 killed and 19 injured in Russian cluster bomb strike on a bus stop in Mykolaiv's Korabelnyi district, 29 July

7 killed and 41 injured in car bomb explosion outside crowded mosque in Kabul, 23 Sept

9 children among 11 civilians killed in Myanmar military attacks in Shan State and Sagaing, 16 Sept.

At least 16 people killed and 40 injured in two explosions in Kabul, 5 and 6 Aug

At least 30 Burundian Soldiers Killed in Al-Shabaab Attack on Peacekeeping Base, Somalia

At least 30 killed in Burkina Faso air raid targeting armed groups, 01 Aug.

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**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

At least 300 killed in OLA firearm and artillery attack on villages in Wollega, Ethiopia, Saturday 18 June

At least 50 Killed in Attack on Catholic Church, Ondo, Nigeria

At least 60 people killed and over 100 wounded in Saudi coalition airstrike on a detention centre in Saada, Yemen

At least 62 Killed in Russian Strike on School

At least Four Killed and Seven Injured in Al-Shabaab Suicide Attack At Site of Upcoming Somali Presidential Election

At least Three Killed and 19 Injured in 9th Recorded Russian Air Strike on a School in Ukraine

Nine Killed and 27 Injured in Confirmed Explosion, Kano, Nigeria

Nine People Killed and 13 Injured in Sixth ISIS Attack in Afghanistan in April

One Killed and 13 Injured in IED Explosion in Karachi, Pakistan

Over 15 killed and 20 injured in explosion at a religious school in Aybak, 30 Nov

Over 200 People Killed and Injured in Suicide Bombing at Shia Mosque, Pakistan

Over 80 killed in airstrike on a concert in Hpakant, Myanmar, 24 Oct

Six killed and 81 injured in IED explosion near Istanbul's Taksim Square, 13 Nov.

Up to 50 Killed in Bombing of Khalifa Sahib Mosque, Kabul

### **3. Militarism Examined**

#### **Special Forces**

We completed a deep review of UK SF activity in Afghanistan – Killing in the Shadows - and worked with the BBC to publish the report in mid-July. To accompany it, we compiled a major register of UK SF contacts and set up a website called [www.specialforceswatch.com](http://www.specialforceswatch.com). We revealed new evidence of multiple SAS killings of detainees and unarmed men in suspicious circumstances in Afghanistan, with the subsequent investigation into extrajudicial killings characterised by basic failures. The research, in part based on newly-obtained military reports, detailed concerns that one unit may have been behind the unlawful killing of 54 people in one six-month tour. The BBC also found evidence suggesting that a former head of special forces had failed to pass on evidence to a murder inquiry. As well as listing the shocking details of the killings themselves, AOAV's report sets out in detail how official accounts from troopers justifying lethal violence were not deemed credible. The report had huge impact in terms of global news coverage.

#### **UK service and veteran suicides**

The UK government has no centralised database on UK veteran suicides. AOAV volunteers have charted 100 instances of UK veterans who have killed themselves since 2001, as reported in UK media. We also found that approx. 824 UK military personnel have died in combat since 1984. This is to be compared with 888 UK military personnel have taken their lives since then, leading to the report: More serving British service personnel have killed themselves since 1984 than have died in combat

#### **UK arms exports**

We reported that UK arms export fines quadrupled in two years and worked to update our arms exports data so that it covers up to the end of 2021.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**UK airstrikes killing civilians in Iraq and Syria**

AOAV largely disproved the current RAF claim that, during the 2014-2021 bombing of Iraq and Syria, the RAF were only responsible for one civilian death. AOAV identified nine airstrike incidents which look very likely to have caused civilian deaths during Operation Shader - the RAF's name for counter-Daesh operations in Iraq and Syria. The strikes took place between March 2016 and March 2018 and appeared to have claimed the lives of between 26 to 32 civilians.

**British military Senior Leadership Programme**

AOAV exposed how Guinean Colonel Col. Mamady Doumbouya attended a British military Senior Strategic Leadership Programme just weeks [19th July] before leading a coup in Guinea last year [5th September]

**Tory MPs on Foreign Affairs Committee**

AOAV reported how three Tory MPs had trips to Saudi Arabia paid for by the Saudi Foreign Ministry in Sep 2019 – so far unreported, this constituted £7K each for a 3-day trip.

**Knife crime**

As part of research into London knife crime, AOAV examined London deaths in 2020 (London's 2021 murders examined: key figures in the UK capital's homicides), did an interview with Detective Superintendent John Massey and hosted an event in May at Royal Holloway. AOAV published a report from that: Knife Crime in London: a summary of an experts' round table discussion. This was followed by the report: The Chris Kaba shooting and the reality of armed policing in modern Britain

**UK Arms Exports**

We spent 2022 updating our current list of arms exports to the UK's 30 countries with human rights concerns. These can be seen in UK Arms Exports Examined.

**Civilians killed in British Military engagement since 1945**

We published a comprehensive review of the civilians and British troops killed in all British military engagements since 1945. In total, a team of researchers examined 28 different conflicts where the British military were involved in active fighting since the close of the Second World War. In those conflicts, the team found 1,620 civilians killed by British forces, as reported in historical documents, government reports and contemporary news reports. In that time some 8,517 British servicemen and women also lost their lives during combat operations. Though our combined figure of noncombatant fatalities uncovered is likely an underestimate, the research conducted offers pertinent insights into continuities and evolutions in patterns of civilian harm across four thematic periods of British military involvement in domestic and global conflicts.

**This review - Civilian deaths from British military action - covers:**

"Greek Civil War" = 3rd December, 1944 - 16th October, 1949

"Indonesian War of Independence" = 17th August, 1945 - November, 1946

"Palestine Emergency" = August, 1945 - 15th May, 1948

"Vietnam War" = 6th September, 1945 - 26th March, 1946

"Malayan Emergency" = 17th June, 1948 - 31st July, 1960

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

"Korean War" = 25th June, 1950 - 27th July, 1953  
"Anglo-Egyptian War" = 15th October, 1951 - 25th January, 1952  
"Mau Mau Insurgency" = 20th October, 1952 - January, 1960  
"Muscat and Oman Intervention" = 10th October, 1954 – 30th January, 1959  
"Suez Crisis" = 29th October, 1956 – 7th November, 1956  
"Jordan Intervention" = 17th July, 1958 – 29th October, 1958  
"Brunei Revolt" = 8th December, 1962 – 17th December, 1962  
"Aden Emergency" = 14th Oct 1963 – 30th Nov 1967  
"Malaysia-Indonesia Confrontation" = 12th April, 1963 - 11th August, 1966  
"Dhofar Rebellion" = 9 June, 1963 - January, 1976  
"East African Mutinies" = 20th January, 1964 -- 27th January, 1964  
"First Gulf War" = 2nd August, 1990 - 28th February, 1991  
"No-Fly Zone War" = June, 1991 - 20th March, 2003  
"Bosnia and Herzegovina Intervention" = 16th July, 1992 - Present  
"Cyprus Emergency" = 26th November, 1955 - 19th March, 1959  
"Kosovo Conflict" = 24th March, 1999 - 10th June, 1999  
"Sierra Leone Intervention" = 7th May, 2000 -- September, 2001  
"The Troubles" = 14th August, 1969 - 31st July, 2007  
"Falklands War" = 2nd April, 1981^ - 21st October, 1981  
The Troubles" = 14th August, 1969 - 31st July, 2007  
"Falklands War" = 2nd April, 1981^ - 21st October, 1981

**Child deaths in Afghanistan**

AOAV exposed that between 64 and 135 children were killed in British military action in Afghanistan, through an analysis of MOD compensation payments. The report, which was initially shared exclusive with the BBC, ran on their flagship the Today programme and was covered on their News Channel, showed how dozens of children in Afghanistan were killed following actions by British forces, with each child's death paying out – on average – just £1,656 in compensation. The report was then covered by The Times, ITV News, Sky News, The Independent, and the UK military's own Forces.net. Internationally, AOAV's work was highlighted by English-language media ABC News, Arab News, Al Jazeera, France News 24, Euronews, Yahoo News, and Afghanistan Times. Many other outlets in a wide range of languages also picked up the report. The report was also picked up by other UK charities, including Save the Children, who called it a tragedy, saying "we must do more to protect them, especially in war".

**UK military prosecutions**

AOAV revealed that the UK military did not prosecute 94% of complaints it received in relation to mistreatment of civilians during the height of fighting in Afghanistan.

**Arms Trade and Exports**

AOAV exposed that UK paid more than £300m by Saudi military for weapons systems training. We also examined if UK universities were being supported by the defence sector to evolve killer robots.

**Suicides**

AOAV published findings that more serving British service personnel have killed themselves since 1984 than have died in combat; we will follow up with an analysis of reported veteran suicides since 2001.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**Sexual violence**

AOAV published a report on the ongoing concerns of sexual violence in the British Military

**Police violence**

AOAV wrote a report about the Chris Kaba shooting and the reality of armed policing in modern Britain

**Rwanda**

Following the refusal of the Rwandan government to let us report there, AOAV published three reports: Rwanda government fails to give press accreditation to AOAV Executive Director to report on human rights abuses against refugees

The UK-Rwanda Partnership: a timeline

How Rwanda's stifling of the Press prevents proper accountability for asylum scheme

**ATT and EWIPA**

Since September 2022, Jenny has completed the write up of the report examining the ATT's impact on civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons, including six case studies (four focused on the worst impacted countries and two on key exporters of explosive weapons) and a thematic assessment of successes and challenges. The report utilised data collected by Jenny on 199 states and territories covering explosive weapon exports, import and export values, civilian harm from explosive weapons and ATT status, for example. Jenny also conducted ten interviews with experts related of ATT-related areas over September 2022 which informed the reports thematic.

**Other:**

**Other reports include:**

- "This should be seen as an atmosphere of violence" – AirPressure reveals the extent of Israeli incursions over Lebanon skies
- "Those who suffered the most were the people" – composer Him Sophy on the impact of explosive violence in Cambodia, and the power of music to heal
- 18 Images that Helped Define Modern Conflict
- 98% of casualties from Russian use of explosive weapons in towns and cities civilians
- A step forward: 10 countries that signed Ireland's Political Declaration have been responsible for civilian harm from explosive weapons in populated areas within last decade
- Almost two-thirds of UK's air threats deemed to come from Russian violations of airspace
- Average civilian casualties per suicide bombing globally rose 56% in 2021 compared to 2020, AOAV finds
- Beyond Ukraine: since 24 February 2022, non-state actors have caused 70% of civilian casualties of explosive violence in populated areas
- Bloody Sunday remembered
- Casualty recording and the importance of States to do so
- COVID 19 and Its Impact on Extremist Groups' Use of IEDs
- How can engineering-driven approaches complement ongoing advocacy efforts to reduce harm from EWIPA? Dr Jack Denny explains.
- ICRC Report – Explosive Weapons with Wide Area Effects: A Deadly Choice in Populated Areas
- In sending weapons to Ukraine, we must not forget the lessons of history

Action on Armed Violence  
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**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

- IS and IS-Affiliated Explosive Violence in 2022
- IS and ISWAP Target Drinking Establishments in Taraba, Nigeria, for First Time in Over a Decade
- It's Actually Civilians that are Targeted: Dr Matthew Spreadbury on Delivering Emergency Trauma Response in Myanmar
- Maitland et al's analysis of 983 civilian casualties generates the first template of immediate surgical response for civilian blast injuries
- Many Students Killed and Wounded in Explosions Outside a Boy's School in Kabul
- Kramatorsk Railway Station Attack
- Myanmar Conflict Briefing
- Over 80 Countries Committed to Curb Use of Explosive Weapons, Now Comes the Hard Part
- Putin's War: the Atrocities Unfolding Out of Site
- Questions raised about the diversity deficit in the upper ranks of the British Army
- Russia's Arsenal of Explosive Weapons in Ukraine
- Russian Bombings of Hospitals and Healthcare
- Saudi Arabia Outranks Russia in Leading Perpetrators of Civilian Casualties from Explosive Violence
- The Birth of Terror: How the First-Ever Suicide Bomber Emerged in Russia and Changed the World Forever
- The Impact of Bombs on the Human Body 1
- The Impact of Bombs on the Human Body 2
- The Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General Speaks on the Informal Consultations Towards a Political Declaration to Address the Humanitarian Impact of the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas
- Ukraine Sees 90% Increase in Ground Launched Explosive Weapons in Towns and Cities
- UNGA adopts draft resolution 'Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices'
- UNMAS Event: Improvised Explosive Devices
- What is a Thermobaric or Vacuum Bomb?

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**Media Coverage**

Of note, Murray Jones was shortlisted for an Amnesty Award for his work on Special Forces: Amnesty announces Media Awards finalists

Other media coverage included:

'I want to leave more than ever': A year after U.S. pullout, Kabul is a city in despair

دهنديم ري ټيغ چنگ به را شمان گاه له لامي ف ٢٠

57% of asylum seekers due to be deported to Rwanda are Kurdish

À Gaza, Israël utilise des bombes de l'époque de la guerre du Vietnam

Are UK weapons being used against protestors in Iran?

Armies are re-learning how to fight in cities

Assassination of former leader Shinzo Abe stuns mostly gun-free Japan

At least 64 children killed in UK military Afghan operations

Aus sicherer Distanz: Minen räumen mit Hilfe von Drohnen

Bez tanků se města dobýt nedají, tanky jsou tam ale nejzranitelnější. Rusko v troskách metropolí vždy narazilo

Britain's elite special forces should be monitored by MPs, charity demands

Cambridge University's research ties abandon the global majority

Car Bombing Hits Motorcade of High-Ranking Official in Yemen

Comment les livraisons d'armes sophistiquées ont redonné l'avantage à l'Ukraine

Ekspertė: karo Ukrainoje metu gresia ekologinė katastrofa Skaitykite daugiau

Exclusive: Qatar's FM says concerns growing over Afghanistan's future

Exportations militaires britanniques : depuis 2010, 33 milliards d'armement pour des régimes douteux

Former SAS soldier Billy Billingham: 'No one trains to see someone tortured and mutilated'

Historisches Abkommen gegen den Einsatz von Explosivwaffen in Wohngebieten

How are NATO, Russia's airstrike policies different? - explainer

How dangerous are homemade explosives?

HRW Calls for Investigation into "Possible War Crimes"

L'impatto delle guerre sui bambini

Lethal numbers

Malaysia's 'Politics as Usual' Is Hollowing Out Its Democracy

Mariupol: a város, amit éppen leradírozna a térképről

Ordigni inesplosi: un'eredità pesante per l'Ucraina

Partially damaged buildings enter real estate market

People Crossing Channel from Countries with High Rates of Explosive Violence

Politicians may blub at ex-military pilots training the Chinese, but it's a free market

População civil é a principal vítima de armamento explosivo em 2021

Preso por tentar carbonizar ex após ser rejeitado

Protecting Civilians from Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas: A New Political Declaration

Putin ricorre ora «all'arma nucleare dei poveri»?

Russian Forces Have Targeted 12 Hospitals Since 2011

Secrecy, lies and refugees ... what the hell is going on in Rwanda?

There's no place for arms companies at our university

Two-Thirds of Ukrainian Civilians Witnessed Explosive Violence Since War Began

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

UK Military Failing its LGBTQ Personnel

Ukraine Update: Russia Strikes Military Center Closer to Poland

US keeps the pain coming for Afghans

Yemeni Children Live in Nests, But the UK is Open for Saudi Business

**Advocacy**

AOAV's work was cited in the 2022 UN Secretary General's Protection of Civilians Report and the ICRC report, Explosive Weapons with Wide Area Effects: A Deadly Choice in Populated Areas;

AOAV attended the 8th ATT Conference of State Parties where some of the key challenges impacting the ATT and its implementation were discussed.

AOAV presented at the UN on 22 July the following: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on extremist groups' use of Improvised Explosive Devices

AOAV held an event in July at the Houses of Parliament: The Casualties of Ukraine:

AOAV wrote an open Letter to Liz Truss: send UK diplomats to the First Meeting of States Parties of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

AOAV presented Patterns of Explosive Weapon Harm in Ukraine Before and After 24 Feb at the Historical Analysis Annual Conference (Dupuy Institute, Military Affairs)

AOAV spoke at the Frontline Club on the 12 September about civilian casualties in war-time and how to investigate such

AOAV presented IED event at the UNGA with the French government and assisted in UNGA adopts draft resolution 'Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices'; AOAV was also at two other interventions at the UNGA

AOAV was in Dublin and worked with INEW to this end: Over 80 Countries Committed to Curb Use of Explosive Weapons, Now Comes the Hard Part

Part of framing debate where the UK's Defence Committee refused access to UK Special Forces in heated debate with Defence Minister. Also AOAV welcomes Ministry of Defence proposal for a judge-led review into allegations of SAS extra-judicial killings in Afghanistan

82 countries including 23 NATO states sign agreement to protect civilians from explosive weapons in populated areas;

AOAV spoke at House of Lords event on killer robots

AOAV spoke at the Scottish Parliament on matters relating to EWIPA

AOAV's invitee to House of Commons in July – Oleksandra Matviichuk – was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**Concluding remarks**

In the face of ongoing armed conflicts and human rights abuses, the work of organizations like AOAV remains critical in advocating for the rights and protection of civilians. Looking towards the future, it is clear that there is still much work to be done in terms of accountability, transparency, and protection of civilians in conflict zones.

AOAV's ongoing efforts to monitor and report on armed violence and advocate for the protection of civilians provide an important voice in this ongoing conversation. As the organization continues to confront abuses and protect civilians from armed violence, their work will remain a crucial part of the global efforts towards peace, justice, and human rights.

We thank our main funders – including the Norwegian government, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and UN bodies – for helping us continue our work independently and unblinkingly.

**OVERVIEW OF FUTURE PLANS FOR 2023**

AOAV seeks to continue its crucial research and advocacy work that focuses on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas worldwide, as well as looking more into UK issues of armed violence, militarism and counter-terrorism.

The competition for funding is, as ever, tight.

AOAV will safeguard its future by ensuring that it responds quickly and flexibly to opportunities as they arise, with hard-hitting, compelling bids.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Action on Armed Violence was established as a charitable trust in 2007, originally called the Landmine Action Charitable Trust. The Trust's name was changed to Action on Armed Violence in 2010. It is also a charitable company. The charity is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company.

**Operational Decision-Making**

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charitable company, is responsible for the governance of Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include: determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), monitoring performance, managing the governance process, and providing insight, guidance and wisdom. Management is provided by the CEO working with the staff of the organisation.

## Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued

### **Recruitment & Appointment of Board Members**

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal opportunities policy. The procedure for recruiting and inducting board members is as follows:

- Skills required by new Board members are assessed on the basis of gaps within the existing board.
- Invitations are issued through the national press, existing networks and/or the website, as appropriate.
- Candidates are short-listed, contacted and interviewed by the Board Chair and CEO.

Procedures for Board member recruitment, election, rotation/re-election and retirement continue to be developed.

### **Induction & Training of Board Members**

New Board members are issued with an induction pack covering AOAV's work and key policies. They meet the CEO and staff to discuss strategy, policy, current and planned activities. All Trustees are invited to attend network and parliamentary meetings and relevant conferences (when time and funding permit).

The directors who served in the year are:

Professor Michael Spagat	(Chair)
Dr Marina Brillman	(resigned Dec 2022)
Colonel Steve Smith	(resigned Dec 2022)
Dr Saleyha Ahsan	
Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis	
Rocco Faustus Blume	
Leanna Burnard	(appointed Dec 2022)
Andrew Maber-Jones	(appointed Dec 2022)
Dr Jack Denny	(appointed May 2023)

### **Risk Management Statement**

All procurement and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that authorisation and accountability lines are respected. AOAV's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks which may affect the company in the achievement of its objectives. Internal risks are reduced by the application of appropriate controls to ensure that financial, administrative and operational procedures are effective, thus minimising the risk of financial loss and litigation against the company. All risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact on organisation, and managed accordingly

### **Public Benefit**

The Board of Trustees has complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how the planned activities of the company will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives they have set.

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**Principal Financial Management Policies**

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of donations from unrestricted income is decided on the basis of needs identified by AOA V Board of Trustees. Donations derived from non-institutional restricted income are allocated according to the requests of the donors.

**Reserves Policy**

The majority of AOA V work is funded from restricted funds. The contractual arrangements with donors cover the completion of such tasks and related financial commitments. AOA V retains unrestricted reserves to ensure the longer-term viability of the organisation and the sustainability of its programmes against short-term funding shortfalls or emergency funding requirements. The reserves balance is reviewed regularly along with the level of the organisation's total incoming and outgoing funds. The Board considers current level of reserves to be adequate.

The minimum reserve amount is the cost of running the charity for three months salaries and other running expenses, £45,000. This is kept in reserve. At 31 December 2022 AOA V had £82,795 (2021: £69,341) in unrestricted funds (this includes the reserve), a further £7,902 (2021: £40,811) was carried over for restricted funds.

**Financial Position**

During 2022 Action on Armed Violence received income of £163,880 vs £201,815 in the previous year. Our expenditure was £183,335 vs £196,150 previous year.

Our major funding source for our research work was the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via Article 36), UNSCAR and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

AOA V renewed its efforts to ensure that funds for its research activities are available on a consistent basis. AOA V will continue to work closely with current and new donors to secure continuing financial support for its work.

**Small Company Rules**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2022: continued**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of AOVV for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom 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 principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware.
- That each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2022 was 7 (2021: 5). The Trustees are members of the charity. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

Signed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

*Michael Spagat*

Professor Mike Spagat

08/09/2023

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

#### **To the Trustees of Action on Armed Violence**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 20-31.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

As the charity 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 company'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**

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 that in any material respect:

- 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.

Shruti Soni

Shruti Soni FCCA  
Shruti Soni Ltd  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL  
Date 18/09/2023

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)  
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>						
Donations and legacies	3	17,141	-	17,141	3,904	-	3,904
Charitable activities	4	57,668	89,071	146,739	95,678	102,233	197,911
<b>Total income</b>		<b>74,809</b>	<b>89,071</b>	<b>163,880</b>	<b>99,582</b>	<b>102,233</b>	<b>201,815</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	<b>5</b>						
Raising funds		8,254	-	8,254	4,183	-	4,183
Charitable activities		53,101	121,980	175,081	94,110	97,857	191,967
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>61,355</b>	<b>121,980</b>	<b>183,335</b>	<b>98,293</b>	<b>97,857</b>	<b>196,150</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		13,454	( 32,909)	<b>( 19,455)</b>	1,289	4,376	<b>5,665</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		-	-	-	( 730)	730	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		13,454	( 32,909)	<b>( 19,455)</b>	559	5,106	<b>5,665</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		69,341	40,811	110,152	68,782	35,705	104,487
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>£ 82,795</b>	<b>£ 7,902</b>	<b>£ 90,697</b>	<b>£ 69,341</b>	<b>£ 40,811</b>	<b>£ 110,152</b>

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

The statement of financial activities complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2022**

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	8		-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	18,594		2,305	
Cash at bank and in hand		80,838		121,147	
		99,432		123,452	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10	( 8,735)		( 13,300)	
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			90,697		110,152
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>£ 90,697</b>		<b>£ 110,152</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	13		7,902		40,811
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			82,795		69,341
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<b>£ 90,697</b>		<b>£ 110,152</b>

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2022. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 22 to 31 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 08/09/2023

*Michael Spagat*

**Name: Professor Mike Spagat  
Trustee**

**Company Registration No. 06381573  
Charity Registration No. 1122057**

# Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### 1 Statutory information

Action on Armed Violence is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 06381573 and is registered with the Charity Commission number 1122057. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principle activities are to carry out research, advocacy and fieldwork in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

Action on Armed Violence meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Action on Armed Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are presented, to the nearest pound, in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

### 2 Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Basis of preparation

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), (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'.

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

#### 2.2 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to particular categories of income:

Where donations and grants are restricted to future accounting periods, they are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods. Grants for immediate financial support and assistance, or to reimburse costs previously incurred, are recognised immediately.

The charitable company receives government grants in respect of furthering its charitable objectives. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value.

Charitable activities includes commissioned work carried out by Action on Armed Violence staff and is recognised in the period along with other income.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charitable company. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

# Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

### 2.3 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to third parties, it is probable and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the charitable company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

### 2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The charitable company operates a policy of capitalising fixed asset items over £1,000. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Furniture and equipment	4 years, on a straight line basis
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

### 2.5 Leasing commitments

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

### 2.6 Debtors and Creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### 2.7 Foreign currency

The charitable company no longer operates foreign currency bank accounts.

### 2.8 Pensions

The charitable company now operates an Auto Enrolment defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

### 2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

The charitable company does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022 £
<b>3 Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations	8,741	-	8,741
Legacies	8,400	-	8,400
	<b>17,141</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,141</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2021</b>			<b>2021 £</b>
Donations	3,904	-	3,904
	<b>3,904</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,904</b>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>			<b>£</b>
Article 36	-	37,000	37,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	56,668	-	56,668
UNSCAR	-	41,179	41,179
University of Birmingham	-	8,372	8,372
University of Bristol		2,520	2,520
Lush	1,000	-	1,000
	<b>57,668</b>	<b>89,071</b>	<b>146,739</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2021</b>			<b>2021 £</b>
Article 36	-	54,096	54,096
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	73,668	-	73,668
The Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation	20,396	-	20,396
United Nations Mine Action Service	-	37,534	37,534
Justice for Journalists (see Note 16)	-	10,603	10,603
University of Birmingham	1,614		1,614
	<b>95,678</b>	<b>102,233</b>	<b>197,911</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

### 5 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	7,178	114,086	3,589	-	124,853
Staff training	-	750	-	-	750
Research and reports	-	23,994	-	-	23,994
Travel	-	11,144	-	-	11,144
Office costs	1,076	9,145	538	-	10,759
Communications	-	4,019	212	-	4,231
Legal and professional fees	-	488	2,713	2,583	5,784
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	1,320	500	1,820
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	8,254	163,627	8,372	3,083	183,335
Support costs		3,083		(3,083)	-
Governance costs		8,372	(8,372)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2022</b>	<b>8,254</b>	<b>175,081</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>183,335</b>
<i>Total expenditure 2021</i>	<i>4,183</i>	<i>191,967</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>196,150</i>

Of the total expenditure:	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
2022	£ 61,355	£ 121,980	£ 183,335
2021	£ 98,293	£ 97,857	£ 196,150

<b>Prior year comparatives: 2021</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,118	118,978	3,432	-	126,528
Staff training	-	-	-	-	-
Research and reports	-	30,578	-	-	30,578
Travel	-	18,383	-	-	18,383
Office costs	65	10,259	543	-	10,868
Communications	-	3,924	207	-	4,130
Legal and professional fees	-	-	13	3,460	3,473
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	2,190	-	2,190
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,183	182,122	6,385	3,460	196,150
Support costs		3,460		(3,460)	-
Governance costs		6,385	(6,385)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2021</b>	<b>4,183</b>	<b>191,967</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>196,150</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

### 6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	-
Independent Examination	1,320	1,300

### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Salaries and wages	113,765	115,868
Social Security costs	7,666	7,724
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	3,422	2,936
	<b>124,853</b>	<b>126,528</b>

### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Charitable activities	3	3.5

There was 1 employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

The key management personnel of the charitable company included the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits paid to key management personnel including NIC and pension were £71,787 in 2022 (2021: £68,634).

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Furniture and Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost:</b>		
At 1 January 2022	825	825
Disposals	-	-
Additions at cost	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
At 1 January 2022	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
On disposals	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Net book value:</b>	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	-	-
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	-	-

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

<b>9 Debtors</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	600	<b>600</b>
Prepayments and accrued income	17,994	1,705
	<hr/>	
	<b>18,594</b>	<b>2,305</b>
	<hr/>	

<b>10 Creditors</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	-	1,015
Social Security and other taxes	-	2,839
Pension	657	775
Other creditors	5,218	5,811
Accruals and deferred income	2,860	2,860
	<hr/>	
	<b>8,735</b>	<b>13,300</b>
	<hr/>	

<b>11 Analysis of net assets between funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:			
Current Assets	91,530	7,902	99,432
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(8,735)	-	(8,735)
	<hr/>		
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>82,795</b>	<b>7,902</b>	<b>90,697</b>
	<hr/>		

### 12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative 2021

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	82,641	40,811	123,452
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(13,300)	-	(13,300)
	<hr/>		
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>69,341</b>	<b>40,811</b>	<b>110,152</b>
	<hr/>		

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

### 13 Funds - current year

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 1 Jan 2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	At 31 Dec 2022 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Norwegian Funding 2021/22: Article 36	17,601		(17,601)	-
Norwegian Funding 2022: Article 36	-	37,000	(37,000)	-
UNMAS	23,210		(23,210)	-
UNSCAR	-	41,179 (	33,455)	7,724
University of Birmingham	-	8,372 (	8,194)	178
University of Bristol	-	2,520 (	2,520)	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>40,811</b>	<b>89,071 (</b>	<b>121,980)</b>	<b>7,902</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>				
<b>General funds</b>	<b>69,341</b>	<b>74,809</b>	<b>(61,355)</b>	<b>82,795</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>110,152</b>	<b>163,880</b>	<b>(183,335)</b>	<b>90,697</b>

#### Restricted Funds - description

**Norwegian Funding;** funding as part of a consortium bid to Norwegian People's Aid.

For AOA V this funding comes via an agreement with Article 36 and it includes monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor.

#### UNMAS - UN Mine Action Service

Funding received via UNMAS and funded by the French Government to highlight the figures of IED victims. The project runs from November 20 until 2022, with the first tranche of funding received in January 21. Covid 19 slightly delayed the delivery of this project, and an extension of 12 months was requested by UNMAS and agreed upon.

#### UNSCAR - United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

Funding received for research utilising UNIDIR's EWIPA Indicators to assess the effectiveness of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on reducing civilian harm from conventional explosive weapons in populated areas.

#### University of Birmingham

#DisabledVoicesfromGaza –narrative methodologies with media and information literacy (MIL) to empower university students with disabilities in Palestine

#### University of Bristol

Funding to support University of Bristol students working on internships at AOA V.

#### Justice for Journalists

Funding received to investigate the impact of the war in Eastern Ukraine in 2014 and onwards on Ukrainian journalists, bloggers and social media users. Specifically to look at look at key cases of violent crimes against journalists and bloggers in the so-called Luhansk Peoples Republic (LPR) and Donetsk Peoples Republic (DPR) between 2015-2020. Using extensive contacts in both the DPR and LPR and years of investigative experience, this project examines the treatment of journalists who are detained in the DPR and LPR and their access to legal representation. The agreement was detailed as being between Justice for Journalists and Iain Overton but paid directly to AOA V.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued

**14 Funds - prior year comparative**

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	<i>At 01 Jan 2021 £</i>	<i>Incoming £</i>	<i>Outgoing £</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>At 31 Dec 2021 £</i>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Norwegian Funding 2020/21	37,595	-	(37,595)	-	-
Norwegian Funding 2021/22: Article 36	-	54,096	(36,495)	-	17,601
UNMAS	( 1,890)	37,534	( 12,434)	-	23,210
Justice for Journalists	-	10,603	( 11,333)	730	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>35,705</b>	<b>102,233</b>	<b>( 97,857)</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>40,811</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>68,782</b>	<b>99,582</b>	<b>(98,293)</b>	<b>(730)</b>	<b>69,341</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>104,487</b>	<b>201,815</b>	<b>(196,150)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>110,152</b>

**15 Operating lease commitments**

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

<b>Property</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Less than one year	-	1,620
One to five years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	1,620
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022: continued**

### **16 Related parties**

In 2022 1 trustee Prof M Spagat made a donation of £4,000 to be used for general purposes, there are no other related party transactions in the year (2021: two. Trustee Mr S Smith received the fee of £1,500 for work funded by the United Nations Mine Action Service and Chief Executive - Iain Overton was granted £10,603 by Justice for Journalists as a restricted grant which was paid directly to AOAV and is treated as being received directly by AOAV).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business.

### **17 Trustees**

No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2022 (2021: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to trustees or third parties. In 2021; 1 trustee, Mr S Smith, received the fee of £1,500 for work funded by the UN Mine Action Service as permitted in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, no other trustee (or any person connected with them) received any remunerations from the charity during the year.

### **18 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments**

Defined contribution

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contributions payable by the company for the year	3,422	2,936

At 31 December 2022 £657 was outstanding (2021: £775)

### **19 Contingent assets or liabilities**

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2022 (2021:Nil).

### **20 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company was under the control of the Trustees during the period under review.

There is no single ultimate controlling party.

**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1122057

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# Accounts

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**ACTION ON  
ARMED VIOLENCE**

**AOAV**

**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021**

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Legal and Administrative Information**

**Board**

Professor Michael Spagat	(Chair)
Dr Marina Brillman	
Colonel Steve Smith	
Dr Saleyha Ahsan	(appointed 18 March 2021)
Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis	(appointed 15 December 2021)
Rocco Faustus Blume	(appointed 20 May 2022)
Olivia Dix	(resigned 18 March 2021)
Malcolm Rodgers	(resigned 18 March 2021)

**Chief Executive**

Iain Overton

**Principal Office**

405 Mile End Road  
London  
E3 4PB

**Company Number**

06381573

**Charity Number**

1122057

**Independent Examiners**

Shruti Soni  
Shruti Soni Limited  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL

**Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
City Offices  
80 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3NJ

**INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR: PROFESSOR MIKE SPAGAT**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) is a charity whose work on a range of issues related to the global reduction of armed violence is respected worldwide. It has become one of the outstanding research bodies in its field, despite its modest size and resources. We are grateful to our Executive Director and his small team of Jennifer Dathan, Murray Jones and Emily Griffith who produced high-quality research and advocacy in 2021. With such a small team, AOAV relies on volunteers, so we also thank the over 20 volunteers, who made such a contribution to its research.

AOAV is also well-supported by its Board and we thank our colleague Trustees who give freely of their considerable individual expertise and experience.

In common with other organisations in the field of armed violence, fundraising continues to be a challenge, but AOAV moves forward into 2022 with a clear mandate and a stable financial situation. We are very grateful to all the donors who have continued to support our work.

We believe that AOAV is an important voice in advocating for a global reduction of armed violence and it is our privilege to be associated with it.

Professor Mike Spagat

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spagat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

19 July 2022

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – IAIN OVERTON**

AOAV continued to undertake research and advocacy in 2021, despite the challenges brought by the Covid19 pandemic. Notably, it was the eleventh year of the organisation's Explosive Violence Monitoring Project, enabling us to give a decade worth of data to the debate surrounding the protection of civilians in armed conflict, especially from an explosive violence perspective.

In 2021, we published a series of major reports looking at the Global Explosive Weapons Use, a series of reports on the impact of IEDs, reports on the effects of explosive violence on children, five reports on major explosive violence incidents and a series of reports on British militarism. As with previous years, we worked through the year towards ensuring that political commitments to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas was on the agenda at high level fora in the UN and beyond. This work, as part of our lobbying with the [International Network of Explosive Weapons](#), led to over 100 States stating that they would not use such weapons in towns or cities. We also worked on the issue of IEDs and the harm they bring to ensure such work is now central to the disarmament debate and presented our findings at the United Nations General Assembly.

Our monitor had wide pick-up in the national and international media. We partnered with a number of coalitions to achieve our advocacy ends. These include the International Network of Explosive Weapons (INEW), Protect at Imperial College, the International Blast Research Network (IBRN) at Southampton, the Global Forum for the Arms Trade, the Arms Trade Treaty Forum, the APPG on Explosive Threats, Birkbeck's Centre for Human Rights Reporting and the UK Working Group on Arms, to name some.

In 2021, major funding was generously given by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs via our collaborative agreement with Article 36 and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. We thank them. AOAV was also helped enormously by volunteers who selflessly gave their time and assistance to assist our work.



Iain Overton  
Executive Director

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Board of Trustees are pleased to present their Trustees' Annual Report and accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021. The Trustees' Annual Report contains a Directors' Report as required by company law. The report and accounts comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019).

## **MISSION AND APPROACH**

### **Mission**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) central mission is to carry out research and advocacy in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

To help reduce this burden, AOAV carries out research and advocacy campaigns to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence and to research, understand and act effectively on the root causes of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOAV is committed to:

- *reducing civilian harm from the use of indiscriminate explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support and agreement to this end.*
- *reducing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on civilian populations by advocating for international action that prevents the spread and usage of such devices or their precursor materials*
- *addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons against civilian groups, with a focus on abuses by state actors, government responses to gun massacres, and the trade in illicit small arms*
- *recording the harm from explosive violence and gun violence, with an eye to pursuing the above advocacy goals.*

AOAV's advocacy and research can help it reach its goals:

- By increasing awareness of the key issues in the public, private and political spheres, through the dissemination of target research, so that state parties and international bodies are made aware of the immediate and long-term human damage caused by explosive weapons in populated sectors, which affect wide areas, and the repercussions of such use on national and regional insecurity;
- By providing information about the international community's legal and humanitarian responsibilities in relation to tackling the use and dissemination of explosive weapons, and through articulating how existing legal and humanitarian instruments need to be created to foster a cogent, coordinated international response;
- By promulgating policy recommendations and relevant research to key parties so as to strengthen existing humanitarian protection instruments, and to hold governments accountable for disproportionate use of force against civilians
- By fostering dialogue and disseminating research between private, military, governmental and non-governmental parties, so as to share knowledge on how best to reduce the impact of armed violence.

## Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued

In 2021, we undertook a series of major research projects that examined, in turn:

1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor
2. IED reports
3. The effects of explosive violence on children examined
4. Five major explosive violence incidents examined
5. Militarism examined

Each of these will be addressed in turn, outlining the output, lobbying and impact of each and then our work in advocacy and the media will be highlighted.

### 1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor

#### Monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor

We published our annual report on explosive violence in 2020. That year, we recorded 18,747 deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons around the world, as reported in English language media. Civilians continued to bear the burden of this harm, accounting for 59% (or 11,056) of these casualties. Of those civilian casualties, 33% (3,668) were killed, while 67% (7,388) were injured by explosive weapons. These were the reports:

#### 2020 report overview

<https://aoav.org.uk/2021/explosive-violence-in-2020/>

#### 2020 report

<https://aoav.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Explosive-Violence-Monitor-2020-V3-single-pages.pdf>

We also published a decade review of our data:

#### 2011 – 2020

[A Decade of Explosive Violence Harm, 2011-2020](#)

All of the above reports contained text that amplified our findings, and were widely disseminated via social media, MailChimp and direct mailing. Infographic and video materials were used to highlight the findings. For instance, see the videos on each of the 'Hot Spot' pages:

- [Syria](#)
- [Iraq](#)
- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Pakistan](#)
- [Yemen](#)
- [Nigeria](#)
- [Somalia](#)
- [Gaza](#)
- [Libya](#)
- [Turkey](#)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

**Monthly updates**

- [January 2021](#)
- [February 2021](#)
- [March 2021](#)
- [April 2021](#)
- [May 2021](#)
- [June 2021](#)
- [July 2021](#)
- [August 2021](#)
- [September 2021](#)
- [October 2021](#)
- [November 2021](#)
- [December 2021](#)

We published a series of articles on major explosive incidents, including:

- [10 Killed and 47 Injured in Attack on Borno Capital, Nigeria](#)
- [15 children killed in Afghanistan blast](#)
- [Afghanistan mosque bombings](#)
- [Afghanistan: suicide car bomb in eastern province proves to be deadliest blast so far this year](#)
- [Airstrike on market kills 43 in Ethiopia's Tigray region](#)
- [At least 10 Killed and 47 Injured in Attack on Borno Capital, Nigeria](#)
- [At least 20 killed by suicide car bomb near restaurant in Somalia capital](#)
- [Bata explosion: Equatorial Guinea blasts kill 31, injures 600](#)
- [Car bomb explosion in Colombia military base injures 36](#)
- [Casualty monitoring in Taliban controlled Afghanistan](#)
- [Deminer deaths](#)
- [Double suicide bombing in Baghdad kills 32, leaves 100-plus wounded](#)
- [Explosion outside school in Kabul is deadliest in Afghanistan so far in 2021](#)
- [Hundreds killed and injured in an eruption of violence between Israel and Gaza](#)
- [Hypersonic Missiles](#)
- [Kabul airport bombing](#)
- [Kabul car bomb kills 10 and injures 52](#)
- [North Korea missile tests](#)
- [Targeted shooting of mine clearers in Baghlan province, Afghanistan](#)
- [Uganda domestic terrorism](#)
- [UN Secretary-General points to devastating impact of explosive weapons on civilians in latest annual report, citing AOV data](#)
- [Yemeni missile targets new government, kills 26](#)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

**2. IED reports**

We published three reports on the impact of IEDs around the world as part of a series of work funded by the French government via the United Nations Mine Action Service:

- [IEDs: past, present and future](#)
- [The Challenge IEDs Pose for the Humanitarian Mine Action \(HMA\) Sector](#)
- [An examination of the precursor chemicals found within IEDs](#)

For each report, we hosted a UN Side Event where we presented the reports' findings.

**3. The effects of explosive violence on children examined**

We published our report [Childhood Under Attack: A Timeline of Explosive Weapon Harm](#) and presented the work at an online event. AOAV also published a series of [ten short reports](#) highlighting the impact of explosive violence on children, each focusing on one country.

This report also included the sub-reports:

- [The impact of explosive violence on child psychological health](#)
- [The impact of explosive violence on child physical health](#)
- [The impact of explosive violence on children's education](#)
- [The impact of explosive violence on child nutrition](#)
- [The impact of explosive violence on a child's access to healthcare](#)

We published interviews with children affected by explosive violence and experts in the field of children and armed violence:

- [Interview with Bana al-Abed](#)
- [Interview with Dr Paul Wise](#)

## Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued

### **4. Five major explosive violence incidents examined**

Five core reports on weapon types and their predictable impact were published; these can be seen here: [An Anatomy of an Explosive Weapon Attack](#)

Each report was presented as 'An Anatomy' of a specific weapon type. We employed UNIDIR's 'Menu of Indicators to Measure the Reverberating Effects on Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas' (EWIPA indicators) as a framework for analysing the immediate and long-term impacts from these specific explosive weapons. Accordingly, the following weapons were covered:

- [An Anatomy of an Airstrike](#)
- [An Anatomy of a Grad Strike](#)
- [An Anatomy of a Mortar Strike](#)
- [An Anatomy of a Landmine Blast](#)
- [An Anatomy of a Grenade Attack](#)

In each report, there were a series of sub-chapters published, with supporting media. For instance, for the Grad report, we published:

- [Grad Attacks Globally](#)
- [Case Study – Mariupol, Ukraine, 24th January 2015](#)
- [SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#)
- [SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities](#)
- [SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being](#)
- [SDG 4 – Quality Education](#)

In addition, there were a series of reports on the characteristic of each of these weapons in the section '[Weapons Explained](#)'

These include:

- [What is an Airstrike?](#)
- [What is a Grad?](#)
- [What is a Mortar?](#)
- [What is a Landmine?](#)
- [What is a Grenade?](#)

Given the impact of Covid19 on UN events, AOAV worked with INEW and Article 36 to host an online event on the 25 May 2021, in where the key data of a decade of violence (above) and these five major incident reports were highlighted and reviewed. Over 140 people attended. We published a series of infographics and images that are within the above reports and were disseminated widely on social media. The interviews of the people impacted by the events were published in the above series of posts – woven into the reports. We also published: [Six years after rockets fell on Mariupol, scars still remain](#)

## Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued

### 5. Militarism examined

Over 2021, AOAV scrutinised the UK arms trade, looking at export licences approved to embargoed or restricted countries:

- [UK approves military exports to 80% of countries on own restricted list](#)
- [UK sells arms to nearly 80% of countries under restrictions, says report](#)
- [UK arms exports to Saudis to continue amid record missile sales](#)

We produced an analysis, with Phil Miller of Declassified, of the [history of opacity](#) surrounding Special Forces.

Civilian casualty recording was a recurrent theme, with a [piece published in Al-Jazeera](#) on the number of civilian deaths from airstrikes in Afghanistan, between 2016-2020. Currently he is working on a database of incidents of civilian harm that have been linked to British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In July, we did an analysis piece in [Byline Times](#): The UK's New Elite Regiment & the Evasion of Democracy In August, we did another investigation in [Byline Times](#): Myanmar Police Force Trained by British Officers Under EU Scheme

In September, we ran a report on British forces compensation payments for the deaths of at least 289 civilians in Afghanistan, including as many as 86 children, garnered global coverage. The report, which showed fighting by British service personnel in Afghanistan led to financial settlements for at least 289 civilian deaths across 189 incidents between 2006 to 2013, was cited by over five dozen media outlets globally. The coverage focused on AOAV's data on Ministry of Defence (MOD) payouts for Afghans killed, included as many as seven dozen children. Overall, £688,000 was paid out by the British military for 289 deaths, meaning the average compensation for a civilian killed was £2,380. Although some of these payouts were combined with injuries and property damage, meaning this average is somewhat inflated.

Other stories include an expose of [sniper rifle exports](#). We also found that the [UK Gov approves export of tear gas to third of world](#) and this has raised concerns of their use in human rights violations .

### Other

We have published some other reports, driven by volunteers. These included:

- ['Fires everywhere': the bombing of Germany 1942 – 1945 examined](#)
- [How is climate change driving conflict in Africa?](#)
- [Abu Sayyaf and suicide bombings in the Philippines: an analysis](#)
- [UNAMA's Civilians in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan 2020 – report](#)
- [Police Lethal Force and Accountability: a review](#)
- [The End of Where We Begin](#)
- [Why Mexico was the most dangerous place to be a journalist in the world in 2020](#)
- ['Fires everywhere': the bombing of Germany 1942 – 1945 examined](#)
- [How is climate change driving conflict in Africa?](#)
- [Abu Sayyaf and suicide bombings in the Philippines: an analysis](#)
- [UNAMA's Civilians in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan 2020 – report](#)
- [Police Lethal Force and Accountability: a review](#)
- [The End of Where We Begin](#)
- [Why Mexico was the most dangerous place to be a journalist in the world in 2020](#)
- [UK universities funded £190 million from major arms manufacturers since 2013](#)
- [Less than fifth of Afghan young people granted asylum in UK since 2009 were women or girls](#)
- ['We were told that bombing wouldn't work – well it did': headlines from 2001 Afghan intervention reviewed](#)
- [Are British-sourced weapons fuelling violence in Afghanistan?](#)
- [Study shows 43% of 112 deminer deaths since 2005 not recorded in organisations' annual reports](#)

## Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued

### 6. Advocacy

The following major advocacy interventions were undertaken in 2021:

- Engagement with INEW and EWIPA political declaration: this is to be 'launched' in early Feb 2022 in Geneva
- Intervention in Irish government event debating the text for the political commitment on avoiding the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- Ran online event with over 100 people on Children and Explosive Violence
- Engaged with MPs on direct discussions on the arms trade
- Engaged in POC round table discussions
- INEW engagement (repeated)
- Submitted evidence to CAEC
- Repeated work on OOB and MOD engagement and work with Airwars and other civil society
- Lecture at Universities on Conflict Reporting
- Launch of 2020 and Decade report
- Presented Weapon Case Studies with INEW
- Hosted a UN First Committee Side Event where we presented the report: "The Challenge IEDs Pose for the Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Sector"

### 7. Media coverage

AOAV's coverage over 2021 included:

- Al Jazeera: [Nearly 1,600 child casualties in the past five years](#)
- Albawaba - [10 Female Journalists Who Have Transformed The Media Industry](#)
- Andalou - [Bomb attack in Somalia kills 3, injures 7](#)
- Andalou - [US forces kill top al-Shabaab leaders](#)
- BBC: [Afghanistan war: UK's lowest payout for civilian death was £104.17](#)
- BH Online - [Pemimpin tertinggi Al-Shabaab maut dalam serangan udara](#)
- Byline Times: [1,600 Child Civilian Casualties from Airstrikes in Afghanistan over last five years](#)
- Byline Times: [Government Approves Sniper Licenses to Countries on its Own List of Concern](#)
- Byline Times: [Ministry of Mystery Government Doesn't Know how Many Civilians it has Killed in Wars Abroad](#)
- Byline Times: [Ten Examples of British Military Spending Plagued by Inefficiency and Spiralling Costs](#)
- Byline Times: [The Final Days Of NATO's Mission in Afghanistan](#)
- Byline Times: [The UK's New Elite Regiment & the Evasion of Democracy](#)
- CNN Arabic: [2020 في المدن بين حياة على خطر أكبر ت شهد دول قائمة..عرب ية دول 3 منها](#)
- Common Dreams: [Study Shows 91% of People Killed or Injured by Explosives in Global Cities Were Civilians](#)
- Daily Mail: [UK Government paid compensation for nearly 300 civilian deaths in Afghanistan at an average of £2,380 per family, analysis shows](#)
- Defense Post - [Mine Blast in Central Syria Kills 18](#)
- Diario - [Síria à beira de dez anos de uma guerra onde não há vencedores](#)
- DW - [Les civils, premières victimes des conflits contemporains](#)
- El Salto - [La herida más larga del mundo](#)
- FAN - [London caught selling arms to countries violating human rights](#)
- Friesch Dagblad: [Negen van de tien slachtoffers van een bom in stedelijk gebied is burger blijkt uit onderzoek](#)
- Guardian - [Civilian deaths in conflict plummeted during pandemic, report finds](#)
- Guardian - [UK sells arms to nearly 80% of countries under restrictions, says report](#)
- Guardian: [Revealed: UK forces linked to deaths of nearly 300 Afghan civilians](#)
- Helsingin Sanomat - [Raportti: Britannia hyväksynyt asekauppoja valtaosaan maista, joille sen omat viranomaiset ovat asettaneet vientirajoituksia](#)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

*AOAV's coverage over 2021 continued:*

- International Centre for Investigative Reporting: [Shadow War: Military airstrikes that killed, injured unarmed civilians in Zamfara](#)
- James Madison University: [AOAV webinar: A Decade of Explosive Violence Harm](#)
- La Difesa - [In 10 anni nel mondo oltre 17 mila minori uccisi da armi esplosive](#)
- La Difesa - [Siamo un Paese migliore? Serve tenacia](#)
- Lincolnshire Live: [Man who joked about military bomb injuries on Facebook becomes town councillor](#)
- Middle East Eye: [Arms trade: UK exporting tear gas to Middle East authoritarians](#)  
<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/uk-middle-east-tear-gas-exporting-authoritarians>
- Middle-East Eye: ['The war is not over': The Gaza Strip's unexploded bombs](#)
- Middle-East Eye: [Faulty, indiscriminate, lethal: Israel opts for Vietnam-era bombs in Gaza](#)
- Moms.com - [Schools Are Targets Of "Explosive Violence," States Report](#)
- Newsable: [Drone laden with explosives targets Iraq PM's house, Kadhim unharmed after 'failed assassination attempt'](#)
- Newsweek - [As World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis Rages, the 'Perfect Storm' is Blowing Up in Yemen](#)
- Newsweek: [In Conflicts Like Gaza War, 90% of Casualties Are Civilians, Report Says](#)
- Politics Home - [Health organisations urge UK Government to endorse UN Political Declaration protecting patients, medics and health facilities in war zones](#)
- Postimees - [Süüria keskosas hukkus maamiiniplahvatuses 18 inimest](#)
- Press TV: [UK keeps exporting tear gas to Mideast's authoritarian regimes](#)
- Presse Portal: [Russland und die USA: Hauptverursacher von Leid und Tod von Zivilisten durch Luftangriffe](#)
- Russia Today - [Money tops human rights as the UK flogs £2.6bn of sniper rifles, riot shields, tear gas and guns to 'dodgy' regimes](#)
- Sky News: [Afghanistan: UK paid out for 289 civilian deaths, analysis shows – with one family getting just £104](#)
- The Boar: [What did the 20-year war cost the people of Afghanistan?](#)
- The Daily Telegraph: [MoD pays compensation for 300 Afghan civilian deaths, including children as young as three](#)
- The Independent: [Black Londoners three times more likely to be murdered than other ethnic groups, figures show](#)
- The Leadership - [Revisiting The Case For State Police](#)
- UPI: [Explosive weapons in conflict mostly harm civilians, study shows](#)
- Washington Post: ['Everyone here hated the Americans': Rural Afghans live with the Taliban and a painful U.S. legacy](#)
- Worcester News: ['Sabina Nessa killing: safety of everyone has equal importance'](#)
- Zazoom - [Siria | l' infanzia perduta Gli effetti di 10 anni di guerra su una generazione](#)

Academic citations for the period 2021 of AOA's work included:

- [Defining blast loading 'zones of relevance' for primary blast injury research: A consensus of injury criteria for idealised explosive scenarios](#)
- [Perchlorate detection via an invertebrate biosensor](#)
- [ARMS TRADE BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN YEMEN CONFLICT ASSOCIATED WITH ARMS TRADE TREATY 2014 AND INTERNATIONAL LAW](#)
- [Landmines in America's Backyard](#)
- [Perspectivas de retorno e identidad de exilio: el caso de los refugiados sirios en Líbano](#)
- [Australia: Expanding and Applying the Field of Civil-Military Relations](#)
- [Military Spending and Global Security](#)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

**OVERVIEW OF FUTURE PLANS FOR 2022**

AOAV seeks to continue its crucial research and advocacy work that focuses on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas worldwide, as well as looking more into UK issues of armed violence, militarism and counter-terrorism.

As a consequence of the pandemic, 2022 looks set to be a crucial year in the development of a political commitment to cease/avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. We hope that State parties, guided by members of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), sign to this much needed declaration.

The competition for funding is, as ever, tight.

AOAV will safeguard its future by ensuring that it responds quickly and flexibly to opportunities as they arise, with hard-hitting, compelling bids.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Action on Armed Violence was established as a charitable trust in 2007, originally called the Landmine Action Charitable Trust. The Trust's name was changed to Action on Armed Violence in 2010. It is also a charitable company. The charity is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company.

**Operational Decision-Making**

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charitable company, is responsible for the governance of Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include: determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), monitoring performance, managing the governance process, and providing insight, guidance and wisdom. Management is provided by the CEO working with the staff of the organisation.

**Recruitment & Appointment of Board Members**

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal opportunities policy. The procedure for recruiting and inducting board members is as follows:

- Skills required by new Board members are assessed on the basis of gaps within the existing board.
- Invitations are issued through the national press, existing networks and/or the website, as appropriate.
- Candidates are short-listed, contacted and interviewed by the Board Chair and CEO.

Procedures for Board member recruitment, election, rotation/re-election and retirement continue to be developed.

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

**Induction & Training of Board Members**

New Board members are issued with an induction pack covering AOA's work and key policies. They meet the CEO and staff to discuss strategy, policy, current and planned activities. All Trustees are invited to attend network and parliamentary meetings and relevant conferences (when time and funding permit).

The directors who served in the year are:

Professor Michael Spagat

Dr Marina Brillman

Colonel Steve Smith

Dr Saleyha Ahsan (appointed 18 March 2021)

Professor Ismene-Theodora Gizelis (appointed 15 December 2021)

Rocco Faustus Blume (appointed 20 May 2022)

Olivia Dix (resigned 18 March 2021)

Malcolm Rodgers (resigned 18 March 2021)

**Risk Management Statement**

All procurement and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that authorisation and accountability lines are respected. AOA's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks which may affect the company in the achievement of its objectives. Internal risks are reduced by the application of appropriate controls to ensure that financial, administrative and operational procedures are effective, thus minimising the risk of financial loss and litigation against the company. All risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact on organisation, and managed accordingly

**Public Benefit**

The Board of Trustees has complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how the planned activities of the company will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives they have set.

**Principal Financial Management Policies**

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of donations from unrestricted income is decided on the basis of needs identified by AOA Board of Trustees. Donations derived from non-institutional restricted income are allocated according to the requests of the donors.

**Reserves Policy**

The majority of AOA work is funded from restricted funds. The contractual arrangements with donors cover the completion of such tasks and related financial commitments. AOA retains unrestricted reserves to ensure the longer-term viability of the organisation and the sustainability of its programmes against short-term funding shortfalls or emergency funding requirements. The reserves balance is reviewed regularly along with the level of the organisation's total incoming and outgoing funds. The Board considers current level of reserves to be adequate.

The minimum reserve amount is the cost of running the charity for three months salaries and other running expenses, £45,000. This is kept in reserve. At 31 December 2021 AOA had £69,341 in unrestricted funds (this includes the reserve), a further £40,811 was carried over for restricted funds.

Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

**Financial Position**

During 2021 Action on Armed Violence received income of £201,815 vs £176,669 in the previous year. Our expenditure was £196,150 vs £170,298 previous year.

Our major funding source for our research work was the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via Article 36), UNMAS (as part of a French Government Fund received in 2020) Justice for Journalists, The Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

AOAV renewed its efforts to ensure that funds for its research activities are available on a consistent basis. AOAV will continue to work closely with current and new donors to secure continuing financial support for its work.

**Small Company Rules**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Trustees' report for the year ending 31 December 2021: continued**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of AOA V for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom 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 principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware.
- That each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2021 was 5. The Trustees are members of the charity. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

Signed, on behalf of the Board of Trustees,



Professor Mike Spagat

19 July 2022

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

#### **To the Trustees of Action on Armed Violence**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 17-28.

#### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

As the charity 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 company'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**

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 that in any material respect:

- 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.

*Shruti Soni*

Shruti Soni FCCA  
Shruti Soni Ltd  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL  
Date 20 July 2022

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)  
For the year ended 31 December 2021**

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>						
Donations and legacies	3	3,904	-	3,904	5,999	-	5,999
Charitable activities	4	95,678	102,233	197,911	49,815	120,855	170,670
<b>Total income</b>		<b>99,582</b>	<b>102,233</b>	<b>201,815</b>	<b>55,814</b>	<b>120,855</b>	<b>176,669</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	<b>5</b>						
Raising funds		4,183	-	4,183	4,056	-	4,056
Charitable activities		94,110	97,857	191,967	30,132	136,110	166,242
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>98,293</b>	<b>97,857</b>	<b>196,150</b>	<b>34,188</b>	<b>136,110</b>	<b>170,298</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		1,289	4,376	<b>5,665</b>	21,626	( 15,255)	<b>6,371</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		( 730)	730	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		559	5,106	<b>5,665</b>	21,626	( 15,255)	<b>6,371</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		68,782	35,705	104,487	47,156	50,960	98,116
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>£ 69,341</b>	<b>£ 40,811</b>	<b>£ 110,152</b>	<b>£ 68,782</b>	<b>£ 35,705</b>	<b>£ 104,487</b>

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

The statement of financial activities complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2021**

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	8		-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	2,305		600	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>121,147</u>		<u>112,325</u>	
		123,452		112,925	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10	( 13,300)		( 8,438)	
		<u>110,152</u>		<u>104,487</u>	
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			110,152		104,487
			<u>£ 110,152</u>		<u>£ 104,487</u>
<b>Net assets</b>					
			<u>£ 110,152</u>		<u>£ 104,487</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	13		40,811		35,705
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			69,341		68,782
			<u>£ 110,152</u>		<u>£ 104,487</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>£ 110,152</u>		<u>£ 104,487</u>

The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2021. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on July 18, 2022

*Michael Spagat*

Name: Professor Mike Spagat

Trustee

Company Registration No. 06381573

Charity Registration No. 1122057

# **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

## **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**

### **1 Statutory information**

Action on Armed Violence is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 06381573 and is registered with the Charity Commission number 1122057. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principle activities are to carry out research, advocacy and fieldwork in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

Action on Armed Violence meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Action on Armed Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are presented, to the nearest pound, in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

### **2 Accounting policies**

#### **2.1 Basis of preparation**

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), (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'.

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

#### **2.2 Income**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to particular categories of income:

Where donations and grants are restricted to future accounting periods, they are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods. Grants for immediate financial support and assistance, or to reimburse costs previously incurred, are recognised immediately.

The charitable company receives government grants in respect of furthering its charitable objectives. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value.

Charitable activities includes commissioned work carried out by Action on Armed Violence staff and is recognised in the period along with other income.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charitable company. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

# Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

### 2.3 Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to third parties, it is probable and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the charitable company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

### 2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The charitable company operates a policy of capitalising fixed asset items over £1,000. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Furniture and equipment	4 years, on a straight line basis
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

### 2.5 Leasing commitments

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

### 2.6 Debtors and Creditors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### 2.7 Foreign currency

The charitable company no longer operates foreign currency bank accounts.

### 2.8 Pensions

The charitable company now operates an Auto Enrolment defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

### 2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

The charitable company does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments.

### 2.10 Impact of Covid-19

Covid-19 had a notable impact on AOAV, not least restricting the charity's capacity to travel to conflict zones in many instances. We were also, for a few months, part of the UK government's furlough scheme until we managed to find equilibrium and begin working from home and, over time, the office again. At all times we followed the UK government's guidelines and did not work from the office without cause or host any social gatherings.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021 £
<b>3 Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations	3,904	-	3,904
	<b>3,904</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,904</b>
<i>Prior year comparatives: 2020</i>			<b>2020 £</b>
Donations	5,999	-	5,999
	<b>5,999</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,999</b>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>			<b>£</b>
Article 36	-	54,096	54,096
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	73,668	-	73,668
The Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation	20,396	-	20,396
United Nations Mine Action Service	-	37,534	37,534
Justice for Journalists (see Note 16)	-	10,603	10,603
University of Birmingham	1,614	-	1,614
	<b>95,678</b>	<b>102,233</b>	<b>197,911</b>
<i>Prior year comparatives: 2020</i>			<b>2020 £</b>
Norwegian Funding Article 36	-	90,998	90,998
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	24,607	29,857	54,464
EU Funds (Lot12)	3,357	-	3,357
Australian High Commission	-	-	-
CJRS Grant	18,626	-	18,626
Other	3,225	-	3,225
	<b>49,815</b>	<b>120,855</b>	<b>170,670</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

### 5 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,118	118,978	3,432	-	<b>126,528</b>
Staff training		-			-
Research and reports	-	30,578	-	-	<b>30,578</b>
Travel	-	18,383	-	-	<b>18,383</b>
Office costs	65	10,259	543	-	<b>10,868</b>
Communications	-	3,924	207	-	<b>4,130</b>
Legal and professional fees	-	-	13	3,460	<b>3,473</b>
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	2,190	-	<b>2,190</b>
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>4,183</b>	<b>182,122</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>196,150</b>
Support costs		3,460		(3,460)	-
Governance costs		6,385	(6,385)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2021</b>	<b>4,183</b>	<b>191,967</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>196,150</b>
<i>Total expenditure 2020</i>	<i>4,056</i>	<i>166,242</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>170,298</i>

Of the total expenditure:	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
2021	£ 98,293	£ 97,857	£ 196,150
2020	£ 34,188	£ 136,110	£ 170,298

<b>Prior year comparatives: 2020</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,011	107,737	3,364	-	<b>115,112</b>
Staff training		1,618			<b>1,618</b>
Research and reports	-	23,738	-	-	<b>23,738</b>
Travel	-	5,945	-	-	<b>5,945</b>
Office costs	45	7,374	375	-	<b>7,794</b>
Communications	-	3,135	122	-	<b>3,257</b>
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	3,849	<b>3,849</b>
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	2,130	-	<b>2,130</b>
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	6,855	-	-	<b>6,855</b>
	<b>4,056</b>	<b>156,402</b>	<b>5,991</b>	<b>3,849</b>	<b>170,298</b>
Support costs		3,849		(3,849)	-
Governance costs		5,991	(5,991)		-
<b>Total expenditure 2020</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>166,242</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>170,298</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

### 6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	-
Independent Examination	1,300	1,200

### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and wages	115,868	92,542
Social Security costs	7,724	5,686
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,936	3,141
Underpayment to HMRC relating to 2014/15	-	13,743
	<b>126,528</b>	<b>115,112</b>

### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Charitable activities	3.5	2.5

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

The key management personnel of the charitable company included the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits paid to key management personnel including NIC and pension were £68,634 in 2021 (2020:£66,850).

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Furniture and Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost:</b>		
At 1 January 2021	825	825
Disposals	-	-
Additions at cost	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
At 1 January 2021	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
On disposals	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Net book value:</b>	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	-	-
<i>At 31 December 2020</i>	-	-

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

<b>9 Debtors</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	600	<b>600</b>
Prepayments and accrued income	1,705	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>2,305</b>	<b>600</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>10 Creditors</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	1,015	2,072
Social Security and other taxes	2,839	-
Pension	775	-
Other creditors	5,811	1,812
Accruals and deferred income	2,860	4,554
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>13,300</b>	<b>8,438</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>11 Analysis of net assets between funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:			
Current Assets	82,641	40,811	123,452
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(13,300)	-	(13,300)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>69,341</b>	<b>40,811</b>	<b>110,152</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative 2020**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	-	-	-
Current Assets	75,148	37,777	112,925
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(6,366)	(2,072)	(8,438)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>68,782</b>	<b>35,705</b>	<b>104,487</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

### 13 Funds - current year

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 01 Jan 2021 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer between funds £	At 31 Dec 2021 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Norwegian Funding 2020/21	37,595	-	(37,595)	-	-
Norwegian Funding 2021/22: Article 36	-	54,096	(36,495)	-	17,601
UNMAS	( 1,890)	37,534	( 12,434)	-	23,210
Justice for Journalists	-	10,603	( 11,333)	730	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>35,705</b>	<b>102,233</b>	<b>( 97,857)</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>40,811</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>68,782</b>	<b>99,582</b>	<b>(98,293)</b>	<b>(730)</b>	<b>69,341</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>104,487</b>	<b>201,815</b>	<b>(196,150)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>110,152</b>

#### Restricted Funds - description

**Norwegian Funding;** funding as part of a consortium bid to Norwegian People's Aid.

For AOA V this funding comes via an agreement with Article 36 and it includes monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor.

#### Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Funding over a one year period to undertake an impartial, wide-ranging, thorough and in-depth investigation in order to uncover the hidden networks and relationships which have facilitated and sustained the trade in arms between the UK and multiple repressive regimes since 2010. In 2021 the funding was given to further the work of AOA V, with no specific restrictions. We also received extra funds for research travel, again unrestricted.

#### UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Funding received via UNMAS and funded by the French Government to highlight the figures of IED victims. The project runs from November 20 until 2022, with the first tranche of funding received in January 21. Covid 19 slightly delayed the delivery of this project, and an extension of 12 months was requested by UNMAS and agreed upon.

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued

#### 13 Justice for Journalists

Funding received to investigate the impact of the war in Eastern Ukraine in 2014 and onwards on Ukrainian journalists, bloggers and social media users. Specifically to look at look at key cases of violent crimes against journalists and bloggers in the so-called Luhansk Peoples Republic (LPR) and Donetsk Peoples Republic (DPR) between 2015-2020. Using extensive contacts in both the DPR and LPR and years of investigative experience, this project examines the treatment of journalists who are detained in the DPR and LPR and their access to legal representation. The agreement was detailed as being between Justice for Journalists and Iain Overton but paid directly to AOA.V.

#### 14 Funds - prior year comparative

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	<i>At 01 Jan 2020</i>	<i>Incoming</i>	<i>Outgoing</i>	<i>At 31 Dec 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
<i>Norwegian Funding 2019/20</i>	36,656	-	(36,656)	-
<i>Norwegian Funding 2020/21</i>	-	90,998	(53,403)	<b>37,595</b>
<i>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes</i>	6,185	-	(6,185)	-
<i>Rowntree 19/20</i>	8,119	29,857	(37,976)	-
<i>UNMAS</i>	-	-	(1,890)	<b>( 1,890)</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>50,960</b>	<b>120,855</b>	<b>(136,110)</b>	<b>35,705</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>				
<b>General funds</b>	<b>47,156</b>	<b>55,814</b>	<b>(34,188)</b>	<b>68,782</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>98,116</b>	<b>176,669</b>	<b>(170,298)</b>	<b>104,487</b>

#### 15 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

<b>Property</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
Less than one year	1,620	2,400
One to five years	-	-
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
	1,620	2,400
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021: continued**

### **16 Related parties**

There are two related party transactions to disclose for 2021 (2020: none). Trustee Mr S Smith received the fee of £1,500 for work funded by the United Nations Mine Action Service.

Chief Executive - Iain Overton was granted £10,603 by Justice for Journalists as a restricted grant which was paid directly to AOA and is treated as being received directly by AOA.

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business.

### **17 Trustees**

1 trustee, Mr S Smith, received the fee of £1,500 for work funded by the UN Mine Action Service as permitted in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, no other trustee (or any person connected with them) received any remunerations from the charity during the year (2020: nil). No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2021 (2020: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to third parties.

### **18 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments**

Defined contribution

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contributions payable by the company for the year	2,936	3,141

At 31 December 2021 £775 was outstanding (2020: £626)

### **19 Contingent assets or liabilities**

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2021 (2020: Nil).

### **20 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company was under the control of the Trustees during the period under review. There is no single ultimate controlling party.

**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1122057

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# Accounts

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**ACTION ON  
ARMED VIOLENCE**

**AOAV**

**ACTION ON ARMED VIOLENCE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020**

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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## **Legal and Administrative Information**

### **Board (as of 2021)**

Professor Michael Spagat	(Co-Chair in 2020; Chair in 2021)
Dr Marina Brillman	
Colonel Steve Smith	
Olivia Helena Mary Dix	(Co-Chair; resigned: 18 March 2021)
Malcolm Anthony Rodgers	(Resigned: 18 March 2021)
Dr Saleyha Ahsan	(Appointed: 18 March 2021)

### **Chief Executive**

Iain Overton

### **Principal Office**

405 Mile End Road  
London  
E3 4PB

### **Company Number**

06381573

### **Charity Number**

1122057

### **Independent Examiners**

Shruti Soni Limited  
117A St Johns Hill,  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 3PL

### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank  
City Offices  
80 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3NJ

## **INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR: PROFESSOR MIKE SPAGAT**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) is a charity whose work on a range of issues related to the global reduction of armed violence is respected worldwide. It has become one of the outstanding research bodies in its field, despite its modest size and resources. We are grateful to our Executive Director and his small dedicated team of Jennifer Dathan, Murray Jones, Emily Griffith and George Fairhurst who produced high-quality research and advocacy in 2020. With such a small team, AOAV relies on volunteers and we also thank the over 40 volunteers, who have made such a contribution to its research.

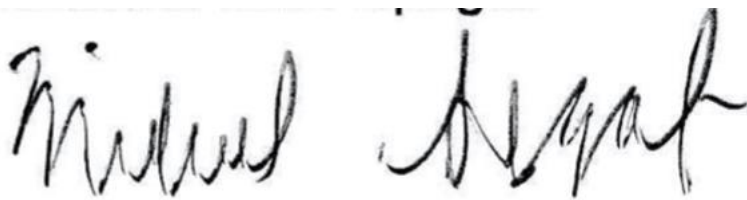
AOAV is also well-supported by its Board and we thank our colleague Trustees who give freely of their considerable individual expertise and experience.

The board would also like to thank Olivia Dix and Malcolm Rodgers who stood down from the board in 2021 for their service and dedication.

In common with other organisations in the field of armed violence, fundraising continues to be a challenge, but AOAV moves forward into 2021 with a clear mandate and a stable financial situation. We are very grateful to all the donors who have continued to support our work.

We believe that AOAV is an important voice in advocating for a global reduction of armed violence and it is our privilege to be associated with it.

Professor Mike Spagat

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spagat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – IAIN OVERTON**

AOAV continued to undertake research and advocacy in 2020, despite the challenges brought by the Covid19 pandemic. Notably, it was the tenth year of the organisation's Explosive Violence Monitoring Project, enabling us to give a decade worth of data to the debate surrounding the protection of civilians in armed conflict, especially from an explosive violence perspective.

In 2020 we published a series of major reports looking at the impacts of explosive violence on gender, health and environment. We also published numerous reports on issues pertaining to explosive violence and the media. Parallel to this, we also launched a project examining militarism in public life, and published a number of key reports examining the British military through a critical but balanced lens.

As with previous years, we worked through the year towards ensuring that political commitments to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas was on the agenda at high level fora in the UN and beyond. This work, as part of our lobbying with the [International Network of Explosive Weapons](#), led to over 100 States stating that they would not use such weapons in towns or cities. We also worked on the issue of IEDs and the harm they bring to ensure such work is now central to the disarmament debate and presented our findings at the United Nations General Assembly.

As in previous years, our monitor had wide pick-up in the national and international media. We partnered with a number of coalitions to achieve our advocacy ends. These include the International Network of Explosive Weapons (INEW), Protect at Imperial College, the International Blast Research Network (IBRN) at Southampton, the Global Forum for the Arms Trade, the Arms Trade Treaty Forum, the APPG on Explosive Threats, Birkbeck's Centre for Human Rights Reporting and the UK Working Group on Arms, to name some.

In 2020, major funding was generously given by both the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Government and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. We thank them. AOAV was also helped enormously by volunteers who selflessly gave their time and assistance to assist our work.



Iain Overton  
Executive Director

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

### **MISSION AND APPROACH**

#### **Mission**

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) central mission is to carry out research and advocacy in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

To help reduce this burden, AOAV carries out research and advocacy campaigns to strengthen international laws and standards on the availability and use of conventional and improvised weapons, to build recognition of the rights of victims and survivors of armed violence and to research, understand and act effectively on the root causes of armed violence in affected countries.

To this end, AOAV is committed to:

- *reducing civilian harm from the use of indiscriminate explosive weapons, particularly in populated areas, and securing international support and agreement to this end.*
- *reducing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on civilian populations by advocating for international action that prevents the spread and usage of such devices or their precursor materials*
- *addressing the impact of small arms and light weapons against civilian groups, with a focus on abuses by state actors, government responses to gun massacres, and the trade in illicit small arms*
- *recording the harm from explosive violence and gun violence, with an eye to pursuing the above advocacy goals.*

AOAV's advocacy and research can help it reach its goals:

- By increasing awareness of the key issues in the public, private and political spheres, through the dissemination of target research, so that state parties and international bodies are made aware of the immediate and long-term human damage caused by explosive weapons in populated sectors, which affect wide areas, and the repercussions of such use on national and regional insecurity;
- By providing information about the international community's legal and humanitarian responsibilities in relation to tackling the use and dissemination of explosive weapons, and through articulating how existing legal and humanitarian instruments need to be created to foster a cogent, coordinated international response;

- By promulgating policy recommendations and relevant research to key parties so as to strengthen existing humanitarian protection instruments, and to hold governments accountable for disproportionate use of force against civilians
- By fostering dialogue and disseminating research between private, military, governmental and non-governmental parties, so as to share knowledge on how best to reduce the impact of armed violence.

In 2020, we undertook five main projects:

- The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor
- The media and its reporting on explosive violence
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence: three reports on gender, healthcare and the environment.
- The past, present and future of Improvised Explosive Devices
- Militarism examined

Each of these will be addressed in turn, outlining the output, lobbying and impact of each and then our work in advocacy and the media will be highlighted

## 1. The Global Explosive Weapons Monitor

In 2020, we published our annual report on explosive violence in 2019. In 2019, we recorded 29,485 deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons around the world, as reported in English language media. Civilians continued to bear the burden of this harm, accounting for 66% (or 19,401) of these casualties. Of those civilian casualties, 33% (6,476) were killed, while 67% (12,925) were injured by explosive weapons. This compares to 9,631 civilians killed (43%) and 12,720 injured (57%) in 2018.

In 2020, we recorded 18,747 deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons around the world, as reported in English language media. Civilians continued to bear the burden of this harm, accounting for 59% (or 11,056) of these casualties. Of those civilian casualties, 33% (3,668) were killed, while 67% (7,388) were injured by explosive weapons. This ratio compares the same to 33% (6,476) killed, and 67% (12,925) injured by explosive weapons in 2018.

The following articles were published around this dataset:

- [AOAV's preliminary data on civilian harm from explosive weapons in 2019 \(preliminary report in collaboration with the Guardian\)](#)
- [2019: a year of explosive violence](#)
- [AOAV's 2019 Explosive Violence Monitor](#)

We also publish key-findings report for ten years of data (2011 – 2020):

- [Explosive Violence Monitor: 2020](#)
- [Global explosive violence sharply declines during Covid19, new data suggests](#)

In addition we published our main findings in ten languages for 2019 - namely [Arabic](#), [Dutch](#), [Finnish](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Greek](#), [Italian](#), [Mandarin](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#)

Infographic and video materials were also used to highlight our explosive violence findings. For instance, the videos on each of the 'Hot Spot' pages of [Syria](#), [Iraq](#), [Afghanistan](#), [Pakistan](#), [Yemen](#), [Nigeria](#), [Somalia](#), [Gaza](#), [Libya](#) and [Turkey](#)

The following monthly reports were also published: [January 2020](#) / [February 2020](#) / [March 2020](#) / [April 2020](#) / [May 2020](#) / [June 2020](#) / [July 2020](#) / [August 2020](#) / [September 2020](#) / [October 2020](#) / [November 2020](#) / [December 2020](#)

We also published the following noteworthy incident articles on AOA's website:

- [At least five killed and many more wounded by car bomb in Syria's Azaz](#)
- [More than 20 killed as artillery shelling hits market in Afghanistan](#)
- [Suicide bomber targets funeral ceremony in Afghanistan's Nangarhar](#)
- [Artillery shelling on Libya's capital kills five and wounds many more](#)
- [Airstrikes kill more than 30 in Yemen](#)
- [12 killed in regime airstrikes on Syria's Idlib](#)
- [Suicide bomber targets funeral ceremony in Afghanistan's Nangarhar](#)
- [At least 10 people killed by car bomb in Afrin, Syria -](#)
- [10 civilians killed in attack aimed at Afghan Vice President in Kabul](#)
- [Suicide bombers leave 14 dead in attacks on Jolo Island, Philippines](#)
- [At least five killed and many more wounded by car bomb in Syria's Azaz](#)
- [More than 20 killed as artillery shelling hits market in Afghanistan](#)
- [Suicide bomber targets funeral ceremony in Afghanistan's Nangarhar](#)
- [Artillery shelling on Libya's capital kills five and wounds many more](#)
- [RAF implicated in 16 civilian deaths from airstrikes – new evidence](#)
- [Car bomb kills 19 civilians in northern Syria](#)
- [10 killed in Azerbaijan as Nagorno-Karabakh truce unravels](#)
- [Twin blasts kill 14 and injure 45 in Bamiyan, Afghanistan](#)
- [24 killed in education centre bombing in Kabul](#)

We also published a series of other web posts relating to explosive weapons in populated areas:

- [As a ceasefire takes hold in northwest Syria, civilians count the costs of a devastating government offensive](#)
- [Al-Shabaab and increasing civilian harm in Somalia](#)
- [Towards a political declaration on the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas](#)
- [Human Rights Watch: Explosive Weapons Devastating for Civilians](#)
- [AOAV condemns government decision to allow new arms sales to Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Getting it right – casualty recording is a human rights issue, as the UN has now shown](#)
- [Al-Shabaab and increasing civilian harm in Somalia](#)
- [As a ceasefire takes hold in northwest Syria, civilians count the costs of a devastating government offensive](#)
- [Claims by European allies of no civilian harm from airstrikes exposed](#)
- [Towards a political declaration on the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas](#)
- [Nagorno-Karabakh: a rapid descent](#)
- [Targeting Life in Idlib: HRW report on Syrian and Russian Strikes on Civilian infrastructure](#)

- Is the Afghan peace process working? 101 casualties in two car bombings over three days casts a shadow
- Is Ethiopia lurching towards civil war?
- Press significantly under-reported explosive violence in Syria, AOVAV study shows
- UK approved arms exports to Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Review: History of Bombs by Ai Weiwei at the Imperial War Museum
- 'Fires everywhere': the bombing of Germany 1942 – 1945 examined
- How is climate change driving conflict in Africa?
- Abu Sayyaf and suicide bombings in the Philippines: an analysis
- UNAMA's Civilians in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan 2020 – report

## 2. The media and its reporting on explosive violence examined

This report was published with supporting social media output: [Conflict reporting in the 21st century: summary report](#)

On the 12th February 2020, we hosted a major conference on Conflict Reporting in the 21st Century at Birkbeck, University of London. This was in collaboration with the Paddington-based Frontline Club. This conference brought together leading war correspondents and international journalists to discuss the challenges, developments, and future of conflict reporting. Over 600 people subscribed to this event, with in excess of 350 people attending on the day.

Our online publication of interviews with editors, journalists and media experts on this matter featured reporters including Janine di Giovanni and Lindsey Hilsum. Interviews with many journalists were included in the above media report.

In addition, we published a series of other reports that took evidence from media experts and journalists:

- [British media significantly underreporting explosive violence incidents in Afghanistan, review reveals](#)
- [The representation of the Royal Air Force in the British media](#)

Feedback from the audience was very positive - an online survey showed satisfaction of the event at over 90% and with specific speakers between 70% and 90%. Most importantly, perhaps, the project introduced dozens of journalists to AOAV's work and its mission. This has helped press coverage on our Monitor.

The overriding fact from our research over the last year, was that the use of explosive weapons against civilians is often not considered prominent enough to make the news.

### **3. The reverberating effects of explosive violence examined: three reports on gender, healthcare and the environment.**

#### **i. Gender**

We published the following report: [The gendered effects of explosive weapons examined.](#)

In addition, we published the following reports on this topic:

- [Gender and mental health in the Syrian conflict](#)
- [‘Military Age Males’ in US Drone Strikes](#)
- [Health, gender and explosive violence: access to treatment after incidents of explosive violence](#)
- [The gendered impact of suicide bombings in Europe: an analysis](#)

#### **ii. Healthcare**

We undertook research trips to the Lebanese/Syrian border to examine the direct, indirect and reverberating impacts of explosive violence on healthcare systems there.

The main health report, detailing the findings can be found in the main report: [Blast injury: the reverberating health consequences from the use of explosive weapons.](#)

Published alongside this publication is a [summary of the main findings](#). The report was broken down into four key areas of examination; [physical health](#), [psychological health](#), [infrastructure and personnel](#), and [access to healthcare](#).

We published the following reports that included interviews with experts and victims and highlighted patterns of harm:

- [AOAV interviews Dr Ghassan Abu-Sitta, Head of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the American University of Beirut Medical Centre](#)
- [Explosive violence and its impact on malnutrition in Syria](#)
- [Health, gender and explosive violence: access to treatment after incidents of explosive violence](#)
- [A review of the healthcare impact from violence in eastern Ukraine](#)
- [Syria in 2020: the deadly legacy of explosive violence and its impact of infrastructure and health](#)
- [126 attacks on healthcare facilities around the world in 5 years: AOAV analyses the ‘new normal’ in warfare](#)
- [Protecting medical care in conflict: a solvable problem](#)
- [The effects of strategic bombing of Germany in WWII on health and medical care](#)
- [The Effects of Strategic Bombing in WWII on German Morale](#)

All of the above reports contained text that amplified our findings, and were widely disseminated via social media, MailChimp and direct mailing. Infographic and video materials were used to highlight the findings. We published videos showing some of the main findings for each section:

- physical health
- psychological health
- infrastructure and personnel
- access to healthcare

AOAV worked closely with Imperial College and Southampton University in the UK to increase an understanding of the healthcare impact of explosive violence as part of the PROTECT and IBRN projects respectively.

### **iii. Environment**

We undertook research trips to Lebanese/Syrian border to examine the direct, indirect and reverberating impacts of explosive violence there. The main environment report, detailing the findings can be found in the main report, The Broken Land: the environmental consequences of explosive weapon use. Published alongside this publication is a summary of the main findings.

The report was broken down into four key areas of examination; unexploded ordnance (UXO), agriculture, infrastructural damage, and flora and fauna.

AOAV's data on this was presented at the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers (NDM-UN23).

Publications around the issue of the environment in relation to the above included:

- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Syria
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Afghanistan
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Yemen
- The reverberating effects of explosive violence on agriculture in Iraq
- Explosive weapons and their impact on wildlife - a global assessment

AOAV produced short videos to highlight some of the key findings in these areas:

- Flora and fauna
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure
- UXO

It is hard to gauge the impact of a series of reports on the environment to actual change in military rules of engagement, however, when we presented our data at the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers (NDM-UN23), it was announced that this was the first time the issue of the environment had been

included in deliberations as a specific theme. AOA's work helped push this agenda onto the diary of events, and so it is believed that this has helped create a precedent where the environment has to be considered as part of the EWIPA debate.

#### 4. Improvised Explosive Device reports

As part of a French government sponsored project through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), we published a report [IEDs, Past Present and Future](#) and presented this work at the United Nations General Assembly at a side event hosted online.

This report included the sub-reports:

- [Why are IEDs so prolific today?](#)
- [The history of the IED explained](#)
- [Afghanistan: a case study in IED harm](#)
- [A decade of global IED harm reviewed](#)
- [Une décade de violence par EEI](#)

Our plans to produce a report on the precursor chemical materials of IED for November were delayed owing to the CCW not being held, and this will go ahead in 2021.

We have produced that report and are working on a report about deminers for 2021, as well.

## 5. Militarism examined

In 2020, funded by a core-grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, we began interrogating militarism and accountability, with a part-focus on the British armed forces and police and the preservation of civilian life. To this end, we published the following:

- A [major report](#) comparing the US and US military personnel deaths since 2001. This was reported on by the Guardian in their print newspaper and [online](#);
- A [report](#) on the racial inequalities of armed police officers in the UK, and the racial disparity of those shot by police. This was featured on [Times Radio](#);
- An [analysis](#) General Sir Nick Carter's speech ahead of the Integrated Review, focusing on the increased use of special forces and concerns about accountability;
- An [analysis](#) of UK media data on Syria conflict ([Press significantly under-reported explosive violence in Syria, AOAV study shows](#));
- A report on [fatal shootings of police officers in the UK – a tragic history](#);
- A [scoop](#) revealing British security exports that have been allowed into Armenia and Azerbaijan despite an arms embargo. This was covered on BBC radio on 16/10 with a report from BBC Defence Correspondent Jonathan Beale;
- An [analysis](#) of the latest annual figures on UK defence and security exports;
- A report that offered up a [scrutiny](#) of the UK military's alliances, also published in the [Byline Times](#);
- A cultural piece on [Ai Weiwei's exhibition](#) at the Imperial War Museum.

## 6. Advocacy

The following major advocacy interventions were undertaken in 2020:

- Our data was presented at a high-level meeting ‘Protection of Civilians in Urban Warfare – Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA): Issues, Policy and Practice’ – hosted by the Irish government;
- AOA’s data was cited in The UN Security Council’s open debate on the protection of civilians on Wednesday 27 May 2020;
- On the 22 September, there was the first ever statement on casualty recording at the UN, with 49 cross regional co-signatories, where AOA’s data was cited;
- We gave a presentation of ten year of AOA data at a casualty recording seminar hosted by Lichtenstein and with present casualty recording supportive states at the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council (Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Croatia, and Liechtenstein), the OHCHR as well as several civil society representatives;
- We gave a presentation of a lecture on suicide bombers at the Army Major’s School (formerly Staff College);
- We submitted an intervention at a Protection of Civilians meeting on ‘Are We Measuring Success By The Right Metrics?’
- We also attended and spoke at numerous online events hosted on Zoom, owing to the pandemic.

## 7. Media coverage

In addition to the above, we secured considerable media coverage of AOA's monitor and other research. AOA's data since the beginning of this funded period, has been cited hundreds of times in national and international press, including:

- [Explosive Weapons Devastating for Civilians](#)
- [UK drops bombs during coronavirus crisis, defying global ceasefire it claims to support](#)
- ["We Don't Have That Stuff in America Here": How Can The U.K. Tackle Systemic Racism When Those In Power Refuse To Accept It Exists?](#)
- [Most casualties caused by explosive weapons in populated areas are civilians – the UK has a duty to protect them](#)
- [The Pentagon lost track of \\$715 million in weapons and gear funneled to anti-ISIS allies in Syria](#)
- [Latest UK Airstrikes in Iraq Amid Covid-19 Ceasefire Will Lead to More Bloodshed, Peace Group Warns](#)
- [Unexploded bombs pose rising threat to civilians in Libya](#)
- [Government Refuses to Reveal How Many RAF Bombs Failed to Explode as it would Harm Arms Trade Manufacturer's 'Trade Secrets'](#)
- ['I Drove this Exact Truck' How the War on Terror Came Back to Haunt America](#)
- [What is Missing in the Debate about Police Violence in the US](#)
- [Handicap International Urges States to Act against Bombing of Civilians](#)
- [I ripped the IV out of my arm and started running': Attacks on Health Care in Yemen](#)
- [UK drops bombs during coronavirus crisis, defying global ceasefire it claims to support](#)
- [Koijee Defended Against War Criminality](#)
- [Exploring the links between environmental harm and the use of explosive weapons](#)
- [Exploring Environmental Harm from Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas](#)
- [New report on Yemen and explosive weapons – A death sentence for civilians](#)
- [Explosive weapons and environmental impact](#)
- [The legacy of explosive violence in Syria](#)
- [Al-Raqqa's destroyed houses... Who compensates their owners](#)
- [The Morocco-Western Sahara Conflict](#)
- [Hundreds killed in explosive violence – CAJ News Africa](#)
- [UK soldiers 12% more likely to die than US troops in 'war on terror'](#)
- [How the UK Media Turned Its Back On Syria](#)
- [US military increasingly using drone missile with flying blades in Syria](#)
- [US army data on civilian harm in war against ISIL questioned](#)
- [Car Bomb Kills 15 In Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan](#)
- [Global health diplomacy: a solution to meet the needs of disabled people in Yemen](#)

- [U.S. military steps up use of razor-wielding ‘Ninja bomb’ against al Qaeda in Syria](#)
- [Frozen War: The Moroccan- Polisario Conflict](#)
- [تنظيم-مسد تف بل لمقة تل الأولى فى الذكري فى داعش تنظيم مسد تف بل ال ليلة ال عراق ل تعمل يقات](#)  
[مال تنظي-زعيم-لمقة-تل-الأولى-الذكري-فى-داعش](#)
- [EUA usam mísseis com lâminas para atingir alvos na Síria](#)
- [Британските войници е 12% по-вероятно да загинат от американските войници](#)
- [IED: Sprengfallen, Autobomben und Selbstmordattentate](#)
- [Yhdysvallat käyttää terroristien surmaamiseen yhä useammin salassa pidettyä ohjusta, jossa on räjähteiden sijaan kuusi pyörivää metalli-terää](#)
- [US forces kill top al-Shabaab leaders](#)
- [Civilian deaths in conflict plummeted during pandemic, report finds](#)
- [As World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis Rages, the 'Perfect Storm' is Blowing Up in Yemen](#)
- [Health organisations urge UK Government to endorse UN Political Declaration protecting patients, medics and health facilities in war zones](#)
- [Mine Blast in Central Syria Kills 18](#)
- [Money tops human rights as the UK flogs £2.6bn of sniper rifles, riot shields, tear gas and guns to ‘dodgy’ regimes](#)
- [Schools Are Targets Of "Explosive Violence," States Report](#)
- [Bomb attack in Somalia kills 3, injures 7](#)
- [In 10 anni nel mondo oltre 17 mila minori uccisi da armi esplosive](#)

Academic citations for the period 2020 of AOAV’s work include:

- [Norwegian People's Aid Humanitarian Disarmament Strategy](#)
- [The impact of development aid on organised violence](#)
- [Australia: Expanding and Applying the Field of Civil-Military Relations](#)
- [Mitigation Measures on Improvised Explosive Device \(IED\) Attacks in Mandera East Subcounty, Mandera County, Kenya](#)
- [Intersecting Vulnerabilities: The Impacts of COVID-19 on the Psycho-emotional Lives of Young People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)
- [Military Spending and Global Security](#)
- [Mission creep or responding to wider security needs? The evolving role of mine action organisations in Armed Violence Reduction](#)
- [International Human Rights, Social Policy & Global](#)
- [Children’s Conceptualizations of Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Peacebuilding in the Context of Armed Conflict](#)
- [A New Inventory of 30 Terrorism Databases and Data Sets](#)
- [Children and Adolescents in Conflict and Displacement](#)
- ["The Nigeria Police Force and its constitutional responsibility in the present democratic dispensation."](#)
- [Between Borders and Bombs: The Existence and Resistance of the Sahrawi Territory through the Bodies of Sahrawi Women](#)
- [Types of Accidents in Nineveh Governorate / Iraq](#)

- Delivering trauma and rehabilitation interventions to women and children in conflict settings: a systematic
- American Exceptionalism: A Deadly Excuse for Mass Shootings
- Survival of forensic trace evidence on improvised explosive devices: perspectives on individualisation
- Behaviour of a blast-driven ball bearing embedded in rear detonated cylindrical explosive
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Sector mapping and needs analysis
- Performances of RCIED Activation Signal Multisweep Jamming
- Survival of forensic trace evidence on improvised explosive devices: perspectives on individualisation
- Making sense of resilience in the Boko Haram crisis
- Improvised explosive devices: assessing the global risk for use in terrorism
- Why Not Suicide?
- 'Its Flames Will Blaze': The Battle for Fallujah, 7–13 November 2004
- "Imagining justice for Syria: water always finds its way."
- "Rhythm, Rhythmanalysis and Algorithm-Analysis."
- Jihad for Hearts and Minds: Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's Propaganda During the Civil War in Yemen
- The International Legal (Dis)order: Deleterious Effects of 'Us and Them' Politics, Zero-Sum Games, and Flagrancy of Power at Global Scale
- Between Power and Irrelevance: The Future of Transnational NGOs.
- Workplace based learning and youth employment in Africa
- Defining blast loading 'zones of relevance' for primary blast injury research: A consensus of injury criteria for idealised explosive scenarios
- Perchlorate detection via an invertebrate biosensor
- Landmines in America's Backyard
- Perspectivas de retorno e identidad de exilio: el caso de los refugiados sirios en Líbano
- Australia: Expanding and Applying the Field of Civil-Military Relations
- Military Spending and Global Security

## **OVERVIEW OF FUTURE PLANS FOR 2021**

AOAV seeks to continue its crucial research and advocacy work that focuses on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas worldwide, as well as looking more into UK issues of armed violence, militarism and counter-terrorism.

In addition, we plan to publish a series of reports on issues relating to children and explosive violence, an examination of five major explosive weapon types, and a review of the ten years of data of explosive violence that our monitor has gathered together.

As a consequence of the pandemic, 2021 and not 2020, looks set to be a crucial year in the development of a political commitment to cease/avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. We hope that State parties, guided by members of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), sign to this much needed declaration.

The competition for funding is, as ever, tight.

AOAV will safeguard its future by ensuring that it responds quickly and flexibly to opportunities as they arise, with hard-hitting, compelling bids.

At the end of 2019 we secured funding from the Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation to look into the impact of explosive weapons on victims, and the provision of victim assistance following. This will lead to a major report published in late 2021.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Action on Armed Violence was established as a charitable trust in 2007, originally called the Landmine Action Charitable Trust. The Trust's name was changed to Action on Armed Violence in 2010. It is also a charitable company. The charity is governed under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company.

### **Operational Decision-Making**

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charitable company, is responsible for the governance of Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), especially with respect to representation and accountability. These responsibilities include: determining policy and strategy, appointing and overseeing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), monitoring performance, managing the governance process, and providing insight, guidance and wisdom. Management is provided by the CEO working with the staff of the organisation.

### **Recruitment & Appointment of Board Members**

AOAV aims to select Board members in a manner consistent with the organisation's equal opportunities policy. The procedure for recruiting and inducting board members is as follows:

- 1) Skills required by new Board members are assessed on the basis of gaps within the existing board.
- 2) Invitations are issued through the national press, existing networks and/or the website, as appropriate.
- 3) Candidates are short-listed, contacted and interviewed by the Board Chair and CEO.

Procedures for Board member recruitment, election, rotation/re-election and retirement continue to be developed.

### **Induction & Training of Board Members**

New Board members are issued with an induction pack covering AOAV's work and key policies. They meet the CEO and staff to discuss strategy, policy, current and planned activities. All Trustees are invited to attend network and parliamentary meetings and relevant conferences (when time and funding permit).

### **Risk Management Statement**

All procurement and administrative procedures are in place to ensure that authorisation and accountability lines are respected. AOAV's Trustees recognise their collective and individual responsibilities to assess and manage risks which may affect the company in

the achievement of its objectives. Internal risks are reduced by the application of appropriate controls to ensure that financial, administrative and operational procedures are effective, thus minimising the risk of financial loss and litigation against the company. All risks are assessed according to their likelihood and potential impact on organisation, and managed accordingly

### **Public Benefit**

The Board of Trustees has complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 and has referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how the planned activities of the company will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives they have set.

### **Principal Financial Management Policies**

Funds received from institutional donors are managed in line with agreed contractual arrangements. The allocation of donations from unrestricted income is decided on the basis of needs identified by AOA Board of Trustees. Donations derived from non-institutional restricted income are allocated according to the requests of the donors.

### **Reserves Policy**

The majority of AOA work is funded from restricted funds. The contractual arrangements with donors cover the completion of such tasks and related financial commitments. AOA retains unrestricted reserves to ensure the longer-term viability of the organization and the sustainability of its programmes against short-term funding shortfalls or emergency funding requirements. The reserves balance is reviewed regularly along with the level of the organization's total incoming and outgoing funds. The Board considers current level of reserves to be adequate.

The minimum reserve amount is the cost of running the charity for three months salaries and other running expenses, £45,000. This is kept in reserve. At 31 December 2020, AOA had £68,782 in unrestricted funds (this includes the reserve) and £35,705 in restricted income funds carried forward to 2021.

### **Financial Position**

During 2020 Action on Armed Violence received registered income of £176,669. Our expenditure was £170,298.

Our major funding source for our research work was the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNMAS (as part of a French Government Fund) and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

AOAV renewed its efforts to ensure that funds for its research activities are available on a consistent basis. AOA V will continue to work closely with current and new donors to secure continuing financial support for its work.

**Small Company Rules**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees (who are also directors of AOAV for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom 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 principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware.
- That each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2020 was 5 (2019:5). The Trustees are members of the charity. The

Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity and are not remunerated.

The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_23/09/2021 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Spगत", written over a horizontal line.

Professor Mike Spगत  
Trustee  
Date: **23/09/2021**

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

#### **To the Trustees of Action on Armed Violence**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 26-39

#### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner**

As the charity 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 company'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**

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 that in any material respect:

- 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.

*Shruti Soni*

Shruti Soni FCCA  
Shruti Soni Ltd  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PL  
Date 24 September 2021

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)  
For the year ended 31 December 2020**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2019
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	5,999	-	5,999	2,079	-	2,079
Charitable activities	4	49,815	120,855	170,670	10,389	161,967	172,356
Other income: Corporation Tax Refund		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>55,814</b>	<b>120,855</b>	<b>176,669</b>	<b>12,468</b>	<b>161,967</b>	<b>174,435</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	5						
Raising funds		4,056	-	4,056	4,082	-	4,082
Charitable activities		30,132	136,110	166,242	4,548	136,349	140,897
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>34,188</b>	<b>136,110</b>	<b>170,298</b>	<b>8,630</b>	<b>136,349</b>	<b>144,979</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before other gains and losses</b>		21,626	( 15,255)	<b>6,371</b>	3,838	25,618	<b>29,456</b>
<b>Gains/(losses) on exchange rate</b>				-			-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		21,626	( 15,255)	<b>6,371</b>	3,838	25,618	<b>29,456</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		47,156	50,960	98,116	43,318	25,342	68,660
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>£ 68,782</b>	<b>£ 35,705</b>	<b>£ 104,487</b>	<b>£ 47,156</b>	<b>£ 50,960</b>	<b>£ 98,116</b>

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

The statement of financial activities complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2020**

	Note	£	2020 £	£	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	8		-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	600		600	
Cash at bank and in hand		112,325		104,611	
		112,925		105,211	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	10	( 8,438)		( 7,095)	
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			104,487		98,116
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>£ 104,487</b>		<b>£ 98,116</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds	13		35,705		50,960
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserve			68,782		47,156
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<b>£ 104,487</b>		<b>£ 98,116</b>

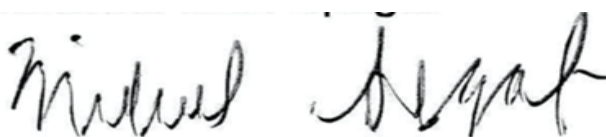
The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2020. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on pages 28 to 39 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23/09/2021



**Name: Professor Mike Spagat  
Trustee  
Company Registration No. 06381573  
Charity Registration No. 1122057**

# **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

## **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020**

### **1 Statutory information**

Action on Armed Violence is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales number 06381573 and is registered with the Charity Commission number 1122057. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The nature of the charitable company's operations and principle activities are to carry out research, advocacy and fieldwork in order to reduce the incidence and impact of global armed violence.

Action on Armed Violence meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Action on Armed Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are presented, to the nearest pound, in sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company.

### **2 Accounting policies**

#### **2.1 Basis of preparation**

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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'.

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

#### **2.2 Income**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company is legally entitled to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies apply to particular categories of income:

Where donations and grants are restricted to future accounting periods, they are deferred and recognised in those future accounting periods. Grants for immediate financial support and assistance, or to reimburse costs previously incurred, are recognised immediately.

The charitable company receives government grants in respect of furthering its charitable objectives. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value.

Charitable activities includes commissioned work carried out by Action on Armed Violence staff and is recognised in the period along with other income.

#### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charitable company. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

## **Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: *continued***

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

#### **2.3 Expenditure recognition**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis with the irrecoverable element of VAT included with the item to which it relates and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to third parties, it is probable and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charitable company but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the charitable company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

#### **2.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

The charitable company operates a policy of capitalising fixed asset items over £1,000. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are:

Furniture and equipment	4 years, on a straight line basis
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

#### **2.5 Leasing commitments**

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

#### **2.6 Debtors and Creditors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably, after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### **2.7 Foreign currency**

The charitable company no longer operates foreign currency bank accounts.

#### **2.8 Pensions**

The charitable company now operates an Auto Enrolment defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

#### **2.9 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The trustees seek to use short term deposits to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

The charitable company does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: *continued*

<b>3 Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Donations	5,999	-	5,999
	<b>5,999</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,999</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2019</b>			<b>2019 £</b>
Donations	2,079	-	2,079
	<b>2,079</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,079</b>
<b>4 Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Norwegian Funding Article 36	-	90,998	90,998
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	24,607	29,857	54,464
EU Funds (Lot12)	3,357	-	3,357
Australian High Commission	-	-	-
CJRS Grant	18,626	-	18,626
Other	3,225	-	3,225
	<b>49,815</b>	<b>120,855</b>	<b>170,670</b>
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2019</b>			<b>2019 £</b>
Norwegian Funding Article 36	-	99,711	99,711
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	51,188	51,188
EU Funds (Lot12)	4,798	-	4,798
Australian High Commission	-	11,068	11,068
Other	5,591	-	5,591
	<b>10,389</b>	<b>161,967</b>	<b>172,356</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: continued

### 5 Analysis of expenditure

	Cost of raising funds	Charitable activities - Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,011	107,737	3,364	-	115,112
Staff training	-	1,618	-	-	1,618
Research and reports	-	23,738	-	-	23,738
Travel	-	5,945	-	-	5,945
Office costs	45	7,374	375	-	7,794
Communications	-	3,135	122	-	3,257
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	3,849	3,849
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	2,130	-	2,130
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	6,855	-	-	6,855
	4,056	156,402	5,991	3,849	170,298
Support costs	-	3,849	-	(3,849)	-
Governance costs	-	5,991	(5,991)	-	-
<b>Total expenditure 2020</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>166,242</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>170,298</b>
<i>Total expenditure 2019</i>	<i>4,082</i>	<i>140,897</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>144,979</i>

Of the total expenditure:	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2020	£ 34,188	£ 136,110	£ 170,298
2019	£ 8,630	£ 136,349	£ 144,979

<b>Prior year comparatives: 2019</b>	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,037	96,792	3,364	-	104,193
Staff training	-	-	-	-	-
Research and reports	-	7,860	-	-	7,860
Travel	-	10,917	-	-	10,917
Office costs	45	11,053	375	-	11,473
Communications	-	2,502	122	-	2,624
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	3,910	3,910
Grant audit and independent examination	-	-	2,230	-	2,230
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	1,772	-	-	1,772
	4,082	130,896	6,091	3,910	144,979
Support costs	-	3,910	-	(3,910)	-
Governance costs	-	6,091	(6,091)	-	-
<b>Total expenditure 2019</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>140,897</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>144,979</b>

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: continued

### 6 Net income for the year

The net income for the year is stated after charging:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets owned by the Charity	-	-
Independent Examination	1,200	1,200

### 7 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and wages	92,542	92,342
Social Security costs	5,686	6,781
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	3,141	5,070
Underpayment to HMRC relating to 2014/15	13,743	-
	<b>115,112</b>	<b>104,193</b>

### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Charitable activities	2.5	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

The key management personnel of the charitable company included the Trustees and Chief Executive Officer. Total employee benefits paid to key management personnel including NIC and pension were £66,850 in 2020 (2019:£67,284).

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

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**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: continued

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Furniture and Equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost:</b>		
At 1 January 2020	825	825
Disposals	-	-
Additions at cost	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
At 1 January 2020	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
On disposals	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
<b>Net book value:</b>	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	-	-
<i>At 31 December 2019</i>	-	-

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: continued

<b>9 Debtors</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	600	600

<b>10 Creditors</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	2,072	2,666
Social Security and other taxes	-	0
Other creditors	1,812	0
Accruals and deferred income	4,554	4,429
	<b>8,438</b>	<b>7,095</b>

<b>11 Analysis of net assets between funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund Balances at 31 December 2020 are represented by:			
Current Assets	75,148	37,777	112,925
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(6,366)	(2,072)	(8,438)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>68,782</b>	<b>35,705</b>	<b>104,487</b>

**12 Analysis of net assets between funds - comparative 2019**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<i>Fund Balances at 31 December 2019 are represented by:</i>			
<i>Tangible Fixed Assets</i>	-	-	-
<i>Current Assets</i>	51,585	53,626	105,211
<i>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</i>	(4,429)	(2,666)	(7,095)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>47,156</b>	<b>50,960</b>	<b>98,116</b>

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: continued

### 13 Funds - current year

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	At 01-Jan 2020 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	At 31-Dec 2020 £
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Norwegian Funding 2019/20	36,656	-	(36,656)	-
Norwegian Funding 2020/21	-	90,998	(53,403)	<b>37,595</b>
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes	6,185	-	(6,185)	-
Rowntree 19/20	8,119	29,857	(37,976)	-
UNMAS	-	-	(1,890)	<b>( 1,890)</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>50,960</b>	<b>120,855</b>	<b>(136,110)</b>	<b>35,705</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>				
<b>General funds</b>	<b>47,156</b>	<b>55,814</b>	<b>(34,188)</b>	<b>68,782</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>98,116</b>	<b>176,669</b>	<b>(170,298)</b>	<b>104,487</b>

#### Restricted Funds - description

**Norwegian Funding;** funding as part of a consortium bid to Norwegian People's Aid.

For AOAV it includes:

1. Monitoring and data collection for the Global Explosive Weapons Monitor
2. A research report on the reverberating effects of explosive weapons
3. A global improvised explosive device (IED) review publication
4. A process of mapping counter IED work

#### **Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust**

Funding over a one year period to undertake an impartial, wide-ranging, thorough and in-depth investigation in order to uncover the hidden networks and relationships which have facilitated and sustained the trade in arms between the UK and multiple repressive regimes since 2010.

#### **Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes**

Funding over two years to intergate RAF rules of engagement and protection of civilians in air strikes.

#### **UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)**

Funding received from the French Government to highlight the figures of IED victims. The project runs from November 20 until October 21, with the first tranche of funding received in January 21

## Action on Armed Violence (Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020: continued

### 14 Funds - prior year comparative

The income funds of the charity include restricted and unrestricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust:

	<b>At 01-Jan 2019 £</b>	<b>Incoming £</b>	<b>Outgoing £</b>	<b>At 31-Dec 2019 £</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Norwegian Funding 2018/19	20,397	-	(20,397)	-
Norwegian Funding 2019/20	-	99,711	(63,055)	36,656
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Air Strikes	4,945	34,011	(32,771)	6,185
Rowntree 19/20	-	17,177	(9,058)	8,119
Australian High Commission	-	11,068	(11,068)	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>25,342</b>	<b>161,967</b>	<b>(136,349)</b>	<b>50,960</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>				
General funds	43,318	12,468	(8,630)	47,156
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>68,660</b>	<b>174,435</b>	<b>(144,979)</b>	<b>98,116</b>

### 15 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

<b>Property</b>	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Less than one year	2,400	2,400
One to five years	-	-
	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>

### 16 Related parties

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2020 (2019: none).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

### 17 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any person connected with them) received any remunerations from the charity during the year. No reimbursements were made to trustees in 2020 (2019: nil) for travelling and other expenses and no payments were made direct to third parties.

**Action on Armed Violence  
(Limited by Guarantee)**

**18 Pension and other post-retirement benefit commitments**

Defined contribution

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contributions payable by the company for the year	3,141	5,070

At 31 December 2020 £626 was outstanding (2019: £nil)

**19 Contingent assets or liabilities**

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at December 2020 (2019: Nil).

**20 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company was under the control of the Trustees during the period under review.  
There is no single ultimate controlling party.