

**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

## **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 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:

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. 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.

**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'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 salaries and other running expenses, £45,000. This is kept in reserve. At 31 December 2023 AOA 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 renewed its efforts to ensure that funds for its research activities are available on a consistent basis. AOA 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 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 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
Income	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
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>		<b>( 24,281)</b>	<b>25,447</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>13,454</b>	<b>( 32,909)</b>	<b>( 19,455)</b>
<b>Transfer between funds</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>( 24,281)</b>	<b>25,447</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>13,454</b>	<b>( 32,909)</b>	<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)	
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			91,863		90,697
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>£ 91,863</b>		<b>£ 90,697</b>	
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>	13				
Restricted income funds		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>	

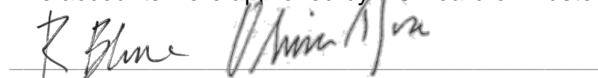
The charity is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023. No member of the charity has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

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>
<i>Prior year comparatives: 2022</i>			<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>
<i>Prior year comparatives: 2021</i>			<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>-</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	2023 £ 100,312	Restricted	2023 £ 68,764	Total	2023 £ 169,076
	2022 £ 61,355		2022 £ 121,980		2022 £ 183,335
<b>Prior year comparatives: 2022</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</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
	<hr/> <b>105,075</b> <hr/>	<hr/> <b>124,853</b> <hr/>

### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

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

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	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
At 1 January 2023	825	825
Charge for year	-	-
On disposals	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net book value:</b>	-	-
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

# 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
	<b>15,202</b>	<b>18,594</b>

<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
	<b>10,666</b>	<b>8,735</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 2023 are represented by:			
Current Assets	69,180	33,349	102,529
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(10,666)	-	(10,666)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>58,514</b>	<b>33,349</b>	<b>91,863</b>

<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)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>82,795</b>	<b>7,902</b>	<b>90,697</b>



# 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:

	<i>At</i> <b>1 Jan 2022</b>	<i>Incoming</i>	<i>Outgoing</i>	<i>At</i> <b>31 Dec 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£
<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)	-
<i>Total Restricted Funds</i>	<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
<i>Total funds</i>	<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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
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.