

CHILDREN UNITE

England & Wales · Charity number 1136614

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07032485
Registered	2010-06-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	33 Skipworth Road London E9 7JR
Phone	07540230664
Email	helen.veitch@childrenunite.org.uk
Website	www.childrenunite.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (a) to promote the rights of child domestic workers and other exploited children (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other UN and International Labour Organization conventions and declarations) throughout the world by all or any of the following means: i) monitoring abuses of human rights; ii) relieving need among the victims of human rights abuse; iii) research into human rights issues; iv) educating the public about human rights; v) providing technical advice to government and others on human rights matters; vi) contributing to the sound administration of human rights law; vii) commenting on proposed human rights legislation; viii) raising awareness of human rights issues; ix) promoting public support for human rights; x) promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations; xi) international advocacy of human rights; xii) eliminating infringements of human rights. (b) to advance the education of the public regarding child domestic labour and other forms of child exploitation as a human rights concern.

Activities: Children Unite promotes participatory approaches to working with exploited children. Through consultancy and by delivering research and advocacy projects we support child domestic workers, street connected children and sexually exploited children to claim their rights.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£44,415	£43,262	-	-
2024-03-31	£41,447	£42,737	-	-
2023-03-31	£71,171	£68,425	-	-
2022-03-31	£73,539	£64,234	-	-
2021-03-31	£5,333	£4,571	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adrian Storey		2022-09-14
Martin John Punaks		2024-03-29
Martine Miel		2024-03-29
Vincent Newbury Ion		2024-03-29

CHILDREN UNITE

England & Wales - Charity number 1136614

Accounts



Children Unite Annual Report 2024-2025



Annual Report 2024–2025

Directors' Report

The year was one of both consolidation and transition. Children Unite delivered a substantial programme of consultancy work, particularly on survivor-informed safeguarding and participatory advocacy, while also taking time to reflect on its future direction in response to a rapidly changing funding environment for children's rights and international development. Significant reductions in government aid budgets, alongside shifts in donor priorities, have affected many organisations working on children's rights and reinforced the importance of adaptable, learning-focused ways of working.



During the year, Children Unite strengthened its governance, welcomed new Trustees and Associates, and completed a full strategic review. Trustees and Associates contributed actively to shaping a new strategy and operating model that positions Children Unite as a small, agile collective that combines consultancy with coordination of learning and support for participatory approaches with exploited children and young people.

Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough, Co-Directors

Children Unite

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Since 2010 we have worked in over 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with children's rights agencies and donors that are supporting exploited children and young people.

Summary of Activities 2024-2025

Consultancy and Project Work

Multi-country study on research ethics: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

During the reporting period, Children Unite concluded data collection (in Nepal, Guyana, Kenya and Indonesia) for the study on research ethics in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The guidelines developed through this multi-year collaboration are in the process of being finalised by LSHTM for publication, following review and feedback from Children Unite. This work builds on Children Unite's longstanding contribution to debates on ethical, participatory research with children and young people in situations of exploitation. The project strengthened partnerships with global partner LSHTM, and local partners: ChildLink Guyana, Kita Sahabat (Indonesia) and Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal.

Research on child marriage and child domestic work: Anti-Slavery International

Children Unite continued to co-ordinate the final write-up of research on the interlinkages between child marriage and child domestic work. Building on a long-standing relationship, this work focused on exploring how evidence and learning in these areas could inform future advocacy and programming.

Although Anti-Slavery International remained committed to developing this work during 2024, progress was slower than anticipated and timelines shifted. In early 2025, wider changes in the international funding landscape led to dissemination plans being paused. This experience reflects broader pressures facing organisations working on children's rights and has informed Children Unite's strategic planning and assessment of risk.

Survivor-informed safeguarding: Ignite Philanthropy (Thrive Together)

Children Unite's most substantial body of work during 2024–2025 was its multi-phase consultancy with Ignite Philanthropy to support survivor-informed safeguarding within the Thrive Together participatory grant-making programme.

Building on work that began in 2023, Children Unite completed several phases of consultancy across the year. Phase one on safeguarding for participatory grant-making concluded in April 2024 with the submission of a learning report. Phase two (June–September 2024) focused on assessing the safeguarding capacities of 14 survivor-led organisations selected for funding and identifying minimum safeguarding practices. The third and final phase (December 2024–May 2025) centred on building capacity in priority areas identified by grantees, including risk management, reporting and responding to safeguarding cases, and digital safeguarding.

This work involved co-facilitating workshops, individual organisational support, management of a safeguarding case, and contributions to wider sector learning through webinars and planned blogposts. A key feature of this consultancy has been the translation of survivor-informed safeguarding principles into practical tools and processes for participatory grant-making, an area of increasing interest to donors.

Across all phases, this work required a greater investment of administrative and coordination time than originally anticipated. Learning from this experience has informed revisions to Children Unite's operating model and cost-recovery approach.

Participatory advocacy: ECPAT International

Children Unite completed a consultancy with ECPAT International to develop guidance and tools on participatory advocacy as part of ECPAT's new strategy on children's participation.

Documents produced outlined options, approaches and practical tools for participatory advocacy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. Although the main consultancy formally ended in mid-2024, ECPAT subsequently requested that remaining consultancy days be used to develop a short practitioner guide on avoiding victim-blaming language and behaviour. This resource is intended to complement ECPAT's global terminology guidelines on sexual abuse and exploitation of children and was still being finalised at the end of the reporting period. The consultancy reinforced Children Unite's influence in this area; the organisation's earlier discussion paper on sexual violence as a human rights violation was referenced across ECPAT's participation-focused terms of reference.

Participatory advocacy: Family for Every Child

In late 2024, Children Unite secured a multi-year consultancy with Family for Every Child focusing on participatory advocacy on sexual violence against boys and young men. Initial work during the reporting period involved designing a participatory grant-making mechanism through which member organisations would assess and select peers to receive grants for advocacy work.

Participatory grant-making represents a new way of working for the Family for Every Child alliance, and Children Unite's role includes supporting learning and reflection across the alliance as the model is piloted and refined. Further phases of this consultancy will continue beyond March 2025.

Learning Partner: Freedom Fund

Jonathan Blagbrough began preparations to transition his work with Freedom Fund on a global learning group on child domestic work into a Children Unite consultancy as a learning partner. The Freedom Fund learning group, meeting quarterly, aligns closely with Children Unite's strategic emphasis on coordinating learning and strengthening networks around participatory approaches.

Strategy Development

A major focus of 2024–2025 was the development of a new strategic plan for Children Unite. Following initial delays earlier in the year, Helen and Jonathan led a structured process involving consultations with Associates, former Trustees, partners, donors and peers across the children's rights sector.

Key themes emerging from these discussions included the importance of Children Unite's role in promoting participatory approaches across research, advocacy and grant-making; the value of sharing learning from consultancy work with funders; and the need to strengthen relationships with grassroots and national partners. The strategy also reflects changing sector dynamics, including shrinking grant funding, increased demand for consultancy, and the growing role of intermediaries and participatory funding mechanisms.

A Trustee strategy day held in October 2024, facilitated by former Trustee Gillian Harrow, provided space for reflection and collective sense-making. Feedback from this session and subsequent Associate meetings was incorporated into a draft strategy, which was refined and prepared for final approval in early 2025. Alongside the strategy, an operational plan and operating model were developed to guide implementation and financial planning.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained a central priority throughout 2024–2025. Children Unite continued to operationalise its survivor-informed safeguarding policy, ensuring that systems kept pace with expanded consultancy work and a growing pool of Associates.

DBS checks were completed or initiated for Trustees, Co-Directors and Associates in line with policy requirements, alongside reference checks for new Associates. Safeguarding learning from the Ignite consultancy also fed back into Children Unite’s internal practice and external contributions to sector discussions.

Governance

Children Unite experienced significant governance changes during the year. New Trustees, Vince Ion, Martine Miel and Martin Punaks, were formally welcomed to the Board, strengthening the organisation’s collective skills and experience. Adrian Storey continues to act as Children Unite’s treasurer. Long-standing Trustees Audrey Guichon and Gillian Harrow stepped down during the year, and Beth Herzfeld concluded her term at the 2024 AGM. Their very valuable contributions over the years were acknowledged with gratitude.

At the AGM in September 2024, Martin Punaks was appointed Chair, and Martine Miel agreed to take on the role of Designated Safeguarding Trustee. Trustees also began discussions on undertaking a skills audit to inform any future recruitment.

Governance processes, including trustee appointments, statutory notifications, and financial oversight, continued to be managed by the Co-Directors with the support of the Treasurer.

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Company Secretary: Helen Veitch

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Martin Punaks (Chair)

Martine Miel

Vince Ion

Contact us: helen@childrenunite.org.uk

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Finances

Children Unite's income during the year was primarily derived from consultancy work, with Ignite Philanthropy, ECPAT International and Family for Every Child being the most significant contributors. Administrative fees were increasingly formalised to reflect the real costs of managing consultancies and Associates.

During the year, Children Unite made deliberate use of its unrestricted reserves to advance its charitable objectives. This included a one-off donation to the Tanzanian Child Domestic Workers Coalition and a commitment to regular quarterly donations to Haki Sawa, a grassroots organisation led by a former child domestic worker. These donations were investments in core organisational capacity rather than project-specific funding.

Financial procedures were reviewed and updated, and accounts for 2023–2024 were submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House.

Towards the end of the reporting period, a cashflow forecast and core costs budget were developed to support more proactive financial planning in a challenging funding environment. Trustees are due to review and agree how reserves can be used to support implementation of the new strategy.

Looking Ahead

The final months of the reporting period were marked by increasing uncertainty in the international funding landscape, particularly following cuts to US and UK aid budgets. Children Unite enters 2025–2026 with a clear strategic framework, a realistic understanding of financial risk, and a renewed commitment to working as a collaborative, learning-oriented organisation that supports participatory approaches with exploited children and young people.

Children Unite
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

<u>Balance Sheet</u>	24/25	23/24
Current Assets	19,592	18,439
Cash at Bank	19,592	18,439
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Current Liabilities	-	-
Pending disbursements	-	-
Accruals	-	-
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Surplus / (Deficit)	1,153	- 1,289
Reserves carried forward	<u>19,592</u>	<u>18,439</u>
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For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

Director's responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 478.

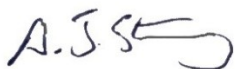
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These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the Companies Act 2006.

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The accounts were approved by the directors and signed on their behalf by:

Director:



Date:

09-Sep-25



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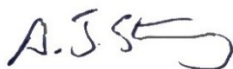
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Director:

Date:



09-Sep-25

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Children Unite

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Children Unite (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed: Anna Dylewska (Signed Electronically)

Name: Anna Dylewska

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ACMA, CGMA (Member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants - CIMA)

Address: 15 Fry Road, Stevenage, SG2 0QG

Date: 09/11/2025

CHILDREN UNITE

England & Wales - Charity number 1136614

Accounts



CHILDREN
UNITE

ANNUAL
REPORT &
ACCOUNTS
2023-2024



dignity | rights | influence

Directors' Report



In 2023-2024 Children Unite has continued to explore the relationship between safeguarding, ethics and the meaningful engagement of exploited children and young people in decision-making. This included exploring how a survivor-informed approach to safeguarding affects those with lived experience of sexual violence who are undertaking grant-making for donors. It also included revising our policy and procedures on safeguarding to incorporate the key principles of survivor-informed safeguarding – being trauma-informed and linking participatory risk assessments to a process of informed consent.

This year, we officially welcomed Claire Cody into our team of Associates to start work on a participatory advocacy toolkit. We continue to work with Rabia Gungor and Kirsche Walker on safeguarding and Alphonse Omolo on research ethics.

Our Trustees have provided great advice and support to us over the year - and a good deal of laughter and fun at our meetings. We wholeheartedly thank Audrey Guichon, Gillian Harrow and Beth Herzfeld for their continuing support while we look for new trustees to onboard. Our thanks also go to Adrian Storey, our Treasurer who found the wonderful Ania Dylewska who acted as an Independent Examiner for Children Unite.

More detail on our activities this year can be found below.

Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough, Co-Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Veitch'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Blagbrough'.

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Summary of Activities 2023-2024

Ethics for participatory research

Field work in Kenya, Indonesia, Guyana and Nepal came to an end in 2023 for a collaborative project with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) on research ethics. Children Unite, in collaboration with field work partners, analysed data from focus group discussions in Indonesia and Nepal that explored how to create a conducive environment for data collection with sexually exploited children and young people. Data on research ethics was also analysed for two pilots of participatory research in Guyana and Kenya – where youth researchers with lived experience of sexual violence and/or street connections undertook interviews with their peers and analysed data. The team at LSHTM will be using this data to develop guidelines for ethics committees to better consider applications for ethics approval for participatory research with children and young people in 'risk' situations. Partners in this three year project are:

[ChildLink Guyana](#) [Blue Cross Kenya](#) [Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal](#) [Kita Sahabat Indonesia](#)

Safeguarding for participatory grant-making

In August, Children Unite was commissioned by Ignite Philanthropy to pilot 'survivor-informed safeguarding for campaigning' through their participatory grants programme for survivor groups - [Thrive Together](#). Associates, Rabia Gungor and Kirsche Walker along with Helen Veitch subsequently delivered a programme of workshops and developed a suite of safeguarding tools for members of the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP), who were tasked with assessing applications and selecting 14 grantees to receive funding for their work with survivors. Children Unite has contributed to a revision of Ignite Philanthropy's safeguarding policy and procedures through discussions with the team at the Funders Safeguarding Collaborative who are currently reviewing policy for the organisation.

Participatory advocacy toolkit

In February, Children Unite was commissioned by ECPAT International to undertake a literature review and develop a toolkit on participatory advocacy. Helen Veitch, working with Claire Cody - who has now become an Associate of Children Unite - are developing a document that outlines different approaches ECPAT groups can undertake to facilitate youth-led or youth-driven advocacy on sexual violence. A suite of resources are being produced to support [ECPAT International](#)'s new strategy on child and youth participation.

Updated Safeguarding Policy

Children Unite's safeguarding policy and procedures have been reviewed and updated by Rabia Gungor, (Children Unite Associate and safeguarding expert) to better reflect the participatory and child-led principles in the 'survivor-informed safeguarding' approach that Children Unite has been developing over the past two years. An extraordinary trustee meeting took place in June 2023 to brief trustees on the policy and procedures and receive their comments and input. The new safeguarding policy and procedures were subsequently revised and adopted by trustees at Children Unite's AGM in October.



Governance & Finances

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Company Secretary: Helen Veitch

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Adrian Storey (Treasurer)

Gillian Harrow (Chair)

Beth Herzfeld

Audrey Guichon

Contact us: helen@childrenunite.org.uk

www.childrenunite.org.uk

Children Unite
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

<u>Balance Sheet</u>	23/24	22/23
Current Assets	18,439	19,729
Cash at Bank	18,439	19,729
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Current Liabilities		
Pending disbursements	-	-
Accruals	-	-
Net Current Assets	<u>18,439</u>	<u>19,729</u>
Funds	18,439	19,729
Balance brought forward	19,729	16,984
Surplus / (Deficit)	1,289	2,745
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The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 478.

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Director: Adrian Storey

Date:



18/10/2024



CHILDREN
UNITE

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Directors' Report



In 2023-2024 Children Unite has continued to explore the relationship between safeguarding, ethics and the meaningful engagement of exploited children and young people in decision-making. This included exploring how a survivor-informed approach to safeguarding affects those with lived experience of sexual violence who are undertaking grant-making for donors. It also included revising our policy and procedures on safeguarding to incorporate the key principles of survivor-informed safeguarding – being trauma-informed and linking participatory risk assessments to a process of informed consent.

This year, we officially welcomed Claire Cody into our team of Associates to start work on a participatory advocacy toolkit. We continue to work with Rabia Gungor and Kirsche Walker on safeguarding and Alphonse Omolo on research ethics.

Our Trustees have provided great advice and support to us over the year - and a good deal of laughter and fun at our meetings. We wholeheartedly thank Audrey Guichon, Gillian Harrow and Beth Herzfeld for their continuing support while we look for new trustees to onboard. Our thanks also go to Adrian Storey, our Treasurer who found the wonderful Ania Dylewska who acted as an Independent Examiner for Children Unite.

More detail on our activities this year can be found below.

Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough, Co-Directors



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Since 2010 we have worked in over 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with children's rights agencies and donors that are supporting exploited children and young people.

Summary of Activities 2023-2024

Ethics for participatory research

Field work in Kenya, Indonesia, Guyana and Nepal came to an end in 2023 for a collaborative project with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) on research ethics. Children Unite, in collaboration with field work partners, analysed data from focus group discussions in Indonesia and Nepal that explored how to create a conducive environment for data collection with sexually exploited children and young people. Data on research ethics was also analysed for two pilots of participatory research in Guyana and Kenya – where youth researchers with lived experience of sexual violence and/or street connections undertook interviews with their peers and analysed data. The team at LSHTM will be using this data to develop guidelines for ethics committees to better consider applications for ethics approval for participatory research with children and young people in 'risk' situations. Partners in this three year project are:

[ChildLink Guyana](#) [Blue Cross Kenya](#) [Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal](#) [Kita Sahabat Indonesia](#)

Safeguarding for participatory grant-making

In August, Children Unite was commissioned by Ignite Philanthropy to pilot 'survivor-informed safeguarding for campaigning' through their participatory grants programme for survivor groups - [Thrive Together](#). Associates, Rabia Gungor and Kirsche Walker along with Helen Veitch subsequently delivered a programme of workshops and developed a suite of safeguarding tools for members of the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP), who were tasked with assessing applications and selecting 14 grantees to receive funding for their work with survivors. Children Unite has contributed to a revision of Ignite Philanthropy's safeguarding policy and procedures through discussions with the team at the Funders Safeguarding Collaborative who are currently reviewing policy for the organisation.

Participatory advocacy toolkit

In February, Children Unite was commissioned by ECPAT International to undertake a literature review and develop a toolkit on participatory advocacy. Helen Veitch, working with Claire Cody - who has now become an Associate of Children Unite - are developing a document that outlines different approaches ECPAT groups can undertake to facilitate youth-led or youth-driven advocacy on sexual violence. A suite of resources are being produced to support [ECPAT International](#)'s new strategy on child and youth participation.

Updated Safeguarding Policy

Children Unite's safeguarding policy and procedures have been reviewed and updated by Rabia Gungor, (Children Unite Associate and safeguarding expert) to better reflect the participatory and child-led principles in the 'survivor-informed safeguarding' approach that Children Unite has been developing over the past two years. An extraordinary trustee meeting took place in June 2023 to brief trustees on the policy and procedures and receive their comments and input. The new safeguarding policy and procedures were subsequently revised and adopted by trustees at Children Unite's AGM in October.



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The accounts were approved by the directors and signed on their behalf by:

Director: Adrian Storey

Date:



18/10/2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Children Unite

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Children Unite (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed: Anna Dylewska (Signed Electronically)

Name: Anna Dylewska

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: 15 Fry Road, Stevenage, SG2 0QG

Date: 24/10/2024

CHILDREN UNITE

England & Wales - Charity number 1136614

Accounts



CHILDREN UNITE

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2022-2023



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Directors' Report



The year 2022-23 has seen Children Unite deepen and expand our work on ethics and safeguarding for campaigning and research by children with lived experiences of exploitation. We have explored the key ethical issues for participatory research with children and young people and deepened our understanding of 'safeguarding' by applying it to the youth activism and campaigning environment. In so doing we are learning about the overlap between what is traditionally thought of as 'child protection' 'safeguarding' or 'ethics' and the concept of 'meaningful engagement' with young people.

This work has enabled us to deepen our solidarity and strengthen our partnerships with colleagues working at the 'coalface' in Guyana (ChildLink), Indonesia (Kita Sahabat), Kenya (Lensthru Consultants) and Nepal (Swatantrata Abihyan Nepal) and from research institutes such as the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Safer Young Lives Centre at the University of Bedfordshire. And it has been fantastic to be working more closely this year with all our Associates - Silvie Bovarnick, Alphonse Omolo, Rabia Gungor and Kirsche Walker. In the aftermath of the pandemic, we undertook a lot of travel this year - connecting with our partners and our associates - and we want to thank all those who welcomed us into their organisations, their hearts and their lives - we feel enriched and re-motivated from these experiences to continue our work with Children Unite.

Our work on safeguarding prompted us to get our house in order and, with the help of Rabia Gungor (our resident safeguarding expert) we reviewed and revised our safeguarding policy and procedures to be more aligned with the principles of 'survivor-informed' safeguarding that we have been working on over the past two years.

For Helen, the publishing of her discussion paper on re-framing sexual violence against children as a rights violation was a long awaited personal goal. Especially as it was launched through a community conversation with key donors, achieving its aim of prompting discussion and debate - as is evident from the title of the paper!

Our Trustees have provided great advice and support to us over the year - and a good deal of laughter and fun at our meetings. We want to wholeheartedly thank Toral Shah for her valuable contribution as a trustee and treasurer of Children Unite for five years and welcome back Adrian Storey to fill Toral's big shoes. And, of course, to thank the remaining trustees, Audrey Guichon, Beth Herzfeld and Gillian Harrow (our Chair), for continuing to support us to work with integrity and purpose.

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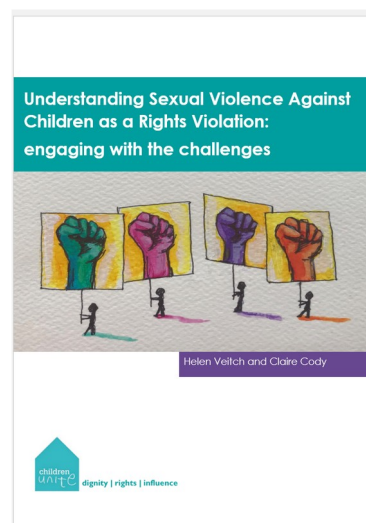
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Summary of Activities

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Survivor informed safeguarding for campaigning: In October 2021 Children Unite was commissioned by Oak Foundation to undertake a review of safeguarding practices for survivors involved in campaigning and advocacy. Two Associates, Rabia Gungor and Kirsche Walker, were involved in this consultancy working alongside Helen Veitch. It resulted in the development of a new approach to safeguarding that we called 'survivor informed safeguarding for campaigning'. The review findings were presented to Oak Foundation in June 2022 who extended the contract with Children Unite to undertake a validation exercise of the key findings with key stakeholders. A revised report on Survivor Informed Safeguarding for Campaigning was submitted to the Oak team in December 2022.

In September, Children Unite sub-contracted, Rabia Gungor to develop tools for the 'Survivor Informed Safeguarding for Campaigning' approach that were used in campaigning activities on the sexual abuse of boys by national NGOs Projeto Legal in Brazil and Taller de Vida in Colombia.

Ethics for participatory research: In 2023 Children Unite moved into the field work phase of the ETHYCS project - a three year collaborative study with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) exploring research ethics for participatory research activities with children in 'risk situations' (exploited children). In this phase, Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough were supported by one of our Associates, Silvie Bovarnick, to run field testing of research ethics in four countries. In Kenya, we worked with another Associate, Alphonse Omolo, to pilot research ethics with street connected children.

Over the course of the year, we supported the Kenyan team to obtain ethics approval and prepare child researchers for the pilot (which took place in August 2023). In November 2022, we worked with LSHTM to support the team at ChildLink Guyana to undertake focus group discussions in Georgetown with youth researchers. In December, the team from Kitah Sahabat undertook focus group discussions in Semarang with young women working in karaoke bars and their employers. In January 2023, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal undertook focus group discussions with sexually exploited young women in Kathmandu.



Two examples of the 'flower exercise' which collated data on support networks from youth researchers in Guyana.

Collaboration with Safer Young Lives Research Centre: In March 2023, Children Unite started collaborating with the Safer Young Lives Research Centre at the University of Bedfordshire to sub-contract Silvie Bovarnick, Children Unite Associate, to undertake work on a project called Learning Together, which supports researchers to safely and ethically involve children and young people in sexual abuse research and explore what the support needs of researchers are to help them to do this.

Pro-bono support to Wotesawa, Tanzania: Children Unite supported Wotesawa (a local Mwanza-based NGO working with young domestic workers: <https://wotesawa.or.tz/>) with editing their Annual Report 2022, their key annual publication to inform supporters and funders of their activities. Jonathan also acted as a referee for Wotesawa's successful application to the Freedom Fund-Survivor Leadership Fund, which awarded the organisation 20,000 USD.

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Director:



Date:

15/12/2023



CHILDREN UNITE

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2022-2023



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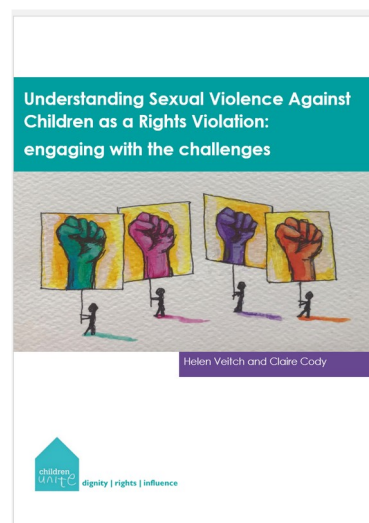
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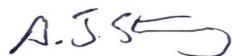
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Director:



Date:

15/12/2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Children Unite

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Children Unite (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed by examination. I confirm that no material 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 Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or*
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or*
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.*

Recommendations:

I have recommendations for the Children Unite on the internal control enhancement to consider:

- 1. To have an approved financial policy and procedures manual*
- 2. Documentation: Proper documentation of financial transactions, receipts, and expenditures is crucial. This not only aids in the preparation of accounts but also ensures transparency and accountability.*

Signed: Shabnam Sadaat (Signed Electronically)

Name: Shabnam Sadaat

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

Address: 25 Brampton Court, Brampton Grove, Hendon Central NW44AJ

Date: 31/01/2024

CHILDREN UNITE

England & Wales - Charity number 1136614

Accounts



CHILDREN UNITE

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2021-2022



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Directors' Report



During the globally challenging pandemic period, this financial year 2021/22 has seen Children Unite provide expertise to a range of organisations on a variety of topics relating to the exploitation of children. This has included working with funding organisations, research institutions, UN bodies and non-governmental organisations on topics ranging from the sexual violence of children, child domestic work, feminist and survivor-informed safeguarding and the ethics of research with children and youth at risk of exploitation and violence. More detail on our activities this year can be found below.

During this period, we also undertook a refresh of our website (www.childrenunite.org.uk) and began the process of changing our bank account to facilitate easier international payments. The wider focus of Children Unite's activities in this period resulted from the expansion of Children Unite's charitable remit in 2019/20 from child domestic work to include other victims of child exploitation (by Special Resolution 10 December 2019, accepted by the Charity Commission on 7 January 2020). The purpose of updating our charitable objects was to more accurately reflect the interconnectedness of child domestic work with other forms of child exploitation and consequently Children Unite's wider interests in the situation of all young people in exploitative situations, including street-connected children and children who have been sexually exploited.

This widening of our remit has meant that we have increased the range of our Technical Advice Service and we are now working closely with our Associates: Rabia Gungor is involved in the work on safeguarding, Alphonse Omolo is the lead researcher in Kenya for the ETHYCS project with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and we welcome Kirsche Walker as the newest Associate who is supporting Helen and Rabia on work to develop a model of survivor-informed safeguarding.

Despite the pandemic, the work of Children Unite is flourishing and we want to thank our trustees for their continued commitment to Children Unite throughout the year: Gillian Harrow our Chair, Toral Shah our Treasurer as well as Audrey Guichon and Beth Herzfeld who have helped us to, very smoothly, restructure our activities by building on our strengths and focusing on our values.

Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough, Co-Directors

Children Unite

Mission: Children Unite promotes participatory approaches to working with exploited children. Through consultancy and by delivering research and advocacy projects we support child domestic workers, street connected children and sexually exploited children to claim their rights.

Consultancy: Through our Technical Advice Service we work with NGOs and donors that support exploited children and young people. Our advice service builds organisations' capacity to integrate children's participation into organisational policy and structure, and helps to develop programmes that are based on needs identified by children themselves.

Projects: Through our projects we facilitate children's activism and advocacy in order to influence national and international policy and practice. We design and co-ordinate participatory research and projects that empower exploited children.

Since 2010 we have worked in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with children's rights agencies and donors that are supporting exploited children and young people.

Summary of Activities

Feminist Safeguarding: Children Unite was commissioned in March 2021 to undertake a consultancy for Womankind International to develop a training package for the Advancing Women's Engagement: Strengthening Opportunities to Mobilise for Equality (AWESOME) programme. Helen Veitch (Director) worked with Rabia Gungor (Associate) and trained (virtually) Womankind programme staff and programme partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda responsible for safeguarding women from diverse groups, including women with disabilities. Helen was also a guest blogger for the Rejuvenate initiative - a project that recognises the value that children and young people can bring when they are given the space and support to do so. Read the blog post here: [Safeguarding for youth activism: taking a feminist approach](#)

Discussion Paper: Understanding Child Sexual Abuse as a Human Rights Violation: Helen Veitch was commissioned by Ignite Philanthropy in April 2022 to write a discussion paper to complement a scoping paper on 'Understanding the conditions that contribute to sexual violence against children'. The discussion paper aimed to inform the Out of the Shadows Index, hosted by Ignite Philanthropy and to promote discussion by key stakeholders working on sexual violence to challenge assumptions and highlight areas for action. Helen co-authored the discussion paper with Dr Claire Cody from the Safer Young Lives Research Centre at the University of Bedfordshire.

Review of Sexual Violence Against Children Sector: Helen Veitch was commissioned by Ignite Philanthropy in April 2021 to undertake a literature review of the sexual violence against children sector to grasp progress in the field and establish a baseline for advocacy activities.

Research on ethical and safeguarding approaches to co-produced research with youth in risk situations (October 2021 –): The focus of this on-going research project, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) with Children Unite as its international project partner, has been to identify ethical challenges and practices in co-

produced research with youth (aged 15-24) about young people (10-24 years) in risk situations (such as those who are working, trafficked, and/or living outside of family care). The plan is to prepare guidance on conducting safe, ethical and collaborative research, as well as to show how co-production methods can empower young people.

Children Unite's principal role in this project has been to engage with children and young people in risk situations through field partners in four locations (ChildLink, Guyana; SAN, Nepal; Kita Sahabat, Indonesia; and Blue Cross, Kenya) to gather experience and evidence on a range of ethics issues, including confidentiality, consent, anonymity, disclosures, participation and compensation. This evidence will form the basis for the research ethics guidance document.

Technical advice on child domestic work (CDW): Jonathan Blagbrough provided technical advice to The Freedom Fund, supporting and helping to frame their plans for: (1) developing a new programme of work on child domestic work in East Africa; (2) scoping for a potential new 'hotspot' on child domestic work in West Africa; and (3) support to a second phase of work on CDW in Ethiopia, focused around advocacy with the children of employers. A key deliverable from this work was *Child Domestic Work: A summary framing paper*, written by Jonathan Blagbrough and published by The Freedom Fund in November 2021 (https://freedomfund.org/wp-content/uploads/ChildDomesticWork_2021_11.pdf)

Children Serving Children: Jonathan produced a policy brief outlining the key findings and implications for policy and practice from his doctoral thesis and exploring relations between child domestic workers and the children of employing families in Mwanza, Tanzania.

In addition, Jonathan produced a children-friendly (cartoon) version of his PhD thesis in Swahili that was circulated to the children and young people who acted as research participants and advisors to his field work in Tanzania.

See the news section of the Children Unite website



Survivor-informed Safeguarding: in October 2021 Children Unite was commissioned by Oak Foundation to undertake a consultancy to review safeguarding policies and procedures for campaigning. Helen Veitch worked with Children Unite Associates Rabia Gungor and Kirshe Walker on this project, undertaking a policy review and key informant interviews and developing a new approach to safeguarding of children and young people who are undertaking advocacy, campaigning or activism on sexual violence known as 'survivor-informed safeguarding'. This approach consists of three continuous elements that provide a 'safe space' for survivors to campaign:

- Trauma-informed: Making use of trauma-informed approaches which enables organisations to mitigate and respond to trauma when it arises.
- Risk-informed: risk assessment and mitigation strategies are informed by survivor campaigners and their support networks and are regularly re-visited.
- Informed consent: 'consent' is a continuous conversation with survivor campaigners where an understanding of the risks involved informs decision-making on their engagement.



Registration

Children Unite is a company limited by guarantee: 07032485

Children Unite is a registered UK charity: 1136614

Registered address: 33 Skipworth Road, London E9 7JR

Founders and Directors: Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough

Company Secretary: Jonathan Blagbrough

Non-share holding Directors:

Toral Shah (Treasurer) (resigned September 2022)

Gillian Harrow (Chair)

Beth Herzfeld

Audrey Guichon

Adrian Storey (joined September 2022)

Contact us:

helen@childrenunite.org.uk

www.childrenunite.org.uk

Accounts

Children Unite						
Statement of Income and Expenditure						
for the year ended 31 March 2022						
I&E	21/22			20/21		
	Restricted	Unrestricted		Restricted	Unrestricted	
Income						
Donations		900			1,200	
Gift Aid		-			407	
TAS Fees	51,634			3,692		
Grants	21,000			-		
Bank Interest		6			4	
Sundry	-	72,634	906	3,692	30	1,641
Expenses						
Project Costs	64,013			3,760		
Staff Costs		-			-	
Administration		100			807	
Bank Charges		64,013	122	3,760	4	811
Surplus / (Deficit)		8,621	684	-	68	830

Children Unite

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

Balance Sheet	21/22	20/21
Current Assets	16,984	7,678
Cash at Bank	16,984	7,678
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Current Liabilities	-	-
Pending disbursements	-	-
Accruals	-	-
Net Current Assets	16,984	7,678
Funds	16,984	7,678
Balance brought forward	7,678	6,916
Surplus / (Deficit)	9,306	762
Reserves carried forward	16,984	7,678
Restricted funds	8,622	0
Unrestricted funds	8,362	7,678

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies

Director's responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 478.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the Companies Act 2006.

These accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the directors and signed on their behalf by:

Director:



Date:

21/12/2022