



RELEASE ERITREA

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of
Release Eritrea**

Year ended 29th of February 2024

**Charity Number: 1136627
Company Number: 06815078**

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Release Eritrea
(A company limited by guarantee)

Legal and administrative information

Registered Charity Number: 1136627

Company House Number: 6815078

Business Address: 152 Kirkham Street
London
SE18 2EN

Registered Office: 152 Kirkham Street
London
SE18 2EN

Director: Dr. Berhane Asmelash
Director: Selam Kidane

Board of Trustees:	Fecadu Abraha	Chair
	Eyassu Ukbai	Treasurer
	Selam Kidane	
	Selam Bahat Tesfamichael	
	Yohannes J Alula	
	Eyob Haile	

Bankers: Barclays Bank Plc
1 Northend
East Croydon
CR0 1TY

**Trustees Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)
Year ended 29 February 2024**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2024. The Trustees, who are also directors of Release Eritrea (RE) for the purposes of company law and who served during the year up to the date of this report, are set out on the preceding pages.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Organization is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2009 and registered as a charity on 29 June 2010. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The Board of Trustees of the company are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law; they receive no financial incentives except what is eligible for a Trustee. The Operational Directors manage the day to day activities of the organisation, supported by a team of staff and volunteers for each project. The charity has a Supporters Group that meets annually to receive the report of activities and plan for the forthcoming year.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees consist of Six people all of Eritrean origin. They meet on a quarterly basis to monitor the working progress of the organisation. Two members of the Board are also the Operational Directors of the company responsible for the implementation and execution of the action plan approved by the Board of Trustees. The responsibility for running the charity's activity and ensuring the provision of services rests on the Operational Directors, and project team managers. The Operational Directors are responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met.

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Objectives and activities

Key objectives

The objectives of the company are :

- 1) The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by:
 - a) advancing education and raising awareness in equality and diversity;
 - b) activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds;
 - c) cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity
- 2) The promotion of religious harmony for the benefit of the public by educating the public of different religious beliefs, including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths;
- 3) The promotion of human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) throughout the world by all or any of the following means:
 - a) Monitoring abuses of human rights;
 - b) Relieving need among the victims of human rights abuse;
 - c) Raising awareness of human rights issues;

Release Eritrea continues to promote freedom of religious worship in Eritrea and supports victims of such abuse by offering support and advocacy as well as prayers and spiritual guidance.

Through the period under report there hasn't been an improvement to human rights violations including freedom of religious worship in Eritrea. All churches not belonging the 'recognised' groups are still closed and those that are 'recognised' are also put under various forms of pressure and their operations continue to be heavily controlled.

The UN continues to be seriously concerned by the human rights violations in the country and particularly the implications for the outflow of refugees who seem to be leaving Eritrea at an unprecedented rate, to Sudan and Ethiopia and then further afield.

Release Eritrea continues to be active in all three areas of work namely:

- 1) Prayer and intercession
- 2) Practical assistance for victims of human rights violations and refugees
- 3) Advocacy

Below we provide a brief outline of the achievements in each of the above areas of work outlined above.

1. Prayer and Intercession :

Members of Release Eritrea have led and participated in various prayer events, here at home in the UK through zoom because of Covid 19.

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2. Practical assistance

Refugees

Release Eritrea continues to provide financial and spiritual support and guidance to individual refugees, families, as well as groups and churches in the refugee communities in Ethiopia. In this financial year there were some new developments for the Eritrean refugees in Sudan. In 2023 a new war flared up in Sudan. Sudan has been home for tens of thousands of Eritrean refugees. after the war broke out Eritrean refugees became targets of human traffickers and bandits. So it had a devastating effect on the Eritrean refugees.

Because of that many were displaced some of them died and others kidnapped. The rest fled to Egypt, some to Ethiopia and others to South Sudan and Uganda. Currently 25,000 refugees are settled in North West Ethiopian refugee camp and on the Sudan Ethiopian border, Metema. Due to civil war and lawlessness on the Amhara region in Ethiopia, these refugees have become targets of kidnapping for ransoms and human traffickers. The number of Eritrean refugees in Addis Ababa is more than 100,000. Our charity has been supporting those who still remained in Tigray and those who run to Addis Ababa. We are providing support to thousands of urban refugees in the capital. Some of the refugees are forced into commercial sex work and become victims of human trafficking. Release Eritrea has continued the ongoing project in Addis Ababa, supporting vulnerable women by providing vocational training, such as cooking, tailoring, hair dressing, filming and video editing, mobile phone repairing, computer training, and accounting. In this financial year we supported 202 women to take vocational training and we supported 5 of them to start their own business. Others were hired in different business sectors, such as restaurants, photo shops, coffee shops, hair salons and beauticians. We also provide shelter, food, and transport for pregnant women and for those with little children.

We also provide transport fees for the students until they finish their course. The course lasts from three to six months. We also provide food packages to families in need. During this project year, We have provided food packages to over 119 families, most of them are single mothers with two to three children

we also provide shoes, clothes and stationeries to more than two hundred needy children, each package consists, school bag, writing pads, pens and pencils. These are 254 children.

We also provide financial assistance to needy families, helping them with paying their house rents and medical costs

We donated 300 pairs of wellington boots for children under ten in the Alemwach refugee camp in Ethiopia. This camp located in North Western Ethiopia is muddy and flooded during the rainy season of June to september.

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Year ended 29 February 2024**

Tigray Internally displaced people (IDPs)

The war in Tigray is over, after the November 2022 peace deal between the warring parties; the Ethiopian government and the Tigray Liberation Forces. The cessation of hostilities is holding and the guns have been silenced, but thousands of IDPs of vulnerable people, women, children, the elderly and people with special need are still suffering and have not returned to their villages. So we are still running our feeding program in Shire and also Adwa towns. Through this project over hundreds of people have been supported in Adwa city and people are continuing to get our support. This program was also an on-going program until this report was written, we have also secured enough fund for this project year. In our program we also supported people with insulin dependent diabetes and the elderly. Since January 2023 we have also started to support Eritrean refugees in Mekelle. The number is not as big as in Addis Ababa but we heard that they are in desperate need. The total number of Eritrean refugees in Mekelle is about 1270.

Prisoners and their families support

Release Eritrea continues to support hundreds of prisoners of conscience and their families inside Eritrea. Currently, there are still hundreds of prisoners of faith whom we are aware of. In the year of 2023/24 there were about 160 newly arrested Christians and over 90 were released. Some of the senior pastors have been in prison for 20 years, and about 20 prisoners are currently in prison for over 10 years. Most of the prisoners are members of the banned faith groups by the Eritrean government, such as the Baptists, Pentecostals, Free Evangelicals, and the Methodists. Although some of the sanctioned churches, such as the Orthodox and Catholics have been targeted and subjected to harassment and prison, the Protestants are the prime target of the abuse. In September 2023 a Catholic bishop was arrested by the Eritrean security. Many members of the Orthodox are also face persecution. There are three Orthodox clergies who have been in prison since November 2004. Most of the released prisoners are suffering from PTSDs, so Release Eritrea is providing medical, psychological, pastoral, and financial help. Our staff have been conducted trauma counselling in Addis Ababa and several towns in Tigray. Release Eritrea is at present providing financial and pastoral support for the needy families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters and volunteers without whose commitment and dedication wouldn't have been able to fulfil our obligation to support those who are in desperate need. We want also to give a special thanks to our volunteers and workers in Eritrean, Ethiopia and other project sites.

**Trustees Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)
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Radio broadcast

The two days a week Short wave radio service have grown to a four days a week. This is due to high demand from our listeners in the refugee camps, Eritrea and Tigray region in North Ethiopia. Through this radio broadcast we focus on several social and educational issues; such as human trafficking, modern day slavery, love, relationship and marriage, Bible teachings and spiritual songs.. We also have sessions on health education such as; HIV, TB, nutrition, sanitation. This shortwave broadcast has wide audience in Eritrea and Tigray region. After evaluating our services from our listeners we are planning to add two more days in the coming year, so we will have six days a week.

3. Advocacy

One of the main objectives of Release Eritrea is being a voice to the voice-less in Eritrea at the moment there are tens of thousands of prisoners of conscience. A lot of them have been in prison for over 10 years. Some of our members of trustees and directors of Release Eritrea have the opportunity to highlight the causes of the prisoners of conscience to the international community. The opportunities we had was presentations to members of the UK parliament, during the parliamentary prayer morning. Our directors had also numerous occasions to speak on the BBC world and several Christian media outlets. We had also the opportunity to share our visions and programs to several churches and charity organisations. Our travel and speech engagement have been restricted due to the covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, most of our team have the opportunity to make contacts and conferences on-line. We have also a few travel engagements and speech opportunities in some European countries. We will continue to engage the international community until we see changes in Eritrea.

**Trustees Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)
Year ended 29 February 2024**

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of RELEASE ERITREA for the purpose of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report statements in accordance with applicable law and 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 estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Small company provisions

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

On behalf of the board



Fecadu Abraha
Chair, Board of Trustees Release Eritrea

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statement of Release Eritrea.

I report on the account of Release Eritrea for the year ended 29 February 2024 set out on pages 2 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

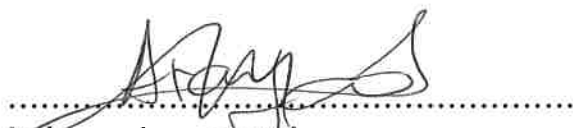
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Company Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the company Act 2006 and with methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Independent examiner

Dawit Araya

7 Hasted Close, DA9 9HS

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 29 February 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	0	407,530	407,530	424,069
Activities for generating funds		-	-	0	0
Other Income	3	-	5,000	5,000	
Total incoming resources		<u>0</u>	<u>412,530</u>	<u>412,530</u>	<u>424,069</u>
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	4	14,680	433,239	447,920	384,840
Total resource expended		<u>14,680</u>	<u>433,239</u>	<u>447,920</u>	<u>384,840</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing)resources for the year/ Net income / (expenditure) for the year					
		(14,680)	(20,710)	(35,390)	39,229
Total funds brought forward					
		25,169	158,326	183,495	144,266
Total funds carried forward		<u>10,489</u>	<u>137,616</u>	<u>148,105</u>	<u>183,495</u>

The statements of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and lossess has note been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Release Eritrea (A company limited by guarantee)

Balance Sheet
as at 29 February 2024

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets			478		1,654
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand	5	147,627		181,841	
Creditors: amounts fallings due within one year		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	
Net current assets			<u>147,627</u>		<u>181,841</u>
Net assets			<u>148,105</u>		<u>183,495</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	8		137,616		158,326
Unrestricted income funds	6		<u>10,489</u>		<u>25,169</u>
Total funds			<u>148,105</u>		<u>183,495</u>

Balance Sheet (continued)

Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 29 February 2024

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

- a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the companies act 2006
- b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 29 February 2024
- c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
 - i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
 - ii) preparing financial statements which are true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year then ended in accordance with requirements of section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.
 - iii) The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies act 2006 relating to small companies.
 - iv) The financial statements were approved by the board on **22nd Oct 2024** and signed on its behalf by



Mr Eyassu Ukbai
Treasurer

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2024

1.1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and proceeding year.

1.2 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice ' Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 Cash flow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement because it is a small charity.

1.4 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of the services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed asset, are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for the beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipments - 25% straight line

2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2024 Total	2023 Total
Donation		3,684	3,684	4,359
Release International		389,452	389,452	379,386
Church in Chains		13,145	13,145	10,833
Penuel Entrustin		1,248	1,248	28,491
CAM International		-	-	1,000
	-	407,530	407,530	424,069

Voluntary income comprises donations and grants received from various donors to carry out projects and other charitable activities.

3 Other Income

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2024 Total	2023 Total
Bank Interest		-	0	0
Refund	0	5,000	5,000	0
	0	5,000	5,000	0

4 Costs of Charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2024 Total	2023 Total
Charitable Expenditure	-	433,239	433,239	381,933
Management & Admin. cost	14,680	-	14,680	2,907
	14,680	433,239	447,920	384,840

5 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total Funds £
Fund balance at 29 February 2024 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	478	-	478
Current assets	10,489	137,139	147,627
Current liabilities	-	-	£0
	<u>10,967</u>	<u>137,139</u>	<u>148,105</u>

6 Unrestricted fund

	At 01/03/2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 29/02/2024 £
Voluntary Income	25,169	0		25,169
Other Income				0
Charitable Activities			(14,680)	(14,680)
	<u>25,169</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(14,680)</u>	<u>10,489</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Incoming resources generated from gifts, donations and grants which provide funding for the general use of the charity.

Resources expended on charitable activities comprise all the resources applied by the charity in undertaking its work to meet its charitable objectives as opposed to the cost of raising funds.

7 Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemption afforded by the provision of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

8 Restricted funds

	At 01/03/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 29/02/2024
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income	158,326	407,530		565,856
Charitable Activities			(381,933)	(381,933)
	<u>158,326</u>	<u>407,530</u>	<u>(381,933)</u>	<u>183,923</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Office Equipment	Total
At 01/03/2023	4,704	4,704
Additions	0	0
Disposal		0
At 29/02/2024	<u>4,704</u>	<u>4,704</u>

Depreciation

At 01/03/2023	3,050	3,050
Additions	1,176	1,176
Disposal		0
At 29/02/2024	<u>4,226</u>	<u>4,226</u>

Net Book Value

At 01/03/2023	1,654	1,654
At 29/02/2024	<u>478</u>	<u>478</u>

9 Company limited by guarantee

Release Eritrea is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be requires not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.