



The Sharan Project

Annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024

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The Sharan Project

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 July 2024

Introduction

The Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present the report and the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

The financial statements comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

Section A Reference and administration details

A1 The name of the charity is The Sharan Project

A2 The legal registration details are:

Company registration number:	06635024
Charity registration number:	1149094
Registered address:	Crown House 27 Old Gloucester Street London WC1N 3AX

A3 The names of the Trustees of the charity are:

Name	Appointed/resigned
Kai Akram	
Gerry Campbell	
Polly Harrar	Resigned 25 January 2024
Amrit Maan OBE, JP, FRSA	Appointed 20 March 2024
Preity Mohyal	Appointed 10 March 2024
Jeff Prescott FCA	
Karen Townsend	
Nuzrat Zamir	Appointed 7 May 2024

Section B Structure, governance and management

B1 The charity is a company limited by guarantee regulated by Companies House and the Charity Commissioners. In the event that the company is wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

B2 The charity is governed by its Articles of Association.

B3 New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. The charity seeks to recruit new Trustees who support its aims and who are able to contribute to the overall development of a sustainable organisation. All Trustees are directors of The Sharan Project.

B4 The Board of Trustees have identified the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that processes have been established to ensure regular reports, policies & procedures are produced so that steps can be taken to reduce these risks.

Section C Objectives and activities

C1 The primary objective of the charity is to ensure that South Asian women (or women of South Asian descent) who have been estranged from their families due to forced marriage, domestic violence or honour abuse have access to support, information and resources to support them in becoming productive, independent members of society. The strategies we are using to meet this objective are:

- providing a range of free web-based information for women, professionals, and others;
- providing face to face support and telephone support to individual clients;
- engaging with government and policy makers to influence decisions at a national level to introduce policy and laws to support our client group;
- working in partnership with other agencies to secure the widest range of services to match the needs of our clients; and
- delivering cultural awareness training to charities, government agencies and interested parties.

C2 We have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

D Achievements and performance

D1 During the period under review, we faced an unprecedented funding crisis. This has been further impacted by domestic and global events, a change in Government following a general election, limitations on the violence against women and girls (VAWG) budget availability and a reduction of availability of funding streams.

Despite increasing our income generation efforts, we have received less funding than in previous years, as such we have had to utilise our humble charitable reserves to maintain our core services, projects and client support. Whilst we recognise this is an issue faced by many 'by and for' services, we endeavour to ensure our services are maintained.

We have made significant progress with limited resources and here is a summary of some of our activities and highlights for this period:

- continued to maintain our core services to provide long term support to women affected by domestic abuse and harmful practices, which continues to see a steady level of calls to the service, including an increase in complex honour-based abuse cases and advocacy needs;
- participated in multiple meetings, roundtables, conferences and consultations with Government Departments, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Stakeholders and Partners, including a sector led statutory definition of honour-based abuse and guidance;
- as part of South Asian Heritage Month, we delivered a series of talks about our work and the barriers faced by South Asian women, including virtual global staff webinars;
- delivered professional training, public speaking, presentations and event engagement with the UK Canadian Embassy, Cambridgeshire Police, Metropolitan Police and London Policing College at the University of West London;
- selected to participate in a number of multimedia engagements as part of the Home Office Enough campaign to encourage South Asian communities to take a stand to end violence

against women and girls;

- distributed cost of living crisis funds to clients requiring financial support for basic and post separation items;
- continued our prevention and educational work, by working with schools, colleges and universities to highlight the impact of harmful practices and gender-based abuse;
- Awards: Best Support Group at the British Asian Women's Awards 2024 and Ethnicity Awards Top 10 charity or community initiative 2024;
- fundraising was particularly difficult during this period, however we are grateful to receive generous donations from a range of individuals and organisations

EDAC

The Sharan Project has for several years been the lead delivery partner for The Employers Domestic Abuse Covenant (EDAC) and we continue to encourage and work with employers to identify opportunities for victims/survivors to enter or re-enter the workplace.

Some key highlights of the Employers Domestic Abuse Covenant (EDAC) include:

- EDAC added as (a non mandatory) qualifying question on the UK Governments online bids and contracts portal;
- shortlisted for the Best Partnership Award at the ERSA Awards 2023;
- employer Engagement Event hosted by Women In Social Housing (WISH);
- EDAC Presentation at the DWP DA National Conference and at the Supply Chain Sustainability School conference;
- over 40 'EDAC Champions' appointed in Member and Partner Organisations;
- supported 994 women affected by abuse to access workplace opportunities, advice and support via EDAC and EDAC members, bringing the total number of women supported to date to over 2000 since 2020;
- Co-designed the development and delivery of an EDAC multi member led 9 week Digital Skills and Employability Course;
- supported EDAC members, working to develop employability-based opportunities and support victims/survivors to enter or re-enter the workplace;
- held 2 EDAC Advisory Panel, hosted by DWP with our Signatory Partners, Government and DAC representatives and strategic charity partners.

D2 We are only able to provide these services with the flexible understanding of our funders and support of a network of dedicated Trustees, volunteers, staff, ambassadors, partners and Supporters. We are grateful to those donors who supported us financially during the period: London Community Foundation, Mayor Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions, the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office, Amazon Smile, SOAS, Futures for Women, Natwest Circle Fund, Dawson Cornwell, 7 Bedford Row Chambers, SafeLives, Open University, Surviving Economic Abuse, Sandwell Council, NHS Guys & St Thomas Women's Hub and private donors.

E Financial review

E1 Our long-term policy on reserves remains that we will aim to maintain between three and six months of the annual running costs in the form of unrestricted funds. As has already been stated in this report, this has been a difficult year for funding and our reserves have been reduced considerably and we have actively engaged in cost-cutting over this period and since the financial year end. We continue to seek long-term funding for our services and this level of reserves enables us to continue our activities while securing alternative sources of funding.

E2 The accounts presented reflect the costs relating to the Employers Domestic Abuse Covenant (EDAC) and ongoing client support.

F Statement of Trustees' and Directors' responsibilities

F1 The Charities Act and the Companies Act require that the Trustees prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of charity as at the end of

the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for that year. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees/Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its operations;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

F2 The Trustees/Directors are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

F3 The Trustees/Directors are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' Report.

F4 These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

G Declaration

G1 The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees

Gerry Campbell

Trustee/Director
14 April 2025

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Sharan Project For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent examiner

The charity's Trustees (who are also its directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for an independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011; 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 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 the 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.

Andrew Donaldson ACA

The Sharan Project

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 July 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted income funds	Restricted income funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Income from donations		16,921	-	16,921	7,777
Income from charitable activities	3	-	38,000	38,000	50,076
Other income: fundraising & speaker fees		2,045	-	2,045	-
Gross income in the reporting period		18,966	38,000	56,966	57,853
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	4	58,531	35,300	93,831	105,131
Fundraising	4	4,242	-	4,242	3,531
Other expenditure	4	3,026	-	3,026	195
Total expenditure in the reporting period		65,799	35,300	101,099	108,857
Net surplus/(deficit)		(46,833)	2,700	(44,133)	(51,004)
Total funds brought forward		64,687	1,133	65,820	116,824
Transfer between funds		700	(700)	-	-
Total funds carried forward		18,554	3,133	21,687	65,820

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these accounts

All income derives from continuing activities

The Sharan Project

Statement of financial position at 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted income funds £	Restricted income funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		30,130	3,133	33,263	76,008
Total current assets		30,130	3,133	33,263	76,008
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(11,576)	0	(11,576)	(10,188)
Net current assets		18,554	3,133	21,687	65,820
Funds of the Charity					
Total Funds		18,554	3,133	21,687	65,820

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 14 April 2025

Jeff Prescott FCA
Trustee/Director

The Sharan Project

Annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024

Notes to the accounts

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)";
- the Charities Act 2011; and
- the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year.

1.3 Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

Each member of the company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the company if it should be wound up while he/she is a member for payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member and of the costs and charges of winding up and for the adjustments of the rights of the contributors themselves.

2 Accounting policies - incoming resources

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

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Annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024

Notes to the accounts (continued)

2 Incoming resources (continued)

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

3 Accounting policies - expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Grants with performance conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Grants payable without performance conditions

These are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

4 Expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Restricted income funds:		
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		
Salaries and pensions	30,678	88,170
Web hosting	1,434	3,878
IT costs	303	1,070
Other project delivery costs	2,885	2,710
Total	<u>35,300</u>	<u>95,828</u>

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Annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024

Notes to the accounts (continued)

4 Expenses (continued)

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted income funds:		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Salaries and PAYE	58,531	9,303
	<u>58,531</u>	<u>9,303</u>
Fundraising		
Salaries	3,603	3,531
Other costs	639	-
	<u>4,242</u>	<u>3,531</u>
Other expenditure		
Premises hire	168	168
Statutory fees	13	13
Sundries	183	2
Web hosting & communications	2,524	12
Insurance	138	-
	<u>3,026</u>	<u>195</u>
Total unrestricted income fund costs	<u>65,799</u>	<u>13,029</u>

5 Analysis of staff costs and trustee remuneration and expenses

Salaries and pensions	92,812	101,004
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The average monthly head count was 3 staff (2023: 3.75 staff).

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: nil).

Except as noted below, the charity trustees were not paid and did not receive any financial benefits from the charity in their capacity as trustees (2023: nil), neither were they reimbursed expenses during the period (2023: nil).

Under the terms of the charity's Articles of Associations trustees are entitled to receive remuneration. During the year one trustee received £16,773 salary and pension (2023: £37,078) under an employment contract to provide project management services. This agreement came to an end on 25 January 2024 when the trustee resigned from her role as a trustee.

No charity trustee received payment for professional supplied services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

6 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

Other creditors	11,576	10,188
	<u>11,576</u>	<u>10,188</u>

The Sharan Project
Annual accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024
Notes to the accounts (continued)

7. Analysis of movement in Funds

Fund name	Brought fwd £	Income £	Expenditure/t ransfers £	Carried fwd £
<i>Restricted Funds</i>				
<i>Futures for Women</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>MOPAC</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Phoenix</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>London Community Fund</i>	-	35,000	(35,000)	-
<i>Charities Trust</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Safe Lives/Circle</i>	1,133	3,000	(1,000)	3,133
<i>Total of Restricted funds</i>	1,133	38,000	(36,000)	3,133
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	64,687	18,966	(65,099)	18,554
<i>Total</i>	65,820	56,966	(101,099)	21,687

8. Corporation Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.