

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 08179180
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1149215

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2024

SAMARA & CO
Chartered accountant
511 Kenton Lane
Harrow
Middlesex
HA3 JW

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

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Faiths Forum For London
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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)
Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Faiths Forum For London
Charity registration number	1149215
Company registration number	08179180
Principal office and registered office	77-79 Charlotte Street London W1T 4PW

The trustees

Rev Woyin K Dorgu (Passed away 08/09/2023)
Dr D Chadha
Mr Y Bhadha
Mr J Singh

Independent examiner	Samara & Co 511 Kenton Lane Harrow Middlesex HA3 JW
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Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 14th August 2012. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association adopted on 28th September 2012. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1. The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM. The Director has responsibility for the daily management of the charity, as delegated by the trustees.

The trustees are appointed and are accountable to Faiths Forum's Council which is made up of 33 Council Members, representing the 9 main faith traditions in London and co-opted members from other faith based organisations.

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Objectives and activities

The Objects of the Charity are the promotion of religious harmony for the public benefit by:

- (a) to advance understanding of religious faith and, in particular, of the nine world faiths: Bahá'í faith; Buddhism; Christianity; Hinduism; Islam; Jainism; Judaism; Sikhism and Zoroastrianism;
- (b) to promote awareness of the contribution of religious faith and faiths, in particular to promote understanding of the contribution of religious faiths to community life within Greater London and outside of London; and
- (c) to promote mutual understanding, collaboration and good relations between faith communities and wider society, to provide a platform for faith communities to engage with public bodies and businesses; and
- (d) to be a centre for research, information, debate, discussion and cross-sector engagement on issues relating to regional policy and the concerns of London's faith groups as well as faith groups outside of London; and
- (e) to facilitate faith community organisations in developing expertise in social policy areas, forming networks and partnerships and being able to initiate civic engagement on issues of concern to them.
- (f) to advance leadership, capacity and resilience in faith communities,

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

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Achievements and performance

Founded in 2012, the Faiths Forum for London has been dedicated to fostering mutual understanding, collaboration, and harmonious relationships among diverse faith communities and the broader society. We serve as a vital bridge, facilitating communication and cooperation between faith communities, regional authorities, businesses, and educational institutions. Our organisation is guided by a Council composed of 29 faith representatives from nine distinct faith traditions. Regularly convening, these leaders engage in meaningful discussions on the challenges facing London and its various religious groups. Our meetings are forums, at times welcoming leaders from public authorities, non-governmental organisations, and media outlets to join us in exploring innovative solutions to these issues. We are proactive in our pursuit of opportunities to collaborate with these diverse groups to advance our common objectives.

To further our mission, we host conferences and seminars that delve into specific issues of shared interest and concern, equipping faith communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive. Our initiatives and endeavours undertaken during the financial year spanning **April 2023 to March 2024** have been dedicated to showcasing the invaluable contributions of different faiths in promoting community cohesion.

Faiths Forum for London continued to set up meetings for our council that allowed members to meet with both policymakers and cultural influencers in the city of London, ensuring the voices of their communities were represented in these spheres. The following Council Meetings took place throughout the year:

09 May 2023 – The Council met with Pasha Shah (Assistant Director, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) Speaking on the implications of Colin Bloom's independent review into faith engagement.

04 July 2023 – The Council met with Colin Bloom to discuss his report "Does government 'do God?' An independent review into how government engages with faith". The meeting took place at Westminster Quaker Meeting House

12 September 2023 – The Council met to pay tribute to the recently passed Bishop Karowei. A general overview of projects were also discussed: GLA Voter Registration Drive; Keeping London Healthy project; Steps to Togetherness project; Nature Connects project.

17 January 2024 – The Council met to discuss appointments of a Christian Co-Chair, Christian Representation and to Review accounts.

14 March 2024 – FFL held an interfaith Iftar in partnership with the Together Coalition at The Central Mosque of Brent, attended by Council Members and special guests who spoke to the Council and other attendees:

· Angela Rayner, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Shadow Minister for DLUHC (now in government).

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- Jemima Goldsmith (Khan) who came out to engage in interfaith dialogue and show solidarity.
- Phil Goff, New Zealand High Commissioner, who attended in support of the commemoration of the Christ Church massacre.
- Baroness Warsi, who gave speech reflecting upon interfaith dialogue in difficult times

Strengthening Faith Institutions (SFI)

The Forum is a consortium member of the Strengthening Faith Institutions (SFI) programme, funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Faith institutions have a unique role in building community cohesion; they provide moral leadership, influence sizable congregations, handle large budgets, educate children, and operate large premises. The forum supports SFI by providing the tools and training to help faith organisations face the challenges of today's society which include engaging with women and young people, sharing best practice, and using social media effectively. The principal aim of SFI is to support faith institutions in creating stronger, healthier, integrated, and accessible places of worship in London primarily but also across England.

The SFI programme either met or exceeded all set targets. The Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations carried out a comprehensive evaluation of the SFI programme. The report concluded that "Strengthening Faith Institutions is a well-run programme that has made positive differences to the aims, attitudes and abilities of those faith institutions that it works with and the communities which they serve. The programme meets, or exceeds, nearly all of the delivery, engagement and recruitment targets which it has...The data presented in this report provides conclusive evidence that the programme is effective in working towards a safer, more prosperous and cohesive society."

Currently, SFI has a membership of 1,658 Places of Worship across England. SFI has balanced regional reach across England, and in all major urban areas with large BAME communities. A key success of the SFI programme is its capacity to deliver certified compliance level training courses to trustees, clergy, and senior management at a time (usually weekends or evenings) and location (usually the faith centre venue) that suits them.

One of the key measures of SFI's impact is the Safer Centre launched in October 2021. Faith Centres register on the public directory, indicating whether or not they have 10 foundational compliance indicators, such as a Safeguarding Lead, DBS checks, Fire Marshal, Covid Compliance Officer, etc. Where these compliance indicators are not yet in place, SFI consultants engage with each centre towards full completion. The Safer Centre records the date of each training, to ensure that skills are updated as appropriate. Currently, 219 centres have created their public profile, indicating their level of compliance.

In 2023-2024, SFI achieved the following targets:

- Safer Places of Worship: 35 Vulnerable faith centres from ethnic minority communities with no umbrella organisational support register on the SFI public portal: Safer Centre

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- Transparent Places of Worship: 30 Safer Centres complete 8 out of 10 of the key compliance indicators, with backing documentation
- Beacon Faith Centres: 3 SFI Safer Centre Beacon Awards ceremonies (Leicester, Birmingham, Bradford)
- Women in Leadership: 75 women certified as the primary Safeguarding Leads, First Aid Officer, Health and Safety Officer, Security Officer, and/or Fire Officer leads
- Places of Worship teach critical thinking and safeguarding to prevent and recognise radicalisation of young members: 3 certified Training sessions for minimum 30 Faith based Out of school Settings teachers (minimum 20 women)
- Safeguarding Children in Faith-based supplementary schools: 30 Supplementary School Teachers (of at least 15 women) complete full certification with the SFI Professional Development Course for Teachers in Faith-Based OOSS, including curriculum focus on the Department of Education's safeguarding code for out of school settings, and key Prevent Duty guidelines for protecting vulnerable children at-risk of radicalisation.
- Places of Worship contributing to Social Cohesion through local interfaith engagement: 12 workshops/events/strategic programmes on Jewish-Muslim dialogue, Women's Self-defence training, climate activism and local neighbourhood greening, safeguarding children, arbitration resolution initiatives, blood-drive initiatives, hate-crime awareness workshops, interfaith football projects, and faith-leaders walks for key national events.
- Financially Sustainable Places of Worship: 5 faith centres receive at least 5 hours per centre of expert consultancy towards Financial sustainability through consultancy, bid-writing, project monitoring and project evaluation.
- Empowering Places of Worship by mapping their projects and activities in order to create collaborative funding bids: 4 grant-specific research reports on: 1) Mapping climate initiatives at places of worship, 2) Mapping refugee projects at places of worship, 3) Blood-drive initiatives at Black-majority churches and mosques, 4) Hate-crime and VAWG prevention programmes at places of worship
- Bridging the gap between local and national policy decisions and places of worship: 10 local feedback sessions with influential faith leaders to provide key insights

Cities Faith and Community Forum

The Cities Faith and Community Forum (CFCF) was launched in February 2019 as a Pan-European interfaith network linking organisations in major cities throughout the continent. The network combined the strengths of key leaders in Europe and the UK and was in a strong position to act as a bridge between governments and citizens. Our vision was to promote strategic faith and community collaboration across and between major cities in the UK and Europe. Our focus was strategic intervention, particularly focusing on issues and challenges that affect faith communities in cities, such as poverty, mental health, literacy, education, security, homelessness, and the environment.

The Cities, Faith, and Communities Forum (CFCF) Youth Interfaith Leadership Programme (2023-24), sought to empower young individuals with the essential skills and tools to actively engage in the interfaith and civic spheres across Europe. Key takeaways from this programme was participating in a transformative experience, learning from experts and policy influencers through a series of online webinar sessions. This immersive journey offered a unique opportunity to connect with organisations operating at the intersection of policy, interfaith dialogue, and civic engagement within the city and across the continent.

On 13 December 2023 CFCF launched its 2023-2024 Youth Interfaith Leadership Programme. The programme was designed to empower young individuals between the ages of 18-30 with the essential skills and tools to actively engage in the interfaith and civic spheres across Europe. It was the first in a series of online sessions on topics related to faith and society led by distinguished speakers. The first

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session revolved around the topic of "The rise of the far-right, political violence and anti-immigration sentiment in Europe". Speakers included:

- Dr Jennifer Philippa Eggert - Senior Research Fellow at the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities
- Adrian Cristea - Executive Officer at Dublin City Interfaith Forum
- Dr Jeroen Harun-Vlug - Senior Researcher at Movisie and Lecturer & Researcher of Islamic Studies at the Islamic University of Applied Sciences Rotterdam

On 17 January 2024 CFCF ran its second in a series of online sessions on topics related to faith and society led by distinguished speakers. The session revolved around the topic of "Faith in the Workplace". Our speaker was Dr Brian Grim, President of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation and former chair of the World Economic Forum's global council on the role of faith.

On 31 January 2024 CFCF held third in a series of online sessions on topics related to faith and society led by distinguished speakers. This session will revolve around the topic of Faith and the Environment. The speaker Dr. Iyad Abumoghli. Dr Abumoghli is the Founder and Director of the Faith for Earth Coalition of UNEP. For around 40 years, Dr. Abumoghli has been focusing on strategic planning, sustainable development, interfaith collaboration, and innovation. He held senior-level positions at the UN including as Regional Representative of UNEP in West Asia, Director of Innovation at UNDP's Regional Office for the Arab States, Environment Advisor at the Regional Facility in Beirut, Global Practice Manager for the Environment Group in New York, Assistant Representative of UNDP in Jordan. Dr. Abumoghli holds a doctorate in Engineering from the University of Bath/UK, and is an outstanding graduate of the Virtual Development Academy - Johns University. Dr. Abumoghli has published numerous papers and book chapters that contemplate the interplay of religion and the environment, ethics, values, and spirituality in the context of environmental governance.

On 14 February 2024 CFCF ran the fourth and final session of its Interfaith Leadership Programme. The topic was Faith and the Policymaking Sphere. The speaker was Kishan Manocha, Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw.

Civic and Democracy Leadership Programme

The Faith in Democracy project, funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA), organised, staffed and ran 22 in-person events in London mosques, synagogues, gurdwaras, university settings, and interfaith events for over 2,600 total participants. Additionally, the programme collaborated with leading Sikh and Jewish organisations whose members had little to no online access to voter registration and photo ID information either due to age and language barriers and/or religious sanctions. In order to overcome these digital obstacles, Faith in Democracy created an analog methodology along the following steps. First, we collaborated with the Hackney, Hounslow, and the Kensington and Chelsea Electoral Registration Offices. These offices printed paper registration forms and sent them to the Shepherds Bush Gurdwara and the Interlink Jewish Charity for distribution at over 36 'Haredi' (Ultra-Orthodox) synagogues and study centres in Hackney. Second, both the Hounslow and Kensington teams sent their officers to our information stalls at Al-Manaar Mosque, Hounslow Masjid, and the Islamic Integration Centre in Hounslow. At these stalls, the registration officers supported over 100 congregants in total to complete their paper registration forms, and handed out flyers and pamphlets about valid forms of photo ID. One example of how the Faith in Democracy programme overcome language and access barriers and increased democratic power through the grant activity, was the collaborative work with the Interlink Jewish charity to create ads in Yiddish promoting voter registration and valid forms of photo IDs to vote for the 3 leading weekly

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Yiddish newspapers in London, the weekly Jewish bulletin printed and distributed for over 60 synagogues, and a whatsapp group to the Jewish community with over 8,000 members.

'Faith in Democracy trained 12 community champions in delivering impartial information within their own faith communities. These community champions created faith and issue specific flyers and information pamphlets uniquely suited to the language and cultural requirements of their particular communities. For example, the 36 synagogues received flyers in Yiddish, with clear references to the need to vote in order to have their voices heard and their issues addressed. Because the members of these communities do not usually have a smartphone, nor an internet connection, online voter registration and voter ID photo procurement was not possible via digital means. Therefore the community champion passed out paper registration forms, and put up signs in Yiddish directing people to nearby and kosher internet cafes to register to vote. For the partner Gurdwara, the champion was also a trustee who was able to speak to the entire congregation about voter registration on key holy days with a large attendance. The community champions from the Muslim community specifically worked with young members (ages 17-25). The majority of these younger members had not yet registered to vote. Because the community champions were able to provide impartial information and flyers in Arabic and English, these younger members were able to speak openly about their concerns about the democratic process in general and the feelings they have that their vote and their voice would not make a difference in creating real change. These feelings were exacerbated by the current conflict in Gaza and overall sense of disempowerment from governmental decisions. Because the community champions were both members of the youth leadership team, they were able to discuss these points over a number of sessions, and on a 1-to-1 basis. The impact of this work was an immediate rise of registered voters amongst this particular cohort, with 14 young people from these two Muslim communities reporting that they had chosen to register to vote, and understood the need to bring valid photo ID when they do so, directly as a result of these conversations with their respective community champions.

Health Engagement

NHS Online Support Materials

In collaboration with NHS North West London Integrated Care Board, this project aimed to develop accessible materials and videos to guide residents on using NHS online services, with a focus on improving digital skills. It aligns with a broader co-production initiative to enhance access to digital NHS services, specifically the NHS App, PATCHS, and the Care Information Exchange, with an emphasis on the NHS App.

The target inclusion groups were older adults (65+), people with learning disabilities, non-native English speakers, and other cultural communities. Feedback from co-production events highlighted the need for easy-to-understand materials, prioritising videos and translations.

The material provided:

- Detailed guidance videos and leaflets on downloading, setting up, and using the NHS App
- Information on the app's key features
- Written in simple English
- Translated in Punjabi, Gujarati and Arabic

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The material was then disseminated at ten religious community centres, including Mosques, Churches, Temples and Gurudwaras at the 8 different boroughs in North West London. Other support services included help desks to provide further support in accessing the NHS app and address any concerns.

London Health Equity Group Meeting

On 8 February 2024, representatives from Faiths Forum for London attended the quarterly meeting of the London Health Equity Group (HEG), which focused on Public Mental Health. The meeting was conducted online and aimed to address critical issues in mental health care and promote collaboration among various stakeholders.

The agenda included discussions on public mental health priorities, along with updates from the Legacy and Health Equity Partnership. The meeting also provided insights into the importance of prioritising public mental health and reviewed strategies from Thrive LDN, highlighting the need for comprehensive approaches to improve mental health outcomes across communities.

Faiths Forum for London engaged actively in discussions surrounding mental health issues within faith communities, contributing valuable perspectives on improving mental health outcomes and addressing health inequalities. The representatives emphasised the unique position faith groups hold in fostering dialogue and support for mental health within their communities.

Key takeaways from the meeting included an emphasis on the importance of public mental health initiatives in promoting community well-being and recognition of the role faith groups can play in supporting mental health efforts while reducing stigma. This meeting was instrumental in encouraging collaboration between health leaders and community organisations to enhance public mental health strategies across London.

Roundtable on the Role of Faith in Social Prescribing

On 13 March 2024, Faiths Forum for London attended a roundtable discussion hosted by Dr. Michael Dixon, Chair of The College of Medicine and Co-Founder of the Social Prescribing Network, alongside the Rt Hon and Rt Revd Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London. The focus of the discussion was on the involvement of faith groups in social prescribing, highlighting their critical role in addressing social needs within communities.

FFL contributed insights regarding the integral role of faith groups in delivering community services and social prescribing, emphasising their established trust within underserved populations. The discussion underscored that faith groups are already fulfilling the role of community brokers in social prescribing by providing essential services that meet various social needs.

Key highlights from the discussion included the need for financial support to be extended to faith groups engaged in public service delivery. Additionally, significant barriers to partnership with statutory bodies were identified, such as the lingering distrust towards these bodies due to past sporadic

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engagement and the high administrative burdens that hinder partnership opportunities. The variability in social prescribing services was also noted as a complication that makes systematic engagement challenging.

To address these barriers, the discussion generated several recommendations. Long-term strategic engagement with faith groups was deemed essential to overcoming these obstacles. Short-term suggestions included implementing training programmes to enhance faith literacy for statutory bodies and health literacy for faith groups. Moreover, there was a call for increased engagement from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to identify local health needs and ensure that culturally competent services are delivered in collaboration with faith groups.

VCFS Engagement in Health Equity Workshop

On 14 March 2024, FFL participated in the VCFS Engagement in Health Equity Workshop, hosted by the London Health Equity Group (HEG) at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre. The primary aim of the workshop was to amplify the voices of the Voluntary, Community, and Faith sectors in health decision-making processes, ensuring that these groups are adequately represented in discussions about health equity.

Our participation included a short talk delivered by Mustafa Field, the director of Faiths Forum for London, who spoke on the pivotal role of Voluntary, Community, and Faith sector organisations in promoting health equity. His insights highlighted the significant contributions these organisations make in advocating for equitable health outcomes and addressing health disparities within communities.

Key highlights from the workshop included the collaborative space it provided for community organisations to actively shape London's health equity future. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, sharing insights and influencing health policies, thereby contributing to the strengthening of the Health Equity Community Forum. This collective effort emphasised the importance of collaboration among various sectors to achieve a more equitable health landscape in London.

Lambeth Together Public Forum

On 21 March 2024, Faiths Forum for London participated in the Lambeth Together Public Forum. This open forum provided a valuable space for local communities to engage with decision-makers from Lambeth's health and care system, enabling residents to ask questions and raise important issues concerning their health and wellbeing.

FFL attended the forum as a listener to gain insights into the health landscape in Lambeth, promoting open dialogue between community members and health leaders. This engagement allowed FFL to gain a deeper understanding of the current health issues and initiatives affecting the Lambeth community, reinforcing the importance of collaboration between community organisations and health leaders in addressing local health challenges.

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Key highlights from the forum included observed discussions on significant topics such as the Living Well Network Alliance's contract extension decision and the progress of the local health and care plan, "Our Health, Our Lambeth." Additionally, there was a focus on the Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Delivery Alliance's initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes within the community.

Black Health Inequalities Summit 2024

Faiths Forum for London participated in the Black Health Inequalities Summit 2024 on 25 March 2024, hosted by the Community Action for Health Network (CAHN). This summit provided a vital platform for discussing the persistent health disparities faced by Black communities and exploring strategies to address these inequalities.

During the summit, FFL engaged in various discussions focused on health inequalities affecting Black populations. We contributed insights on the unique challenges faced by faith communities, including barriers to healthcare access, cultural mistrust, and the impact of socioeconomic factors on health outcomes. Our participation underscored the importance of culturally competent healthcare services and the necessity for inclusive health policies that consider the diverse backgrounds and experiences of Black individuals.

Key conversations during the summit revolved around the role of faith communities in promoting health awareness and education among Black populations. We discussed strategies for building trust in healthcare services within Black communities, emphasising the involvement of community leaders and influencers. Additionally, the significance of addressing social determinants of health, such as housing, education, and employment, was highlighted as a crucial factor in combating health disparities.

The insights gained from the summit will inform our ongoing efforts to engage with faith communities and advocate for equitable health services. FFL remains committed to collaborating with stakeholders to ensure that health interventions are culturally sensitive and responsive to the needs of Black communities across London.

Kings and Queens Give Blood

For a second time, in partnership with the NHS Blood and Transplant team, Faiths Forum organised a project to encourage blood donations from African and Caribbean lineage communities, specifically to push up the stock of the Ro subtype blood group, vital to the survival of people suffering Sickle Cell Anaemia. The outcomes of this multi-stranded project were:

1. Second round of blood-drive donation registration information packs distributed to 94 Seventh Day Adventist Churches via each church's health officer across England.
2. Our video for blood donor registration with the Bishop of Woolwich and key faith leaders was promoted on a weekly e-newsletter to over 4,000 subscribers.
3. Better Health Event at Wembley Park on 23 October 2023 for over 200 African and Caribbean lineage communities, with an NHSBT speaker in partnership with the Jason Roberts Foundation and the Brent Council.

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Working with the Seventh Day Adventist community health champions has allowed this project to reach thousands of congregants at 94 churches nationally through a source of information that the community itself trusts.

Environmentalism, Climate Action, and Awareness

Cyber Cycle

Cyber Cycle was a project focused on recycling electronic equipment such as computer tablets in the Mayfair and Belgravia areas of London. Our goal in this project was to address the pressing issue of electronic waste and promote sustainability in the community. We set up a recycling facility and recruited five IT experts as volunteers to oversee the repair and refurbishment of the donated electronic equipment and appliances. We also recruited 10 young volunteers (aged 18-24) and provided them with training in electronic recycling and refurbishment techniques. We also provided them with training on the impact of how recycling these items can reduce carbon emissions and sustainability. The first 3 months of the project were dedicated to setting up the recycling facility and recruiting volunteers. We then went on to work closely with local places of worship and community centres to establish drop-off points for donations of electronic equipment and appliances. Once we established the recycling facility and recruited volunteers, we began accepting donations and refurbishing them. The refurbished equipment was offered at little or no cost to individuals, charities, community groups, and educational establishments in the Mayfair and Belgravia areas. Any equipment that was not suitable for refurbishment was recycled responsibly, and we ensured that all products are certified through stringent safety tests before distribution.

In addition to recycling electronic equipment and appliances, we also provided 8 community outreach events to raise awareness of climate change, the impact of waste and how we increase the lifespan of computers. We also offered digital skills training and advice to those who are most in need of it within the community. This helped individuals develop their skills and make the most of the refurbished equipment they received. Participants gained insight into opportunities to enhance digital literacy through online training made available through Google Garage, and other providers.

Ultimately, the project has had a positive impact on the local environment by reducing electronic waste and promoting sustainable practices. It also provided skills, training, and job opportunities for local people connected to the climate response, and improved their understanding of the diverse ways to approach climate solutions.

Natureconnect

In memory of our late trustee Leonie Lewis MBE, FFL fundraised and organised the Natureconnect Project. The project aimed to foster environmental awareness, intergenerational relationships, and community cohesion throughout London, with particular attention to deprived areas with poor tree cover and underprivileged communities from diverse ethnic and faith backgrounds.

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Five nature walks, 4 environmental workshops, and 2 tree-planting sessions were organised. Walks provided immersive experiences, deepening the connection of the community to nature. Workshops educated members of the community on sustainability and conservation. Tree planting engaged participants in environmental restoration, emphasising ecosystem preservation and configured to consist of an interfaith element when implementing to also build community bonds.

Youth Projects

The Big Brent Coronation Weekend

The Big Brent Coronation Weekend built on the previously successful interfaith jubilee walk for Queen Elizabeth that brought together over 130 participants and visited synagogues; mosques; and churches in the heart of London. Extending our theme of turning strangers into friends and opening the doors of faith centres to those of all faiths and none; we created a cascading series of events for the coronation weekend of King Charles III that celebrates our diversity; brought people together to build sustainable and ongoing cohesion; and stand united as proud British citizens during coronation weekend and beyond. The Big Brent Coronation celebrated cultural; ethnic; race; faith; age; and gender diversity by bringing together communities in Brent to run a series of interfaith and intercultural arts; technology; and social action projects for over 300 people at 4 different faith venues; who opened their doors in this joint programme. This included: Friday: Environmental work at the Brent Mosque in honour of the King's Coronation. Saturday: Interfaith Computer Coding for young people (ages 16-25) at the Al-Khoei Centre taught by volunteer coders from Google; with a tour of the mosque. Sunday: Food parcel packing for the elderly and isolated in Brent in collaboration with AGEUK; packing at Brondesbury Park Synagogue; with a tour of the synagogue to follow. Monday: Shared meal for people of all faiths and none at Willesden New Testament Church of God to celebrate the coronation; with family events including a bouncy castle; and craft and ecology workshops; including building bug hotels; sprouting seeds in plastic bottles; and calligraphy.

Interfaith Football

FFL has been running 4 sessions per year at the Arsenal community hub for 13-15 year olds (2 for boys and 2 for girls) with each session accommodating approximately 30 pupils. Each session consists of 3 parts:

1. tour of the stadium
2. coaching and football scrimmage with the pupils mixing together
3. presentation from the PFA from a former/current player and/or their equality and diversity team.

Big Iftar

The Big Iftar is an initiative that has run for over 10 years, where mosques and local community centres in the UK open their doors and welcome people from all backgrounds, creating an environment that enables diverse communities to get to know one another and to celebrate their respective faiths together. FFL's involvement has been reduced significantly due to faith institutions now having integrated interfaith iftar as part of their regular Ramadan schedule.

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This year's Iftars were incredibly important in building and strengthening interfaith bonds especially at such sensitive times. Faiths Forum for London supported five interfaith iftars in partnership with four synagogues in Birmingham, Bradford, and London (3 including one at the Central Mosque of Brent in partnership with the Together Coalition). The Iftar at Brent Mosque also coincided with the anniversary of the Christ Church Massacre and served as a memorial to that tragedy with New Zealand's High Commissioner to the UK in attendance. Over 500 people took part in these pivotal bridge-building events, bringing together Jews, Muslims, and local neighbours for a shared break-the-fast meal. For the majority of the participants, these iftars marked their first interfaith encounter since the Gaza war began.

Each community deserves special recognition for courageously opening their doors to welcome Jewish and Muslim neighbours and friends during a time of increased tension and rising religious hate crime. At each event, Imams and Rabbis articulated prayers of peace and hope with brave moral clarity. In English, Hebrew, and Arabic, they prayed together for a lasting peace in Israel and Palestine. The synagogues are:

- Alyth Synagogue, London
- Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue, London
- Birmingham Progressive Synagogue
- Bradford Synagogue

The events were run as a consortium with our partners at the named faith centres, the Together Coalition being involved in individual events. A team of six staff members from Faiths Forum were involved in the project alongside our partners. Over 50 volunteers were involved in the successful running of the events across the country.

Home Office Safer Streets

Each year over 3 million women and girls suffer rape, sexual abuse, stalking or other forms of violence. Women from BAME communities suffer higher rates of VAWG than the general female population in Britain. For the past 5 years, Faiths Forum for London has assisted the Home Office in gathering and recording faith and race-based hate-crime statistics and case-studies to bolster the evidence for Places of Worship applying to the Protective Security Funding Scheme. Though our research focused on Places of Worship buildings, it also revealed an alarming increase in violent attacks against women on the streets near their homes and faith centres. In urban public areas with diverse ethnic populations and multiple deprivation indicators, over 56% of women from BAME faith communities had experienced violent abuse by a stranger within the last 5 years.

Therefore, Faiths Forum, with the support of the Home Office Safer Streets programme aimed to tackle VAWG in target areas that are within the top third of the multiple deprivation index (2019), that have an ethnically diverse population, in urban conurbations, in neighbourhoods where women feel vulnerable to attack yet are reluctant to report, with a sizable black community, and where our charity already has existing networks of community and statutory body engagement. In London, we will target our interventions within the boroughs that fall within the top 10 highest rates of sexual violent offences, namely: Lambeth, Croydon, Lewisham, Brent, and Greenwich.

In total, for final period of this programme to Combat VAWG in public spaces for women from faith communities FFL trained 160 women and girls (ages 12 to 73) at 8 self-defence/street-awareness workshops engaging 11 places of worships, against projected milestones of 8 self-defence/street-awareness workshops engaging 8 faith groups. In particular, the training has become oversubscribed

Faiths Forum For London

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

in the Bradford, Leicester, and Birmingham region, with a waiting list of participants, all from BAME backgrounds. These women all requested further courses, with evaluations stating that they would like more training both for themselves and for their children and grandchildren. They wanted further training specifically to empower them in public spaces and continue to build a cross-faith network of female-led online and offline groups to discuss best-practice, and engender better relationships with their local police officers.

FFL established an online network of participants, trainers and local police community/faith/women engagement officers with a fortnightly newsletter of upcoming workshops, safety tips, and local support to combat VAWG with a current mailing list of 1,000 plus participants. Post-workshop participant evaluations indicated that the programme is highly successful in achieving its primary objectives to 1) recognise inappropriate behaviour by others, 2) feel safer in public spaces, 3) enhance self-esteem for women and girls, and 4) create higher levels of trust in local policing.

Financial review

The Forum has continued to plan and develop its services, widening its publicity through social media and events. With the aid of sound financial management and the support of our Trustees, Council Members and Patron, the Forum has achieved a satisfactory outcome for the year, with sufficient resources to continue to expand activities in the forthcoming year.

Reserves Policy

Following consultation with experts and the board of Trustees it has been decided that the Charity's policy on reserves is to maintain adequate unrestricted/restricted funds to cover up to 6 months of operating costs (which includes admin HR and payroll) in the instance of incoming funds fall short.

The amount that is considered adequate to cover the unrestricted/restricted expenditure for the reserve target is £85,000 (previously £151,000). The Charity considers the levels of reserves to be sufficient.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 02 December 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mr J Singh
Trustee

Faiths Forum For London

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Faiths Forum For London

Year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Faiths Forum For London ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

511 Kenton Lane
Harrow
Middlesex
HA3 JW
04 December 2024

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)
Year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Note				
Income and donations					
Income and Donations	5	243,147	158,918	402,065	399,261
Total income		243,147	158,918	402,065	399,261
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,7	287,077	185,675	472,752	397,901
Total expenditure		287,077	185,675	472,752	397,901
Net income and net movement in funds		(43,930)	(26,757)	(70,687)	1,360
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		172,253	44,939	217,192	215,832
Total funds carried forward		128,323	18,182	146,505	217,192

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

The notes on pages 19 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	241	328
Current assets			
Debtors	15	48,539	110,539
Cash at bank and in hand		172,747	214,340
		<u>221,286</u>	<u>324,879</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	17	75,022	108,015
Net current assets		<u>146,264</u>	<u>216,864</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>146,505</u>	<u>217,192</u>
Net assets		<u>146,505</u>	<u>217,192</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		18,182	44,939
Unrestricted funds		128,323	172,253
Total charity funds	18	<u>146,505</u>	<u>217,192</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- ☐ The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- ☐ The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 02 December 2024 , and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr D Chadha
Trustee

The notes on pages 19 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income		(70,687)	1,360
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		87	2,067
Accrued income		-	(18,775)
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Trade and other debtors		62,000	36,090
Trade and other creditors		(32,993)	(19,381)
Cash generated from operations		<u>(41,593)</u>	<u>(70,819)</u>
Net cash from operating activities		<u><u>(41,593)</u></u>	<u><u>(70,819)</u></u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of Tangible assets		-	(350)
Net cash from operating activities		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(350)</u></u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u><u>(41,593)</u></u>	<u><u>(71,169)</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>214,340</u>	<u>285,509</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	16	<u><u>172,747</u></u>	<u><u>214,340</u></u>

The notes on pages 19 to 28 form part of these financial statements.

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 62 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 3JF..

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Faiths Forum For London

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- ☐ income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable, and its amount can be measured reliably.
- ☐ legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable, and entitlement is established.
- ☐ income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- ☐ income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended.

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- ☐ expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- ☐ expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- ☐ other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Faiths Forum For London

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

5. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Charitable Donations	6,782	–	6,782
Membership Fees	360	–	360
Service Provision (Generated Income)	12,450	–	12,450
Organ Donation	–	–	–
Interfaith Tree Planting	–	9,100	9,100
SFI	164,254	–	164,254
Kickstarter Income	–	–	–
Civic and Leadership Democracy	–	48,000	48,000
Youth Engagement	17,043	–	17,043
Capital Cities Interfaith Network	–	–	–
Women Lived-Experience	24,500	–	24,500
Newham Project	–	–	–
Home Office Safer Streets	–	71,868	71,868
Big Brent Coronation Weekend	–	9,950	9,950
Cybre Cycle	–	20,000	20,000
Cities Faith and Community Forum	7,758	–	7,758
Brent Project	10,000	–	10,000
	243,147	158,918	402,065

Faiths Forum For London

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Charitable Donations	2,632	—	2,632
Membership Fees	5,400	—	5,400
Service Provision (Generated Income)	7,718	—	7,718
Grand Trunk Project	—	—	—
Organ Donation	7,350	19,000	26,350
Domestic Violence	—	—	—
Interfaith Tree Planting	20,000	—	20,000
Peer Network Programme	—	—	—
Community Champion	—	—	—
SFI	249,348	—	249,348
Kickstarter Income	4,341	18,110	22,451
CREID	—	—	—
Civic and Leadership Democracy	—	—	—
Other	(3,780)	—	(3,780)
Youth Engagement	—	1,000	1,000
Capital Cities Interfaith Network	902	—	902
My Voice	—	—	—
Covid 19	—	—	—
Women Lived-Experience	8,000	—	8,000
Newham Project	—	10,000	10,000
Faith In the Metropolitan Police	22,000	—	22,000
Home Office Safer Streets	27,240	—	27,240
	351,151	48,110	399,261

6. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable Activity	246,109	185,675	431,785
Support costs	40,968	—	40,968
	287,077	185,675	472,752

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable Activity	155,246	109,571	264,817
Support costs	130,451	2,633	133,084
	285,697	112,204	397,901

Faiths Forum For London

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Charitable Activity	431,785	27,665	459,450	377,702
Governance costs	–	13,302	13,302	20,199
	<u>431,785</u>	<u>40,967</u>	<u>397,901</u>	<u>397,901</u>

8. Analysis of governance costs

	Analysis of governance costs £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Governance Cost	13,302	13,302	20,199

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type - analysis

	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Staff costs	–	99,180	99,180	100,254
Charitable	5,504	–	5,504	6,427
Events - Big Iftar	3,000	–	3,000	300
Women's Lived- Experience Expenses	–	–	–	5,525
Events - SFI	211,505	–	211,505	106,437
Social Media	–	–	–	245
Faith in the Metropolitan Police Expenses	–	1,000	1,000	5,253
Interfaith Tree Planting	–	29,891	29,891	6,959
Community Champion	–	–	–	8,389
Civic and Leadership	–	21,304	21,304	150
Covid-19	151	–	151	–
Organ Donation	1,400	1,400	2,800	7,950
Newham Project Expenses	100	–	100	2,657
Youth Engagement Expenses	7,379	–	7,379	1,905
Peer Network Programme	–	–	–	(908)
Home Office Safer Streets Expenses	–	19,084	19,084	12,092
Brent Project Expenses	7,588	477	8,065	1,182
Cities Faith and Community Forum	5,145	–	5,145	–
Cyber Cycle	–	3,794	3,794	–
Big Brent Coronation Weekend	–	9,545	9,545	–
Other Expenses	4,337	–	4,337	–
	<u>246,109</u>	<u>185,675</u>	<u>431,784</u>	<u>264,817</u>

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

10. Support costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Wages & Salaries	27,665	—	27,665	112,885
Accountancy fees	5,835	—	5,835	5,288
Travel & Subsistence	—	—	—	463
FFL Office Costs	105	—	105	45
Governance	5,675	—	5,675	4,770
Computer expenses & maintenance	454	—	454	5,434
Telephone & Internet	248	—	248	1,315
Insurance	898	—	898	817
Rent	—	—	—	—
Cleaning	—	—	—	—
Depreciation	87	—	88	2,067
	<u>40,968</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>40,968</u>	<u>133,084</u>

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

11. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	87	2,067

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	126,845	213,139

The average head count of employees during the year was 10 (2023: 10). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Number of staff	10	10

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration.

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind.

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	10,604	10,604
Additions	—	—
At 31 March 2024	10,604	10,604
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	10,276	10,276
Charge for the year	87	87
At 31 March 2024	10,363	10,363
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2024	241	241
At 31 March 2023	328	328

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	48,539	110,539

16. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise the following:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	172,747	214,340
Bank overdrafts	—	—
	172,747	214,340

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	54,184	65,542
Accruals and deferred income	2,175	2,175
Social security and other taxes	9,376	38,985
Other creditors	9,287	1,313
	75,022	108,015

Faiths Forum For London
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year ended 31 March 2024

18. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>172,253</u>	<u>243,147</u>	<u>(287,077)</u>	<u>128,323</u>
	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>106,799</u>	<u>351,151</u>	<u>(285,697)</u>	<u>172,253</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	<u>44,939</u>	<u>158,918</u>	<u>(185,675)</u>	<u>18,182</u>
	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund	<u>109,033</u>	<u>48,110</u>	<u>(112,204)</u>	<u>44,939</u>