

# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1150129

## Details

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**Other names** MEWSO

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2012-12-11

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** St. Marys Neighbourhood Centre  
124 Upper Street  
Islington  
London  
N1 2TX

**Phone** 07958145666

**Email** [office@mewso.org](mailto:office@mewso.org)

**Website** [www.mewso.org](http://www.mewso.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY AMONG WOMEN OF MIDDLE EASTERN DESCENT WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION, PREVENTING THEM FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THEIR NEEDS AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, BY:1. PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, FORUMS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT;2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND IN VOCATIONAL AND OTHER SKILLS;3. SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND EVENTS INVOLVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY; AND4. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ISSUES AFFECTING THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION, INCLUDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HONOUR RELATED VIOLENCE.WITHIN THIS WORDING 'MIDDLE EASTERN' MEANS COUNTRIES INCLUDING: EGYPT, IRAN, IRAQ, TURKEY, SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN, SYRIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, OMAN, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, KUWAIT, QATAR, BAHRAIN AND CYPRUS

**Activities:** Assisting victims of domestic violence, forced marriage, FGM, and women affected by honour killings in their family to rebuild their lives and integrate into the wider society. The organisation offers workshops, group and individual counselling sessions, advice and support on an outreach basis. All in which focus on our primary aim, the well-being of our clients.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

- Throughout London

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£156,257	£254,054	-	-
2024-03-31	£189,815	£270,911	-	-
2023-03-31	£279,578	£218,332	-	-
2022-03-31	£267,622	£163,801	-	-
2021-03-31	£193,409	£105,303	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rose Fatherazi</b>	Chair	2025-06-26
Dhwani Jaisingh		2025-10-17
Ellena Vacchelli		2025-01-17
Hana Sedighi		2025-10-17
Haniya Anam Chaudhary		2025-10-17
Maria Stephanie Sookias		2021-03-01
Mercyline Ndeti		2025-01-17

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150129

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# Accounts

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# **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

Registered Charity

## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNT**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

Charity number: 1150129

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

**Registered Charity Number:** 1150129

**Principal address:**

St. Marys Neighbourhood Centre  
124 Upper Street  
Islington  
London  
N1 2TX

**Trustees:**

Ms R Fatherazi – Chairperson – Appointed 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Ms T Foulds -Treasurer  
Mrs C Mayfield  
Ms M Sookias  
Ms M Ndeti  
Ms E Vacchelli  
Ms B Fatherazi – Not a trustee from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
Ms G Marco – Not a trustee from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Governing document:**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Constitution.

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank

**Independent Examiner and Accountant:**

TACTS Accountant  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
61 Fountains Crescent  
London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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## **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

### **Report of the Trustees**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation's (MEWSo) Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

### **Governance, Structure and Management**

MEWSo was registered as a charity on 11th December 2012. The charity is governed by its Constitution. The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment and retirement of trustees is in accordance with the Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

The overall management of finance is the responsibility of all the Trustees acting on the recommendations of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Director. The Trustees form the Management Committee who meet regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

### **Background**

MEWSo was established in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds. Since our inception, we have provided culturally tailored services such as befriending, counselling, social activities, and specialist advice to support women escaping gender-based violence and discrimination.

We work with women from communities where patriarchal values, cultural pressures, and systemic inequalities have left many vulnerable to abuse, social exclusion, poverty, and ill health. MEWSo remains one of the only organisations in London advocating specifically for women impacted by polygamy, forced virginity testing, and hymenoplasty. We also support LGBTQ+ individuals, those with insecure immigration status, and women with no recourse to public funds.

Our mission is to challenge every form of discrimination and exclusion and promote a society where every woman, regardless of her background, lives in safety and equality. We are committed to values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

**Charitable Objects:** The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern descent who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society, by:

- Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
- Education and training in vocational and other skills;
- Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community;
- Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and harmful traditional practices.

**Activities and Achievements:** 2024-2025 The past year has been marked by increased hardship for many women in our communities due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, housing instability, and

cuts to vital services. MEWSo responded by strengthening partnerships, expanding support services, and continuing to raise awareness around harmful practices and inequalities. Between April 2024 and March 2025, MEWSo supported:

- 126 VAWG survivor
- 90 sessions of 1:1 counselling were delivered
- 66 women participated in group therapy
- 40 therapeutic sessions delivered in Farsi and Arabic
- 316 women participated in our projects, workshops, services, and social clubs.

Our major project this year was the culmination and launch of our five-year Polygamy Matters Project. The final report, co-produced with Greenwich University and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, highlighted the emotional, financial, and legal impact of polygamy on over 20,000 women in the UK. The online conference on 20 March 2025 included presentations by experts and powerful testimonies by affected women.

We also participated in the Future of Immigration Conference, and the Harmful Practices Conference, where we addressed issues including virginity testing and polygamy. These engagements helped raise awareness among professionals and policymakers. Professional Training and Frontline Engagement: We delivered over 10 professional training sessions attended by 77 professionals for different organisations including:

- Hackney Migrant Centre
- National Survivor User Network (NSUN)
- Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid
- Islington Council Frontline Training
- Brook Organisation
- The Harmful Practices Operational Group

Volunteering and Community Engagement:

- We were supported by 8 volunteers
- Choir sessions launched in Westminster with strong community participation
- New social clubs in Queen's Park and Islington, supported by Westminster and Islington Councils
- Warm-Up Hubs provided meals and respite during winter
- We proudly celebrated International Women's Day and Nowruz with music, dance, cultural activities, and food packages for service users observing Ramadan.
- Other initiatives included:
  - Online safety sessions
  - Health Cook & Eat sessions
  - Self-defence and personal safety workshops in coordination with Metropolitan Police
  - Olive Club and Women's Circle gatherings
  - Advocacy and support for asylum seekers living in hotels

We are proud to report that in 2025, MEWSo was officially accredited by the Advice Quality Standard (AQS).

Risk Management MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes
- The establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

Our key risk remains financial sustainability. We continue to monitor liquid reserves and funding pipeline to ensure continuity. Additional risk areas include staff capacity, data security, safeguarding, and health and safety. We regularly review our policies and ensure appropriate training.

Our hybrid delivery model allows for both digital and in-person support. We will continue to adapt our operations and advocate for the most marginalised in our communities. We remain deeply grateful to all our funders, partners, trustees, staff, volunteers, and service-users for their continued belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to ensure every woman has the opportunity to live safely, freely, and with dignity.

## **Risk management**

MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes.
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review;
- and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds. Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety and food hygiene.

These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas. The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to MEWSo. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

## **Financial Review**

MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £ 156,257 (£189,815 in 2023/2024) from various funders.

## **Reserve's policy and Going Concern**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that MEWSo's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen

difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

#### **Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with its members must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

#### **Statement Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company.

Signed on behalf of the board,



*Halaleh Taheri*  
Founder & CEO  
26/06/2025

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION (MEWSO)**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 report**

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 accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Date: 26/06/2025

Chartered Certified Accountant  
TACTS Accountant, 61 Fountains Crescent, London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2024</u>
		£	£	£	£
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES: -</u></b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		4,205	-	4,205	5,176
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(16)	-	152,052	152,052	184,639
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b><u>4,205</u></b>	<b><u>152,052</u></b>	<b><u>156,257</u></b>	<b><u>189,815</u></b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	(14)	-	254,054	254,054	270,911
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>254,054</u></b>	<b><u>254,054</u></b>	<b><u>270,911</u></b>
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		<b><u>4,205</u></b>	<b><u>(102,002)</u></b>	<b><u>(97,797)</u></b>	<b><u>(81,096)</u></b>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>		<b><u>95,743</u></b>	<b><u>124,994</u></b>	<b><u>220,737</u></b>	<b><u>301,833</u></b>
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b><u>99,948</u></b>	<b><u>22,992</u></b>	<b><u>122,940</u></b>	<b><u>220,737</u></b>

There were no recognised gains or losses for the above period other than those shown in the statement of financial activities for the above financial year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)

## MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2025

		£	£
	Note	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Debtors	(12)	44,999	70
Cash at Bank and In Hand		98,044	223,912
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	20,103	3,245
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>122,940</u></u>	<u><u>220,737</u></u>
<b>As Represented By</b>			
Unrestricted Fund		99,948	95,743
Restricted Fund	(15)	<u>22,992</u>	<u>124,994</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><u>122,940</u></u>	<u><u>220,737</u></u>

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26/06/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Ms R Fatherazi  
Chairperson

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025**

**1. Accounting basis.**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). MEWSO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

**2. Cash Flow Statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

**3. Income**

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

**4. Resource Expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct charitable expenditure include includes the direct costs of the activities. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with the direct costs of the relevant service.

**5. Taxation**

MEWSO is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 6. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

No Fixed asset to be depreciated in this year.

## 7. Staff Costs

The total staff cost for the year on payroll was £101,592 (£140,119 in 2023/24) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total numbers of employees were 4 in this year (6 in 2023-2024)

4 self-employed staff were used in this financial year

Trustees are not remunerated.

## 8. Status

MEWSo is a registered charity.

## 9. Fund Accounting

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

## 10. Support Cost

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 17.

## 11. Taxation

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 12. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	44,999	70
	<u>44,999</u>	<u>70</u>

## 13. Accrual and Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other Creditors	20,103	3,245
	<u>20,103</u>	<u>3,245</u>

#### 14. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>				
<b>Charitable Expenses</b>				
Staff Costs and Sessional Workers	-	176,041	<b>176,041</b>	206,782
Recruitment	-	270	<b>270</b>	-
Training, Workshops and other activities	-	8,431	<b>8,431</b>	14,719
Partnerships and Collaboration	-	31,626	<b>31,626</b>	16,099
Participants Expenses	-	2,193	<b>2,193</b>	2,318
Volunteer Expenses	-	4,221	<b>4,221</b>	4,601
Rent and Room Hire	-	8,262	<b>8,262</b>	6,581
Equipment & Hiring	-	-	-	630
Publicity & Advertisement	-	1,800	<b>1,800</b>	378
Memberships and Subscription	-	4,440	<b>4,440</b>	1,887
Refreshments and Catering	-	1,614	<b>1,614</b>	1,834
Transport and Travel	-	1,767	<b>1,767</b>	2,231
Professional and Consultancy Fees	-	6,900	<b>6,900</b>	6,690
Insurance	-	586	<b>586</b>	228
Office & IT Expenses	-	5,903	<b>5,903</b>	5,933
<b>Total Charitable Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>254,054</b>	<b>254,054</b>	<b>270,911</b>

#### 15. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	Balance at 1st April 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31st March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Action Funder	<b>4,805</b>	5,000	7,969	<b>1,836</b>
Islington Fund	<b>3,135</b>	24,244	19,661	<b>7,718</b>
London Community Foundation	<b>68,358</b>	44,999	113,357	<b>0</b>
Smallwood Trust	-	10,000	7,186	<b>2,814</b>
Greater London Authority	-	1,000	1,000	-
The Health Forum Fund	-	10,155	10,155	-
Cripplegate	<b>4,000</b>	-	4,000	-
The National Lottery Fund	<b>20,488</b>	-	20,488	-
City of Westminster Trust	<b>3,692</b>	-	3,692	-
Westminster Council	<b>20,515</b>	56,654	66,544	<b>10,625</b>
	<b>124,993</b>	<b>152,052</b>	<b>254,052</b>	<b>22,992</b>

## 16. Grant Receivable

Funder	<u>Purpose of Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		2025	2024
		£	£
The London Com. Foundation	Asylum/Migrants/Health	44,999	66,991
Action Funder	Health and Wellbeing	5,000	4,999
Islington Fund	Health and Wellbeing	24,244	5,585
Haringey Council	Health and Wellbeing	-	4,125
Smallwood Trust	Health and Wellbeing	10,000	-
Health Forum Fund	Health and Wellbeing	10,155	10,735
GLA Fund	Health and Wellbeing	1,000	500
The National Lottery Fund	Domestic Violence Support	-	46,521
City of Westminster Trusts	Young Girls Support	-	7,528
Cripplegate Foundation	Information & Advice	-	4,000
Westminster Council	Sports, Health & Wellbeing	56,654	33,656
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>152,052</b>	<b>184,639</b>

## 17. Governance and Support cost

	<b>General Support</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Professional and Consultancy Fees	5,950	950	6,900
Insurance	-	586	586
Office & IT Expenses	5,903	-	5,903
Office Rent and Room Hire	8,262	-	8,262
	<b>20,114</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>21,650</b>

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150129

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# Accounts

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# **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

Registered Charity

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

Charity number: 1150129

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

**Registered Charity Number:** 1150129

**Principal address:**

Andover Community Centre  
55-57 Corker Walk  
Andover Estate  
N7 7R

**Trustees:**

Ms G Marco - Chairperson  
Ms T Foulds -Treasurer  
Mrs C Mayfield  
Ms B Fatherazi  
Miss R Alaaldin  
Ms D Elrayyes  
Ms M Sookias

**Governing document:**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Constitution.

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank

**Independent Examiner and Accountant:**

TACTS Accountant  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
61 Fountains Crescent  
Southgate  
London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation's (MEWSo) Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

**Governance, Structure and Management**

MEWSo was registered as a charity on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The charity is governed by its Constitution. The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment and retirement of trustees is in accordance with the Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

The overall management of finance is the responsibility of all the Trustees acting on the recommendations of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Director. The Trustees form the Management Committee who meets regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

**Background**

MEWSo was set in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African background. Since then, our befriending services, advice, counselling and social groups have supported hundreds of women to become independent and rebuild their lives free from gender-based violence and discrimination. The women we support face a number of disadvantages, mostly resulting from the social constructs in Middle Eastern cultures. They also experience structural poverty, social and health inequalities and endure or have survived gender-based violence. Throughout the years, many have found friends and supporters in the face of our advisors, facilitators and befrienders. The culturally-tailored support we provide to these women is vital for their social integration and wellbeing. Our activities help them reduce their dependency on families, spouses and partners, and empower them to rebuild their lives. We are the only voluntary support organization in London promoting support for Middle Eastern women who are trapped in polygamous relationship or have survived forced virginity testing or hymenoplasty. We also support women from LGTBQ+ communities or those with unsettled immigration status fearing to report abuse due to deportation.

Our organisation rejects every form of discrimination, inequality and exclusion and aspires to a society where every woman lives in safety with equal opportunities. We hope for a society in which diversity is considered an element of strength and not of division. Our organisation is built on the values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

### **Charitable Objects:**

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern descent who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society, by:

1. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
2. Education and training in English language and in vocational and other skills;
3. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community; and
4. Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and honour related violence.

Within this wording 'Middle Eastern' means countries including: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Cyprus.

### **Activities and Achievements**

The past year has posed numerous challenges for the voluntary sector and the communities supported by MEWSO. The burden of the rising cost of living and the hostile environment towards migrants has significantly impacted women from minoritized communities. Many of those we supported faced difficult choices between securing warmth, food, or clothing for their families. A large proportion of women we supported were trapped in abusive relationships and unable to live independently. Despite the ever-growing demand, MEWSO's staff and volunteers continued to support as many women as possible. We tirelessly fought for justice and equality, striving to improve the living conditions of migrant women. Our efforts involved collaboration with communities, policymakers, partner organizations, and health and social care practitioners.

Below are some of our statistics of supported women throughout the year:

- Over 600 women facing domestic abuse with individual advice, advocacy and counselling in community languages.
- Over 60 were living in polygamous relationships
- Over 150 were seeking asylum
- Over 90 women had no recourse to public funds
- Over 250 needed welfare support
- 80 women with NRPF in Hackney supported through hardship grants.
- 38 women experiencing domestic abuse supported in Haringey received emergency grants.

We continued to fight for justice and equality by tackling harmful cultural practices. We reached out to Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, asking for reassurance that the core of Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) will prioritize the safety of all young people, regardless of their culture or background. We celebrated International Women's Day with sessions raising awareness on virginity testing practices and polygamy. We delivered seven workshops on polygamy in collaboration with Greenwich University. These emotionally charged sessions allowed participating women to discuss the financial, psychological, and physical impacts placed on them and their children by being in polygamous relationships.

We also condemned the Illegal Migration Act by issuing a joint statement supporting migrant women's rights to seek safety and a better life. Hundreds signed our "Raise Your Voice" petition and joined our protest in Trafalgar Square, urging the Government to do more to isolate Iran's Islamic Regime. Our team visited refugees in hotels to assess their needs and how the voluntary sector may support them. Following these visits, we wrote an open letter drawing attention to the appalling conditions many refugees are forced to endure in hotels, highlighting issues such as prolonged neglect, trauma, and inadequate access to essential services.

We are grateful that our efforts and work have been acknowledged by partners. We won the London and South East England Prestige Award 2023 for Domestic Abuse Support Nonprofit Organization. One of our volunteers in Islington was named Young Volunteer of the Year at the Islington Volunteer of the Year Awards 2023.

We strengthened our partnerships with key funders like Westminster Council and the Paddington corporate sector, delivering Conversational English classes for women recently arrived in the UK, wellbeing sessions, cancer awareness workshops, money management workshops, picnics, and walks across the neighbourhood, healthy lifestyle workshops, nutrition advice and community meals. We also partnered with Trieu Nails, who held two masterclasses for our clients as part of their initiative to support vulnerable women 18 years and over.

In Islington, we revived our Olive Club - a self-steering group where participating women decide what activities to do, such as visiting a local coffee shop, cooking Middle Eastern food together, sharing recipes, or taking part in traditional dance sessions. We continue to deliver our flagship Conversational English classes so women can confidently participate in local life and wider society. We became Hate Crime community champions and held an awareness event to help tackle hate crime against LGBTQ+ women.

Our LGBTQ+ Group acted as a safe space for young women from different parts of the Middle East to find support and connections in their new home, London.

Our volunteers contributed altogether over 100 hours, spread between interpreting, delivering activities and classes and working with our Advice Department.

## **Risk management**

MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes.
  - the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review;
- and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds. Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety and food hygiene.

These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas. The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to MEWSo. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

In reviewing the effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, MEWSo has reviewed its risk assessment and taken actions in mitigating any associated risks and amend accordingly. The charity's resilience was responsive and strong which ensured organisational sustainability during this exceptional time.

### **Financial Review**

MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £ 189,815 (£279,578 in 2022/2023) from various funders.

### **Reserve's policy and Going Concern**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that MEWSo's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

### **Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with its members must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

### **Independent Examiner**

TACTS Accountant firm was appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

### **Statement Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company.

Signed on behalf of the board,



*Halaleh Taheri*  
Founder & CEO  
20/07/2024

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION (MEWSO)**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 report**

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 accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Date: 20/07/2024

Chartered Certified Accountant  
TACTS Accountant, 61 Fountains Crescent, London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <b>2024</b>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <b>2023</b>
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES: -</u></b>		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		5,176	-	5,176	36,763
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(16)	-	184,639	184,639	242,815
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b><u>5,176</u></b>	<b><u>184,639</u></b>	<b><u>189,815</u></b>	<b><u>279,578</u></b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	(14)	2,617	268,294	270,911	218,332
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b><u>2,617</u></b>	<b><u>268,294</u></b>	<b><u>270,911</u></b>	<b><u>218,332</u></b>
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		<b><u>2,559</u></b>	<b><u>(83,655)</u></b>	<b><u>(81,096)</u></b>	<b><u>61,247</u></b>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>		<b><u>93,183</u></b>	<b><u>208,649</u></b>	<b><u>301,833</u></b>	<b><u>240,586</u></b>
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b><u>95,743</u></b>	<b><u>124,994</u></b>	<b><u>220,737</u></b>	<b><u>301,833</u></b>

There were no recognised gains or losses for the above period other than those shown in the statement of financial activities for the above financial year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)

# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	£ <u>2024</u>	£ <u>2023</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Debtors	(12)	70	15,020
Cash at Bank and In Hand		223,912	289,446
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	3,245	2,633
Deferred Income		-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>220,737</u></u>	<u><u>301,833</u></u>
<b>As Represented By</b>			
Unrestricted Fund		95,743	93,183
Restricted Fund	(15)	<u>124,994</u>	<u>208,649</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><u>220,737</u></u>	<u><u>301,833</u></u>

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20/07/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Ms G Marco  
Chairperson

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

**1. Accounting basis.**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). MEWSo meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

**2. Cash Flow Statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

**3. Income**

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

**4. Resource Expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct charitable expenditure include includes the direct costs of the activities. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with the direct costs of the relevant service.

**5. Taxation**

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 6. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

No Fixed asset to be depreciated in this year.

## 7. Staff Costs

The total staff cost for the year on payroll was £140,119 (£118,226 in 2022/23) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total numbers of employees were 6 in this year.

4 self-employed staff were used in this financial year

Trustees are not remunerated.

## 8. Status

MEWSo is a registered charity.

## 9. Fund Accounting

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

## 10. Support Cost

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 17.

## 11. Taxation

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 12. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trust For London	-	15,020
Other debtors	70	-
	<u>70</u>	<u>15,020</u>

## 13. Accrual and Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Professional fees	-	950
Other Creditors	3,245	1,683
	<u>3,245</u>	<u>2,633</u>

#### 14. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> 2024	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>				
<b>Charitable Expenses:</b>				
Staff Costs and Sessional Workers	2,503	204,279	<b>206,782</b>	174,468
Training, Workshops and Activities	-	14,719	<b>14,719</b>	5,986
Partnerships and Collaboration	-	16,099	<b>16,099</b>	-
Participants Expenses	-	2,318	<b>2,318</b>	1,785
Volunteer Expenses	-	4,601	<b>4,601</b>	2,739
Rent and Room Hire	-	6,581	<b>6,581</b>	6,761
Equipment & hiring	-	630	<b>630</b>	1,110
Publicity & Advertisement	-	378	<b>378</b>	1,040
Memberships and Subscription	-	1,887	<b>1,887</b>	4,936
Refreshments and Catering	-	1,834	<b>1,834</b>	1,765
Transport and Travel	-	2,231	<b>2,231</b>	2,166
Professional and Consultancy fees	-	6,690	<b>6,690</b>	11,708
Insurance	-	228	<b>228</b>	683
Office & IT Expenses	114	5,819	<b>5,933</b>	3,184
<b>Total Charitable Activities</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>268,294</b>	<b>270,911</b>	218,332

#### 15. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	Balance at 1st April 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31st March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Action Funder	-	4,999	194	<b>4,805</b>
Trust For London	15,020	-	15,020	-
Islington Fund	-	5,585	2,450	<b>3,135</b>
London Community Found.	57,052	66,991	55,684	<b>68,358</b>
Haringey Council	-	4,125	4,125	-
Health Forum Fund	-	10,735	10,735	-
Rocket Science	337	-	337	-
Cripplegate Foundation	20,406	4,000	20,406	<b>4,000</b>
The National Lottery Fund	33,031	46,521	59,064	<b>20,488</b>
GLA Fund	-	500	500	-
City of Westminster Trust	-	7,528	3,836	<b>3,692</b>
Westminster Council	56,916	33,656	70,057	<b>20,515</b>
The Big Give Trust	3,017	-	3,017	-
Rosa Foundation	22,868	-	22,868	-
	<b>208,649</b>	<b>184,639</b>	<b>268,293</b>	<b>124,993</b>

## 16. Grant Receivable

Funder	<u>Purpose of Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		2024	2023
		£	£
The London Com. Foundation	Asylum, Migrants, Advice & Health	66,991	64,019
Action Funder	Health and Wellbeing	4,999	-
Islington Fund	Health and Wellbeing	5,585	2,505
Haringey Council	Health and Wellbeing	4,125	-
Rosa Fund	Counselling & Outreach	-	32,000
Health Forum Fund	Health and Wellbeing	10,735	-
GLA Fund	Health and Wellbeing	500	4,180
The National Lottery Fund	Domestic Violence Support	46,521	33,592
City of Westminster Trusts	Young Girls Support	7,528	7,528
Rocket Science	Digital Help & Support	-	9,000
Groundwork	Tackle Isolation & Loneliness	-	1,672
City of Hackney-NRPF	Health and Wellbeing	-	2,042
Trust For London	Domestic Violence Support	-	21,070
Cripplegate Foundation	Information & Advice	4,000	16,806
Westminster Council	Sports, Health & Wellbeing	33,656	44,816
The Big Give Trust	Domestic Violence Support	-	3,585
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCE</b>		<b>184,639</b>	<b>242,815</b>

## 17. Governance and Support cost

	<b>General Support</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Professional and Consultancy fees	5,740	950	6,690
Insurance	-	228	228
Office & IT Expenses	5,819	-	5,819
Office Rent and Room Hire	6,581	-	6,581
	<b>18,140</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>19,319</b>

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150129

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# Accounts

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# **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

Registered Charity

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

Charity number: 1150129

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

**Registered Charity Number:** 1150129

**Principal address:**

Andover Community Centre  
55-57 Corker Walk  
Andover Estate  
N7 7R

**Trustees:**

Ms G Marco - Chairperson  
Ms T Foulds -Treasurer  
Mrs C Mayfield  
Ms B Fatherazi  
Miss R Alaaldin  
Ms D Elrayyes  
Ms M Sookias

**Governing document:**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Constitution.

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank

**Independent Examiner and Accountant:**

TACTS Accountant  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
61 Fountains Crescent  
Southgate  
London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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- 8. Independent Examiners Report**
- 9. Statement of Financial Activities**
- 10. Balance Sheet**
- 11-15. Notes to the Accounts**

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation's (MEWSo) Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

**Governance, Structure and Management**

MEWSo was registered as a charity on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The charity is governed by its Constitution. The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment and retirement of trustees is in accordance with the Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

The overall management of finance is the responsibility of all the Trustees acting on the recommendations of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Director. The Trustees form the Management Committee who meets regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

**Background**

MEWSo was set in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African background. Since then, our befriending services, advice, counselling and social groups have supported hundreds of women to become independent and rebuild their lives free from gender-based violence and discrimination. The women we support face a number of disadvantages, mostly resulting from the social constructs in Middle Eastern cultures. They also experience structural poverty, social and health inequalities and endure or have survived gender-based violence. Throughout the years, many have found friends and supporters in the face of our advisors, facilitators and befrienders. The culturally-tailored support we provide to these women is vital for their social integration and wellbeing. Our activities help them reduce their dependency on families, spouses and partners, and empower them to rebuild their lives. We are the only voluntary support organization in London promoting support for Middle Eastern women who are trapped in polygamous relationship or have survived forced virginity testing or hymenoplasty. We also support women from LGBTQ+ communities or those with unsettled immigration status fearing to report abuse due to deportation.

Our organisation rejects every form of discrimination, inequality and exclusion and aspires to a society where every woman lives in safety with equal opportunities. We hope for a society in which diversity is considered an element of strength and not of division. Our organisation is built on the values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

## **Charitable Objects:**

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern descent who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society, by:

1. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
2. Education and training in English language and in vocational and other skills;
3. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community; and
4. Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and honour related violence.

Within this wording 'Middle Eastern' means countries including: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Cyprus.

## **Activities and Achievements**

The last year has brought many challenges to the voluntary sector and the communities MEWSO supports. The cost-of-living crisis has affected migrant women tremendously, hitting those with unsettled status and survivors of abuse hardest. The majority of our service users have found themselves experiencing food poverty and were increasingly exposed to domestic abuse in its various forms.

At MEWSO, we tried to do our best to support women and their families who were facing hardship and inequalities. We worked with funders and policy makers to influence change and bring positive outcomes for those most in need. Together, we continued to fight for justice and equality in order to improve the standards of living for women from ethnic minority communities. Below are some of our statistics of supported women throughout the year:

- 579 women facing domestic abuse with individual advice, advocacy and counselling in community languages.
- 9 of them were survivors of FGM
- 55 were living in polygamous relationships
- 138 were seeking asylum
- 82 women had no recourse to public funds
- 242 needed welfare support

In Westminster, we provided hot meals for women and children throughout the winter months. We organised financial literacy classes, outings and wellbeing sessions and continued to run our popular Conversational English classes. In North London we supported women through our Olive Club and English classes, and provided hardship payments for those in dire need. Our advisors supported over 80 migrants in hotels who were waiting for their documents to be processed. We continued our LGBTQ+ support and organised monthly groups where those identifying as women were able to socialise and build connections. Throughout the year we delivered several training sessions for frontline professionals where we talked about harmful practices, including how to recognise signs of polygamy and raising awareness on the consequences of virginity tests.

We continued with our campaign work and we launched a new campaign “Raise Your Voice”. The campaign demands the rights to not wear hijab, immediate stop on executing political prisoners and realise all political prisoners. It also demands a boycott of all the cultural businesses related to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our petition was signed by over 3,000 individuals calling for investigations and trials of everyone suspected of being responsible for heinous crimes against humanity. As part of our Raise Your Voice campaign, we have lined up some important activities to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of Mahsa Jina Amini at the hands of Iran's 'Morality Police'.

## **Risk management**

MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes.
  - the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review;
- and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds. Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety and food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas. The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to MEWSo. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

In reviewing the effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, MEWSo has reviewed its risk assessment and taken actions in mitigating any associated risks and amend accordingly. The charity's resilience was responsive and strong which ensured organisational sustainability during this exceptional time.

## **Financial Review**

MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £ 279,578 (£267,622 in 2021/2022) from various funders.

## **Reserve's policy and Going Concern**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that MEWSo's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

## **Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with its members must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

### **Independent Examiner**

TACTS Accountant was appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

### **Statement Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company.

Signed on behalf of the board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Halaleh Taheri', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

*Halaleh Taheri*  
Founder & CEO  
20/07/2023

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION (MEWSo)**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 report**

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 accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Date: 20/07/2023

Chartered Certified Accountant  
TACTS Accountant, 61 Fountains Crescent, London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2022</u>
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES: -</u></b>		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		36,763	-	36,763	36,099
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(17)	-	242,815	242,815	231,523
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>36,763</u>	<u>242,815</u>	<u>279,578</u>	<u>267,622</u>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	(15)	-	218,332	218,332	163,801
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>218,332</u>	<u>218,332</u>	<u>163,801</u>
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		<u>36,763</u>	<u>24,484</u>	<u>61,247</u>	<u>103,821</u>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>		<u>56,420</u>	<u>184,166</u>	<u>240,586</u>	<u>136,765</u>
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>		<u>93,183</u>	<u>208,649</u>	<u>301,833</u>	<u>240,586</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for the above period other than those shown in the statement of financial activities for the above financial year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)

# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	£ <u>2023</u>	£ <u>2022</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets		-	-
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Debtors	(14)	15,020	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		289,446	246,614
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	2,633	6,028
Deferred Income		-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>301,833</u></u>	<u><u>240,586</u></u>
<b>As Represented By</b>			
Unrestricted Fund		93,183	56,420
Restricted Fund	(16)	<u>208,649</u>	<u>184,166</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><u>301,833</u></u>	<u><u>240,586</u></u>

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20/07/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Ms G Marco  
Chairperson

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

**1. Accounting basis.**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). MEWSO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

**2. Cash Flow Statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

**3. Income**

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

**4. Resource Expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct charitable expenditure includes the direct costs of the activities. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with the direct costs of the relevant service.

**5. Taxation**

MEWSO is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 6. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, of all fixed assets over their expected useful life as follows: -

Computer Equipment and Machinery - 33.33% straight line

No Fixed asset in this year.

## 7. Staff Costs

The total staff cost for the year on payroll was £118,226 (£59,165 in 2021/22) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total average numbers of employees were 5.

Trustees are not remunerated.

## 8. Status

MEWSo is a registered charity.

## 9. Fund Accounting

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

## 10. Support Cost

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 18.

## 11. Taxation

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 12. Debtors

The organisation has no debtors in this financial year.

## 13. Accrual and Creditors

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Professional fees	950	450
Other Creditors	1,683	5,578
	<u><b>2,633</b></u>	<u><b>6,028</b></u>

## 14. Debtors

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trust For London	15,020	-
	<u>15,020</u>	<u>-</u>

## 15. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
			<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Charitable Expenses</b>				
Staff Costs and Sessional Workers	-	174,468	<b>174,468</b>	115,690
Workshops and other activities	-	5,986	<b>5,986</b>	3,972
NRPF project expenses	-	1,785	<b>1,785</b>	12,100
Volunteer Expenses	-	2,739	<b>2,739</b>	4,241
Rent and Room Hire	-	6,761	<b>6,761</b>	3,535
Equipment & hiring	-	1,110	<b>1,110</b>	4,454
Publicity	-	1,040	<b>1,040</b>	2,883
Memberships and Subscription	-	4,936	<b>4,936</b>	922
Refreshments and Catering	-	1,765	<b>1,765</b>	998
Transport and Travel	-	2,166	<b>2,166</b>	1,309
Consultancy and Professional fees	-	11,708	<b>11,708</b>	8,956
Insurance	-	683	<b>683</b>	1,127
Office Expenses	-	3,184	<b>3,184</b>	2,869
Depreciation	-	-	-	377
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>218,332</b></u>	<u><b>218,332</b></u>	<u>163,432</u>

## 16. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	Balance at 1st April 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£
City of London	18,535	-	18,535	-
Trust For London	-	21,070	6,050	15,020
Islington Fund	-	2,505	2,505	-
London Community Foundation	7,046	40,613	11,264	36,395
Cast Grant	4,891	-	4,891	-
Groundwork	542	1,672	2,214	-
Covid 19 Response Fund	4,241	-	4,241	-
Rocket Science	-	9,000	8,663	337
LGBT Consortium	3,136	-	3,136	-
Cripplegate	13,443	16,806	9,843	20,406
The National Lottery	16,455	33,592	17,016	33,031
MOPAC	13,505	23,406	16,254	20,657
GLA Fund	-	4,180	4,180	-
COW Trusts	10,909	7,528	18,437	-
City of Hackney -NRPF	3,264	2,042	5,306	-
AHPM BAME - Covid 19	3,177	-	3,177	-
Westminster Council	60,663	44,816	48,563	56,916
The Big Give Trust	-	3,585	568	3,017
Rosa Foundation	12,791	32,000	21,923	22,868
The Centre of Discovery	3,060	-	3,060	-
Paddington Devp Trust	8,508	-	8,508	-
	<b>184,166</b>	<b>242,815</b>	<b>218,333</b>	<b>208,649</b>

## 17. Grant Receivable

Funder	<u>Purpose of Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
		2023	2022
		£	£
The London Com. Foundation	Health and Wellbeing	<b>40,613</b>	23,503
City of London	Health and Wellbeing	-	30,488
Islington Fund	Health and Wellbeing	<b>2,505</b>	-
Cast Grant	Health and Wellbeing	-	5,000
Two Magpies Fund	Workshop & Counselling	-	-
Rosa Fund	Counselling & Outreach	<b>32,000</b>	18,750
Holloway Neighbourhood Fund	Research and Advice	-	-
GLA Fund	Health and Wellbeing	<b>4,180</b>	-
The National Lottery Fund	Domestic Violence Support	<b>33,592</b>	28,900
City of Hackney	Health and Wellbeing	-	3,283
COW Trusts	Young Girls Support	<b>7,528</b>	8,255
MOPAC	Asylum & Migrants	<b>23,406</b>	23,824
Rocket Science	Digital Help & Support	<b>9,000</b>	-
Groundwork	Tackle Isolation & Loneliness	<b>1,672</b>	6,712
AHPM BAME- Covid 19	Health and Wellbeing	-	9,787
City of Hackney-NRPF	Health and Wellbeing	<b>2,042</b>	15,000
Trust For London	Domestic Violence Support	<b>21,070</b>	-
Paddington Development Trust	Health and Wellbeing	-	2,679
Cripplegate Foundation	Information & Advice	<b>16,806</b>	5,448
Westminster Council	Sports, Health & Wellbeing	<b>44,816</b>	49,896
The Big Give Trust	Domestic Violence Support	<b>3,585</b>	-
The Barrow Cadbury	Young Girls Support	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b><u>242,815</u></b>	<b><u>231,523</u></b>

## 18. Governance and Support cost

	<b>General Support</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Consultancy & Professional fees	10,758	950	11,708
Insurance	-	683	683
Office Expenses	3,184	-	3,184
Office Rent	6,761	-	6,761
	<b><u>20,703</u></b>	<b><u>1,633</u></b>	<b><u>22,336</u></b>

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150129

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# Accounts

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# **MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

Registered Charity

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

Charity number: 1150129

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

**Registered Charity Number:** 1150129

**Principal address:**

86 Durham Road  
London  
N7 7DU

**Trustees:**

Mrs C Mayfield - Chairperson  
Ms B Fatherazi - Treasurer  
Miss R Alaaldin  
Ms S Leonardi  
Ms L Kneizeh  
Ms D Elrayyes  
Ms M Sookias  
Ms N Hacquard  
Ms G Marco

**Governing document:**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Constitution.

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank

**Independent Examiner and Accountant:**

TACTS Accountant  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
61 Fountains Crescent  
Southgate  
London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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- 9. Independent Examiners Report**
- 10. Statement of Financial Activities**
- 11. Balance Sheet**
- 12-16. Notes to the Accounts**

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2022**

Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation's (MEWSo) Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

**Governance, Structure and Management**

MEWSo was registered as a charity on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The charity is governed by its Constitution. The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment and retirement of trustees is in accordance with the Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

The overall management of finance is the responsibility of all the Trustees acting on the recommendations of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Director. The Trustees form the Management Committee who meets regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

**Background**

MEWSo was set in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African background. Since then, our befriending services, advice, counselling and social groups have supported hundreds of women to become independent and rebuild their lives free from gender-based violence and discrimination. The women we support face a number of disadvantages, mostly resulting from the social constructs in Middle Eastern cultures. They also experience structural poverty, social and health inequalities and endure or have survived gender-based violence. Throughout the years, many have found friends and supporters in the face of our advisors, facilitators and befrienders. The culturally-tailored support we provide to these women is vital for their social integration and wellbeing. Our activities help them reduce their dependency on families, spouses and partners, and empower them to rebuild their lives. We are the only voluntary support organization in London promoting support for Middle Eastern women who are trapped in polygamous relationship or have survived forced virginity testing or hymenoplasty. We also support women from LGBTQ+ communities or those with unsettled immigration status fearing to report abuse due to deportation.

Our organisation rejects every form of discrimination, inequality and exclusion and aspires to a society where every woman lives in safety with equal opportunities. We hope for a society in which diversity is considered an element of strength and not of division. Our organisation is built on the values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

### **Charitable Objects:**

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern descent who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society, by:

1. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
2. Education and training in English language and in vocational and other skills;
3. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community; and
4. Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and honour related violence.

Within this wording 'Middle Eastern' means countries including: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Cyprus.

### **Activities and Achievements**

I am pleased to report that the past year has been exceptionally successful for our organisation. Due to the generosity of our funders, we managed to support more women than ever before. Our campaigns led to legislative change. We strengthened our partnerships and developed new ones. We maintained our positions as a trustful grassroots partner advising policy makers on the issues affecting our communities. We were able to pilot new activities and generate long-term income, ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of our organisation.

### **Campaign to ban virginity tests and hymen repair practices**

After three and a half years of campaigning against the practices of forced virginity tests and hymen repair surgeries, I am proud to announce that a ban on the practice of virginity tests and hymen repair surgeries has finally been enforced. Recent amendments in the Health and Care Bill criminalise anyone "aiding or abetting" a person carrying out virginity test or hymen reconstruction. As the first organisation to call for these harmful practices to be banned, this ban is a huge victory for MEWSO. Since 2019, we have been raising awareness on the issues of forced virginity tests and hymen repair surgeries. The public understanding (and consequently concerns) in these issues gradually increased, opening doors for forming new alliances to strengthen our voice, including Richard Holden MP, the Royal Colleges of Midwives, Karma Nirvana, IKWRO, the Royal Colleges of Midwives, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and many others.

### **Safety before Status**

Throughout the year, we were involved in consultations with the Home Office to provide evidence on the pathways and barriers to access domestic abuse support services for women with insecure immigration status. I am proud to state that our involvement gave the important grassroots perspective in informing the recommendations of the ground-breaking Safety Before Status report. The report outlines key short and long-term policy measures to ensure support and protection for all victims and survivors of domestic abuse, regardless of their immigration status. The reports' recommendations encompass a huge step in protecting migrant women, as it minimises their fear of deportation and encourage them to seek support.

## **Networks and coalitions**

This year MEWSO once again proved its position and principal goal of being a trusted and valued partner among a number of coalitions. Throughout the year we contributed with our expertise in advancing the rights of refugees, LGBTQ+ and migrant women. On a local level, we were involved in the End Violence against Women Coalition and took actions to support women surviving abuse across Westminster, Islington, Hackney, Haringay and Barnet. We became a member of the Sex Education Forum and are working toward reforming the school curriculums to address harmful culturally embedded practices among our communities. Members of the EVAWG coalition and 'Solidarity Knows No Border' coalition, we regularly contributed with our expertise to their meetings. We joined a number of debates, seminars and enjoyed increase media interest due to the uniqueness of the issues we campaign against.

## **Recognitions**

Our campaigning efforts were noticed by funders and supporters. We are profoundly grateful to the London Community Foundation/ Citi - London Impact Awards for awarding us with the Standout Champion award, and to The Sheila McKechnie Foundation for the Best Coalition award in partnership with our partners from IKWRO and Karma Nirvana.

## **Sustained growth**

This year we continued the trend to expand our organisation. We recruited many new volunteers and extended our outreach across London. We supported 253 brave women to flee domestic abuse and regain independence so they can rebuild their lives. About 15% of those received specialised support around court procedures (adult protection, non-molestation order, etc.) as we worked with our pro-bono solicitor partners to address their needs. Further 87 women attended our workshops, sessions and classes. We supported 42 women to improve their mental health through individual and group counselling in community languages.

## **Training**

We trained over 80 frontline professionals on issues related to polygamy practice, virginity tests and hymen repair surgeries and domestic abuse among migrant women.

## **Supporting refugees**

We supported those hit the hardest by the Covid-19 pandemic by distributing hardship funds for 70 refugee families in Hackney. As a trusted partner of Westminster Council, we supported with advice and signposting over 20 women recently fled from Afghanistan. We secured funds through our crowdfunding campaign to deliver activities for their families so they feel welcome in our society.

## **Staying connected**

We organised several open events for our service users, partners and supporters, some online and some finally face-to-face. Our Arts Festival celebrated the talents of migrant women, and during our International Women's Day celebration we showcased the variety of activities we provide to our communities. We also organised a LGBTQ+ event where brave women shared their experiences showcasing the need for targeted emotional and practical support. We expanded our social media reach and our monthly Newsletter doubled its subscribers, manifesting our increasing visibility and reach. If you would like to stay connected, sign up for our updates and follow us on social media.

## **Partnerships**

Throughout the year MEWSo has stayed committed to sustaining and expanding our partnerships. The team now works collaboratively with The Five Foundation to address FGM. #BanVirginityTesting is our signature campaign of the year. Together with our allies from Karma Nirvana – a charity supporting survivors of honour-based abuse and forced marriage the team is pushing for a new law on making virginity tests illegal and hymen repair surgeries illegal.

As a grassroots organisation, MEWSo has played a key role in advising on the Mayor of London's Covid-19 response plans and disseminating NHS's key health messages to women. Our delegates at the Standing Together Network address the communication gaps in the local domestic violence response in North London. The team has also remained committed to support women who belong to the LGBTQ+ community and continued to partner with the LGBTQ+ service of Mind Islington and Hackney LGBTQ+ Forum.

## **Future Plans**

MEWSo's doors are open to women from across London. Our strength lies in our understanding of issues affecting our communities. MEWSo's support is available in several languages, including Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi/Dari and Turkish. We hope that our strong financial position and media presence will allow us to continue our growth so we can support even more women and expand our awareness and campaign work. The year ahead will be equally exciting and important as MEWSo's team will be piloting bespoke services for women in polygamy in partnership with Greenwich University. The team is looking forward to organising workshops on sexual and reproductive health rights and partnering with BME Health Forum, Iranian Welfare Association, and Kurdish and Middle East Women Organisation (KWEMO) among others.

## **Risk management**

MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertakes.
  - the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review;
- and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds. Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety and food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas. The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to MEWSo. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

In reviewing the effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, MEWSo has reviewed its risk assessment and taken actions in mitigating any associated risks and amend accordingly. The charity's resilience was responsive and strong which ensured organisational sustainability during this exceptional time.

## **Financial Review**

MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £267,622 (£193,409 in 2020/2021) from various funders.

### **Reserve's policy and Going Concern**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that MEWSo's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

### **Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with its members must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

### **Independent Examiner**

TACTS Accountant was appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

### **Statement Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company.

Signed on behalf of the board,



*Halaleh Taheri*  
Founder & CEO  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION (MEWSO)**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 report**

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 accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Date: 12/05/2022

Chartered Certified Accountant  
TACTS Accountant, 61 Fountains Crescent, London, N14 6BD

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2022**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> <u>2021</u>
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES:-</u></b>		£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income		36,099	-	36,099	11,166
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(17)	-	231,523	231,523	182,243
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u><u>36,099</u></u>	<u><u>231,523</u></u>	<u><u>267,622</u></u>	<u><u>193,409</u></u>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	(15)	-	163,801	163,801	105,303
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>163,801</u></u>	<u><u>163,801</u></u>	<u><u>105,303</u></u>
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		<u><u>36,099</u></u>	<u><u>67,722</u></u>	<u><u>103,821</u></u>	<u><u>88,107</u></u>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>		<u><u>20,321</u></u>	<u><u>116,444</u></u>	<u><u>136,765</u></u>	<u><u>48,659</u></u>
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>		<u><u>56,420</u></u>	<u><u>184,166</u></u>	<u><u>240,586</u></u>	<u><u>136,765</u></u>

There were no recognised gains or losses for the above period other than those shown in the statement of financial activities for the above financial year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)

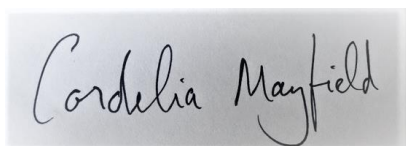
# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	£ <u>2022</u>	£ <u>2021</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	(6)	-	377
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash at Bank and In Hand		246,614	152,544
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Creditors :</b>			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	6,028	6,369
Deferred Income	(14)	-	9,787
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>240,586</b></u>	<u><b>136,765</b></u>
<b>As Represented By</b>			
Unrestricted Fund		56,420	20,321
Restricted Fund	(16)	<u>184,166</u>	<u>116,444</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><b>240,586</b></u>	<u><b>136,765</b></u>

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 12th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs C Mayfield  
Chairperson

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

**1. Accounting basis.**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). MEWSo meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

**2. Cash Flow Statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

**3. Income**

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

**4. Resource Expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct charitable expenditure include includes the direct costs of the activities. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with the direct costs of the relevant service.

**5. Taxation**

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 6. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, of all fixed assets over their expected useful life as follows: -

Computer Equipment and Machinery - 33.33% straight line

	<b>Equipment</b>
	£
<b>At Cost</b>	1,129
<b>Depreciation:</b>	
At 1 April 2021	752
Charge for the year	<u>377</u>
At 31st March 2022	<u>1,129</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>-</u></u>
At 31 March 2021	<u><u>377</u></u>

## 7. Staff Costs

The total staff cost for the year on payroll was £59,165 (£25,288 in 2020/21) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total numbers of employees were 3.

Trustees are not remunerated.

## 8. Status

MEWSo is a registered charity.

## 9. Fund Accounting

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

## 10. Support Cost

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 18.

## 11. Taxation

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 12. Debtors

The organisation has no debtors in this financial year.

## 13. Accrual and Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Professional fees	450	1,160
Other Creditors	5,578	5,209
	<u>6,028</u>	<u>6,369</u>

## 14. Deferred Income

	2022	2021
	£	£
AHPN BAME - Healthy Communities Surviving Covid-19	-	9,787
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,787</u>

## 15. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
			2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable Expenses</b>				
Staff Costs and Sessional Workers	-	116,059	<b>116,059</b>	78,502
Workshops and other activities	-	3,972	<b>3,972</b>	2,988
NRPF project expenses	-	12,100	<b>12,100</b>	-
Volunteer Expenses	-	4,241	<b>4,241</b>	2,023
Rent and Room Hire	-	3,535	<b>3,535</b>	4,445
Equipment & Hire	-	4,454	<b>4,454</b>	5,645
Publicity	-	2,883	<b>2,883</b>	1,077
Memberships and Subscription	-	922	<b>922</b>	768
Refreshments and Catering	-	998	<b>998</b>	994
Transport and Travel	-	1,309	<b>1,309</b>	1,157
Consultancy and Professional fees	-	8,956	<b>8,956</b>	3,978
Insurance	-	1,127	<b>1,127</b>	585
Office Expenses	-	2,869	<b>2,869</b>	2,766
Depreciation	-	377	<b>377</b>	376
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,801</u>	<u>163,801</u>	<u>105,303</u>

## 16. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	Balance at 1st April 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£
The MSE Charity	1,648	-	1,648	-
City of London	-	30,488	11,953	18,535
Trust For London	6,050	-	6,050	-
The London Com Foundation	8,500	-	8,500	-
London Com. Foundation	-	23,503	16,457	7,046
Cast Grant	-	5,000	109	4,891
London Funders, Wave 2	5,628	-	5,628	-
Groundwork	-	6,712	6,170	542
Covid 19 Response Fund	13,481	-	9,240	4,241
Community Barnet	1,500	-	1,500	-
LGBT Consortium	4,436	-	1,300	3,136
Cripplegate Foundation	9,500	5,448	1,505	13,443
The National Lottery Fund	-	28,900	12,445	16,455
MOPAC	-	23,824	10,319	13,505
CAF Fund	5,191	-	5,191	-
Cow Trusts	6,191	8,255	3,536	10,910
City of Hackney	-	3,283	3,283	-
City of Hackney -NRPF	-	15,000	11,736	3,264
AHPM BAME - Covid 19	-	9,787	6,610	3,177
Holloway Neighbourhood	2,983	-	2,983	-
Westminster Council	18,656	49,896	7,889	60,663
MIND	1,351	-	1,351	-
The Barrow Cadbury	10,400	-	10,400	-
Rosa Foundation	10,649	18,750	16,608	12,791
The Centre of Discovery	4,000	-	940	3,060
Paddington Devpt. Trust	6,279	2,679	450	8,508
	<b>116,444</b>	<b>231,523</b>	<b>163,801</b>	<b>184,166</b>

## 17. Grant Receivable

<u>Funder</u>	<u>Purpose of Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u> <u>2022</u> £	<u>Funds</u> 2021 £
The London Com. Foundation	Health and Wellbeing	<b>23,503</b>	23,786
City of London	Health and Wellbeing	<b>30,488</b>	-
CAF Fund	Health and Wellbeing	-	7,230
Cast Grant	Health and Wellbeing	<b>5,000</b>	-
Two Magpies Fund	Workshop & Counselling	-	9,640
Rosa Fund	Counselling & Outreach	<b>18,750</b>	19,968
Holloway Neighbourhood.	Research and Advice	-	8,948
Community Barnet	Health and Wellbeing	-	2,000
Covid 19 Response	Adaptations & activities	-	22,469
MIND	Mental Health & Wellbeing	-	13,512
The National Lottery Fund	Domestic Violence Support	<b>28,900</b>	-
City of Hackney	Health and Wellbeing	<b>3,283</b>	-
Cow Trusts	Young Girls Support	<b>8,255</b>	8,255
MOPAC	Asylum & Migrants	<b>23,824</b>	-
The Centre for Discovery	Digital Help & Support	-	5,000
Groundwork	Tackle Isolation & Loneliness	<b>6,712</b>	-
AHPM BAME- Covid 19	Health and Wellbeing	<b>9,787</b>	-
City of Hackney-NRPF	Health and Wellbeing	<b>15,000</b>	-
Trust For London	Domestic Violence Support	-	6,050
Paddington Devpt. Trust	Health and Wellbeing	<b>2,679</b>	-
Cripplegate Foundation	Information & Advice	<b>5,448</b>	14,000
Westminster Council	Sports, Health & Wellbeing	<b>49,896</b>	19,656
LGBT Consortium	Domestic Violence Support	-	4,929
The Barrow Cadbury	Young Girls Support	-	16,800
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b><u>231,523</u></b>	<b><u>182,243</u></b>

## 18. Governance and Support cost

	<b>General Support</b> £	<b>Governance</b> £	<b>Total</b> £
Consultancy & Professional fees	7,556	1,400	8,956
Insurance	-	1,127	1,127
Office Expenses	2,869	-	2,869
Office Rent	3,535	-	3,535
Depreciation	377	-	377
	<b><u>14,337</u></b>	<b><u>2,527</u></b>	<b><u>16,865</u></b>



**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150129

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# Accounts

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# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Registered Charity

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

Charity number: 1150129

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

**Registered Charity Number:** 1150129

**Principal address:**

86 Durham Road  
London  
N7 7DU

**Trustees:**

Mrs C Mayfield - Chairperson  
Ms B Fatherazi - Treasurer  
Miss R Alaaldin  
Ms S Leonardi  
Ms L Kneizeh  
Ms D Elrayyes - Appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
Ms M Sookias - Appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
Ms N Hacquard - Appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
Ms G Marco - Appointed on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**Governing document:**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Constitution.

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank

**Independent Examiner and Accountant:**

TACTS Accountant  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
81 Rayleigh Road  
Palmers Green  
London, N13 5QW

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION  
YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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- 8. Independent Examiners Report**
- 9. Statement of Financial Activities**
- 10. Balance Sheet**
- 11-15. Notes to the Accounts**

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation's (MEWSo) Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

**Governance, Structure and Management**

MEWSo was registered as a charity on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The charity is governed by its Constitution. The trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. Appointment and retirement of trustees is in accordance with the Articles of Association. All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

The overall management of finance is the responsibility of all the Trustees acting on the recommendations of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Director. The Trustees form the Management Committee who meets regularly to oversee the running of the organisation.

**Background**

MEWSo was set in 2010 by Halaleh Taheri to support migrant and ethnic minority women from Middle Eastern and North African background. Since then, our befriending services, advice, counselling and social groups have supported hundreds of women to become independent and rebuild their lives free from gender-based violence and discrimination. The women we support face a number of disadvantages, mostly resulting from the social constructs in Middle Eastern cultures. They also experience structural poverty, social and health inequalities and endure or have survived gender-based violence. Throughout the years, many have found friends and supporters in the face of our advisors, facilitators and befrienders. The culturally-tailored support we provide to these women is vital for their social integration and wellbeing. Our activities help them reduce their dependency on families, spouses and partners, and empower them to rebuild their lives. We are the only voluntary support organization in London promoting support for Middle Eastern women who are trapped in polygamous relationship or have survived forced virginity testing or hymenoplasty. We also support women from LGBTQ+ communities or those with unsettled immigration status fearing to report abuse due to deportation.

Our organisation rejects every form of discrimination, inequality and exclusion and aspire to a society where every woman lives in safety with equal opportunities. We hope for a society in which diversity is considered an element of strength and not of division. Our organisation is built on the values of secularism, solidarity and social justice.

### **Charitable Objects:**

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively among women of Middle Eastern descent who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving their needs and assisting them to integrate into society, by:

1. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support;
2. Education and training in English language and in vocational and other skills;
3. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community; and
4. Raising public awareness of issues affecting these individuals and the reasons behind their social exclusion, including violence against women and honour related violence.

Within this wording 'Middle Eastern' means countries including: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Cyprus.

### **Activities and Achievements**

The past year has been extraordinary in many ways. It has brought new challenges to the women MEWSo supports, especially around domestic abuse and welfare. MEWSo's advisors saw an increase in the complexity of cases they dealt with, and they have been liaising with police, social services and solicitors on a daily basis. The year was also a proof of MEWSo's resilience, flexibility and adaptivity. Soon after the first Covid-19 cases were announced in the UK, the charity closed its offices and activities moved online. MEWSo's facilitators and advisors continued to support women via phone, Zoom and WhatsApp groups. In fact, they went beyond Islington and Westminster as they were able to reach out to women in need from all London boroughs. MEWSo's service user base expanded, but so did the issues women were confronting. Therefore, the charity grew its advice service to accommodate the increased demand of support around obtaining safe shelter, non-molestation orders, leave to remain, welfare advice, etc. The organisation created new social activities so women had options to stay connected throughout the lockdowns. MEWSo's calendar of events is now full of activities – Mum and Baby Club, Conversational English class, Mindfulness, Zumba, singing choir, arts and crafts. MEWSo trustees are also proud of the fact that the organisation continues to be the only one supporting women in polygamous relationships, those forced to undergo virginity test or hymen repair surgery, and one of the very few supporting Middle Eastern women from the LGBTQ+ community.

Next to our support work, the organisation was able to strengthen its campaigns too. The Tenth Year Anniversary, Conference on Migrant Women and Arts Festival have been streamed online by hundreds of people. The team nurtured existing partnerships and attracted new allies. The #BanVirginityTesting petition has been signed by over 250 individuals. MEWSo's Director, Halaleh Taheri, was featured on many media outlets, including the BBC Newsbeat and The Sunday Times where she talked about the hidden issue of virginity testing. She was also invited by the Women's Health team at the Department of Health and Social Care to discuss the context, issues and impacts related to virginity testing and hymen repair.

MEWSo continued to grow its team that currently consists of eleven passionate women committed to support our causes. We enriched our Managements Committee by welcoming new members - women with passion and experience in leadership, safeguarding, digital

marketing and community engagement. As always, MEWSo's volunteers and befrienders have continued to play a key part of the organisation's support package. MEWSo trustees and staff members are also deeply grateful to all funders who supported us during this challenging year, our volunteers, befrienders, partners and members.

### **Partnerships**

Throughout the year MEWSo has stayed committed to sustaining and expanding our partnerships. The team now works collaboratively with The Five Foundation to address FGM. #BanVirginityTesting is our signature campaign of the year. Together with our allies from Karma Nirvana – a charity supporting survivors of honour-based abuse and forced marriage the team is pushing for a new law on making virginity tests illegal and hymen repair surgeries illegal.

As a grassroots organisation, MEWSo has played a key role in advising on the Mayor of London's Covid-19 response plans and disseminating NHS's key health messages to women. Our delegates at the Standing Together Network address the communication gaps in the local domestic violence response in North London. The team has also remained committed to support women who belong to the LGBTQ+ community and continued to partner with the LGBTQ+ service of Mind Islington and Hackney LGBTQ+ Forum.

### **Future Plans**

MEWSo's doors are open to women from across London. Our strength lies in our understanding of issues affecting our communities. MEWSo's support is available in several languages, including Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi/Dari and Turkish. We hope that our strong financial position and media presence will allow us to continue our growth so we can support even more women and expand our awareness and campaign work. The year ahead will be equally exciting and important as MEWSo's team will be piloting bespoke services for women in polygamy in partnership with Greenwich University. The team is looking forward to organising workshops on sexual and reproductive health rights and partnering with BME Health Forum, Iranian Welfare Association, and Kurdish and Middle East Women Organisation (KWEMO) among others.

### **Risk management**

MEWSo's trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity undertake.
  - the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review;
- and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds. Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety and food hygiene. These risks are managed by ensuring accreditation is up to date, having robust policies and procedures in place and regular awareness training for staff working in these operational areas.

The Trustees constantly review risks relevant to MEWSo. Any risks identified are reported to the Trustees and decisions made on how to minimise risk.

In reviewing the effect of COVID-19 Pandemic, MEWSo has reviewed its risk assessment and taken actions in mitigating any associated risks and amend accordingly. The charity's resilience was responsive and strong which ensured organisational sustainability during this exceptional time.

### **Financial Review**

MEWSo's main funding sources are restricted funding. This year we were successful in bringing in £193,409 (£76,244 in 2019/2020) from various funders.

### **Reserve's policy and Going Concern**

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of income and to cover unplanned emergency repairs and other expenditure. The trustees consider that the ideal level of reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that MEWSo's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.

### **Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior manager of the charity with its members must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

### **Independent Examiner**

TACTS Accountant was appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

### **Statement Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases.

Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up. The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company.

Signed on behalf of the board,



*Halaleh Taheri*  
Founder & CEO  
06<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION (MEWSO)**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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 report**

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 accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Date: 06/05/2021

Chartered Certified Accountant  
TACTS Limited, 81 Rayleigh Road, Palmers Green, London N13 5QW

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31 MARCH 2021**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u>
		£	£	2021 £	2020 £
<b><u>INCOMING RESOURCES: -</u></b>					
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds:</b>					
Voluntary income		11,166		11,166	5,222
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</b>					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(16)	-	182,243	182,243	71,022
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>11,166</b>	<b>182,243</b>	<b>193,409</b>	<b>76,244</b>
<b><u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u></b>					
Expenditure on charitable activities	(17)	-	105,303	105,303	64,328
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>105,303</b>	<b>105,303</b>	<b>64,329</b>
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		<b>11,166</b>	<b>76,940</b>	<b>88,107</b>	<b>11,914</b>
<b>Balances Brought Forward</b>		<b>9,155</b>	<b>39,504</b>	<b>48,659</b>	<b>36,745</b>
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>20,321</b>	<b>116,444</b>	<b>136,765</b>	<b>48,659</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses for the above period other than those shown in the statement of financial activities for the above financial year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)

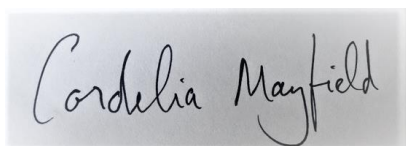
# MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	£ <u>2021</u>	£ <u>2020</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	(6)	377	753
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash at Bank and In Hand		152,544	48,481
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amount falling due within one year:			
Accruals & Creditors	(13)	6,369	575
Deferred Income	(14)	9,787	
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><u>136,765</u></u>	<u><u>48,659</u></u>
<b>As Represented By</b>			
Unrestricted Fund		20,321	9,155
Restricted Fund	(15)	<u>116,444</u>	<u>39,504</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><u>136,765</u></u>	<u><u>48,659</u></u>

(The notes form part of this account)

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 06<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs C Mayfield  
Chairperson

**MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN & SOCIETY ORGANISATION**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

**1. Accounting basis.**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). MEWSo meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Charity trustees are of the view that measures taken subsequent to the year-end to reduce operating costs and successful in applying for continuation funding have secured the immediate future of the Charity for the next 12 to 18 months and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

**2. Cash Flow Statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the charity is small.

**3. Income**

Income is recognised in the period to which it relates, unless specified otherwise by the funder. Project funding is, in general, repayable if not expended within the relevant project. Such income is only recognised to the extent that it ceases to be repayable. The income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

**4. Resource Expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct charitable expenditure include includes the direct costs of the activities. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been apportioned in line with the direct costs of the relevant service.

**5. Taxation**

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 6. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, of all fixed assets over their expected useful life as follows: -

Computer Equipment and Machinery - 33.33% straight line

	<b>Equipment</b>
	£
<b>At Cost</b>	1,129
<b>Depreciation:</b>	
At 1 April 2020	376
Charge for the year	376
At 31st March 2021	<u>752</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2021	<u>377</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>753</u>

## 7. Staff Costs

The total staff cost for the year on payroll was £25,288 (£19,819 in 2019/20) including Tax, NIC and pension. Total number of employees was 1.

Trustees are not remunerated.

## 8. Status

MEWSo is a registered charity.

## 9. Fund Accounting

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work.

## 10. Support Cost

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 18.

## 11. Taxation

MEWSo is a registered charity and is not liable for corporation tax on its income under section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 to the extent that it is applied to its charitable activities.

## 12. Debtors

The organisation has no debtors in this financial year.

## 13. Accrual and Creditors

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Professional fees	1,160	575
Other Creditors	5,209	-
	<u>6,369</u>	<u>575</u>

## 14. Deferred Income

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
AHPN BAME - Healthy Communities Surviving Covid-19	9,787	-
	<u>9,787</u>	<u>-</u>

## 15. Analysis of Restricted Fund

	<b>Balance at 1st April 2020</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Outgoing resources</b>	<b>Balance at 31st March 2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The MSE Charity	<b>3,988</b>	-	2,340	<b>1,648</b>
Two Magpies Fund	-	9,640	9,640	-
Trust for London	<b>8,012</b>	6,050	8,012	<b>6,050</b>
London Com. Foundation	<b>5,123</b>	9,500	6,123	<b>8,500</b>
London Funders, Wave 1	-	3,030	3,030	-
London Funders, Wave 2	-	11,256	5,628	<b>5,628</b>
Covid 19 Response Fund	-	22,469	8,988	<b>13,481</b>
Brent Cross Community Support Scheme	-	2,000	500	<b>1,500</b>
LGBT Consortium	-	4,929	493	<b>4,436</b>
Cripplegate	<b>5,377</b>	14,000	9,877	<b>9,500</b>
Charities Aid Foundation	-	7,230	2,039	<b>5,191</b>
City of Westminster Trusts	-	8,255	2,064	<b>6,191</b>
Holloway Neighbourhood	-	8,948	5,965	<b>2,983</b>
Westminster Council	<b>10,027</b>	19,656	11,027	<b>18,656</b>
MIND	-	13,512	12,161	<b>1,351</b>
The Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	16,800	6,400	<b>10,400</b>
Rosa Foundation	-	19,968	9,319	<b>10,649</b>
The Centre of Discovery	-	5,000	1,000	<b>4,000</b>
Paddington Devpt. Trust	<b>6,977</b>		698	<b>6,279</b>
	<u><b>39,504</b></u>	<u><b>182,243</b></u>	<u><b>105,303</b></u>	<u><b>116,444</b></u>

## 16. Grant Receivable

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The MSE Charity	Outdoor over 50 activities	-	4,500
Two Magpies Fund	Workshops and counselling	9,640	-
LGBT Consortium	Domestic Violence support	4,929	-
Charities Aid Foundation	Domestic Violence support	7,230	-
City of Westminster Trusts	Mental Health and Wellbeing	8,255	-
The Centre of Discovery	Digital help and support	5,000	-
Brent Cross Community Support Scheme	Health and Wellbeing	2,000	-
The London Com. Foundation	London Together Health & Fitness	9,500	14,760
London Funders, Wave 1	Tackle isolation and loneliness	3,030	-
London Funders, Wave 2	Asylum and Migrants support	11,256	-
Covid 19 Response Fund	Adaptations to support activities	22,469	-
MIND	Mental Health and Wellbeing	13,512	-
People's Health Trust	Olive Women Club	-	6,751
Trust for London	Domestic Violence support	6,050	11,200
Holloway Neighbourhood	Research & Advice	8,948	4,496
Westminster Council	Sports, Health and Wellbeing	19,656	14,779
Cripplegate	Information and Advice	14,000	6,500
Rosa Foundation	Counselling and Outreach	19,968	-
The Barrow Cadbury	Young girl's generation support	16,800	-
Paddington Development Trust	Health and Wellbeing	-	8,036
		<b>182,243</b>	<b>71,022</b>

## 17. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
			<b>2021</b>	2020
<b>Charitable Expenses</b>				
Staff Costs & Sessional Workers	-	78,502	<b>78,502</b>	43,488
Workshops and other activities	-	2,988	<b>2,988</b>	3,259
Volunteer Expenses	-	2,023	<b>2,023</b>	1,341
Rent and Room Hire	-	4,445	<b>4,445</b>	6,209
Equipment & Hiring	-	5,645	<b>5,645</b>	658
Publicity	-	1,077	<b>1,077</b>	901
Memberships and Subscription	-	768	<b>768</b>	852
Refreshments and Catering	-	994	<b>994</b>	1,324
Transport and Travel	-	1,157	<b>1,157</b>	1,543
Professional fees	-	3,978	<b>3,978</b>	1,090
Insurance	-	585	<b>585</b>	585
Office Expenses	-	2,766	<b>2,766</b>	2,703
Depreciation	-	376	<b>376</b>	376
<b>Total Charitable Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105,303</b>	<b>105,303</b>	<b>64,329</b>

## 18. Governance and Support cost

	<b>General Support</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Professional fees	2,878	-	2,878
Independent Examiner fees	-	1,100	1,100
Insurance	-	585	585
Office Expenses	2,766	-	2,766
Office Rent/Hiring	4,445	-	4,445
Depreciation	376	-	376
	<b>10,464</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>12,149</b>