

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1157062

Details

Other names	GESHEREU
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-05-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Grant Harrod Lerman Davis Llp Kirkland House 11-15 Peterborough Road Harrow Middlesex HA1 2AX
Phone	02089522028
Email	admin@geshereu.org.uk
Website	www.geshereu.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WHO HAVE BEEN RAISED IN OR HAVE SPENT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THEIR LIVES IN STRICT CLOSED RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (IN PARTICULAR ULTRAORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITIES) AND HAVING LEFT THEIR COMMUNITIES, FROM REMAINING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY AND TO DO ALL SUCH OTHER THINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTS.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:UNEMPLOYMENT;FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER REASSIGNMENT;POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT; RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN;POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS; CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY).

Activities: To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages who have been raised in or have spent a significant part of their lives in strict closed religious communities (in particular ultraorthodox Jewish communities) and having left their communities, from remaining socially excluded.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£116,657	£80,777	-	-
2023-12-31	£94,428	£78,495	-	-
2022-12-31	£74,078	£58,257	-	-
2021-12-31	£29,537	£40,792	-	-
2020-12-31	£44,283	£23,135	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ESTHER GRUNWALD	Chair	2024-02-26
DAVID MICHAEL LEWIS		2021-04-21
ROBERT EDWARD BERNARD		2014-03-04
VALERIE CHEN		2026-04-06

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1157062

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024
for
The Geshereu Support Network**

**Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD**

The Geshereu Support Network

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 12

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity set out in the constitution are as follows:-

'To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages who have been raised in or have spent a significant part of their lives in strict closed religious communities (in particular ultra orthodox Jewish communities) and having left their communities, from remaining socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society and to do all such other things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:

unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).'

MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have satisfied themselves that GesherEU's activities are compliant with law and guidance for charities on public benefit. The charity's charitable purposes are set out in the 'OBJECTIVES' above. In planning our activities for the year we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The activities described in the section below are focused on:

1) Rebuilding a community for each individual who has lost contact with family and friends from the community in which he or she grew up. Many of our service users now keep in touch with each other outside meetings. The use of a secure WhatsApp group and secret Facebook group both restricted to those who attend GesherEU has continued to be popular and improves communications outside meetings.

2) Having contact in social settings, with volunteers of all ages, who have not come from a Charedi background. This enables service users to build a network of friends and contacts that do not originate from their old communities and introduces them to cultural "protocols" with which they are not familiar. It also helps them develop colloquial language skills.

3) Introducing service users to concepts and culture (art, theatre, science, sports etc.) with which they did not grow up.

4) Supporting service users through the family court system. However, we do not finance legal costs from core funds.

5) Giving the GesherEU community a voice.

Often the above activities overlap or are combined.

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Main achievements during the year

During this year GesherEU celebrated its 10th anniversary as a registered charity.

GesherEU has continued to operate within its financial means and has been effective in both strengthening the GesherEU community and helping individuals. During the year there has been a continuing increase (approximately one or two, most months) in the number of individuals registered with GesherEU. They range in age from 20 - 46, with approximately an equal number of men and women.

We continue to welcome these new service users, some of whom are just starting their journey into the wider community and others who have been living outside of the Charedi community for a number of years. New service users continue to come from across the various Charedi communities with the vast majority now living in Barnet, Harrow and Manchester/Salford. Moving into a new world remains a challenging process and we have had many calls from those who never make the move.

During this year, we continued to benefit from the City Bridge Foundation grant funding our community coordinator and associated costs.

We also continue to benefit from the National Lottery Community Fund supporting our part time welfare worker and communications support. This enables us to help our service users to claim benefits, to support them through the family court system and help some untangle complex situations. The welfare officer continues as the safeguarding lead for GesherEU, we benefit from her professional expertise in a number of areas, important to our members. This grant has also allowed us to improve our communications. For example, the short professionally made video on our website aims to engage and inform those seeking our services in a reassuring, personal way.

We also receive smaller grants including one from JJBS towards education costs. We thank them all for their support. We cooperate with other charities where appropriate.

Our concerns are primarily with education provision and arranged marriages at an early age (18-20) as these are significant obstacles to our service users exercising their choice to lead a lifestyle of their choosing. Where appropriate we have cooperated with others to provide information and knowledge that may bring about positive change.

The social sessions are a key starting place for service users to make new connections and to replace those lost when family and friends break off contact when they leave or are forced to leave their communities. Our activities help service users build their confidence in an alien world, reduce isolation and adapt to the norms and values of mainstream society..

We continue to run a full social program offering a wide range of experiences to help members feel at home in the 'outside' world including:

- Theatre and the arts
- History
- Science
- Socialising with a view to building a more cohesive community, including Friday night and festival meals and meetups.
- Two residential events which we find bonds the community in a way that regular meetups are unable to do.

As a result of continuing significant donor support and the National Lottery grant we have been able to offer professional counselling to a number of service users from three counsellors who have undertaken training in the impact of leaving high control communities. Towards the end of the year we started to engage the services of a third counsellor.

Again this year, we have provided emotional and practical support to a number of individuals as they negotiate the family court system.

For most of our service-users, the Gesher family steps in where the conventional family is no longer an option. Some members find themselves in an impossible financial position. Trying to make up years of lost education, in minimum paid jobs because of lack of education, paying high rents. With no family support we can often fend off disaster by offering service users small zero interest loans or bursaries (or a combination). We prioritise those that will help in earning a living in the short or longer term such as help buying a bicycle to get to work, but also help in emergency situations such as an unexpected cut in, or non-payment of benefits or whilst waiting for their first universal credit payment. Our rapid assessment process has prevented use of high cost alternatives that may be the start of a debt crisis. Our spending on education continues at a high level helping those who missed out on primary, secondary and tertiary education and we continue to work with partners who specialise in delivering education in difficult circumstances.

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Challenges

We continue to see service-users struggle to catch up on their education. Although we have relationships with organisations that can give tuition, they need to work in low paid jobs in order to pay high rents leaving little time and energy to catch up some 15 years of missed education.

We have seen little real change in the education of service users leaving Charedi communities. We are still being contacted by young men with not a single recognised qualification nor having effective spoken or written English skills. We need to seek new ways of ensuring that those responsible give all young people emerging from Charedi communities the life skills they require to function in the outside world.

We do not have our own emergency accommodation nor do we have accommodation for those who struggle with high rents and low pay whilst trying to catch up on ten years of missed school education.

At times, the current trustees feel they are struggling to cope with all that is involved with supporting a constantly increasing membership with complex needs. GesherEU has therefore started to seek funding to employ a part-time CEO to oversee the operations of the charity. At the same time, we feel it is time we found ourselves a physical home; premises where service-users could come to connect with others and seek face to face help. The third pillar of this 'revival plan' is our search for new trustees to bring fresh ideas, expertise and energy as GesherEU enters its second decade.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes. They are reviewed regularly and in particular at the year-end. The target is to set aside sufficient funds to provide support to members for the following year and to have regard to longer term plans. With very little unrestricted income guaranteed, this is considered to be necessary.

Restricted funds are held to be used specifically in accordance with the donor's instructions.

In view of the plans to recruit a part-time CEO and secure suitable premises, the Trustees consider it prudent to further strengthen the level of unrestricted funds before committing to the additional ongoing costs, unless suitable restricted funding can be secured for those purposes. This will help ensure that the Charity remains well-positioned to meet its objectives and obligations, while maintaining a stable financial foundation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

As a Charitably Incorporated Organisation (CIO) The Geshereu Support Network is bound by its governing document, its constitution.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1157062

Principal address

1st Floor Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
London
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Trustees

R Bernard

D Lewis

M Kalikshtein (appointed 25.4.2024)

E Grunwald (appointed 26.2.2024)

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

Jeremy Harrod FCCA
Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21.May.2025..... and signed on its behalf by:

M Kalikstein

.....
M Kalikshtein - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Geshereu Support Network**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Geshereu Support Network

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Geshereu Support Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Jeremy Harrod FCCA

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Date: 21/5/25

The Geshereu Support Network

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		38,737	76,853	115,590	93,710
Investment income	2	1,067	-	1,067	718
Total		<u>39,804</u>	<u>76,853</u>	<u>116,657</u>	<u>94,428</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		17,571	63,206	80,777	78,495
NET INCOME		22,233	13,647	35,880	15,933
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		33,397	25,870	59,267	43,334
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Geshereu Support Network

**Balance Sheet
31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	6,742	-	6,742	-
Cash at bank		50,543	41,518	92,061	61,638
		<u>57,285</u>	<u>41,518</u>	<u>98,803</u>	<u>61,638</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(1,655)	(2,001)	(3,656)	(2,371)
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				55,630	33,397
Restricted funds				39,517	25,870
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 May 2025..... and were signed on its behalf by:

M Kalikstein
.....
M Kalikshtein - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Geshereu Support Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,067	718
	<u>1,067</u>	<u>718</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	33,681	60,029	93,710
Investment income	718	-	718
Total	<u>34,399</u>	<u>60,029</u>	<u>94,428</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	<u>28,511</u>	<u>49,984</u>	<u>78,495</u>
NET INCOME	5,888	10,045	15,933
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	27,509	15,825	43,334
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>33,397</u></u>	<u><u>25,870</u></u>	<u><u>59,267</u></u>

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>6,742</u>	<u>-</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	<u>3,656</u>	<u>2,371</u>

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,385	-	(2,385)	-
Designated	<u>31,012</u>	<u>22,233</u>	<u>2,385</u>	<u>55,630</u>
	33,397	22,233	-	55,630
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	24,635	13,262	-	37,897
JJBS 2023	<u>1,235</u>	<u>(1,235)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
City Bridge Trust	-	<u>1,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,620</u>
	<u>25,870</u>	<u>13,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,517</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>59,267</u></u>	<u><u>35,880</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>95,147</u></u>

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Designated	39,804	(17,571)	22,233
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	54,051	(40,789)	13,262
JJBS 2023	-	(1,235)	(1,235)
City Bridge Trust	19,302	(17,682)	1,620
JJBS 2024	3,500	(3,500)	-
	<u>76,853</u>	<u>(63,206)</u>	<u>13,647</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>116,657</u>	<u>(80,777)</u>	<u>35,880</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,179	206	2,385
Designated	25,330	5,682	31,012
	<u>27,509</u>	<u>5,888</u>	<u>33,397</u>
Restricted funds			
Trust for London	2,245	(2,245)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	13,580	11,055	24,635
JJBS 2023	-	1,235	1,235
	<u>15,825</u>	<u>10,045</u>	<u>25,870</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,334</u>	<u>15,933</u>	<u>59,267</u>

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	481	(275)	206
Designated	33,918	(28,236)	5,682
	<u>34,399</u>	<u>(28,511)</u>	<u>5,888</u>
Restricted funds			
Trust for London	8,030	(10,275)	(2,245)
National Lottery Community Fund	48,499	(37,444)	11,055
JJBS 2023	3,500	(2,265)	1,235
	<u>60,029</u>	<u>(49,984)</u>	<u>10,045</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>94,428</u>	<u>(78,495)</u>	<u>15,933</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,179	206	(2,385)	-
Designated	25,330	27,915	2,385	55,630
	<u>27,509</u>	<u>28,121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,630</u>
Restricted funds				
Trust for London	2,245	(2,245)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	13,580	24,317	-	37,897
City Bridge Trust	-	1,620	-	1,620
	<u>15,825</u>	<u>23,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,517</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,334</u>	<u>51,813</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,147</u>

The Geshereu Support Network

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2024

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	481	(275)	206
Designated	73,722	(45,807)	27,915
	<u>74,203</u>	<u>(46,082)</u>	<u>28,121</u>
Restricted funds			
Trust for London	8,030	(10,275)	(2,245)
National Lottery Community Fund	102,550	(78,233)	24,317
JJBS 2023	3,500	(3,500)	-
City Bridge Trust	19,302	(17,682)	1,620
JJBS 2024	3,500	(3,500)	-
	<u>136,882</u>	<u>(113,190)</u>	<u>23,692</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>211,085</u>	<u>(159,272)</u>	<u>51,813</u>

Trust for London - A grant to partially support our Community Coordinator project which runs events that helps London members be part of a community and introduces them to life in modern society.

National Lottery Community Fund - A grant to fund the part time welfare worker (and related costs) and communications support.

JJBS - A grant to support the educational needs of our service users.

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Expenses paid to the trustees in the year totalled £130 (2023: £780). These expenses were made up of reimbursed expenses that trustees paid on behalf of the Charity.

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1157062

Accounts



**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
The Geshereu Support Network**

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

The Geshereu Support Network

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 12

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity set out in the constitution are as follows:-

'To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages who have been raised in or have spent a significant part of their lives in strict closed religious communities (in particular ultra orthodox Jewish communities) and having left their communities, from remaining socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society and to do all such other things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:

unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).'

MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have satisfied themselves that GesherEU's activities are compliant with law and guidance for charities on public benefit. The charity's charitable purposes are set out in the 'OBJECTIVES' above. In planning our activities for the year we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The activities described in the section below are focused on:

- 1) Rebuilding a community for each individual who has lost contact with family and friends from the community in which he or she grew up. Many of our service users now keep in touch with each other outside meetings. The use of a secure WhatsApp group and secret Facebook group both restricted to those who attend GesherEU has continued to be popular and improves communications outside meetings.
- 2) Having contact in social settings, with volunteers of all ages, who have not come from a Charedi background. This enables service users to build a network of friends and contacts that do not originate from their old communities and introduces them to cultural "protocols" with which they are not familiar. It also helps them develop colloquial language skills.
- 3) Introducing service users to concepts and culture (art, theatre, science, sports etc.) with which they did not grow up.
- 4) Supporting service users through the family court system. However, we do not finance legal costs from core funds.
- 5) Giving the GesherEU community a voice.

Often the above activities overlap or are combined.

The Geshereu Support Network

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

GesherEU has continued to operate within its financial means and has been effective in both strengthening the GesherEU community and helping individuals. During the year there has been a continuing increase (approximately one or two, most months) in the number of individuals using the services of GesherEU. They range in age from 20 - 46, with approximately an equal number of men and women.

We continue to welcome these new service users, some of whom are just starting their journey into the wider community and others who have been living outside of the Charedi community for a number of years. New service users continue to come from across the various Charedi communities with the vast majority now living in Barnet, Harrow and Manchester/Salford. Moving into a new world remains a challenging process and we have had many calls from those who never make the move.

During this year, the grant from Trust for London to fund a community coordinator came to an end and we were successful in our application to City Bridge Foundation and were awarded five year funding for our community coordinator and associated costs. We continue to benefit from the National Lottery Community Fund supporting our part time welfare worker and communications support. This has greatly increased the support we can offer our service users including helping them claim benefits, supporting them through the family court system and helping some untangle complex situations. The welfare officer is also the safeguarding lead for GesherEU and brings with her professional expertise in a number of areas, important to our members. This grant has also allowed us to improve our communications. For example, the short professionally made video on our website aims to engage and inform those seeking our services in a reassuring, personal way.

We are also dependent on a number of smaller grants to cover our core running costs not covered by the major grants, including one from JJBS. We thank them all for their support.

We cooperate with other charities where appropriate. Our concerns are primarily with education provision and arranged marriages at an early age (18-20) as these are significant obstacles to our service users exercising their choice to lead a lifestyle of their choosing.

The social sessions are a key starting place for service users to make new connections and to replace those lost when family and friends break off contact when individuals leave or are forced to leave their communities. Our activities help service users build their confidence in an alien world, reduce isolation and adapt to the norms and values of mainstream society..

We continue to run a full social program offering a wide range of experiences to help members feel at home in the 'outside' world including:

- Theatre and the arts
- History
- Science
- Socialising with a view to building a more cohesive community, including Friday night and festival meals and meetups.
- Two residential events which we find bonds the community in a way that regular meetups are unable to do.

We retain one zoom session a month as we find this both allows service-users who have moved away to keep in touch and it also allows us to use a wide range of presenters permitting service users to hear about their diverse careers and ideas that will be new and challenging to many.

For most of our service-users, the Gesher family steps in where the conventional family is no longer an option.

With a continuing significant donor commitment we have been able to offer professional counselling to a number of service users from two counsellors who have undertaken training in the impact of leaving high control communities.

Again this year, we have provided emotional and practical support to a number of individuals as they negotiate the family court system.

The Geshereu Support Network

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023

Some members find themselves in an impossible financial position. Trying to make up years of lost education, in minimum paid jobs because of lack of education, paying high rents. With no family support we can often fend off disaster by offering service users small zero interest loans or bursaries (or a combination). We prioritise those that will help in earning a living in the short or longer term such as help buying a bicycle to get to work, but also help in emergency situations such as an unexpected cut in, non-payment of benefits or whilst waiting for their first universal credit payment. Our rapid assessment process has prevented use of high cost alternatives that may be the start of a debt crisis.

Our spending on education continues at a high level helping those who missed out on primary, secondary and tertiary education and we continue to work with partners who specialise in delivering education in difficult circumstances.

Challenges

We continue to see service-users struggle to catch up on their education. Although we have relationships with organisations that can give tuition, they need to work in low paid jobs in order to pay high rents leaving little time and energy to recover up to 15 years of missed education.

We do not have our own emergency accommodation nor do we have accommodation for those who struggle with high rents and low pay whilst trying to catch up on many years of missed school education.

We have seen little real change in the education of service users leaving the community. We are still being contacted by young men with not a single recognised qualification nor having effective spoken or written English skills. We need to seek new ways of ensuring that those responsible give all young people emerging from Charedi communities the life skills they require to function in the outside world.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes.

Designated Funds are set aside/held at the discretion of the trustees and therefore Unrestricted. They are reviewed regularly and in particular at the year-end. The target is to set aside sufficient funds to provide support to members for the following year. With very little unrestricted income guaranteed, this is considered prudent.

Restricted Funds are held to be used specifically in accordance with the donor's instructions.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

As a Charitably Incorporated Organisation (CIO) The Geshereu Support Network is bound by its governing document, its constitution.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1157062

Principal address

1st Floor Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
London
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Trustees

R Bernard
D Lewis
P Weber

The Geshereu Support Network

**Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

Jeremy Harrod FCCA

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP

Chartered Accountants

1st Floor

Healthaid House

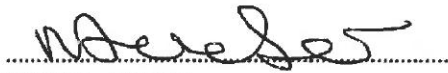
Marlborough Hill

Harrow

Middlesex

HA1 1UD

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 8.2 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



P Weber - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Geshereu Support Network**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Geshereu Support Network

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Geshereu Support Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Jeremy Harrod FCCA

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Date: 8/2/24

The Geshereu Support Network

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		33,681	60,029	93,710	74,026
Investment income	2	718	-	718	52
Total		<u>34,399</u>	<u>60,029</u>	<u>94,428</u>	<u>74,078</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		<u>28,511</u>	<u>49,984</u>	<u>78,495</u>	<u>58,257</u>
NET INCOME		5,888	10,045	15,933	15,821
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		27,509	15,825	43,334	27,513
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>33,397</u></u>	<u><u>25,870</u></u>	<u><u>59,267</u></u>	<u><u>43,334</u></u>

** Unrestricted funds are detailed in Note 7. They include Designated Funds at 31st December 2023 amounting to £31,012 (2022 £25,330) and General Funds at 31st December 2023 amounting to £2,385 (2022 - £2,179)

The Geshereu Support Network

Balance Sheet 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	-	-	-	1,635
Cash at bank		34,312	27,326	61,638	44,084
		<u>34,312</u>	<u>27,326</u>	<u>61,638</u>	<u>45,719</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(915)	(1,456)	(2,371)	(2,385)
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				33,397	27,509
Restricted funds				25,870	15,825
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>

** Unrestricted funds are detailed in Note 7. They include Designated Funds at 31st December 2023 amounting to £31,012 (2022 £25,330) and General Funds at 31st December 2023 amounting to £2,385 (2022 - £2,179)

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8th February 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


P Weber - Trustee

The Geshereu Support Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	718	52

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	34,908	39,118	74,026
Investment income	52	-	52
Total	<u>34,960</u>	<u>39,118</u>	<u>74,078</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	<u>25,938</u>	<u>32,319</u>	<u>58,257</u>
NET INCOME	9,022	6,799	15,821
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	18,487	9,026	27,513
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>27,509</u></u>	<u><u>15,825</u></u>	<u><u>43,334</u></u>

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>1,635</u>

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	<u>2,371</u>	<u>2,385</u>

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,179	206	2,385
Designated	<u>25,330</u>	<u>5,682</u>	<u>31,012</u>
	27,509	5,888	33,397
Restricted funds			
Trust for London	2,245	(2,245)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	<u>13,580</u>	<u>11,055</u>	<u>24,635</u>
JJBS	<u>-</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>1,235</u>
	15,825	10,045	25,870
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>43,334</u></u>	<u><u>15,933</u></u>	<u><u>59,267</u></u>

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	481	(275)	206
Designated	33,918	(28,236)	5,682
	<u>34,399</u>	<u>(28,511)</u>	<u>5,888</u>
Restricted funds			
Trust for London	8,030	(10,275)	(2,245)
National Lottery Community Fund	48,499	(37,444)	11,055
JJBS	3,500	(2,265)	1,235
	<u>60,029</u>	<u>(49,984)</u>	<u>10,045</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>94,428</u>	<u>(78,495)</u>	<u>15,933</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,691	(512)	2,179
Designated	15,796	9,534	25,330
	<u>18,487</u>	<u>9,022</u>	<u>27,509</u>
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	3,393	(3,393)	-
Trust for London	5,633	(3,388)	2,245
National Lottery Community Fund	-	13,580	13,580
	<u>9,026</u>	<u>6,799</u>	<u>15,825</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>27,513</u>	<u>15,821</u>	<u>43,334</u>

The Geshereu Support Network

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2023

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	621	(1,133)	(512)
Designated	34,339	(24,805)	9,534
	<u>34,960</u>	<u>(25,938)</u>	<u>9,022</u>
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	-	(3,393)	(3,393)
Trust for London	15,130	(18,518)	(3,388)
National Lottery Community Fund	23,988	(10,408)	13,580
	<u>39,118</u>	<u>(32,319)</u>	<u>6,799</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>74,078</u>	<u>(58,257)</u>	<u>15,821</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,691	(306)	2,385
Designated	15,796	15,216	31,012
	<u>18,487</u>	<u>14,910</u>	<u>33,397</u>
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	3,393	(3,393)	-
Trust for London	5,633	(5,633)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	24,635	24,635
JJBS	-	1,235	1,235
	<u>9,026</u>	<u>16,844</u>	<u>25,870</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>27,513</u>	<u>31,754</u>	<u>59,267</u>

The Geshereu Support Network

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 31 December 2023

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,102	(1,408)	(306)
Designated	68,257	(53,041)	15,216
	<u>69,359</u>	<u>(54,449)</u>	<u>14,910</u>
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	-	(3,393)	(3,393)
Trust for London	23,160	(28,793)	(5,633)
National Lottery Community Fund	72,487	(47,852)	24,635
JJBS	3,500	(2,265)	1,235
	<u>99,147</u>	<u>(82,303)</u>	<u>16,844</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>168,506</u>	<u>(136,752)</u>	<u>31,754</u>

Educational Fund - A donation received to support the educational needs of our service users.

Trust for London - A grant to partially support our Community Coordinator project which runs events that helps London members be part of a community and introduces them to life in modern society.

National Lottery Community Fund - A grant to fund the part time welfare worker (and related costs) and communications support.

JJBS - A grant to support the educational needs of our service users.

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Expenses paid to the trustees in the year totaled £780 (2022: £nil). These expenses were made up of reimbursed expenses that trustees paid on behalf of the Charity.

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1157062

Accounts



**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
for
The Geshereu Support Network**

**Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD**

The Geshereu Support Network

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 12

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity set out in the constitution are as follows:-

'To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages who have been raised in or have spent a significant part of their lives in strict closed religious communities (in particular ultra orthodox Jewish communities) and having left their communities, from remaining socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society and to do all such other things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:

unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).'

Main activities undertaken for the public benefit

The trustees have satisfied themselves that GesherEU's activities are compliant with law and guidance for charities on public benefit. The charity's charitable purposes are set out in the 'OBJECTIVES' above. In planning our activities for the year we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The activities described in the section below are focused on:

- 1) Rebuilding a community for each individual who has lost contact with family and friends from the community in which he or she grew up. Many of our service users now keep in touch with each other outside meetings. The use of a secure WhatsApp group and secret Facebook group both restricted to those who attend GesherEU has continued to be popular and improves communications outside meetings.
- 2) Having contact in social settings, with volunteers of all ages, who have not come from a Charedi background. This enables service users to build a network of friends and contacts that do not originate from their old communities and introduces them to cultural "protocols" with which they are not familiar. It also helps them develop colloquial language skills.
- 3) Introducing service users to concepts and culture (art, theatre, science, sports etc.) with which they did not grow up.
- 4) Supporting service users through the family court system. However, we do not finance legal costs from core funds.
- 5) Giving the GesherEU community a voice.

Often the above activities overlap or are combined.

The Geshereu Support Network

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Main achievements during the year

GesherEU has continued to operate within its financial means and has been effective in both strengthening the GesherEU community and helping individuals. During the year there has been a continuing increase (approximately one or two, most months) in the number of individuals using the services of GesherEU. They range in age from 20 - 46, with approximately an equal number of men and women.

We continue to welcome these new service users, some of whom are just starting their journey into the wider community and others who have been living outside of the Charedi community for a number of years. New service users continue to come from across the various Charedi communities with the vast majority now living in Barnet, Harrow and Manchester/Salford. Moving into a new world remains a challenging process and we have had many calls from those who never make the move.

Following a successful National Lottery Community Fund application we recruited and appointed a part time Welfare worker. This will greatly increase the support we can offer our service users. The postholder is the safeguarding lead for GesherEU and brings with her professional expertise in a number of areas, important to our members. This grant has also allowed us to implement new software which is already capturing data important to her work and also helping us monitor our successes and challenges.

During this year, GesherEU continued to benefit from a Trust for London grant to fund a community coordinator and a number of smaller grants including one from JJBS. We thank them all for their support.

We continue to encourage service-users to engage with governmental bodies including the Department for Levelling Up, as part of our efforts to give them a voice. We cooperate with other charities where appropriate. Our concerns are primarily with education provision and arranged marriages at an early age (18-20) as these are significant obstacles to our service users exercising their choice to lead a lifestyle of their choosing.

The social sessions are a key starting place for service users to make new connections and to replace those lost when family and friends break off contact when individuals leave or are forced to leave their communities.

Following the restrictions experienced due to COVID, we have now returned to in person events with a full social program offering wide range of experiences to help members feel at home in the 'outside' world including:

- Theatre and the arts
- History
- Science
- Socialising with a view to building a more cohesive community, including Friday night and festival meals and meetups.
- Two residential events which we find bonds the community in a way that regular meetups are unable to do.

For most of our service-users, the Gesher family steps in where the conventional family is no longer an option.

We retain one zoom session a month as we find this both allows service-users who have moved away to keep in touch and it also allows us to use a wide range of presenters permitting service users to hear about their diverse careers and ideas that will be new and challenging to many.

With a continuing significant donor commitment we have been able to offer professional counselling to a number of service users from two counsellors who have undertaken training in the impact of leaving high control communities.

Again this year, we have provided emotional and practical support to a number of individuals as they negotiate the family court system.

We have again helped a number of service users with small zero interest loans or bursaries (or a combination). We prioritise those that will help in earning a living in the short or longer term such as help buying a bicycle to get to work, but also help in emergency situations such as an unexpected cut in or non-payment of benefits. We see this as replacing the family support our service users no longer enjoy and believe our rapid assessment process has prevented use of high cost alternatives that may be the start of a debt crisis. We see a high adherence to repayment schedules which enables us to help others.

Our spending on education has increased this year helping those who missed out on primary, secondary and tertiary education. Additionally, this year we helped a mother get extra support for her son who was experiencing problems transferring from a charedi school to a mainstream school.

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Challenges

We continue to see service-users struggle to catch up on their education. Although we have relationships with organisations that can give tuition, the need to work in low paid jobs in order to pay high rents leaves little time and energy to catch up some 15 years of missed education.

We do not have our own emergency accommodation nor do we have accommodation for those who struggle with high rents and low pay whilst trying to catch up on years of missed school education.

We have seen little real change in the education of service users leaving the community. We are still being contacted by young men with not a single recognised qualification nor having effective spoken or written English skills. We need to seek new ways of ensuring that those responsible give all young people emerging from Charedi communities the life skills they require to function in the outside world.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes.

Designated Funds are set aside/held at the discretion of the trustees and therefore Unrestricted. They are reviewed regularly and in particular at the year-end. The target is to set aside sufficient funds to provide support to members for the following year. With very little unrestricted income guaranteed, this is considered prudent.

Restricted Funds are held to be used specifically in accordance with the donor's instructions.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1157062

Principal address

21 Maple Street
London
W1T 4BE

Trustees

P Weber
D Lewis
R Bernard

Independent Examiner

Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

The Geshereu Support Network
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ...15th March 2023... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
P Weber - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Geshereu Support Network**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Geshereu Support Network

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Geshereu Support Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



J Harrod
FCCA
Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor
Healthaid House
Marlborough Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1UD

Date: 15/3/23

The Geshereu Support Network

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		34,908	39,118	74,026	29,534
Investment income	2	<u>52</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>3</u>
Total		<u>34,960</u>	<u>39,118</u>	<u>74,078</u>	<u>29,537</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charity activities		<u>25,938</u>	<u>32,319</u>	<u>58,257</u>	<u>41,331</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		9,022	6,799	15,821	(11,794)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>18,487</u>	<u>9,026</u>	<u>27,513</u>	<u>39,307</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>27,509</u>	<u>15,825</u>	<u>43,334</u>	<u>27,513</u>

** Unrestricted funds are detailed in Note 7. They include Designated Funds at 31st December 2022 amounting to £25,330 (2021 £15,796) and General Funds at 31st December 2022 amounting to £2,179 (2021 £2,691)

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Geshereu Support Network

Balance Sheet 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	1,635	-	1,635	-
Cash at bank		<u>28,259</u>	<u>15,825</u>	<u>44,084</u>	<u>28,053</u>
		29,894	15,825	45,719	28,053
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(2,385)	-	(2,385)	(540)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>27,509</u>	<u>15,825</u>	<u>43,334</u>	<u>27,513</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>27,509</u>	<u>15,825</u>	<u>43,334</u>	<u>27,513</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>27,509</u>	<u>15,825</u>	<u>43,334</u>	<u>27,513</u>
FUNDS	7				
Unrestricted funds				27,509	18,487
Restricted funds:					
Educational Fund				-	3,393
Trust for London				2,245	5,633
National Lottery Community Fund				<u>13,580</u>	-
				<u>15,825</u>	<u>9,026</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>43,334</u>	<u>27,513</u>

** Unrestricted funds are detailed in Note 7. They include Designated Funds at 31st December 2022 amounting to £25,330 (2021 £15,796) and General Funds at 31st December 2022 amounting to £2,179 (2021 £2,691)

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15th March 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:


Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Geshereu Support Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>52</u>	<u>3</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

4. PREVIOUS YEARS COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	20,684	8,850	29,534
Investment income	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>20,687</u>	<u>8,850</u>	<u>29,537</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charity activities	<u>21,671</u>	<u>19,660</u>	<u>41,331</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(984)	(10,810)	(11,794)
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>19,471</u>	<u>19,836</u>	<u>39,307</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>18,487</u>	<u>9,026</u>	<u>27,513</u>
 5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	2022	2021	
	£	£	
Other debtors	<u>1,635</u>	<u>-</u>	
 6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	2022	2021	
	£	£	
Other creditors	<u>2,385</u>	<u>540</u>	

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,691	(512)	2,179
Designated	<u>15,796</u>	<u>9,534</u>	<u>25,330</u>
	18,487	9,022	27,509
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	3,393	(3,393)	-
Trust for London	5,633	(3,388)	2,245
National Lottery Community Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>13,580</u>	<u>13,580</u>
	<u>9,026</u>	<u>6,799</u>	<u>15,825</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>27,513</u></u>	<u><u>15,821</u></u>	<u><u>43,334</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	621	(1,133)	(512)
Designated	<u>34,339</u>	<u>(24,805)</u>	<u>9,534</u>
	34,960	(25,938)	9,022
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	-	(3,393)	(3,393)
Trust for London	15,130	(18,518)	(3,388)
National Lottery Community Fund	<u>23,988</u>	<u>(10,408)</u>	<u>13,580</u>
	<u>39,118</u>	<u>(32,319)</u>	<u>6,799</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>74,078</u></u>	<u><u>(58,257)</u></u>	<u><u>15,821</u></u>

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,242	449	2,691
Designated	<u>17,229</u>	<u>(1,433)</u>	<u>15,796</u>
	19,471	(984)	18,487
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	6,200	(2,807)	3,393
Trust for London	<u>13,636</u>	<u>(8,003)</u>	<u>5,633</u>
	<u>19,836</u>	<u>(10,810)</u>	<u>9,026</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>39,307</u>	<u>(11,794)</u>	<u>27,513</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	707	(258)	449
Designated	<u>19,980</u>	<u>(21,413)</u>	<u>(1,433)</u>
	20,687	(21,671)	(984)
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	1,750	(4,557)	(2,807)
Trust for London	<u>7,100</u>	<u>(15,103)</u>	<u>(8,003)</u>
	<u>8,850</u>	<u>(19,660)</u>	<u>(10,810)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>29,537</u>	<u>(41,331)</u>	<u>(11,794)</u>

The Geshereu Support Network

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	2,242	(63)	2,179
Designated	<u>17,229</u>	<u>8,101</u>	<u>25,330</u>
	19,471	8,038	27,509
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	6,200	(6,200)	-
Trust for London	13,636	(11,391)	2,245
National Lottery Community Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>13,580</u>	<u>13,580</u>
	<u>19,836</u>	<u>(4,011)</u>	<u>15,825</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>39,307</u>	<u>4,027</u>	<u>43,334</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,328	(1,391)	(63)
Designated	<u>54,319</u>	<u>(46,218)</u>	<u>8,101</u>
	55,647	(47,609)	8,038
Restricted funds			
Educational Fund	1,750	(7,950)	(6,200)
Trust for London	22,230	(33,621)	(11,391)
National Lottery Community Fund	<u>23,988</u>	<u>(10,408)</u>	<u>13,580</u>
	<u>47,968</u>	<u>(51,979)</u>	<u>(4,011)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>103,615</u>	<u>(99,588)</u>	<u>4,027</u>

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022.

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1157062

Accounts



THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

Registered Charity Number 1157062

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31st December 2021

Registered Address:
21 Maple Street
London, W1T 4BE

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT GROUP

Trustees' Annual Report 2021

TRUSTEES

Bernard, Robert	Appointed 11 th November 2020
Weber, Peter	Appointed 11 th November 2020
Lewis, David	Appointed 11 th November 2020
Name withheld by agreement with Charity Commission	Appointed 11 th November 2020

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The activities of the Charity are governed by its Constitution dated 4th May 2014.

STRUCTURE

The Charity commenced activities on 1st January 2014 and those involved at the start agreed to formalise the organisation by registering with the UK Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) whose voting members are its charity trustees. The registration was completed on 15th May 2014. This is the eighth annual report.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by resolution passed at a meeting of the charity trustees. Every trustee so appointed must satisfy the eligibility requirements as set out in the constitution.

OBJECTIVES

The objects of the charity set out in the constitution are as follows:-

'To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages who have been raised in or have spent a significant part of their lives in strict closed religious communities (in particular ultraorthodox Jewish communities) and having left their communities, from remaining socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society and to do all such other things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.'

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).'

MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have satisfied themselves that GesherEU's activities are compliant with law and guidance for charities on public benefit. The charity's charitable purposes are set out in the 'OBJECTIVES' above. In planning our activities for the year we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The activities described in the section below are focused on:

- 1) Rebuilding a community for each individual who has lost contact with family and friends from the community in which he or she grew up. Many of our service users now keep in touch with each other outside meetings. The use of a secure WhatsApp group and secret Facebook group both restricted to those who attend GesherEU has continued to be popular and improves communications outside meetings.
- 2) Have contact in social settings, with volunteers of all ages, who have not come from a Charedi background. This enables service users to build a network of friends and contacts that do not originate from their old communities and introduces them to cultural "protocols" with which they are not familiar. It also helps them develop colloquial language skills.
- 3) Introduce service users to concepts and culture (art, theatre, science, sports etc.) with which they did not grow up.
- 4) Supporting service users through the family court system. However, we do not finance legal costs from core funds.
- 5) Giving the GesherEU community a voice.

Often the above activities overlap or are combined.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

GesherEU has continued to operate within its financial means and has been effective in both strengthening the GesherEU community and helping individuals. During the year there has been a continuing increase (approximately one or two, most months) in the number of individuals using the services of GesherEU. They range in age from 20 - 46, with approximately an equal number of men and women.

We continue to welcome these new service users, some of whom are just starting their journey into the wider community and others who have been living outside of the Charedi community for a number of years. New service users continue to come from across the various Charedi communities with the vast majority now living in Barnet, Harrow and Manchester/Salford. Moving into a new world remains a challenging process and we have had many calls from those who never make the move.

We continue to encourage service-users to engage with governmental bodies as part of our efforts to give them a voice. We cooperate with other charities where appropriate. Our concerns are primarily with education provision and arranged marriages at an early age (18-20) as these are significant obstacles to our service users exercising their choice to lead a lifestyle of their choosing.

During this year, GesherEU continued to benefit from a Trust for London grant to fund a community coordinator and a number of smaller grants including one from JJBS. We thank them all for their support.

The social sessions are a key starting place for service users to make new connections to replace those lost when family and friends break off contact when individuals leave or are forced to leave their communities. We started the year with bi-monthly 'drop-in' sessions, weekend visits and Friday night meals.

Due to COVID-19 our sessions for most of the year were mainly online via Zoom. These sessions have been very successful in keeping service-users in touch with each other and have continued to enable us to widen their horizons by welcoming session leaders from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and professions. The variety of session types has attracted a very good attendance from service-users in London, Manchester, as well as those away at University and who have moved to Israel and the USA. Towards the end of the year we were able to re-establish face-to-face activities, many outdoors, as prescribed by the prevailing legislation and advice.

With a continuing significant donor commitment we have been able to offer professional counselling to a number of service users from two counsellors who have undertaken training in the impact of leaving high control communities.

Again this year, we have provided emotional and practical support to a number of individuals as they negotiate the family court system. Our volunteer social worker continues to meet service users and provides invaluable guidance.

We have again helped a number of service users with small zero interest loans or bursaries (or a combination). A number have lost income and employment due to the series of lockdowns and restrictions in place over the year. We prioritise those that will help in earning a living in the short or longer term but also help in emergency situations such as an unexpected cut in or non-payment of benefits. We see this as replacing the family support our service users no longer enjoy and believe our rapid assessment process has prevented use of high cost alternatives that may be the start of a debt crisis. We see a high adherence to repayment schedules which enables us to help others. Education has continued to be a focus for our support this year.

CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 restrictions have continued to make it very difficult to integrate new service-users into the GesherEU community. Zoom is not the best place to get to know new people and make new friends. With the lifting of restrictions however, we look forward to them cementing relationships and towards the end of the year, started to plan for our residential and in person events in 2022.

We continue to see service-users struggle to catch up on their education. Although we have relationships with organisations that can give tuition, the need to work in low paid jobs in order to pay high rents leaves little time and energy to catch up some 15 years of missed education.

We have seen little real change in the education of service users leaving the community. We are still being contacted by young men with not a single recognised qualification nor having effective spoken or written English skills. We need to seek new ways of ensuring that those responsible give all young people emerging from Charedi communities the life skills they require to function in the outside world.

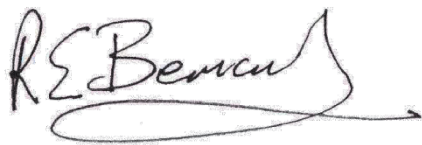
POLICY ON RESERVES

The charity does not intend to build up reserves other than those required to ensure that it can meet its day to day expenses and budgeted projects.

TRUSTEE APPROVAL

The trustees declare that they approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Bernard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT BERNARD
Trustee
22nd February 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Weber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PETER WEBER
Trustee – Hon Treasurer
22nd February 2022

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK (Charity number 1157062)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The GesherEU Support Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act: or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:



Donald Glazer B.A, F.C.A.

8 Darnhills, Watford Road, Radlett, WD7 8LQ

Date: 29th January 2022

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

Registered Charity number 1157062

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	GENERAL FUNDS £	DESIGNATED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
Income from Charitable Activities					
Loans & Advances repaid	0	1,890	0	1,890	2,318
Income from Shabbat & Festival Events	0	340	0	340	0
Income from Residential Events	0	810	0	810	830
Income from other Events	0	565	0	565	60
Sub Total	0	3,605	0	3,605	3,208
Voluntary Income Sources					
Donations received	484	9,000	0	9,484	17,634
Grants received	0	6,000	7,100	13,100	23,200
Gift Aid	220	1,375	1,750	3,345	224
Sub Total	704	19,980	8,850	29,534	44,266
Other Income					
Interest	3	0	0	3	17
Total Receipts	£707	£19,980	£8,850	£29,537	£44,283
PAYMENTS					
Charitable Activities					
Emergency Support	0	2,914	0	2,914	2,535
Emergency Advances	0	2,604	0	2,604	3,600
Educational Support	0	2,150	4,558	6,708	4,545
Shabbat & Festival Dinners	0	2,153	0	2,153	430
Counselling Support	0	7,130	0	7,130	2,880
Drop-Ins & Socials Exp (incl virtual events)	0	108	1,395	1,503	671
Community Development Project	0	0	9,099	9,099	7,336
Expenditure on Residential Events	0	2,019	4,347	6,366	474
Expenditure on other events	0	1,795	0	1,795	393
Sub Total	0	20,873	19,399	40,272	22,864
Operating Costs					
Insurance	191	0	0	191	191
Telephone	43	0	262	305	43
Travel Expenses	3	0	0	3	0
Bank & Credit Card charges	21	0	0	21	37
Sub Total	258	0	262	520	271
Total Payments	£258	£20,873	£19,661	£40,792	£23,135
Surplus for the Period	449	(893)	(10,811)	(11,255)	21,148
Cash & Bank Balances at 1st January	2,242	17,229	19,837	39,308	18,160
Balances at 31st December	£2,691	£16,336	£9,026	£28,053	£39,308

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

Bank Current Account
Bank Deposit Account
Paypal Account
Soldo Accounts

Balances at 31st December

2021 £	2020 £
671	654
26,432	37,930
30	4
920	720
£28,053	£39,308

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

Registered Charity number 1157062

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and generally in accordance with the latest Charities Statement of Recommended Practice and The Charities Act 2011

Funds and Reserves

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes.

Designated Funds are held at the discretion of the trustees and therefore Unrestricted.

Restricted Funds are held to be used specifically in accordance with the donor's instructions

2. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance 1 Jan 2021 £	Transfers Gen Funds £	Received in 2021 £	Paid out in 2021 £	Balance 31 Dec 2021 £
Emergencies Fund - Grants	3,043	3,000	0	2,914	3,129
Emergencies Fund - Advances	718	1,000	1,890	2,604	1,004
Educational Enablement	3,644	500	0	2,150	1,994
Shabbat/Festival Dinners	927	1,500	340	2,153	614
Counselling	1,095	0	9,375	7,130	3,340
Drop-Ins & Socials Expenses	1,259	0	0	108	1,151
Residential Events	4,196	500	810	2,019	3,487
Other Events	2,347	500	565	1,795	1,617
	£17,229	£7,000	£12,980	£20,873	£16,336

3. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 Jan 2021 £	Received in 2021 £	Paid out in 2021 £	Balance 31 Dec 2021 £
Trust for London	13,637	7,100	15,104	5,633
Educational Fund	6,200	1,750	4,557	3,393
	£19,837	£8,850	£19,661	£9,026

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Robert Bernard



Peter Weber

29th January 2022

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1157062

Accounts



THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

Registered Charity Number 1157062

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31st December 2020

Registered Address:
21 Maple Street
London, W1T 4BE

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT GROUP Trustees' Annual Report 2020

TRUSTEES

Bernard, Robert	Re-appointed 11 th November 2020
Weber, Peter	Re-appointed 11 th November 2020
Name withheld by agreement with Charity Commission	Re-appointed 11 th November 2020

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The activities of the Charity are governed by its Constitution dated 4th May 2014.

STRUCTURE

The Charity commenced activities on 1st January 2014 and those involved at the start agreed to formalise the organisation by registering with the UK Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) whose voting members are its charity trustees. The registration was completed on 15th May 2014. This is the sixth annual report.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by resolution passed at a meeting of the charity trustees. Every trustee so appointed must satisfy the eligibility requirements as set out in the constitution.

OBJECTIVES

The objects of the charity set out in the constitution are as follows:-

'To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people of all ages who have been raised in or have spent a significant part of their lives in strict closed religious communities (in particular ultraorthodox Jewish communities) and having left their communities, from remaining socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society and to do all such other things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:

unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards); crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society).'

MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have satisfied themselves that GesherEU's activities are compliant with law and guidance for charities on public benefit. The charity's charitable purposes are set out in the 'OBJECTIVES' above. In planning our activities for the year we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The activities described in the section below are focused on:

- 1) Rebuilding a community for each individual who has lost contact with family and friends from the community in which he or she grew up. Many of our service users now keep in touch with each other outside meetings. The use of a secure WhatsApp group and 'private, hidden' Facebook group both restricted to those who attend GesherEU has continued to be popular and improves communications outside meetings.
- 2) Have contact in social settings, with volunteers of all ages, who have not come from a Charedi background. This enables service users to build a network of friends and contacts that do not originate from their old communities and introduces them to cultural "protocols" with which they are not familiar. It also helps them develop colloquial language skills.
- 3) Introduce service users to concepts and culture (art, theatre, science, sports etc.) with which they did not grow up.
- 4) Supporting service users through the family court system. However, we do not finance legal costs from core funds.
- 5) Giving the GesherEU community a voice.

Often the above activities overlap or are combined.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

GesherEU has continued to operate within its financial means and has been effective in both strengthening the GesherEU community and helping individuals. During the year there has been a 12% increase in the number of individuals using the services of GesherEU. We have 84 service users, 55 of whom we have been in regular contact with throughout the year. They range in age from 20 - 45, with approximately an equal number of men and women.

We continue to welcome new service users, some of whom are just starting their journey into the wider community and others who have been living outside of the Charedi community for a number of years. New service users continue to come from across the various Charedi communities with the vast majority now living in Barnet and Harrow. GesherEU has continued to grow in the Manchester and Salford area with their own regular social activities.

We continue to encourage service-users to engage with governmental bodies as part of our efforts to give them a voice. We cooperate with other charities where appropriate. Our concerns are primarily with education provision as this is a significant obstacle to our service users exercising their choice to lead a lifestyle of their choosing.

During this year, GesherEU continued to benefit from a National Lottery Awards for All grant to fund a community coordinator. We also secured a 3 year restricted grant from Trust for London (£14k/year) to continue this work.

The social sessions are a key starting place for service users to make new connections, lost when family and friends break off contact when individuals leave or are forced to leave their communities. We started the year with bi-monthly 'drop-in' sessions, weekend visits and Friday night meals. In February we held a very successful community weekend away in Derbyshire with increased input from service-users in its organisation and execution.

Following the March lockdown due to COVID-19 our sessions moved online via Zoom. These sessions have been very successful in keeping service-users in touch with each other and have continued to enable us to widen their horizons by welcoming session leaders from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and professions. From a diplomat to a space scientist and from a Yiddish singer to session on the history of Christianity, the variety of session types has attracted a very good attendance from service-users in London, Manchester, as well as those away at University and who have moved to Israel and the USA.

Following a substantial donor commitment we have been able to offer professional counselling to a number of service users from a counsellor who has undertaken training in the impact of leaving high control communities. We have more service users in need of counselling and will be looking to fundraise to help increase the number to whom we can offer counselling.

Again this year, we have provided emotional and practical support to a number of individuals as they negotiate the family court system. Our volunteer social worker continues to meet service users and provides invaluable guidance.

We have again helped a number of service users with small zero interest loans or bursaries (or a combination) where we have not been able to help them find other sources of support. A number have lost income and employment due to the series of lockdowns and restrictions in place over the year. We prioritise those that will help in earning a living in the short or longer term but also help in emergency situations such as an unexpected cut in or non-payment of benefits. We see this as replacing the family support our service users no longer enjoy and believe our rapid assessment process has prevented use of high cost alternatives that may be the start of a debt crisis. We see a high adherence to repayment schedules which enables us to help others. Education has been a focus for our support this year.

CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 restrictions have made it very difficult to integrate new service-users into the GesherEU community. Zoom is not the best place to get to know new people and make new friends. Some new service users have become regular attendees however we look forward to them cementing relationships when face to face meetings resume.

A number of our service users saw their income drop or stop due to the pandemic. We have sought to keep in touch with those impacted, helping where we can. We registered as a referring agency to the local Trussell Trust food bank. As mentioned above, we are supporting in a small way those impacted and have been able, so far, to use core funding not used on curtailed activities. Due to their short history of registered work since leaving their communities, most do not qualify for government help. We are seeing requests for help increase and the likelihood of repayment of advances reduce as the situation drags on.

We continue to see service-users struggle to catch up on their education. Although we have relationships with organisations that can give tuition, the need to work in low paid jobs in order to pay high rents leaves little time and energy to catch up some 15 years of missed education.

We have seen little real change in the education of service users leaving the community. We are still being contacted by young men with not a single recognised qualification. We need to seek new ways of ensuring that those responsible give all young people emerging from Charedi communities the life skills they require to function in the outside world.

POLICY ON RESERVES

The charity does not intend to build up reserves other than those required to ensure that it can meet its day to day expenses and budgeted projects.

TRUSTEE APPROVAL

The trustees declare that they approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R E Bernard', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath.

ROBERT BERNARD
Trustee
28th January 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Weber', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath.

PETER WEBER
Trustee – Hon Treasurer
28th January 2021

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK (Charity number 1157062)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The GesherEU Support Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act: or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records: or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:



Donald Glazer B.A, F.C.A.

8 Darnhills, Watford Road, Radlett, WD7 8LQ

Date: 29th January 2021

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

Registered Charity number 1157062

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	GENERAL FUNDS £	DESIGNATED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2020 £	FULL YEAR 2019 £
Income from Charitable Activities					
Loans & Advances repaid	0	2,318	0	2,318	4,498
Income from Residential Events	0	830	0	830	2,536
Income from other Events	0	60	0	60	568
Sub Total	0	3,208	0	3,208	7,602
Voluntary Income Sources					
Donations received	134	10,500	7,000	17,634	1,869
Grants received	1,000	8,000	14,200	23,200	17,600
Gift Aid	224	0	0	224	198
Sub Total	1,358	21,708	21,200	44,266	27,269
Other Income					
Interest	17	0	0	17	12
Total Receipts	£1,375	£21,708	£21,200	£44,283	£27,281
PAYMENTS					
Charitable Activities					
Emergency Support	0	2,535	0	2,535	3,038
Emergency Advances	0	3,600	0	3,600	7,045
Educational Support	0	3,745	800	4,545	550
Shabbat & Festival Dinners	0	430	0	430	1,138
Counselling Support	0	2,880	0	2,880	125
Drop-Ins & Socials Exp (incl virtual events)	0	671	0	671	620
Community Development Project	0	0	7,336	7,336	2,377
Expenditure on Residential Events	0	274	200	474	7,196
Expenditure on other events	0	143	250	393	1,364
Sub Total	0	14,278	8,586	22,864	23,453
Operating Costs					
Insurance	191	0	0	191	191
Telephone	43	0	0	43	73
Travel Expenses	0	0	0	0	238
Bank & Credit Card charges	37	0	0	37	80
Sub Total	271	0	0	271	582
Total Payments	£271	£14,278	£8,586	£23,135	£24,035
Surplus for the Period	1,104	7,430	12,614	21,148	3,246
Cash & Bank Balances at 1st January	1,138	9,799	7,223	18,160	14,914
Balances at 31st December	£2,242	£17,229	£19,837	£39,308	£18,160

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Monetary Assets		
Bank Current Account	654	717
Bank Deposit Account	37,930	16,412
Paypal Account	4	215
Soldo Accounts	720	816
Balances at 31st December	£39,308	£18,160

THE GESHEREU SUPPORT NETWORK

Registered Charity number 1157062

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and generally in accordance with the latest Charities Statement of Recommended Practice and The Charities Act 2011

Funds and Reserves

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes.

Designated Funds are held at the discretion of the trustees and therefore Unrestricted.

Restricted Funds are held to be used specifically in accordance with the donor's instructions

2. DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance 1 Jan 2020 £	Transfers Gen Funds £	Received in 2020 £	Paid out in 2020 £	Balance 31 Dec 2020 £
Emergencies Fund - Grants	578	5,000	0	2,535	3,043
Emergencies Fund - Advances	0	2,000	2,318	3,600	718
Educational Enablement	889	6,500	0	3,745	3,644
Shabbat/Festival Dinners	857	500	0	430	927
Counselling	475	1,000	2,500	2,880	1,095
Drop-Ins & Socials Expenses	1,000	1,000	0	741	1,259
Residential Events	3,600	0	870	274	4,196
Other Events	2,400	0	20	73	2,347
	£9,799	£16,000	£5,708	£14,278	£17,229

3. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 Jan 2020 £	Received in 2020 £	Paid out in 2020 £	Balance 31 Dec 2020 £
National Lottery Community Dev Fund	7,223	0	7,223	0
Trust for London	0	14,200	563	13,637
Educational Fund	0	7,000	800	6,200
	£7,223	£21,200	£8,586	£19,837

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Robert Bernard

Peter Weber

28th January 2021