



**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**

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**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 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		33,681	60,029	93,710	74,026
Investment income	2	718	-	718	52
<b>Total</b>		<u>34,399</u>	<u>60,029</u>	<u>94,428</u>	<u>74,078</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities		<u>28,511</u>	<u>49,984</u>	<u>78,495</u>	<u>58,257</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		5,888	10,045	15,933	15,821
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		27,509	15,825	43,334	27,513
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<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 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
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>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
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>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>25,870</u>	<u>59,267</u>	<u>43,334</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	7				
Unrestricted funds				33,397	27,509
Restricted funds				<u>25,870</u>	<u>15,825</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<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 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	34,908	39,118	74,026
Investment income	52	-	52
<b>Total</b>	<u>34,960</u>	<u>39,118</u>	<u>74,078</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable activities	<u>25,938</u>	<u>32,319</u>	<u>58,257</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	9,022	6,799	15,821
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	18,487	9,026	27,513
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	481	(275)	206
Designated	33,918	(28,236)	5,682
	<u>34,399</u>	<u>(28,511)</u>	<u>5,888</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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.