

**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**

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**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 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		38,737	76,853	115,590	93,710
Investment income	2	1,067	-	1,067	718
<b>Total</b>		<u>39,804</u>	<u>76,853</u>	<u>116,657</u>	<u>94,428</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities		17,571	63,206	80,777	78,495
<b>NET INCOME</b>		22,233	13,647	35,880	15,933
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		33,397	25,870	59,267	43,334
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<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 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
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>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
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>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>55,630</u>	<u>39,517</u>	<u>95,147</u>	<u>59,267</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	7				
Unrestricted funds				55,630	33,397
Restricted funds				39,517	25,870
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<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 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	33,681	60,029	93,710
Investment income	718	-	718
<b>Total</b>	<u>34,399</u>	<u>60,029</u>	<u>94,428</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable activities	<u>28,511</u>	<u>49,984</u>	<u>78,495</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	5,888	10,045	15,933
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	27,509	15,825	43,334
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
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
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Designated	39,804	(17,571)	22,233
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<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 2023	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>

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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
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>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	481	(275)	206
Designated	73,722	(45,807)	27,915
	<u>74,203</u>	<u>(46,082)</u>	<u>28,121</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
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>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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.