

ASYLOS

England & Wales · Charity number 1158386

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-08-28

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

Contact

Address International House
101 King's Cross Road
London
WC1X 9LP

Phone 07884170995

Email info@asylos.org

Website www.asylos.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AS SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT UNITED NATIONS OR REGIONAL CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS, AND IN NATIONAL LAW. IN PURSUING THIS OBJECT, ASYLOS WILL FOCUS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAW WITH RESPECT TO ASYLUM SEEKERS AND STATELESS PEOPLE IN THE UK AND ELSEWHERE. IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE THE CHARITY'S ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:- ENGAGING IN RESEARCH INTO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND MONITOR ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS;- CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOUND ADMINISTRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY PROVIDING INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND RESEARCH FOR ASYLUM CASES SO AS TO ENSURE THAT ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE GIVEN A FAIR HEARING FOR THEIR ASYLUM CLAIMS;- RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND PROMOTING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY FACILITATING AN INFORMED AND FACT BASED PUBLIC DEBATE ON ASYLUM;- PROVIDING TECHNICAL ADVICE TO GOVERNMENTS AND OTHERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS, BY MAKING ITS RESEARCH AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AND PROVIDING RELEVANT TRAINING. IN FURTHERANCE OF THAT OBJECT BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY PROVIDED THAT THE TRUSTEES ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES WILL FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY TO AN EXTENT JUSTIFIED BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTED AND THE ACTIVITY IS NOT THE DOMINANT MEANS BY WHICH THE CHARITY CARRIED OUT ITS OBJECTS.

Activities: Asylos is a network of volunteers who provide on demand, free of charge research for individual asylum claims. It works closely with the legal representatives of the asylum seekers (asylum lawyers and NGOs).

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Romania
- Spain
- Sweden
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£238,000	£306,000	-	-
2023-12-31	£381,169	£323,153	-	-
2022-12-31	£247,280	£292,340	-	-
2021-12-31	£233,913	£142,984	-	-
2020-12-31	£151,860	£153,064	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Diamanto Vlantoni	Chair	2020-11-05
Cima Chehab		2025-12-05
Elizabeth Williams		2022-01-14
Julia Krystyna Vonk		2022-10-17
Katharina Natter		2017-10-04
Philip David Arnold		2021-01-01
Stephanie Huber		2022-03-09
Tesfalem Habte Yemane		2025-08-04
Teslim Uthman Adeyanju		2025-05-09
Yigit Aksakoglu		2025-08-04

ASYLOS

England & Wales - Charity number 1158386

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1158386

Asylos

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Community Accounting Plus
Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Asylos

Contents (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 5
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 17

Asylos

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Elizabeth Williams
	Stephanie Huber
	Philip Arnold
	Julia Vonk
	Diamanto Vlantoni
	Katharina Natter
	Dick Oosting
Senior Management Team	Jo Pettitt, Director
	Carolina Albuerne Rodriguez, Director
Charity Registration Number	1158386
Principal Office	International House
	101 King's Cross Road
	London
	WC1X 9LP
Independent Examiner	John O'Brien, employee of
	Community Accounting Plus
	Units 1 & 2 North West
	41 Talbot Street
	Nottingham NG1 5GL

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Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams
	Alexandra Dufresne (resigned 10 November 2024)
	Stephanie Huber
	Philip Arnold
	Julia Vonk
	Diamanto Vlantoni
	Katharina Natter
	Dina Baslan (resigned 1 March 2025)
	Dick Oosting

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 29/07/2014, most recently amended 19/05/2020.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Asylos is committed to fair and open recruitment processes, but can also choose to appoint new Trustees as outlined in its statutes. The Board and staff, possibly together with one or more volunteers, approach people who they think are suitable, meet them in person or through a conference call and get a better sense of who they are and whether they are interested before inviting them to join the Board of Trustees.

Our board of trustees always includes two to three members who were elected from within the Asylos volunteer network, with the terms arranged in a way that we will plan to recruit a new elected trustee on a regular basis, every 12-18 months. Trustees elected as representatives from within the network ('elected trustees') have a specific function to directly represent the interests of the volunteer body and to facilitate communication between the board of trustees and the rest of the network.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the CIO is the promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to asylum seekers and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Objectives, strategies and activities

- Engaging in research into human rights issues and monitor abuses of human rights;
- Contributing to the sound administration of human rights by providing information and background research for asylum cases so as to ensure that asylum seekers are given a fair hearing for their asylum claims;
- Raising awareness of human rights issues and promoting popular support for human rights by facilitating an informed and fact based public debate on asylum;
- Providing technical advice to governments and others on human rights matters, by making its research and information available on request and providing relevant training.

Public benefit

- a. Asylos benefits asylum seekers and stateless people in their preparation of asylum claims as allowed under national, European and international law. These asylum seekers would not be exercising their full rights without Asylos assistance, as they would be unable to prepare evidential documentation for their asylum claims. Asylos also benefits its volunteers, who, through their engagement in conducting research, learn about the related legal systems, and emphasize to their contemporaries the importance of fairness in the legal system.
- b. Asylos' work is beneficial in that it promotes a high quality of legal decision-making and helps reduce the time needed for legal cases to conclude, thereby helping the legal system meet its own standards. Lawyers and judges alike have confirmed the added value Asylos reports bring to legal asylum cases.
- c. As Asylos works in close co-operation with lawyers engaged in the asylum cases it is highly unlikely that any detriment or harm for the benefitting population may occur from Asylos' activities.
- d. There is no personal benefit from Asylos' activities for trustees or for specific persons or organisations.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

1. Produce new Country of Origin Information (COI) research reports

Case specific research reports

- In 2024, we received 49 research requests and completed 27, with the remaining cases in progress.
- Feedback from lawyers indicates a 76% positive outcome ratio for cases worked on since the beginning of 2023.
- Since 2023, 82% of lawyers who submitted feedback said the report provided information which they previously did not have. 63% said they have reason to believe that the report influenced the decision of the court/authorities and 71% said they shared the report with others.

2. Monitor COI products and improve COI issued by governments

Review UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Notes (CPINs)

- In 2024 the UK Home Office sent Asylos 40 Country Policy and Information Notes for review, this was 74% of the number of published CPINs during the year.
- Over half of Asylos' suggestions for inclusion of additional information were accepted, and over a third of Asylos' suggested changes to policy recommendations based on the evidence presented were accepted by the Home Office in 2024.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Produce Commentaries on government COI products and COI compilations

Albania COI compilation

- In April 2024, Asylos published a COI report on trafficking incorporating desk research and interview material (carried out in 2023), and a summary document to consolidate the key findings from the research.
- Downloads of the report from April to December 2024 were 622.
- Asylos received positive feedback from lawyers, and the report was cited by Garden Court Chambers in a paper giving guidance to legal representatives on Albanian asylum claims.

Georgia compilation

- In September 2024, Asylos and Rainbow Migration published a commentary on the Home Office CPIN Georgia: SOGIE. In conjunction with the commentary, Asylos also published a research report on the situation of LGBTQI+ people in Georgia.
- From September - December 2024 the reports were downloaded 174 times.
- Asylos supported Rainbow Migration's efforts to raise awareness among parliamentarians and at ministerial level relating to the UK government's designation of Georgia as a 'safe' state.

3. Identify and serve the people that are most vulnerable to decisions based on poor or absent COI

Thematic project: Situation of Children and Young People in Sudan

- Asylos published an interview-based thematic research report on the situation of Children and Young People in Sudan via an online roundtable event on 17 June 2024. To date the report has been downloaded 205 times.
- A snapshot report on Access to Rights and Services for Children and Young people focusing on Rwanda and Principles for Conducting Country of Origin Information Research on Children and Young People were published at the same time. To date the report has been downloaded 52 times.

Respond to urgent COI needs

- Following scoping research was published in June 2024 on mental health services and trafficking in Rwanda. The reports have been downloaded 67 times.
- A report on UNRWA in Palestine was published and released via a webinar on September 30 2024 with Foundation for Access to Rights (FAR) with around 60 attendees. The report has since been downloaded 51 times.

4. Provision of COI training to legal representatives in and beyond the UK

- A total of 145 participants (legal representatives and other producers and users of COI) received training from Asylos in 2024.
- Training topics included Fundamentals of COI research and COI research for people with disabilities, children and young people and stateless people.

5. Partnerships and sector engagement

EUAA Engagement

- Asylos assumed the role of Rapporteur for the Country of Origin Information Consultative Forum at the EUAA during 2024.
- As Rapporteur, Asylos chaired the thematic consultation group meeting on Country of Origin Information at the 3rd annual EUAA Consultative Forum Plenary Meeting in October 2024.

Rights in Exile platform

- Asylos assumed responsibility for maintaining and updating the COI resources on the Rights in Exile platform, now administered by the Swiss charity Asylex, and in particular the COI experts database.

COI Experts network

- Asylos convened and chaired quarterly meetings of the COI Experts network, with members including UNHCR, ACCORD, Danish Refugee Council, Swiss Refugee Council, Dutch Council for Refugees.

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Trustees' Report (continued)

Financial review

We are happy with our financial position at the end of 2024. We have protected grant funding that needed to be carried over into 2025 expenditure and continue to set aside funds for reserves. We secured two new multi-year grants in 2024 and are optimistic that we will be successful with key grant renewals that are pending, which together with other secure funding would cover most of our committed costs for 2025. We will not be in a position to expand operations or the scope of our work unless we secure new funds.

Policy on reserves

We are in the process of drafting a reserves policy for Asylos but in the meantime we continue to work towards 3 months of costs set aside for reserves. We currently have just over two months of committed costs set aside as reserves in our 2025 budget (68% of our target).

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Philip Arnold

Trustee

Asylos

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Asylos

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Asylos (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 Charity'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 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 Charity 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 accounting 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.

.....
John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCIE, employee of Community Accounting Plus
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Date:.....

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Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	67,896	-	67,896	190,711
Charitable activities	3	173	166,014	166,187	189,478
Investment income	4	3,796	-	3,796	980
Total Income		<u>71,865</u>	<u>166,014</u>	<u>237,879</u>	<u>381,169</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(104,633)</u>	<u>(201,760)</u>	<u>(306,393)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(104,633)</u>	<u>(201,760)</u>	<u>(306,393)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Net movement in funds		(32,768)	(35,746)	(68,514)	58,016
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>116,971</u>	<u>35,746</u>	<u>152,717</u>	<u>94,701</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>84,203</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,203</u>	<u>152,717</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for the period is shown in note 14.

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	190,711	-	190,711
Charitable activities	3	-	189,478	189,478
Investment income	4	980	-	980
Total Income		<u>191,691</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>381,169</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	<u>(185,360)</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(185,360)</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Net movement in funds		6,331	51,685	58,016
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>110,640</u>	<u>(15,939)</u>	<u>94,701</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>116,971</u>	<u>35,746</u>	<u>152,717</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Asylos

(Registration number: 1158386) Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	984	-
Current assets			
Debtors	11	3,959	-
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>189,011</u>	<u>153,857</u>
		192,970	153,857
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(109,751)</u>	<u>(1,140)</u>
Net current assets		<u>83,219</u>	<u>152,717</u>
Net assets		<u><u>84,203</u></u>	<u><u>152,717</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		-	35,746
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>84,203</u>	<u>116,971</u>
Total funds	14	<u><u>84,203</u></u>	<u><u>152,717</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Diamanto Vlantoni
Trustee

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Asylos meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	33.33% straight line

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	25,714	25,714	8,629
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from companies, trusts, etc.	42,182	42,182	182,082
	<u>67,896</u>	<u>67,896</u>	<u>190,711</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grants & donations	-	166,014	166,014	189,478
Sales	120	-	120	-
Gain on exchange	53	-	53	-
	<u>173</u>	<u>166,014</u>	<u>166,187</u>	<u>189,478</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	3,796	3,796	980

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

5 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Justice Together Initiative	-	36,799	36,799
Sebba	-	27,827	27,827
Trust for London	-	37,221	37,221
City Bridge Foundation	-	30,000	30,000
Comic Relief	-	17,500	17,500
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	16,667	16,667
Clifford Chance Foundation	20,000	-	20,000
AB Charitable Trust	12,833	-	12,833
Souter Trust	3,000	-	3,000
Haella	6,349	-	6,349
Sundry grants & donations	25,714	-	25,714
	<u>67,896</u>	<u>166,014</u>	<u>233,910</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
All Asylos conference	121	1,789	1,910	-
External meetings (inc. travel & subsistence)	311	-	311	29,021
Printing, publishing & design	1,833	1,591	3,424	2,776
Training & development	596	-	596	490
Travel costs (staff meetings)	3,262	-	3,262	4,277
Legal & professional	12,225	19,414	31,639	23,460
Co-working spaces	1,738	2,452	4,190	5,037
Gifts & sundry expenses	92	-	92	61
Insurance	442	-	442	15,747
IT maintenance & consultancy, software & website costs	6,407	1,288	7,695	21,621
Service & maintenance	8	1,341	1,349	-
Subscriptions	96	-	96	-
Freelance pay	8,653	2,884	11,537	-
Occupational health	423	-	423	-
Wages, NI & pensions	67,934	171,001	238,935	217,391
Loss on exchange	-	-	-	3,037
Depreciation	492	-	492	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	235
	<u>104,633</u>	<u>201,760</u>	<u>306,393</u>	<u>323,153</u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	232,729	213,098
Social security costs	2,423	2,645
Pension costs	3,783	1,648
	<u>238,935</u>	<u>217,391</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Average number of employees	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>

8 (2023 - 6) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £3,783 (2023 - £1,648).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £51,058 (2023 - £57,460).

8 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examination	950	950
Other financial services	2,091	-
	<u>3,041</u>	<u>950</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
Additions	1,476	1,476
At 31 December 2024	1,476	1,476
Depreciation		
Charge for the year	492	492
At 31 December 2024	492	492
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	984	984

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	1,982	-
Other debtors	1,977	-
	3,959	-

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	189,011	153,857

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	10,906	-
Other creditors	7,241	1,140
Accruals	1,140	-
Deferred income	90,464	-
	109,751	1,140

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General	116,971	71,865	(104,633)	84,203
Restricted funds				
Comic Relief	-	17,500	(17,500)	-
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	-	16,667	(16,667)	-
Justice Together Initiative	12,495	36,799	(49,294)	-
Trust for London	4,083	37,221	(41,304)	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	1,667	-	(1,667)	-
Sebba	7,501	27,827	(35,328)	-
City Bridge Foundation	10,000	30,000	(40,000)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>35,746</u>	<u>166,014</u>	<u>(201,760)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u><u>152,717</u></u>	<u><u>237,879</u></u>	<u><u>(306,393)</u></u>	<u><u>84,203</u></u>

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	110,640	191,691	(185,360)	-	116,971
Restricted					
Justice Together Initiative	5,887	74,978	(57,210)	(11,160)	12,495
Trust for London	(7,989)	24,500	(12,428)	-	4,083
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	(8,333)	-	1,667
Sebba	-	45,000	(37,242)	(257)	7,501
City Bridge Foundation	-	15,000	(5,000)	-	10,000
PHF Lived Experience	12,000	-	(12,000)	-	-
Souter Trust	(257)	-	-	257	-
Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant	(25,580)	20,000	(5,580)	11,160	-
Total restricted funds	<u>(15,939)</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,746</u>
Total funds	<u><u>94,701</u></u>	<u><u>381,169</u></u>	<u><u>(323,153)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>152,717</u></u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Comic Relief - Specialist documentation for asylum claims, and key issue reporting.

Esme Fairbairn Foundation - Contribution towards core costs to deliver work improving asylum policy & practice in the UK, using expertise in Country of Origin Information.

Justice Together Initiative - Reviewing UK Home Office Country of Origin Information reports to ensure asylum decisions are based on the highest quality information.

Trust for London - Thematic projects (research for vulnerable groups) & associated training & advocacy.

Evan Cornish Foundation - Core funding, Emergency response work (emergency COI repositories).

Sebba - Core funding, Emergency response work (emergency COI repositories), Fundraising.

City Bridge Foundation - Core funding - case specific COI, COI training, London focused.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted		2024
	General £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	984	-	984
Current assets	102,506	90,464	192,970
Current liabilities	(19,287)	(90,464)	(109,751)
Total net assets	<u>84,203</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,203</u>
	Unrestricted		2023
	General £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	118,111	35,746	153,857
Current liabilities	(1,140)	-	(1,140)
Total net assets	<u>116,971</u>	<u>35,746</u>	<u>152,717</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

17 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

ASYLOS

England & Wales - Charity number 1158386

Accounts



We stand for
asylum decisions
based on evidence

Annual report and financial accounts 2023



Highlights from 2023



Completed **57** Country of Origin Information (COI) research reports for use in individual asylum and human rights cases in **46** countries.



Reviewed Country of Origin (COI) research reports produced for use in individual asylum and human rights cases and published **6** on an open access basis.



Reviewed **35** UK Home Office Policy and Information Notes (CPINs), making recommendations for how they could be improved.



Published **1** statelessness focused COI thematic report, including a country case study Lebanon: Stateless Palestinians, Principles document & Training handbook and held a high profile launch event.



8,332 unique downloads of our reports, repositories and commentaries.



90% of lawyers who gave feedback on the COI research report they requested said that our research provided them with information they did not already have.



Trained **190** people from across the world on COI research skills.



Chaired and convened **6** external network meetings focused on COI.



Recruited a team of volunteers and carried out extensive COI research on trafficking in Albania.

A large blue circle with a white hand icon pointing upwards, located on the left side of the page. The hand icon is composed of a simple outline of a hand with the index finger pointing up, and several horizontal lines above it representing motion or a list.

Content

Message from the Co-Directors	04
Who we are	05
What we do	06
Achievements in 2023	07
Spotlight on Lived Experience	17
Governance and Staff	20
Finance and Fundraising	21
Declaration	23

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Message from the Co-Directors

Asylos was established in 2010 because our founders had experienced first hand that a single piece of information can make or break an asylum case. Claims for asylum and other forms of protection are often won or lost on the facts. Asylum lawyers need to establish their clients' well-founded fear of persecution, and this may require very specific information. However, it is nearly impossible for asylum lawyers who are time and resource-pressed to establish such information, especially when supporting a wide range of clients from diverse backgrounds.



Asylos provides a bespoke Country of Origin Information (COI) research service for lawyers and NGOs who represent people seeking asylum worldwide. We leverage our team of over 70 volunteer researchers with networks in countries of origin, including 22 new researchers in 2023, who can collectively conduct research in 45 languages. In order to increase the reach of our case-specific research, we began to publish reports that address general themes and may have wider application to other asylum applicants.

Asylos continues to expand its portfolio of activities, including quality review of COI that is published by governments such as the UK, and publication of thematic research that fills information gaps for vulnerable persons seeking asylum, such as stateless Palestinians in Lebanon.

In 2023 we continued to identify and respond strategically to emerging situations and significant legal and policy changes that influence COI needs, including through research on trafficking in Albania. Demonstrating high level impact, in November 2023 our research on Rwanda was cited in the UK Supreme Court judgement that declared that Rwanda is not a safe country to send people who are seeking safety.

Ongoing political efforts in the UK to make asylum claims inadmissible, detain and forcibly remove migrants to third countries, have continued to erode the fundamental right to claim asylum and receive a fair and evidence-based procedure.

Asylos' vision is a world in which all asylum decisions are based on fair process and

accurate information, and in 2024 we will continue to stand up for our vision and defend the right to asylum.

At the end of the year Asylos said farewell to Sophie Kloos, Director for the last seven years, and welcomed us, Carolina Albuerne and Jo Pettitt, as the new Co-Directors. We thank Sophie for her dedication to Asylos and for delivering its mission so effectively, and we thank all of you who have supported and enabled our work in 2023 and who stand in solidarity with those who require international protection.



Jo Pettitt



Carolina Albuerne

Who we are

Asylos is an international network of over 60 volunteers in 25 countries who provide high-quality human rights research and documentation to people claiming asylum and their representatives around the world. Our expertise is in Country of Origin Information research.

Country of Origin Information (COI) is information pertaining to circumstances in the country of origin of people seeking asylum or the credibility of an individual's story.

COI research plays a vital role in ensuring fair asylum decisions for individuals, as well as policies that are grounded in evidence.

By producing high quality Country of Origin Information, Asylos ensures that people seeking asylum are better represented.

Asylos is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charities Commission for England and Wales (charity number 1158386) at: Unit 12 Imperial Works, Fountayne Road, South Tottenham, London N15 4QL. Our principal office is located at: Asterweg 20N, 1031 HN Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Our Vision

A world in which all asylum decisions are based on fair process and accurate information.

”

“COI research can fulfil a crucial role in helping in practice to represent clients more effectively and deliver better outcomes for clients. It's very important and particularly vital in the context of our current situation in the legal system where legal aid is not available in a lot of cases, people often have very few resources and are not able to commission their own expert evidence and are going to have to rely on what is out there in the public domain.”

Claudia Neale
Garden Court Chambers

What we do

Consistently fill COI gaps

- Our research investigates human rights violations in specific countries or deals with specific facts relating to the claimant's testimony. Our reports are free of charge and compiled on demand for asylum lawyers and NGOs who assist people fleeing persecution and grave threats with their claim for protection. In addition, we publish in-depth thematic research reports that fill information gaps for vulnerable persons seeking asylum, such as stateless Palestinians in Lebanon.

Accessibility of high-quality COI

- We administer a growing database of research reports which is accessible to anyone supporting persons seeking asylum worldwide. Through outreach online and offline, we aim to ensure that our research can support as many people seeking asylum as possible.

Monitor and improve COI products

- We review COI products published by the UK Home Office and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and make recommendations for how they could be improved, thereby raising the quality of information that decision-makers rely on when deciding whether to grant protection to individual claimants.

Asylos' role in the sector

- We convene and chair regular international COI expert meetings and a UK child-focused COI working group. We are in regular conversation with key COI actors, primarily in the EU and UK, to ensure effective exchange of knowledge and research insights.

Respond to emerging needs

- We spot and respond to fast-changing emergencies and significant legal and policy changes that influence Country of Origin Information needs. Our response may be to publish COI research, facilitate capacity-building events for those who conduct or use COI research, and/or comment on COI research produced by governments and others.

Organisational resilience

- We aim to meet our budgetary needs and build our reserves each year in accordance with annual activities and goals, ensure that Asylos' staff and governance structures remain healthy and supported, and further develop safeguarding policies and organisational procedures. We also invest in the cohesion of the network and work towards the network better reflecting the communities that we serve.

Capacity building

- We train volunteer researchers, lawyers and NGO representatives on researching and using Country of Origin Information to represent their clients with better evidence, leading to fairer decision-making on asylum claims.



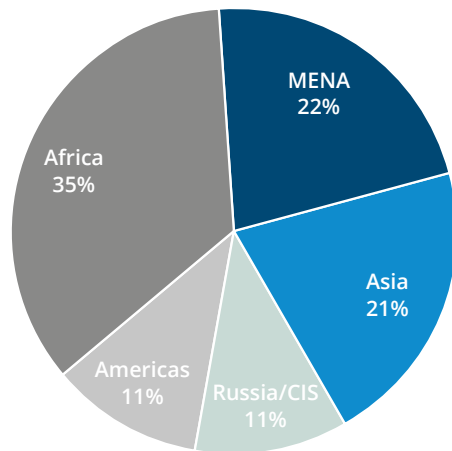
Achievements in 2023

1. Consistently meet COI demand and fill COI gaps with quality research

Individual case specific COI reports

The reports were split between our regional volunteer research teams as follow:

- Africa – 20
- MENA – 13
- Asia – 12
- Russia / CIS – 6
- Americas – 6



The top countries for research requests were:

- Afghanistan
- Nigeria
- Ethiopia
- India
- Mozambique
- DR Congo

Reports produced in 2023 covered questions on:

- Social group
- National – local government practices
- Domestic security
- Gender
- Political opposition
- Civil status

We produced 57 reports for people seeking asylum originating from 46 countries in total.

Research requests came from 15 host countries. The top four were:

- UK – 36
- France – 20
- Belgium – 5
- USA – 4

Impact of case-specific reports:

- In 90% of the feedback collected, requestors said that our research provided them with information they did not have before.
- Where a case has received a final outcome, 54% of them were successful. 43% of cases were still pending when feedback was requested.

“We were aware of some of the findings in a form of anecdotal evidence but needed to have the whole picture in a form of research. We enormously appreciate Asylos' work and it is an amazing service. The research will be used as a part of Administrative Review for EUSS case and then possibly for the 1st tier appeal”

“Information in this research is very valuable in conducting our assessment and finding suitable Legal Aid representation and later when preparing representations for her case. I would not be able to conduct such in-depth research myself”

Feedback from lawyers

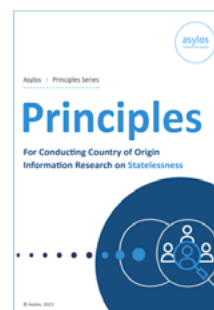
Thematic reports

We continued with our thematic research in 2023. Following our annual mapping exercise, stakeholder survey and consultations we were able to determine which COI gaps for people claiming asylum were the most urgent, and consequently, which thematic COI report had the potential to benefit a group of vulnerable persons who are susceptible to poor decision-making. As a result, we published a COI report about Stateless Palestinians in Lebanon, as well as good practice guidelines and a research training module and handbook on the same topic.

In March 2023 we held a high profile launch event to share the findings from the Statelessness research. The project outputs and key findings were presented together with presentations from the researchers and Steering Committee members. Seventy people attended and the external speakers included Stephanie Harrison KC, joint Head of Garden Court Chambers, Cynthia Orchard, Human Rights Lawyer and Advisory Committee member of European Network on Statelessness (ENS).

Our partnership with the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) further developed through this piece of work and our profile has been raised in the ENS network. Asylos staff were invited to present the report at the ENS member event in Madrid in 2023. Two Asylos staff members together with a member of our Steering Committee attended and ran a plenary session and ran the statelessness training, a great networking opportunity and chance to trial the training on statelessness. The report was also featured in EUAA Annual reports [2023](#) and [2024](#) as well as being featured on the [MENA Statelessness Platform](#).

The Statelessness Report and the Principles document were downloaded **874** unique times in 2023.



“

“This report is extremely well researched and sets a high standard for country research on populations at risk of Statelessness. In the course of carrying out the research, the team formulated excellent principles to guide others researching this area. Well done Asylos”

Judith Carter, Lecturer and Solicitor Liverpool Law Clinic

“The report on Lebanon and the Principles document. We will certainly keep referencing the report and also the Principles document, which is really excellent, easy to digest, and a great resource to highlight the need to produce and improve COI research on statelessness”

Patrícia Cabral, ENS Legal Policy Coordinator

Thematic reports

In the second half of 2023 we embarked on another mapping exercise and set the topic for our next thematic research report, covering Children and Young People with a case study of Sudan.

A team of researchers was recruited from within the network, we set up a Steering Committee to provide advice and expert input and to guide the project, based on both lived experience and professional expertise. We recruited sixteen volunteer researchers from our network who conducted COI desk research in four languages (namely English, Arabic, French and Dutch) and six experts with specialised knowledge in child protection and Sudan were interviewed with at least three of the interviewees being based in Sudan.

Sources reveal a grim picture of the current situation for civilians in Sudan. The conflict, which began in April 2023, has resulted in significant loss of life, widespread displacement, and severe shortages of food, water, medicine, fuel, and electricity, leaving civilians without essential services. Children and young people are particularly vulnerable in this crisis, facing multiple grave risks, including recruitment as child soldiers, sexual exploitation, slavery, trafficking, rape, and enforced disappearances. Their education and healthcare are severely disrupted, leaving millions without access to schooling and medical care.

In regions like El Fasher in North Darfur, the situation is especially critical, the city is under siege, cutting off access to food, water, and medical supplies, pushing the area to the brink of famine. Many children face severe malnutrition, and aid organisations struggle to deliver assistance due to restrictions on movement and lack of resources. Ethnic cleansing has been reported, particularly in the Darfur region, where non-Arab communities such as the Massalit have been targeted.



2. Monitor COI products and improve the quality of COI issued by governments and intergovernmental organisations



Review and Commentary on the UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Notes

In 2023 we continued to monitor and give feedback on UK Home Office Country Policy Information Notes (CPINs). These are a form of government produced COI and policy guidance, relied on by all Home Office decision-makers and Immigration Judges at appeal hearings. Our work seeks to raise the bar of quality asylum decisions by highlighting gaps and shortcomings, and signposting additional COI that can help legal representatives and decision makers to build a fuller and more balanced picture of country conditions.

We reviewed **35** UK Home Office Policy and Information Notes (CPINs), making recommendations for how they could be improved.

When the government announced the UK-Rwanda Asylum Agreement in 2022, we conducted and disseminated quick turnaround research on the Rwandan asylum system. Our commentary on the inconsistencies between the Country of Origin Information on the Rwanda asylum system and the Home Office's assessment identified several areas of concern, including failure to consider refoulement that had taken place under a similar agreement between Israel and Rwanda.

Our work was cited in the November 2023 UK Supreme Court judgement, which declared that Rwanda is not a safe country to send people who are seeking safety. The Supreme Court judgement highlights the continued importance of Country of Origin Information research not only for fair and evidence-based asylum decisions in individual cases, but also for ensuring that asylum policies are grounded in thorough research



3. Identify and serve the people that are most vulnerable to decisions based on poor / absent COI



Spotlight research on Albania: Trafficking

The UK's Illegal Migration Act in practice will see most asylum claims deemed inadmissible, and the majority of people seeking asylum who arrive at UK shores after 7 March 2023 will not be able to have their claims considered in the UK. The Act introduced a duty upon the Home Secretary to remove individuals who entered the UK in breach of immigration law to countries deemed 'safe', which can mean being returned to an individual's country of nationality, including Albania.

In 2023 we decided to carry out a scoping exercise on Albania, due to the passing of the Act, an uptick in interest in our 2019 report on Albania, long-standing questions regarding successive Home Office Country Policy Information Notes (CPINs) on Albania and the December 2022 deal between the UK government and Albania that would "enable a faster rejection of the "majority" of asylum requests presented by Albanian migrants and a subsequent quick deportation".

Lawyers and NGOs told us that updated COI on Albania was the most pressing need in the UK so we decided to produce a COI report focused on trafficking. A team of 20 Asylos' volunteers including two Albanian speakers plus staff carried out desk-based research and 12 interviews.

This report [Albania: Trafficking](#) was published in April 2024



4. Build capacity in COI research

New thematic training modules

The thematic work on Statelessness was the foundation from which we built our **Principles** research. From this we designed webinars for external stakeholders and launched a new Statelessness thematic training module providing advice and guidance for conducting COI research on cases that involve people who are stateless.

All existing Asylos volunteers have completed this training, and it is now a permanent module in the training of all new volunteers.

In addition, we made the Principles and Handbook available on our website and they were downloaded a total of 127 times in 2023.

Training delivery and content

- We delivered 8 training sessions to a total number of 142 people; legal representatives and others working to support people claiming asylum in the UK and beyond.

The training covered:

- COI fundamentals,
- child-specific COI, and
- our new Statelessness COI training.

Training participants

- 67 of the participants were from the UK with 38 coming from Legal Aid deserts.

Training feedback

- 99% of participants reported feeling more confident in researching COI as a result of the training and 100% of the participants rated the training as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

100%
of the participants
rated the training
as 'excellent'
or 'very good'.

“

“It is very good training with lots of useful information. Really like you all shared how you do the searches with your own tips. High standards!”

“I really enjoyed the fundamentals training and the handbook is invaluable.”

**Feedback from
training participant**

5. Improve the accessibility and reach of high-quality COI

Publication of Asylos' research

All our research is made available to registered lawyers and other individuals representing people claiming asylum in our database on our website. Information in COI reports that are produced for an individual asylum claim can frequently apply to many other people seeking asylum.

Thematic reports produced prior to and in 2023, emergency repositories, commentaries and now individually selected case specific reports were made available for download from our website and externally on the [European Country of Origin Information Network](#).

Overall, Asylos' research publications (repositories, case-specific, thematic reports as well as commentaries) were downloaded 8,332 times in 2023. The thematic reports and emergency work published from 2017 to 2022 continue to be downloaded.

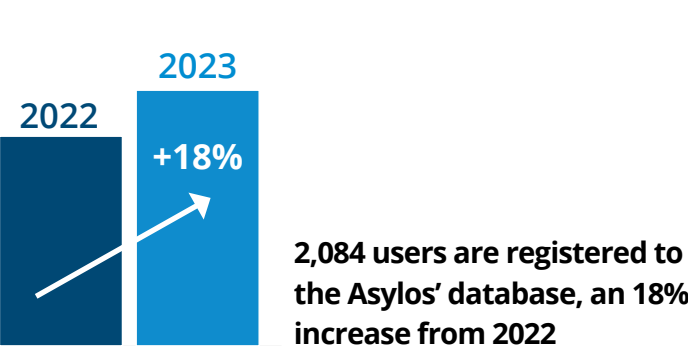


Asylos' research publications were downloaded **8,332 times in 2023.**

Monthly research update subscribers



Asylos Database Registration



5. Improve the accessibility and reach of high-quality COI

Open access publication of case-specific reports

In 2023 we began to look at how open access publication of selected individual case-specific reports could help us respond quickly to global emergencies on the ground and share our work as widely as possible.

We set up a committee of researchers and staff members to review reports produced from the previous three to four months.

We selected six reports in 2023 including; “**El Salvador; Incidences of state violence by police or other state actors**”. In El Salvador the impact of President Bukele’s “mano dura” policies on gangs has led to the highest incarceration rate in the world, a subsequent human rights crisis and a state of emergency declared. This report had the highest downloads of the six published; a total of 351 unique times since published in May 2023.

Asylos will continue this project, aiming to publish at least six reports a year.



Our 2023 report
on El Salvador
was downloaded
351 times in 2023
since May 2023.



Full breakdown of downloads 2023 plus total downloads to date:



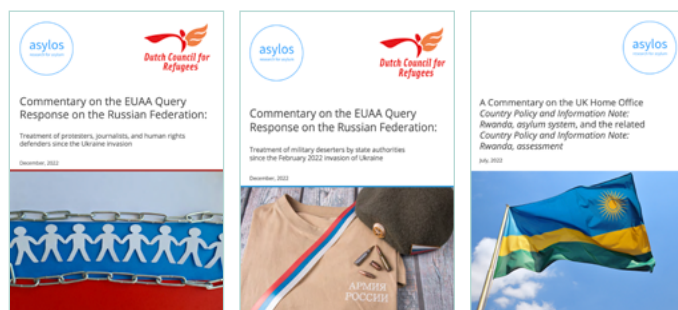
Number of downloads: Emergency response work

Afghanistan COI Repository 2021-2022) – **1,994** (12,140 in total*)
 Ukraine, Statelessness COI Repository (2022) – **118** (462 in total)
 Afghan asylum seekers in Pakistan (2022) – **528** (1,714 in total)
 Afghan asylum seekers in Turkey (2022) – **94** (139 in total)
 Afghan asylum seekers in Iran (2022) – **122** (199 in total)



Number of downloads: Thematic reports

Lebanon, Stateless Palestinians (2023) – **747**
 Albania, trafficked boys and young men (2019) – **661** (3,526 in total)
 Ghana, state treatment of LGBTQI persons (2021) – **173** (3,497 in total)
 Afghanistan, young male "westernised" returnees to Kabul (2017) – **268** (3,964 in total)
 Nigeria, children and young people with disabilities (2021) – **426** (3,058 in total)



Number of downloads: Commentaries

Russia Federation, treatment of protesters, journalists, human rights defenders (2022) – **66** (122 in total)
 Russia Federation, treatment of military deserters – **84** (144 in total)
 Rwanda asylum system – **343** (606 in total)



Number of downloads: Principles and Toolkit

Statelessness (2023) – **127**
 Disability (2022) – **10** (79 in total)
 COI Toolkit (2023) – **48**

*Numbers in bold are the number of unique downloads from the Asylos website. Numbers in total are the number of unique downloads in total up to the end of 2023.

6. Strengthen international COI networks and build bridges between civil society and government research units



In 2023, Asylos further raised its profile on a UK and European level by:

- Convening and chairing 2 groups:
 - » The COI Experts Network. Members include Danish Refugee Council, Swiss Refugee Council, Dutch Council for Refugees. This group met three times in 2023.
 - » The Child Focused COI Working Group. Members include UNICEF, Just Right Scotland, MiCLU, ECPAT, Refugee Council and Coram. This group met twice in 2023.
- Actively working with 156 organisations in 2023. Our collaborations included receiving requests for case specific research, participation in working groups and advisory panels, participation in training and attending launch events for research publications. 67 of these organisations are in the UK.
- Continuing to be an active member of the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA) Civil Society Forum and its thematic consultation group on Country of Origin Information, including by providing input into the EUAA's annual asylum report. In October 2023, two of our staff members also joined an EUAA-organised conference on Country Information and Guidance, and co-convened two breakout sessions on best practice in researching COI for statelessness.
- Further developing our partnership with the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) through their involvement in our thematic report on Statelessness. ENS subsequently invited Asylos to present our report at their member event in Madrid in 2023. Two Asylos staff members together with a member of our Steering Committee attended and ran a plenary session where they delivered the statelessness training.

7. Reinforce Asylors' organisational resilience

Volunteer research network

In October 2023, Asylors held an All Asylors Conference over three days just outside Amsterdam. 28 members of the Asylors global network attended, including two volunteers from India.

The conference agenda had a learning and development theme where volunteers could further develop their COI research skills, refreshers on safeguarding and a session on secondary trauma and all were given the opportunity to have a career buddy. There was an expert panel to discuss the state of asylum policy in different European countries and regions, including:

- Sonia Lenegan – Editor of Free Movement, former legal director at the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association.
- Matty Verburg, Senior COI Officer at the Dutch Council of Refugees
- Marieke Vreeken, Policy Advisor on Asylum, Migration & Rule of Law for Dutch Greens in EU Parliament.

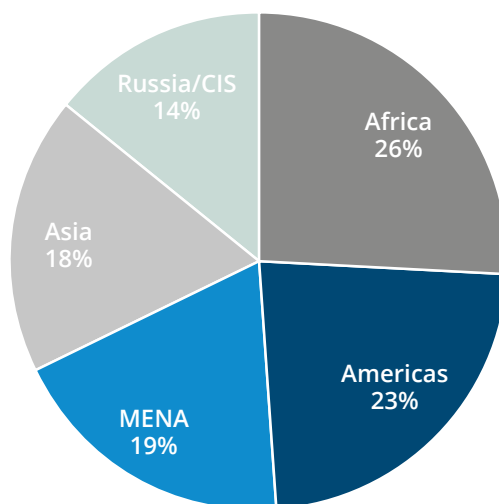
Other sessions gave volunteers the chance to contribute to strategy and fundraising. The conference is a powerful way to motivate the volunteer group who are so essential to Asylors.

Asylors had 73 active volunteer researchers in their volunteer network in 2023.

The network in 2023 consisted of a total of 73 active volunteers regularly carrying out research.

% split by region:

- Africa – 26%
- Americas – 23%
- Asia – 18%
- MENA – 19%
- Russia/CIS – 14%



In 2023:

- Asylors recruited and trained 22 new volunteer researchers.
- We invited volunteers from our network to participate in other projects such as the Albania project, thematic research and the case specific report publication committee which both motivates the network and further develops the skills of volunteers.

In 2023:

- Existing Asylors volunteers completed their annual refresher training of the core training modules and some specialist modules on COI for Children and Young People and COI for cases involving disability.
- We held our All Asylors Conference in Amsterdam in October 2023.

Spotlight on Lived Experience



In 2023 we received a grant to further progress our work on ensuring people with experience of forced displacement and refugee protection have a voice in Asylos. With a consultant's support, we reviewed our policies and practices, implemented improved equalities monitoring for our staff and volunteer network, delivered training and devised a plan to increase representation and support for individuals with lived experience so they are involved in the running and decision-making of Asylos.

- With valuable insights from the consultant we became more attuned to our unique organisational culture and potential power dynamics stemming from an active and involved volunteer body and small staff team and are now better equipped to navigate this and better understand the support needs of the network.
- The annual survey gives us the opportunity to obtain anonymous feedback directly from volunteers and we have introduced more frequent and structured check-ins with volunteers.
- In preparation for the All Asylos Conference in October 2023 we considered all aspects of our Lived Experience action plan and devised an agenda that bridged possible divides between staff and volunteers.
- We placed a particular focus on career development including a career buddy system and personal development including a session on secondary trauma. We also made additional funding available to ensure participants from outside Europe could attend.
- Volunteers actively participate in decision-making and strategy at Asylos through monthly network meetings, representation on our Board, attendance at Board meetings, and our network-wide conferences.
- Ensuring that our volunteer network includes individuals with lived experience and providing them with adequate support is therefore crucial for ensuring their voices influence Asylos' priorities and work. We now implement measures to actively recruit volunteers from regions where asylum seekers originate.
- 42% of the network survey respondents reported lived experience of migration. In 2024, we will recruit a board member with lived experience.
- As part of our increased focus, we revised our recruitment process for staff and volunteers to permanently embed practices including where we advertise and reserving a space in staff recruitment for individuals with lived experience.

Spotlight on Lived Experience

In our research work we have increased the involvement of individuals with lived experience in our thematic reports, particularly in the establishment of Steering Committees, which are essential in directing the project.

These committees include individuals with lived experience relevant to the theme being addressed. Furthermore, we have invested additional time and resources in conducting interviews with individuals with lived experience for our research projects, ensuring their safety and well-being throughout the process.

There is more to do and we are committed to it. Here are some of our plans for 2024:

- To continue to offer career development, mentoring and learning opportunities to the network
- Recruit a board member with Lived Experience
- Sharing more stories that are very specific to Asylos and COI and can have far-reaching impact; for example the blog that Laurence Hamieh, Asylos' operations assistant wrote about her experience.

CASE STUDY

In establishing the Steering Committee for our thematic work on Stateless Palestinians in Lebanon, a partner organisation introduced us to Walaa Kayyal who had lived experience in the subject and she became a committee member. Because Walaa had both her career experience as a researcher and a MEAL Officer with the Danish Refugee Council and an agent of the research itself; being a stateless Palestinian living in

Lebanon she became involved in a number of aspects of the work and gave us a totally unique perspective .

As a member of the Steering Committee, she helped design the Terms of Reference, re-formulated interview questions, was an essential source for experts, and reviewed the work. She brought language, terminology, context, and sources that Asylos would not have been able to access without her.

When we interviewed her as an expert, she could answer questions giving her perspective and experience; from access to school, jobs and freedom to travel. And she wrote and co-delivered the final stage of training stakeholders in COI research on Statelessness at a European Network on Statelessness conference in Madrid and in Asylos' webinars in October.

There was an open dialogue with Walaa on how to enable

her to be fully involved in the project, she was paid for her loss of earnings and as part of an informal review with her, she confirmed Asylos could not have made it any easier for her. Walaa said she got a lot out of the experience, not only being a voice in a piece of research that affects her life and those of the people around her, but also to have gone beyond that and be part of the ENS Madrid conference and co-design and deliver the Asylos' training on Statelessness.

Governance and Staff



Asylos is an international non-governmental organisation established in 2010. Its original constitution is dated July 29, 2014 and was amended on May 19, 2020. It is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. The constitution defines the charity's objects as: "The promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to people seeking asylum and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere."

Our Trustees

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees to be appointed. Trustees serve for renewable terms of three years, except for the founding trustees, who served for renewable terms of four years. Trustees can serve until they either resign or their term ends without renewal. None of our trustees were remunerated for their trusteeship aside from expenses.

Our trustees are responsible for setting the strategy and are responsible in law for the running of Asylos. All trustees, except where otherwise stated, served for the whole year:

Katharina Natter (Chair)

Phil Arnold (Vice Chair)

Alexandra Dufresne (Designated Safeguarding Officer)

Stephanie Huber

Dick Oosting

Diamantoula Vlantoni

Liz Williams

Julia Vonk

Dina Baslan (appointed in 2023)

Advisory Committee

Asylos also benefits from an Advisory Committee. Its members are:

Thomas Klau (Chair of the Advisory Committee, co-founder of Asylos and editor of Eurointelligence)

Géraud de Geouffre de la Pradelle (President of the Citizen's Enquiry Commission on France's role in Rwanda and a Patron of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine)

Gunnar Lund (former Ambassador of Sweden to France, the US and the EU)

Anila Noor (Refugee activist based in the Netherlands)

Salim Salamah (Activist focusing on the issue of statelessness among the Syrian-Palestinian population)

Satya Staes Polet (lawyer in a leading international law firm)

Nick Witney (senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations)

Colin Yeo (Founder and Editor of the Free Movement blog; barrister at Garden Court Chambers)

Governance and Staff



Fundraising and finance

We held quarterly finance and fundraising subcommittee meetings with a subgroup of the Board, the Director and the Fundraiser to monitor progress and ensure financial stability.

Our work is supported by the following funding partners:

City Bridge Trust (new in 2023)

Sam and Bella Charitable Trust (new in 2023)

Sigrid Rausing Trust

AB Charitable Trust

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Haella Foundation

Souter Trust

Evan Cornish Foundation

Staff

At the end of 2023, Asylos had 6 staff members (4 full-time and 2 part-time), of which 5 are based in the Netherlands and 1 in the UK.

Sophie Director – (stepping down January 2024 to be replaced by Co-Directors Jo Pettitt and Carolina Albuerne Rodriguez)

Emily Wilbourn – Programme Manager

Fatima Ali – Programme Manager

Laurence Hamieh – Operations Assistant

Patrick Annez de Taboada – Network Co-ordinator

Sally Marsh – Senior Fundraiser

Finance and Fundraising



During the year, the net funds raised from the general public and philanthropies was £381,169. Trusts and Foundations were our biggest source of income. We accrued £94,701 from the previous year. We carried forward £152,717. Our total expenses in 2023 amounted to £323,513.

As shown in the restricted funds column in the Statement of Financial Activities, restrictive income was £189,478 which was raised for particular programmes or to be spent within a particular time frame.

At the end of 2023, Asylos had £36,788 in reserves. This represents 1.5 months expenditure on charitable activities. We are working towards three months' worth of expenditure in reserves.

Statement of Financial Activities

GRANTS AND DONATIONS			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Justice Together Initiative	-	£94,978	£94,978
Sam and Bella	-	£45,000	£45,000
Trust for London	-	£24,500	£24,500
City Bridge Foundation	-	£15,000	£15,000
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	£10,000	£10,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	£84,000	-	£84,000
Sigrid Rausing Trust	£60,000	-	£60,000
AB Charitable Trust	£22,000	-	£22,000
Austrian private donor	£8,629	-	£8,629
Haella	£6,472	-	£6,472
Niks Voor Niks	£4,314	-	£4,314
Asylos	£2,796	-	£2,796
Garden Court Chambers	£2,500	-	£2,500
Total	£190,711	£189,478	£380,189

EXPENDITURE			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023
Office rent	£4,672	£365	£5,037
IT costs	£20,047	£1,574	£21,621
Legal and professional	£15,390	£8,070	£23,460
Wages, NI and pensions	£100,356	£117,035	£217,391
Travel	£4,277	£0	£4,277
Meeting costs	£20,593	£8,428	£29,021
Training	£470	£20	£490
Printing, stationery and publishing	£1,592	£1,184	£2,776
Insurance	£14,630	£1,117	£15,747
Conversion rates gains/(losses)	£3,037	£0	£3,037
Bank charges	£235	£0	£235
Sundry expenditure	£61	£0	£61
Total	£185,360	£137,793	£332,153

Declaration



Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Katharina Datter

30th October 2023



**A world in which all
asylum decisions are
based on fair process
and accurate information.**



Charity registration number: 1158386

Asylos

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Community Accounting Plus
Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Asylos

Contents (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 3
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 14

Asylos

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Elizabeth Williams
	Alexandra Dufresne
	Stephanie Huber
	Philip Arnold
	Julia Vonk
	Diamanto Vlantoni
	Katharina Natter
	Dina Baslan
	Dick Oosting
Senior Management Team	Sophie Kloos, Director
Charity Registration Number	1158386
Principal Office	International House 101 King's Cross Road London WC1X 9LP
Independent Examiner	John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus Units 1 & 2 North West 41 Talbot Street Nottingham NG1 5GL

Asylos

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the CIO is the promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to asylum seekers and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere.

Objectives, strategies and activities

- Engaging in research into human rights issues and monitor abuses of human rights;
- Contributing to the sound administration of human rights by providing information and background research for asylum cases so as to ensure that asylum seekers are given a fair hearing for their asylum claims;
- Raising awareness of human rights issues and promoting popular support for human rights by facilitating an informed and fact based public debate on asylum;
- Providing technical advice to governments and others on human rights matters, by making its research and information available on request and providing relevant training.

Public benefit

a. Asylos benefits asylum seekers and stateless people in their preparation of asylum claims as allowed under national, European and international law. These asylum seekers would not be exercising their full rights without Asylos assistance, as they would be unable to prepare evidential documentation for their asylum claims. Asylos also benefits its volunteers, who, through their engagement in conducting research, learn about the related legal systems, and emphasize to their contemporaries the importance of fairness in the legal system.

b. Asylos' work is beneficial in that it promotes a high quality of legal decision-making and helps reduce the time needed for legal cases to conclude, thereby helping the legal system meet its own standards. Lawyers and judges alike have confirmed the added value Asylos reports bring to legal asylum cases.

c. As Asylos works in close co-operation with lawyers engaged in the asylum cases it is highly unlikely that any detriment or harm for the benefitting population may occur from Asylos' activities.

d. There is no personal benefit from Asylos' activities for trustees or for specific persons or organisations.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 29/07/2014, most recently amended 19/05/2020.

Asylos

Trustees' Report (continued)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Asylos is committed to fair and open recruitment processes, but can also choose to appoint new Trustees as outlined in its statutes. The Board and staff, possibly together with one or more volunteers, approach people who they think are suitable, meet them in person or through a conference call and get a better sense of who they are and whether they are interested before inviting them to join the Board of Trustees.

Our board of trustees always includes two to three members who were elected from within the Asylos volunteer network, with the terms arranged in a way that we will plan to recruit a new elected trustee on a regular basis, every 12-18 months. Trustees elected as representatives from within the network ('elected trustees') have a specific function to directly represent the interests of the volunteer body and to facilitate communication between the board of trustees and the rest of the network.

Achievements and performance

Please see above report.

Financial review

Please see above report.

Policy on reserves

The charity has no specific policy with regard to the level of reserves.

Asylos

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

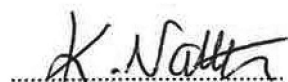
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 23/10/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Katharina Natter
Trustee

Asylos

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Asylos

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Asylos (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 Charity'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.

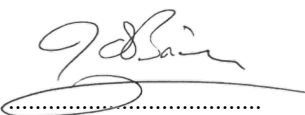
Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity 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 accounting 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.



John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCCA, FCIE, employee of Community Accounting Plus
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Date: 25/10/24

Asylos

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	190,711	-	190,711
Charitable activities	3	-	189,478	189,478
Investment income	4	980	-	980
Total Income		<u>191,691</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>381,169</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	<u>(185,360)</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(185,360)</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Net movement in funds		6,331	51,685	58,016
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>110,640</u>	<u>(15,939)</u>	<u>94,701</u>
Total funds carried forward	12	<u><u>116,971</u></u>	<u><u>35,746</u></u>	<u><u>152,717</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

Asylos

(Registration number: 1158386) Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	10	153,857
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(1,140)</u>
Net assets		<u>152,717</u>
Funds of the charity:		
Restricted income funds		
Restricted funds		35,746
Unrestricted income funds		
Unrestricted funds		<u>116,971</u>
Total funds	12	<u>152,717</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 14 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25/10/24 and signed on their behalf by:

Elizabeth Williams
Elizabeth Williams
Trustee

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Asylos meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have not been included for comparison because the layout used in the previous period was substantially different (prepared on a receipts and payments basis and presented in a foreign currency) and does not lend itself to clear comparison.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations from individuals	8,629	8,629
Grants, including capital grants;		
Grants from companies, trusts, etc.	182,082	182,082
	<u>190,711</u>	<u>190,711</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Grants & donations	189,478	189,478
	<u>189,478</u>	<u>189,478</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	980	980
	<u>980</u>	<u>980</u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

5 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Justice Together Initiative	-	94,978	94,978
Sam and Bella	-	45,000	45,000
Trust for London	-	24,500	24,500
City Bridge Foundation	-	15,000	15,000
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	10,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	84,000	-	84,000
Sigrid Rausing Trust	60,000	-	60,000
AB Charitable Trust	22,000	-	22,000
Austrian private donor	8,629	-	8,629
Haella	6,472	-	6,472
Niks Voor Niks	4,314	-	4,314
Asylos	2,796	-	2,796
Garden Court Chambers	2,500	-	2,500
	<u>190,711</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>380,189</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Office rent	4,672	365	5,037
IT costs	20,047	1,574	21,621
Legal & professional	15,390	8,070	23,460
Wages, NI & pensions	100,356	117,035	217,391
Travel	4,277	-	4,277
Meeting costs	20,593	8,428	29,021
Training	470	20	490
Printing, stationery & publishing	1,592	1,184	2,776
Insurance	14,630	1,117	15,747
Conversion rate gains/(losses)	3,037	-	3,037
Bank charges	235	-	235
Sundry expenditure	61	-	61
	<u>185,360</u>	<u>137,793</u>	<u>323,153</u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:	
Wages and salaries	213,098
Social security costs	2,645
Pension costs	1,648
	217,391

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No
Average number of employees	6

6 of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,648.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £57,460.

8 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

2023 £
-

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £
Cash at bank	<u>153,857</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £
Other creditors	<u>1,140</u>

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	110,640	191,691	(185,360)	-	116,971
Restricted funds					
Souter Trust	(257)	-	-	257	-
Justice Together Initiative	5,887	74,978	(57,210)	(11,160)	12,495
Trust for London	(7,989)	24,500	(12,428)	-	4,083
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	(8,333)	-	1,667
Sebba	-	45,000	(37,242)	(257)	7,501
PHF Lived Experience	12,000	-	(12,000)	-	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	15,000	(5,000)	-	10,000
Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant	<u>(25,580)</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(5,580)</u>	<u>11,160</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>(15,939)</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,746</u>
Total funds	<u>94,701</u>	<u>381,169</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152,717</u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Souter Trust - Core funding for network coordination, emergencies project, technical infrastructure and office costs.

Justice Together Initiative - Reviewing UK Home Office Country of Origin Information reports to ensure asylum decisions are based on the highest quality information.

Trust for London - Thematic projects (research for vulnerable groups) & associated training & advocacy.

Evan Cornish Foundation - Core funding, Emergency response work (emergency COI repositories).

Sebba - Core funding, Emergency response work (emergency COI repositories), Fundraising.

PHF Lived Experience - Project to improve equalities monitoring, increase representation and bolster organisational support to people with lived experience in the Asylos Network.

City Bridge Foundation - Core funding - case specific COI, COI training, London focused.

Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant - Additional funding for advice and support arising as a result of the conflict in Ukraine.

The transfer from the Justice Together Initiative fund to the Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant fund represents the reallocation of funds to better reflect their restriction.

The transfer from the Sebba fund to the Souter Trust fund represents the reallocation of funds to better reflect their restriction.

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted		2023
	General £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	118,111	35,746	153,857
Current liabilities	(1,140)	-	(1,140)
Total net assets	<u>116,971</u>	<u>35,746</u>	<u>152,717</u>

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

15 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Anna Magyarlarki

Anna Magyarlarki received remuneration of £1,436 during the year.

This remuneration was for fundraising consultancy.

Stephanie Huber

Stephanie Huber received remuneration of £660 during the year.

This remuneration was for the provision of COI training, including reviewing the training notes and preparing for the training.

Charity registration number: 1158386

Asylos

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Asylos

Contents (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 3
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 14

Asylos

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Elizabeth Williams
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	Dina Baslan
	Dick Oosting
Senior Management Team	Sophie Kloos, Director
Charity Registration Number	1158386
Principal Office	International House 101 King's Cross Road London WC1X 9LP
Independent Examiner	John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus Units 1 & 2 North West 41 Talbot Street Nottingham NG1 5GL

Asylos

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the CIO is the promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to asylum seekers and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere.

Objectives, strategies and activities

- Engaging in research into human rights issues and monitor abuses of human rights;
- Contributing to the sound administration of human rights by providing information and background research for asylum cases so as to ensure that asylum seekers are given a fair hearing for their asylum claims;
- Raising awareness of human rights issues and promoting popular support for human rights by facilitating an informed and fact based public debate on asylum;
- Providing technical advice to governments and others on human rights matters, by making its research and information available on request and providing relevant training.

Public benefit

- a. Asylos benefits asylum seekers and stateless people in their preparation of asylum claims as allowed under national, European and international law. These asylum seekers would not be exercising their full rights without Asylos assistance, as they would be unable to prepare evidential documentation for their asylum claims. Asylos also benefits its volunteers, who, through their engagement in conducting research, learn about the related legal systems, and emphasize to their contemporaries the importance of fairness in the legal system.
- b. Asylos' work is beneficial in that it promotes a high quality of legal decision-making and helps reduce the time needed for legal cases to conclude, thereby helping the legal system meet its own standards. Lawyers and judges alike have confirmed the added value Asylos reports bring to legal asylum cases.
- c. As Asylos works in close co-operation with lawyers engaged in the asylum cases it is highly unlikely that any detriment or harm for the benefitting population may occur from Asylos' activities.
- d. There is no personal benefit from Asylos' activities for trustees or for specific persons or organisations.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 29/07/2014, most recently amended 19/05/2020.

Asylos

Trustees' Report (continued)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Asylos is committed to fair and open recruitment processes, but can also choose to appoint new Trustees as outlined in its statutes. The Board and staff, possibly together with one or more volunteers, approach people who they think are suitable, meet them in person or through a conference call and get a better sense of who they are and whether they are interested before inviting them to join the Board of Trustees.

Our board of trustees always includes two to three members who were elected from within the Asylos volunteer network, with the terms arranged in a way that we will plan to recruit a new elected trustee on a regular basis, every 12-18 months. Trustees elected as representatives from within the network ('elected trustees') have a specific function to directly represent the interests of the volunteer body and to facilitate communication between the board of trustees and the rest of the network.

Achievements and performance

Please see above report.

Financial review

Please see above report.

Policy on reserves

The charity has no specific policy with regard to the level of reserves.

Asylos

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

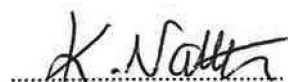
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 23/10/24 and signed on its behalf by:



Katharina Natter
Trustee

Asylos

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Asylos

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Asylos (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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 Charity'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.

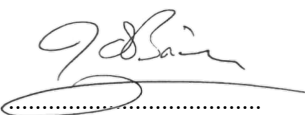
Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity 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 accounting 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.



John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCCA, FCIE, employee of Community Accounting Plus
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Date: 25/10/24

Asylos

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	190,711	-	190,711
Charitable activities	3	-	189,478	189,478
Investment income	4	980	-	980
Total Income		<u>191,691</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>381,169</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	<u>(185,360)</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(185,360)</u>	<u>(137,793)</u>	<u>(323,153)</u>
Net movement in funds		6,331	51,685	58,016
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>110,640</u>	<u>(15,939)</u>	<u>94,701</u>
Total funds carried forward	12	<u><u>116,971</u></u>	<u><u>35,746</u></u>	<u><u>152,717</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

Asylos

(Registration number: 1158386) Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	10	153,857
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(1,140)</u>
Net assets		<u>152,717</u>
Funds of the charity:		
Restricted income funds		
Restricted funds		35,746
Unrestricted income funds		
Unrestricted funds		<u>116,971</u>
Total funds	12	<u>152,717</u>

The financial statements on pages 6 to 14 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25/10/24 and signed on their behalf by:

Elizabeth Williams
Elizabeth Williams
Trustee

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Asylos meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have not been included for comparison because the layout used in the previous period was substantially different (prepared on a receipts and payments basis and presented in a foreign currency) and does not lend itself to clear comparison.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations from individuals	8,629	8,629
Grants, including capital grants;		
Grants from companies, trusts, etc.	182,082	182,082
	<u>190,711</u>	<u>190,711</u>

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Grants & donations	189,478	189,478
	<u>189,478</u>	<u>189,478</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	980	980
	<u>980</u>	<u>980</u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

5 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Justice Together Initiative	-	94,978	94,978
Sam and Bella	-	45,000	45,000
Trust for London	-	24,500	24,500
City Bridge Foundation	-	15,000	15,000
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	10,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	84,000	-	84,000
Sigrid Rausing Trust	60,000	-	60,000
AB Charitable Trust	22,000	-	22,000
Austrian private donor	8,629	-	8,629
Haella	6,472	-	6,472
Niks Voor Niks	4,314	-	4,314
Asylos	2,796	-	2,796
Garden Court Chambers	2,500	-	2,500
	<u>190,711</u>	<u>189,478</u>	<u>380,189</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Office rent	4,672	365	5,037
IT costs	20,047	1,574	21,621
Legal & professional	15,390	8,070	23,460
Wages, NI & pensions	100,356	117,035	217,391
Travel	4,277	-	4,277
Meeting costs	20,593	8,428	29,021
Training	470	20	490
Printing, stationery & publishing	1,592	1,184	2,776
Insurance	14,630	1,117	15,747
Conversion rate gains/(losses)	3,037	-	3,037
Bank charges	235	-	235
Sundry expenditure	61	-	61
	<u>185,360</u>	<u>137,793</u>	<u>323,153</u>

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

7 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:	
Wages and salaries	213,098
Social security costs	2,645
Pension costs	1,648
	217,391

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No
Average number of employees	6

6 of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,648.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £57,460.

8 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

2023 £
-

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £
Cash at bank	153,857

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £
Other creditors	1,140

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General	110,640	191,691	(185,360)	-	116,971
Restricted funds					
Souter Trust	(257)	-	-	257	-
Justice Together Initiative	5,887	74,978	(57,210)	(11,160)	12,495
Trust for London	(7,989)	24,500	(12,428)	-	4,083
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	10,000	(8,333)	-	1,667
Sebba	-	45,000	(37,242)	(257)	7,501
PHF Lived Experience	12,000	-	(12,000)	-	-
City Bridge Foundation	-	15,000	(5,000)	-	10,000
Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant	(25,580)	20,000	(5,580)	11,160	-
Total restricted funds	(15,939)	189,478	(137,793)	-	35,746
Total funds	94,701	381,169	(323,153)	-	152,717

Asylos

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Souter Trust - Core funding for network coordination, emergencies project, technical infrastructure and office costs.

Justice Together Initiative - Reviewing UK Home Office Country of Origin Information reports to ensure asylum decisions are based on the highest quality information.

Trust for London - Thematic projects (research for vulnerable groups) & associated training & advocacy.

Evan Cornish Foundation - Core funding, Emergency response work (emergency COI repositories).

Sebba - Core funding, Emergency response work (emergency COI repositories), Fundraising.

PHF Lived Experience - Project to improve equalities monitoring, increase representation and bolster organisational support to people with lived experience in the Asylos Network.

City Bridge Foundation - Core funding - case specific COI, COI training, London focused.

Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant - Additional funding for advice and support arising as a result of the conflict in Ukraine.

The transfer from the Justice Together Initiative fund to the Justice Together Initiative Ukraine Emergency Grant fund represents the reallocation of funds to better reflect their restriction.

The transfer from the Sebba fund to the Souter Trust fund represents the reallocation of funds to better reflect their restriction.

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted		2023
	General £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	118,111	35,746	153,857
Current liabilities	(1,140)	-	(1,140)
Total net assets	<u>116,971</u>	<u>35,746</u>	<u>152,717</u>

14 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

15 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Anna Magyarlarki

Anna Magyarlarki received remuneration of £1,436 during the year.

This remuneration was for fundraising consultancy.

Stephanie Huber

Stephanie Huber received remuneration of £660 during the year.

This remuneration was for the provision of COI training, including reviewing the training notes and preparing for the training.

ASYLOS

England & Wales - Charity number 1158386

Accounts



Annual report and financial accounts

for the year ending 31st December 2022



We stand for
asylum decisions
based on evidence

Completed **72** Country of Origin Information (COI) research reports for use in individual asylum and human rights cases in **46** countries



Reviewed **2** UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Notes (CPINs) covering the situation in Rwanda and published a commentary and a COI compilation on the same topic



10,778 unique downloads of our reports, repositories and commentaries



90% of lawyers who gave feedback on the COI research report they requested said that our research provided them with information they did not already have



Reviewed **42** CPINs published by the UK Home Office for use in asylum decisions



Published **53** editions of our emergency COI repositories on Afghanistan and Ukraine, and on Afghan asylum seekers in Pakistan, Turkey and Iran.



Successfully transitioned ARC Foundation's projects and work over to Asyllos to create a single centre of COI expertise in the UK



Published **1** disability focused COI report + good practice guidelines + a research training handbook

Highlights from 2022



Content

Who we are	04
Message from the Director	05
What we do	06
Achievements and Performance in 2022	09
Structure, Governance and Management	25
Financial Review	27

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thenounproject.com

Who we are

Asylos is an international network of over 60 volunteers who provide high-quality human rights research and documentation to people claiming asylum and their representatives around the world. This Country of Origin Information (COI) is essential to corroborate the testimony of individuals fleeing persecution, and often makes the difference between winning or losing a case.



Our Vision

A world in which all asylum decisions are based on fair process and accurate information.

Access to information

Country of Origin Information (COI) is accessible to all who need it. People seeking asylum and their legal counsel have access to relevant, timely and high-quality information to substantiate their claims.

Use of information

The asylum procedure is always evidence-based. Relevant, timely and high-quality Country of Origin Information (COI) is considered in every asylum decision.

Absence of prejudice

The asylum procedure is always unbiased. Processes involving people seeking asylum are conducted in a fair and impartial manner with no room for assumptions or preconceptions.

Societal Awareness

There is broad recognition within host societies of the importance of high-quality Country of Origin Information (COI) in the asylum procedure.

Organisational stability

Asylos is sustainable and fit to deliver its mission. This includes financial stability and a participatory organisational structure.

We are a charity

Asylos is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charities Commission for England and Wales (charity number 1158386) at Unit 12 Imperial Works, Fountayne Road, South Tottenham, London N15 4QL. Our principal office is located at Asterweg 20N, 1031 HN Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Message from the Director ”

Dear friends and supporters,

Asylos was established in 2010 because our founders had experienced first-hand that a single piece of information can make or break an asylum case. Claims for asylum and other forms of protection are often won or lost on the facts. Asylum lawyers need to establish their clients' well-founded fear of persecution, and this may require very specific information. However, it is nearly impossible for asylum lawyers who are time and resource-pressed to establish such information, especially when supporting a wide range of clients from diverse backgrounds.

Asylos provides a bespoke Country of Origin Information (COI) research service for lawyers and NGOs who represent people seeking asylum worldwide. We leverage our team of over 60 volunteer researchers with networks in countries of origin who can collectively conduct research in 45 languages.

2022 was a particularly meaningful year for Asylos. Through a project transfer and subsequent closure of our long-term project partner, Asylum Research Centre Foundation, we have made significant progress towards the creation of a single centre of expertise on COI in the UK and beyond. As part of the transfer, we have broadened our portfolio of activities to include quality review of COI that is published by governments and intergovernmental organisations.

In 2022, we have seen thousands of people receive access to a fairer asylum procedure as a result of better access to relevant COI. At the same time, political efforts in the UK to make asylum claims inadmissible, detain and forcibly remove migrants to third countries, have continued to erode the fundamental right to claim asylum and to receive a fair and evidence-based procedure. Asylos' vision is a world in which all asylum decisions are based on fair process and accurate information, and we will continue to stand up for our vision and defend the right to asylum.

We thank all of you who supported and enabled our work in 2022 and who stand in solidarity with those who require international protection.



Sophie Kloos
Director
Asylos

S. Kloos

What we do



Consistently fill COI gaps

Our research investigates human rights violations in specific countries or deals with specific facts relating to the claimant's testimony. Our reports are free of charge and compiled on demand for asylum lawyers and NGOs who assist people fleeing persecution and grave threats with their claim for protection. In addition, we publish larger thematic research reports which fill information gaps.



Emergency response

We spot and respond to fast-changing emergencies that significantly impact migration patterns and increase the need for evidence across the migration sector.



Monitor government COI

We review COI products published by the UK Home Office and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and make recommendations for how they could be improved, thereby raising the quality of information that decision-makers rely on when deciding whether to grant individuals protection.



Capacity building

We train volunteer researchers, lawyers and NGO representatives on researching and using Country of Origin Information to represent their clients with better evidence, leading to fairer decision making on asylum claims.



Accessibility of high-quality COI

We administer a growing database of research reports and constantly invest in growing its audience and improving its functions. The database is accessible to anyone supporting people seeking asylum worldwide. Through outreach online and offline, we aim to ensure that our research can support as many people seeking asylum as possible.



Asylos' role in the sector

We conduct outreach and conversations with key COI actors, primarily in the EU and the UK, to ensure effective exchange of knowledge and research insights.



Organisational resilience

We will ensure that Asylos' staff and governance structures remain healthy, invest in the cohesion of the network, and further develop safeguarding policies and procedures.

Achievements and Performance in 2022

We continued to produce and provide new COI research reports



Consistently
fill COI gaps

We produced
72 reports for
people seeking
asylum originating
from **46** countries
in total.

Reports produced in 2022 covered questions on:

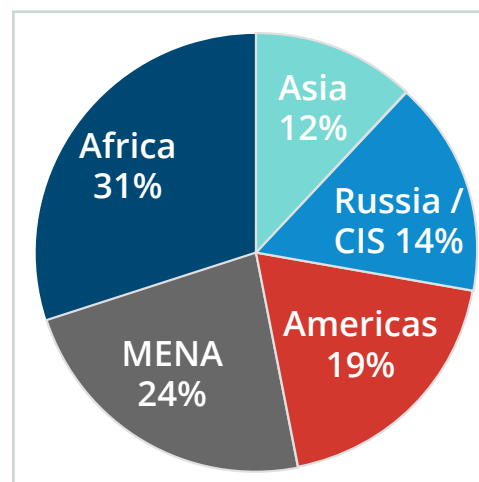
- ➔ Social group e.g. sexual orientation (28%)
- ➔ National – local governance practices (28%)
- ➔ Domestic security (17%)
- ➔ Gender (14%)
- ➔ Political opposition (8%)
- ➔ Civil status (5%).

The reports we produced were used at the following stages of the asylum procedure:

- ➔ Initial administrative application (22%)
- ➔ First Appeal (26%)
- ➔ Second or subsequent appeal (8%)
- ➔ Further submission/fresh claim (21%)
- ➔ 22% of reports produced were not applicable or used in other procedures such as statelessness, Article 8 and Article 3 claims.

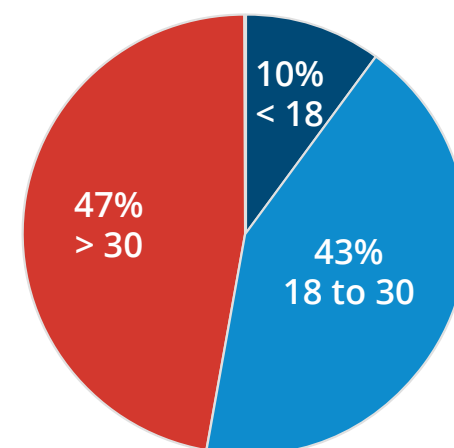
The completed reports were split as follows between our regional volunteer research teams:

Asia – 9 = 12%
Africa – 22 = 31%
Americas – 14 = 19%
Russia / CIS – 10 = 14%
MENA – 17 = 24%



Age breakdown of asylum applicants:

10% under 18
43% 18-30
47% above 30





Asylos
received **90**
research
requests in
2022.

The top four countries for research requests were:

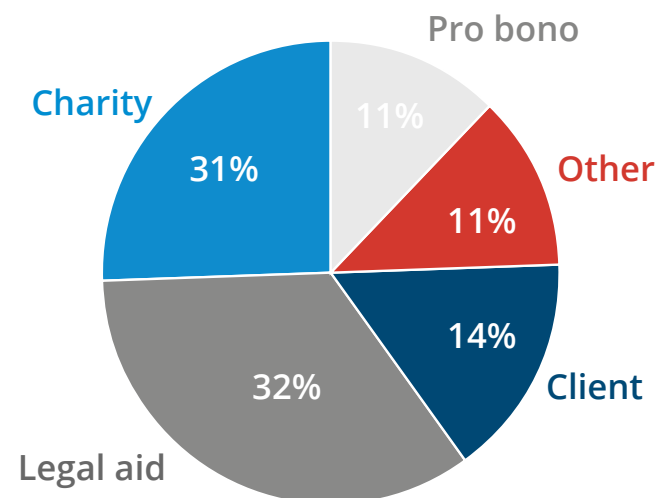
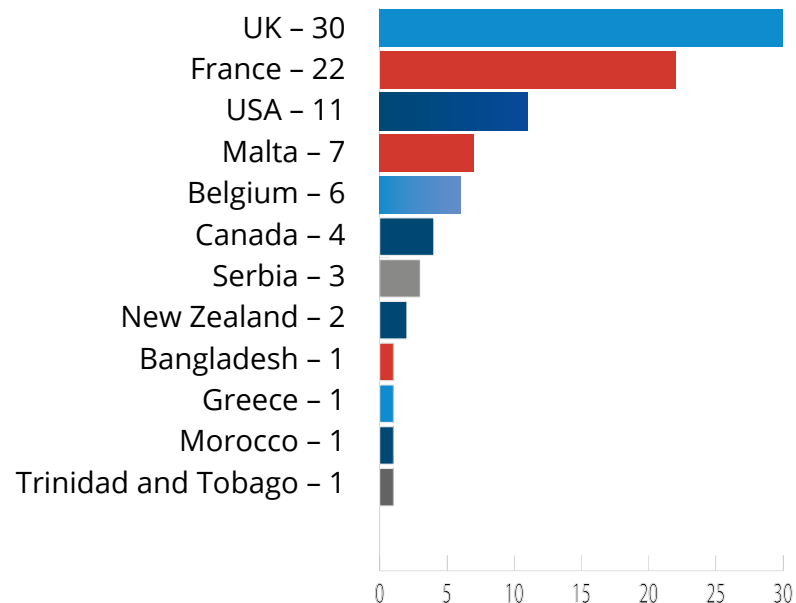
- ➔ Sudan
- ➔ Ethiopia
- ➔ Georgia
- ➔ Bangladesh.

Our referrers support their clients either:

- ➔ through legal aid (32%)
- ➔ on a pro bono basis (11%)
- ➔ through charity funding (31%)
- ➔ financed by the client (14%)
- ➔ or through other means (11%).

This underlines the value and importance of
Asylos providing COI reports free of charge.

Research requests came from 13 host countries:



We tracked the impact of our work

We continued to monitor the impact of our reports in order to further develop and refine our work. Our feedback collection has a time lag of at least one year, given the time it typically takes between a research request to Asylos and the actual date of the respective decision. We collect feedback on a quarterly basis and aggregate it once a year. In 2022, we continued to receive feedback on research reports that were requested in 2020 as well as gathered feedback on reports from 2021.

In total, for 2020 and 2021, we were able to obtain feedback on 49% of respective reports produced. In the 128 cases over this two-year period:

- ➔ For 90% of the feedback collected, requestors said that our research provided them with information they did not already have before.
- ➔ Where a case has received an outcome, 54% of them were successful. 43% of the feedback stated the cases were still pending.


**Consistently
fill COI gaps**

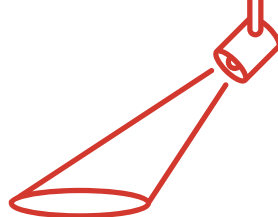
“Asylos staff were highly professional and responsive. They reacted and responded to our call for support in spite of extremely narrow deadlines, understanding the importance of the ECtHR cases for the concrete individual but also for the EU/European future asylum and human rights legal practice.”

**Rados Djurovic,
Executive Director
Asylum Protection Center, Serbia**

“As an organisation Asylos has made significant efforts to reach out and understand the need for evidence on the frontline of asylum cases, to be led by the organisations and individuals who have experiences of the issues to be researched, and to make sure that they are adding to the information available for asylum decision-makers. The quality of the information and reports provided by Asylos is consistently high, and I have always found them to be incredibly responsible, responsive and willing to go the extra mile. My colleagues and I regularly rely on research and reports by Asylos to support our clients’ asylum claims.”

**Anne Skehan
Legal Practice Lead
Islington Law Centre, UK**





In the Spotlight

Asylum story

In July 2021, Asylos received a bespoke research request on Forced Child Labor and Exploitation in Ethiopia by caseworker Alice Giuliani, representing the family reunion case of Anaya* before the UK Home Office. Anaya is an Ethiopian woman granted refugee status in the UK.

Anaya fled Ethiopia in 2016, after being detained and sexually abused for participating in demonstrations against the Ethiopian government, which at the time was planning to evict Oromo people from their land. Anaya had six siblings left in Ethiopia. Two sisters were detained with her, but have never been found since, and four others, all minors are still living between Oromia and Addis Ababa. After the death of both their parents, Anaya's four younger siblings were left with no caregiver. They were staying at a family friend's house, in which they were taken out of school and forced into labour. The children were in a very vulnerable state.

The UK Home office initially rejected Anaya's request for family reunification, considering that her claims of abuse were not substantiated, that Article 36 of the Ethiopian Constitution stipulates that children have the right to not be subjected to exploitative practices, the right to not to perform work that may be hazardous to their education or wellbeing.

They also considered that the Ethiopian police has the means of maintaining law and order in the country and that therefore the children could rely on the government for support.

On the basis of these arguments, Alice decided to request a bespoke research report from Asylos which looks into state support for children in Ethiopia. The Asylos report was intended to review the publicly available information about the government's means to maintain law and order, and provide support for children.

The Asylos report found evidence indicating that despite Article 36 of the Ethiopian Constitution and the international treaties and conventions that Ethiopia ratified for child protection, in practice, there is limited capacity to reach out and prevent child protection issues. In the appeal, Alice based most of her arguments on the sources presented in the Asylos report.

After the appeal, the UK Home Office withdrew their decision, and granted all four siblings their visas to the UK, and Anaya and her siblings were reunited.

** Name changed and other identifiable characteristics removed*



Consistently
fill COI gaps

We continued our thematic research

We conducted a mapping exercise and stakeholder survey to determine which COI gaps for people claiming asylum are the most urgent, and consequently, which thematic COI reports have the potential to benefit a large number of individuals who are susceptible to poor decision-making. Our thematic reports fill COI gaps by combining publicly available information with new information obtained from interviewing individuals with firsthand knowledge of the subject or recent knowledge of the country being researched.

Disability COI

In February 2022, we delivered a launch event to share findings from a joint project between Asylos and the Asylum Research Centre (ARC) Foundation about Country of Origin Information for persons with disabilities. The launch event was co-hosted by Garden Court Chambers. During the event, we presented our thematic report, “**Nigeria: Children and Young people with disabilities**”, as well as findings from a rapid review of COI sources. We introduced models and understandings of disability, our “**Principles for Conducting COI research on Disability**” and presented a review of the legal context for international protection claims for persons with disabilities.



Consistently
fill COI gaps

“It was a pleasure to attend this webinar. Very many thanks to ARC/Asylos and Garden Court Chambers for the excellent, clear and clinically oriented presentation.”

Muhammad Hussein
Disability-COI webinar
participant

”

“Asylos’ 2019 (thematic) report “Albania: Trafficked Boys and Young Men” and their 2021 report “**Nigeria: Children and Young People with Disabilities**” have made an enormous difference to the prospect of very vulnerable children and young people being allowed to remain in the UK safely.”

Anne Skehan
Legal Practice Lead
Islington Law Centre, UK

“Thanks Asylos and Asylum Research Centre (ARC) – ARC Foundation for this interesting webinar! It was extremely useful discussing together about disability in the context of international protection and discovering disability-focused COI sources.”

Federica Frascolla
Disability-COI webinar participant

Statelessness



In the first quarter of 2022, during a scoping exercise aimed at legal representatives and charities in the UK, Asylos became aware of the absence of relevant Country of Origin Information (COI) about stateless persons and simultaneously, the low awareness of statelessness issues in the immigration and asylum legal sector.

Following a number of consultations with experts on the topic of statelessness, we embarked on a project to address information gaps about stateless persons who are seeking international protection and stateless status. With recommendations from these consultations, we identified and set up a steering committee made up of five highly qualified sector professionals to provide strategic advice and expert input to guide the project, based on lived experience of statelessness and/or relevant professional expertise. We also sourced and trained six volunteer researchers from our network, who conducted the COI desk research in four different languages (namely English, French, Dutch and Arabic).

We conducted in-depth interviews with five stakeholders, academics and practitioners whom we had identified as having current knowledge on the situation of stateless Palestinians in Lebanon. Together, these sources painted a troubling picture of the situation for stateless and undocumented Palestinians in Lebanon.

Sources highlighted the various forms and layers of discrimination perpetrated by state actors as well as within communities and families. This includes their rights as stateless persons, which are set out in international agreements; notably, Lebanon is not a party to international treaties that define and require states to provide protection to refugees who are stateless

or to stateless persons, in addition to lacking domestic legislation that ensures protection for those who are stateless, at risk of becoming stateless, or vulnerable to outcomes similar to those of stateless persons.

In 2023 we will publish a COI report “[Lebanon, Stateless Palestinians](#)” and “[Principles for Conducting Country of Origin Information Research on Statelessness](#)” which will enable practitioners to build their own capacity for statelessness COI research.

”

“The lack of information and poorly defined processes can act as a huge barrier in front of vulnerable people; however, it can be enhanced through strengthening country of origin information. I’m happy to be a member of the steering committee with Asylos to produce the first step-by-step method for thematic COI about stateless Palestinians in Lebanon. As a Palestinian refugee, I’m thrilled to have contributed with my research and lived experience in shaping the report; hoping it will benefit people of my community”

Walaa Kayyal, member of Asylos Statelessness Project Steering Committee

We continued to respond to emergency COI needs

2022 saw fast-changing and concerning political situations in the UK and internationally that shaped migration patterns and opened up urgent needs for COI. We were able to respond at short notice at times requiring quick pivoting, decision-making and actioning of new projects and publications to respond to these needs.

The emergency work aimed to identify gaps in COI to address by compiling and regularly updating information, widely disseminating it to be used for both individual claims for asylum and for broader impact including policy and strategic litigation.

In order to fulfil the expanding needs of this project, in 2022 we appointed a consultant who led an emergency team made up of 48 people, of which:

- 14 were trainee solicitors from Clifford Chance and
- 34 were new volunteer researchers.

The volunteer researchers brought a wealth of expertise including language skills and contacts on the ground in:

- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Iran and
- Turkey.

“I have just become aware of your wonderful and intend to share it widely along with my own research efforts... So grateful for what you and so many others are doing!!”

Cyndy Levy
VECINA & VIISTA, Villanova, USA

”

“It's bang up to date, with a new edition every Thursday for the time being.”

Free Movement

The COI Repositories

The team produced five Emergency COI Repositories:

1. We provided an ongoing response to the needs emerging from the geopolitical situation in **Afghanistan** by publishing weekly updates to our Afghanistan COI Repository. 53 editions were published in total, covering a wide range of topics in line with demand from legal practitioners. Topics included the availability and accessibility of marriage certificates in Afghanistan, and human rights defenders working on disability rights in Afghanistan.
2. We produced three other repositories on the situation of **Afghan asylum-seekers in Pakistan, Turkey and Iran**. Topics included:
 - The availability and accessibility of tuberculosis testing in Pakistan
 - The availability and accessibility of public and private clinics for DNA testing for people claiming asylum in Iran and the availability and
 - Accessibility of medical care for Afghan asylum seekers in Turkey.
3. In response to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, we launched a new Repository about the situation of **stateless and at risk of statelessness individuals from Ukraine** in April 2022.



Emergency
response

We continued to respond to emergency COI needs



Emergency
response

Dissemination

In order to get the information to the people and stakeholders who needed it the most we:

- shared each update with: a new mailing list of subscribers, an online legal network of 10,000 international lawyers, external Google groups and UK-based solicitors, barristers and OISC advisors working on refugee rights;
- worked with the local researchers to map experts and actors on the ground; and
- convened, with the support from the Justice Together Initiative and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, online events with lawyers, human rights officers and other stakeholders:
 - May 2022: situation of Afghan nationals in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Speakers included the Society for Human Rights and Prisoners (SHARP) in Pakistan, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and the Afghan Pro Bono Initiative – 32 attendees.
 - July 2022: launch of the Ukraine Statelessness Repository – 27 attendees.

Reach

The Emergency COI Repositories provided high-quality research for lawyers working on strategic litigation, for example, legal actions seeking to evacuate Afghan female judges from Afghanistan to the UK, and were used by civil society organisations and coalitions involved in campaigns and advocacy work. Our Ukraine COI Repository was disseminated to over 170 organisations and individuals working on statelessness across Europe. One particular NGO in the Czech Republic used it in their daily work of their lawyers counselling Ukrainian refugees and working on strategic litigation to change Czech laws which do not provide protection for stateless people.



One volunteer researcher who worked on the Afghanistan COI Repository said:

“I felt very proud that Asylos was doing something so useful and so necessary. It felt great to be part of it. There is such a call for it being timely and up to date.”

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We monitored and sought to improve the quality of COI products produced by governmental and intergovernmental organisations

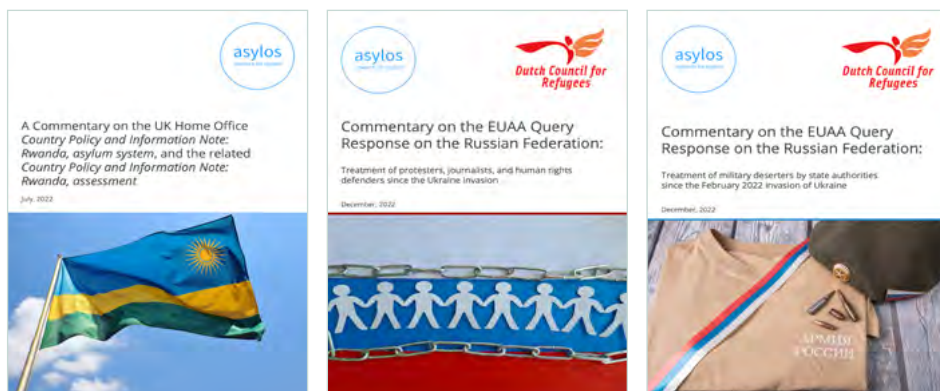
Decision-makers often rely on COI produced by governmental and intergovernmental organisations to give a concise overview of the facts in relation to specific demographic groups at risk of persecution or other harm. This COI is used to assist government officials in making international protection decisions.

Recognising their importance, in 2022 we started a new strand of essential work following the project transfer from the ARC Foundation. This project shines a spotlight on COI produced by governmental and intergovernmental organisations, and seeks to raise the bar of quality asylum decisions by highlighting gaps and shortcomings, and signposting additional COI that can help legal representatives to build a more full and balanced picture of country conditions.

We reviewed 42 UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Notes (CPINs), making recommendations for how these reports could be improved.

We reviewed and [publicly commented on two UK Home Office CPINs covering the situation in Rwanda](#) and published a [COI compilation on the same topic](#).

We published two commentaries in partnership with the Dutch Council for Refugees on EUAA (European Union Agency for Asylum): Query Responses on Russia, covering the [treatment of protesters, journalists and human rights defenders](#) and [military deserters](#) by the authorities since the invasion of Ukraine.



Monitor
government
COI



We monitored and sought to improve the quality of COI products produced by governmental and intergovernmental organisations

UK policy on Rwanda

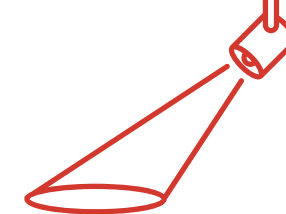
In April 2022, the UK government announced a new UK-Rwanda Asylum Partnership Agreement which would see people who are deemed to have arrived in the UK through illegal means, including those fleeing persecution and war, relocated to Rwanda to have their asylum claims processed there.

A publicly available commentary and complementary COI report was produced in response to the publication of a suite of CPINs on Rwanda by the UK Home Office. The Home Office produced the CPINs in order to assist them in assessing whether Rwanda could be classified as a 'safe third country of asylum', and whether persons of particular profiles relocated to Rwanda would face a real risk of being subjected to treatment contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Our reports identified gaps and omissions in the Home Office publication and provided additional relevant COI on the issues identified.

Reach

The commentary on the Rwanda CPINs received a lot of positive feedback from lawyers and NGOs, in particular how useful the published COI report on the Rwandan asylum system was. It also formed the basis for Asylos' submission to a House of Lords inquiry into the Memorandum of Understanding that underpins the UK-Rwanda asylum partnership arrangement. In December 2022, Asylos presented the findings of its commentary on the CPINs to colleagues working in Refugee Services at the British Red Cross.

The commentary received coverage in national and specialist news outlets, including [the Guardian](#), the Byline Times ("[Home Office Rwanda Plan Accused of Being 'Fundamentally Flawed'](#)" and "[The Human Rights Gaps in the Rwanda Scheme Revealed](#)"), and [Free Movement](#) (specialist immigration law publication).



In the Spotlight

“Excellent and in-depth analysis of the Home Office’s inadequate CPIN on Rwanda’s asylum system, pulled together at speed by Asylos’ wonderful team. Essential reading for anyone with a client who has been issued with a Notice of Intent for Rwanda.”

Sonia Lenegan, immigration, asylum and public law solicitor

”

“Your consolidation of the issues was great, and the info will be so useful.”

Independent Expert Witness on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

“This detailed and balanced report exposes huge gaps in the official Home Office assessment of Rwanda, lack of evidence to support the conclusions reached and highly selective quoting of some sources of information. The picture that emerges is of a retrospective attempt to justify a political decision already made by ministers.”

Colin Yeo, Free Movement

We created additional COI research capacity

We recruited and trained new and existing Asylos volunteers

In 2022, we recruited 46 new volunteers. We moved to an annual volunteer recruitment model and, in addition, we actively recruited additional volunteers to support the increase in volume of emergency research work required. In 2022, the network consisted of a total of 64 active volunteers regularly carrying out research.

Existing Asylos volunteers completed their annual refresher training of the core training modules including:

- Assessing and Selecting Source Material
- Writing the Report.

New volunteers completed the core training modules and a test research report. When required for specific cases, volunteer researchers also completed the annually refreshed thematic training modules:

- COI for Children and Young People
- Medical COI
- Private and Family Life
- COI for cases involving Disability.



Capacity
building



”

"I have gone through the five modules including the thematic modules. I learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed all the modules, even though it was a little overwhelming at the beginning."

Rongpangmenla Longchar
(Asia team)

"I really enjoyed the research training and learned a lot! It was a great chance to get to know the organization, and very concrete and to the point on COI research and what is expected in an Asylos report which I found very focused and practical. I hope I've absorbed enough of it, but it will surely be useful to keep close at hand during my research assignment!"

Deborah Casalin (Africa team)

We created additional COI research capacity

We invested in developing our research tools and standards



The thematic work on disabilities and the “**Nigeria: Children and Young People with Disabilities**” report in particular was the foundation from which we built our **Principles Document and Training Handbook**. From this we designed and delivered webinars for external stakeholders and launched a new disability thematic training module specifically for Asylos volunteers providing advice and guidance for conducting COI research on cases that involve people with disabilities. In addition, we made the Principles document and the Handbook available on our website, and they were downloaded a total of 59 times in 2022.

We delivered COI training webinars

In partnership with ARC Foundation, in 2022, we delivered 6 training session webinars for legal representatives and other people working to support people claiming asylum in the UK and beyond. Two sessions covered **Country of Origin Information** fundamentals and four sessions covered researching information for asylum claims involving **disability**.

In total 90 people attended our training; 56 were from the UK, 35 of whom were from so-called Legal Aid ‘deserts’.

100% of participants stated that as a result of the workshop, they felt more confident in researching and using COI, and 90% rated the training as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.



Capacity
building

“The exercises were extremely helpful to understand how to approach research and using COI databases. It was the combination of insightful teaching together with the practical groups’ exercises. Great!”

Training participant

“Gaining insight into the breadth of issues in asylum claims by people with disabilities or family members with disabilities and breaking down the various aspects of a claim to research; the overview of different models of disability and terminology were all very helpful.”

Training participant

“Explanation of different approaches to disability and also the importance of researching intersectionality [were the most useful aspects of the training]. The legal section was vital for providing additional context.”

Training participant

We made our resources more accessible

Downloads of reports

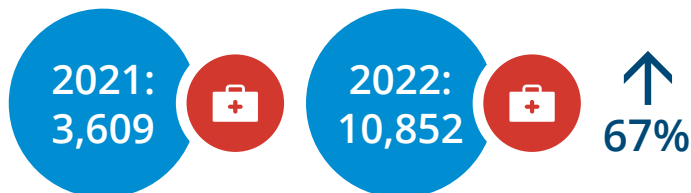
All our research is made available to registered lawyers and other individuals representing people claiming asylum in our database on our website. Information in COI reports that are produced for an individual asylum claim can frequently apply to many other people seeking asylum.

- ➔ In 2022, our case-specific research reports were downloaded 1,362 unique times from our website, a 21% increase on 2021.
- ➔ 3,222 subscribers (lawyers, caseworkers, NGOs) receive our monthly research updates including newly produced reports. This represents a 15% increase from 2021.

Thematic reports (produced in 2021), the emergency repositories and the commentaries were made available for download from our website and externally on [the European Country of Origin Information Network](#) and were downloaded a total of 9,416 times.

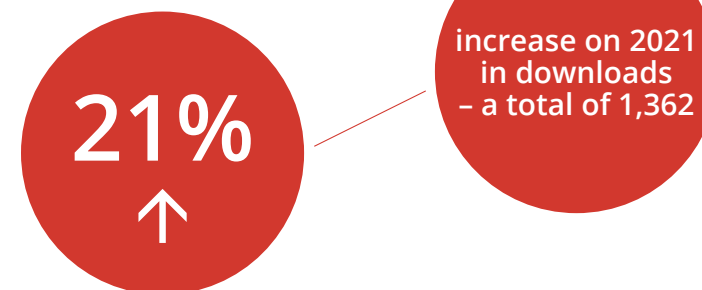
Overall, Asylos' research publications (repositories, case-specific, thematic reports and commentaries) were downloaded 10,778 times in 2022. Together with the number of individual COI research reports produced, it gives an approximate indication of how many people have been helped by Asylos' research. Our assumption is that one unique download represents a use in approximately one case, knowing that some downloads will not lead to a use, whereas other downloads may lead to several uses.

In 2022, Asylos helped approximately 10,852 people claiming asylum

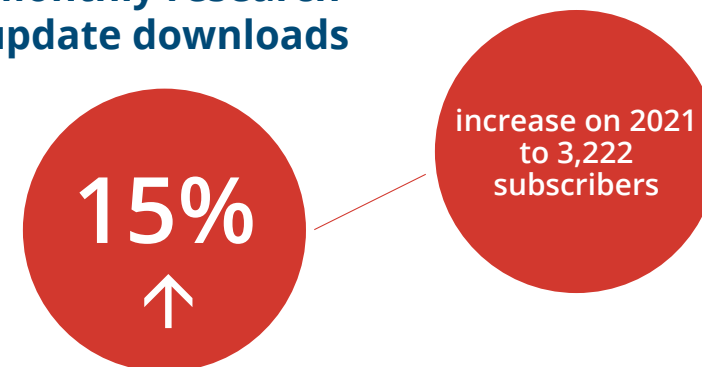


Accessibility of
high-quality
COI

Research reports downloads



Monthly research update downloads



We made our resources more accessible

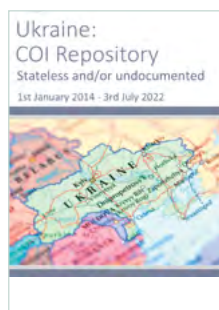


Accessibility of
high-quality
COI

Our thematic and emergency reports were downloaded a total of 9,416 times.



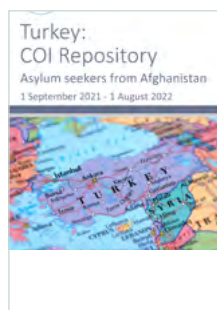
2,826



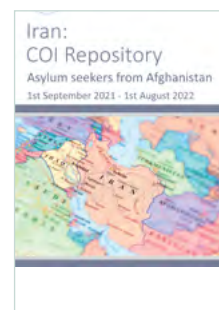
206



308



28



51

Number of downloads: Emergency response work

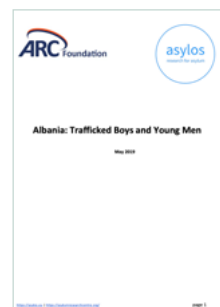
Afghanistan COI Repository – 2,826

Ukraine, Statelessness COI Repository – 206

Afghan asylum seekers in Pakistan – 308

Afghan asylum seekers in Turkey – 28

Afghan asylum seekers in Iran – 51



1,584



1,976



1,051



832

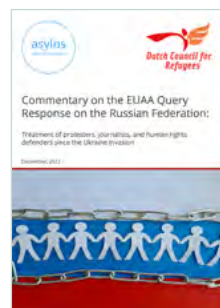
Number of downloads: Thematic reports

Albania, trafficked boys and young men (2019) – 1,584

Ghana, state treatment of LGBTQI persons (2021) – 1,976

Afghanistan, young male "westernised" returnees to Kabul (2017) – 1,051

Nigeria, children and young People with disabilities (2021) – 832



66



60



428

Number of downloads: Commentaries

Russia Federation, treatment of protesters, journalists, human rights defenders – 66

Russia Federation, treatment of military deserters – 60

Rwanda asylum system – 428

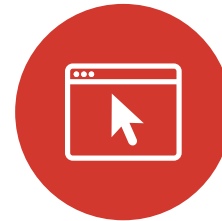
We made our resources more accessible



Website

We saw a significant increase in website traffic in 2022.

- 27,691 visitors to our main website compared to 18,474 in 2021
- 50,772 visitors to our database of research reports compared to 3,829 in 2021



49% ↑

27,691 website visitors
in 2022 (18,474 in 2021)



1226% ↑

50,772 visitors to our
research reports database
in 2022 (3,829 in 2021)

Social media

We continued to increase the number of followers on social media to the following totals:

- 2,245 on LinkedIn
- 3,581 on Facebook
- 3,860 on Twitter



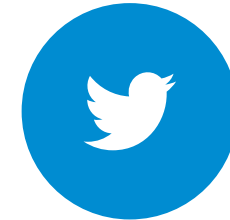
2,245

followers by
end of 2022



3,581

followers by
end of 2022



3,860

followers by
end of 2022

News and blog posts

We raised awareness of our work through two blog posts which we published on our website: [“Five Tips for Disability-focused COI research”](#) and [“Why declaring Rwanda a safe third country of Asylum is incoherent with available country information”](#).

Furthermore, we published 13 news items on our website to keep our members, beneficiaries and supporters up-to-date on our work.

We strengthened Asylos' place in the sector

We completed a project transfer from ARC Foundation

In 2021, we ambitiously aimed to become the lead expert on Country of Origin Information (COI) in the UK and beyond. Thanks to a project transfer from our previous project partner, ARC Foundation, this has now become a reality. Our aim was to consolidate our work under one organisation in order to improve our efficiency, increase our capacity to address sector need, and reduce competition for funding. The work that was formerly done by ARC Foundation was transferred to Asylos at the start of 2022. We secured funding for this new strand of work from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Justice Together Initiative and the Trust for London, and were then able to recruit two new members of staff.

Steering committees

Following on from our thematic report on disability, we set up a steering committee for the Statelessness thematic project which enabled us to work with new partners, particularly experts in statelessness. For all future thematic work we will use the same format and create a committee bringing subject experts together to use their expertise to steer the project, ensure it does not duplicate, to peer review and disseminate, and help ensure our work remains accurate and relevant.

We set up and are the chair of a COI Experts Network

The members of the COI Experts Network include senior representation and COI experts from the UNHCR, ACCORD, the Danish Refugee Council, the Dutch Refugee Council, the Swiss Refugee Council, the Asylum Protection Centre Serbia, and Asilo in Europa in Italy. We formed this group following requests from within the sector for an NGO group specifically focusing on COI. The launch meeting was in July 2022.

Other partnerships

We started working with the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) early in 2022, and the partnership further developed whilst scoping for our new thematic topic.

Senior staff at ENS were involved at the start and throughout this project including recommending and making introductions to potential Steering Committee members, being an active member of the Steering Committee themselves and reviewing the work. The ENS have also invited Asylos to present the findings of the report at their member event in Madrid in 2023.

We continue to rely on close working relationships with law firms, NGOs and law chambers to receive requests for individual COI research reports for asylum seekers. In 2022, we received requests from 47 different organisations, 39 of which were not for profit.



Asylos' role in the sector

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“I am so glad that Asylos brought to life the COI-Expert group, which connects me with fellow COI experts. It is such a useful space to share our mutual challenges, ideas and work.”

Stephanie Huber
ARC Representative



We continued to strengthen our governance, advisory structures and volunteer network

At the end of 2022 we had 64 active volunteers.

% split by regional team:

35% Africa
22% Americas
12% Asia
23% MENA
8% Russia/CIS



Joseph Blackmoore
(Americas team)

“During my time at Asylos, I hope the research I contribute to will help support the asylum claims of as many refugees as possible so that they can enjoy the same rights everyone is entitled to.”



Rongpangmenla Longchar
(Asia team)

“I hope to represent people who belong to minority communities like mine through my COI research work, and get hands on experience to learn and grow further in the field of refugee and asylum rights.”



Misha Nayak-Oliver
(Central and South Americas team Co-ordinator and Emergency COI Repository Coordinator)

“I hope to collaborate with like-minded colleagues to use human rights and the law to support individuals and groups in upholding their rights. The impact of our COI reports and decision-making processes across the world reflect the critical importance of our work.”

In 2022, we held a total of 11 network-wide calls, 5 board meetings and 3 fundraising sub-committee meetings. We held a two-day coordination meeting in May and one All Asylos Conference in October.

Our volunteer network

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Asylos. In order to conduct thorough and impactful research on COI cases, we prioritise researchers with an understanding of the countries and demographics that are being researched. Thus, we have built a network of highly skilled research volunteers who are spread out across the world and can conduct research on regions of high pertinence to them – either through lived experience or interest and expertise. Due to the unpredictable nature of global asylum trends, it is difficult to predict a steady stream of research requests and, it is therefore our greatest advantage to work with dedicated and motivated volunteers who can be called upon when needed, but do not have to establish rigid schedules for their Asylos work.



Organisational resilience



Aleena Khan
(Asia team)

“Refugee and asylum rights are important first and foremost because human rights are important in every context. More specifically, the rights of refugees and asylum seekers are often overlooked or undervalued by policy makers and politicians, which makes it that much more important for us as a community to support each other. I believe the world and the right to thrive within it belongs to us all; therefore, no person should be punished or persecuted for their nationality, religion, sexuality, gender identity. During my time with Asylos, I hope to support as many cases as I possibly can.... I hope to further understand my strengths as a researcher and my specific interests within the field of human rights and social justice.”

We continued to strengthen our governance, advisory structures and volunteer network



Volunteer co-ordinators

Asylos' staff members work closely with the volunteer coordination team, comprising Asylos' 12 regional research coordinators (up to three per team) for Africa, Americas, Asia, MENA and the Russia/CIS team. Each coordinator oversees the work of the volunteer researchers in the respective team and contributes to the strategic development of the network and its functions.

Our annual coordination meeting took place in-person in Amsterdam on the weekend of 21-22 May with nine volunteers attending. The agenda included round table discussions, presentations, process reviews with the aim of sharing best practice, and improving processes and quality of the work.

One attendee said: "The coordination was a wonderful opportunity to meet in person, exchange thoughts and experiences and to find ways to continue building Asylos together. For the attendees this in-person meeting was crucial in order to get fully up to speed with the many developments at Asylos since our last meeting."

All Asylos Conference

In October of 2022, Asylos held its first in-person All Asylos Conference since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference took place over three days, just outside of Amsterdam, and was attended by 38 members of the Asylos network. Some of our members travelled from as far away as India, Brazil, and Canada to take part. Many others came from across Europe, whilst some members dialled in online.

Over the course of the conference, we hosted a multitude of interactive sessions on topics such as our multi-annual strategy, fundraising opportunities, network cohesion and volunteer empowerment. Each session finished with the creation of concrete action points for both the staff team and the volunteers to work on, in order to improve the functioning of the organisation.

The conference proved to be a powerful, enlightening experience, said one volunteer who found Asylos to be "a compass, a community and a home."

Another volunteer also noted during one of the interactive sessions that the conference made them feel that "Asylos is an organisation that has managed to unite some of the most dedicated and passionate people from across the world. To find so many people with hectic lives who put aside the time to work on such a great cause proves that Asylos is an organisation that is made up of commitment and love."

”

"For me, it was particularly exciting to actually meet teammates and others in the network in person.

I came back with so many practical takeaways and new relationships, so I'm very grateful to have been able to attend the conference."

Tanya Koshy
Asylos – Asia Team

"The conference seemed to flow seamlessly, and the agenda was packed with both substantive and organisational items, making it super diverse and exciting!"

Anna Magyarlaki, Trustee

Structure, Governance and Management



Organisational
resilience

Asylos is an international non-governmental organisation established in 2010. Its original constitution is dated July 29, 2014 and was amended on May 19, 2020. It is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. The constitution defines the charity's objects as:

"The promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to people seeking asylum and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere."

Our trustees

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees to be appointed. Trustees serve for renewable terms of three years, with the exception of the founding trustees, who served for renewable terms of four years. Trustees can serve until they either resign or their term ends without renewal. None of our trustees were remunerated for their trusteeship aside from expenses. Our trustees are responsible for setting the strategy and are responsible in law for the running of Asylos. All trustees, except where otherwise stated, served for the whole year:

Katharina Natter (Chair since October 2022)

Anna Magyarlaki (Vice-Chair since October 2022)

Phil Arnold

Alexandra Dufresne (Chair until October 2022, now regular Board member)

Stephanie Huber (appointed in March 2022)

Dick Oosting

Diamantoula Vlantoni

Liz Williams

Julia Vonk (appointed in October 2022)

Mira Wolf-Bauwens (left the Board in July 2022)

When new trustees are appointed, they are given a formal induction to the work of the charity and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles, which includes information about the role of trustees, charity law and safeguarding. New trustees are nominated by the Board of Trustees, and appointed where they have the necessary skills to contribute to the charity's management and development.

Advisory Committee

Since 2012, Asylos has benefitted from an Advisory Committee to advise on research priorities and to support fundraising. The members are:

Thomas Klau (Chair of the Advisory Committee, co-founder of Asylos and editor of Eurointelligence)

Franziska Brantner (member of the German Bundestag, relinquished her duties as Advisory Committee member in 2022)

Géraud de Geouffre de la Pradelle (President of the Citizen's Enquiry Commission on France's role in Rwanda and a Patron of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine)

Gunnar Lund (former Ambassador of Sweden to France, the US and the EU)

Anila Noor (Refugee activist based in the Netherlands)

Salim Salamah (Activist focusing on the issue of statelessness among the Syrian-Palestinian population)

Satya Staes Polet (lawyer in a leading international law firm)

Nick Witney (senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations)

Colin Yeo (Founder and Editor of the Free Movement blog; barrister at Garden Court Chambers)

Staff

At the end of 2022, Asylos had five staff members (two full-time and three part-time), of which four are based in the Netherlands and one in the UK.

In 2022, we appointed the following people:

Emily Wilbourn – Programme Manager. New post from January 2022.

Fatima Ali – Programme Manager. New post from January 2022.

Laurence Hamieh – Operations Assistant. New post from August part time.

Patrick Annez de Taboada – Network Co-ordinator. Replacement from October.

Misha Nayak-Oliver – part-time consultant leading the emergency work.

Anna Magyarlaki – Interim fundraising consultant. September 2022 to January 2023.

Sally Marsh – Senior Fundraiser. To start January 2023.

Asylos' Director, **Sophie Kloos**, is responsible for the strategic management of the organisation, and the daily coordination and delegation of all Asylos-related tasks. The Programme Managers job share and fulfil all the work to do with thematic research, reviews of governmental COI and training. The Network Coordinator coordinates and supports the volunteers. The Operations Assistant runs our communications and supports the team. The Fundraiser raises funds and carries out the monitoring and evaluation function for Asylos.

Supported by our funding partners

Sigrid Rausing Trust

AB Charitable Trust

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Haella Foundation

Souter Trust

Allen Lane Foundation

Evan Cornish Foundation

Hilden Charitable Fund

Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund



**Organisational
resilience**



Financial Review

During the year, the net funds raised from the general public, philanthropies, and trusts and foundations was EUR 289,000. Trusts and foundations are our biggest source of income and, in total, we raised a net income of EUR 275,000 from this source. We accrued EUR 162,000 from the previous year. Our total expenses in 2022 amounted to EUR 342,000.

As shown in the restricted funds column in the Statement of Financial Activities, restrictive income was EUR 73,000 which was raised for particular programmes or to be spent within a set time frame.

At the end of 2022, Asylos had EUR 34,629 in reserves. This represents 1.2 months of expenditure on charitable activities. It is the trustees' view that the charity ideally needs about three months' worth of expenditure to cover emergency situations and prevent disruptions to programmes. We will therefore aim to build further reserves over time.

Restricted funds and unrestricted funds that are earmarked to be spent in a certain time frame are not included in the trustees' view of reserve needs because these funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant activities. Normally these funds are spent within one year of receipt.

INCOME	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2021
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	€95,031		€95,031	€104,302
Sigrid Rausing Trust	€69,535		€69,535	€69,535
AB Charitable Trust	€23,178		€23,178	€23,178
Dutch private donor	€15,000		€15,000	€15,000
Haella Foundation				€5,000
Allen Lane Foundation				€11,589
Leathersellers' Company Charitable Trust				€1,738
Austrian Private Philanthropist				€20,000
Evan Cornish Foundation				€5,795
Souter Trust		€3,477	€3,477	€4,634
Oak Foundation				€8,692
Hilden Charitable Trust		€5,795	€5,795	
Justice Together Initiative		€48,897	€48,897	
Trust for London		€14,486	€14,486	
Clifford Chance	€11,589		€11,589	
Other donations	€1,993		€1,993	€2,197
Interest and other	€223		€223	€11
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	€216,550	€72,655	€289,205	€271,671

Financial Review

EXPENDITURE

Payments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2021
Network coordination	€94,788	€72,057	€166,845	€104,052
Volunteer meetings	€0	€33,841	€33,841	€218
Office costs	€16,465		€16,465	€12,822
(UK) Project costs	€9,563	€106,345	€115,908	€43,777
Governance and development	€8,847		€8,847	€5,195
TOTAL PAYMENTS	€129,662	€212,243	€341,905	€166,064

NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2021
Net of receipts/payments	€86,888	€139,588	€52,700	€105,607
Transfer between funds				
Cash funds last year end	€22,862	€139,588	€162,450	€56,844
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	€109,750	€0	€109,750	€162,451

CASH FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds			
BNP Paribas (Belgium)	€11,737			
Transfer between funds	€98,013			
TOTAL CASH FUNDS	€109,750			

We focused on fundraising

We held quarterly finance and fundraising sub-committee meetings with a sub-group of the Board, the Director and the Fundraiser to monitor progress and ensure financial stability.

We confirmed grants with several new funders:

- Clifford Chance
- Justice Together Initiative
- Trust for London
- The Paul Hamlyn Foundation made an additional grant to us for our emergency work.

We raised EUR 1,993 in individual donations.

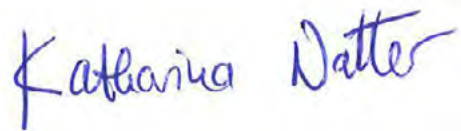
Declaration

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulation 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In the interest of transparency and accountability to our donors we publish our annual report and accounts on our website. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



20th June 2023

Katharina Natter

Date



#proofnotprejudice





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Asylos

No (if any)
1158386

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2022

To

Period end date
31/12/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest €	to the nearest €	to the nearest €	to the nearest €	to the nearest €
A1 Receipts					
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	95,031	-	-	95,031	104,302
Sigrid Rausing Trust	69,535	-	-	69,535	69,535
AB Charitable Trust	23,178	-	-	23,178	23,178
Dutch private donor	15,000	-	-	15,000	15,000
Haella Foundation	-	-	-	-	5,000
Allen Lane Foundation	-	-	-	-	11,589
Leathersellers' Company Charitable Trust	-	-	-	-	1,738
Austrian Private Philanthropist	-	-	-	-	20,000
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	-	-	-	5,795
Souter Trust	-	3,477	-	3,477	4,634
Oak Foundation	-	-	-	-	8,692
Hilden Charitable Trust	-	5,795	-	5,795	-
Justice Together Initiative	-	48,897	-	48,897	-
Trust for London	-	14,486	-	14,486	-
Clifford Chance	11,589	-	-	11,589	-
Other donations	1,993	-	-	1,993	2,197
Interest and other	223	-	-	223	11
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	216,550	72,655	-	289,205	271,671
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-

Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
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Total receipts	216,550	72,655	-	289,205	271,671
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A3 Payments

Network Coordination	94,788	72,057	-	166,845	104,052
Volunteer meetings	- 0	33,841	-	33,841	218
Office costs	16,465	-	-	16,465	12,822
(UK) Project costs	9,563	106,345	-	115,908	43,777
Governance and Development	8,847	-	-	8,847	5,195
Sub total	129,662	212,243	-	341,905	166,064

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	

Total payments	129,662	212,243	-	341,905	166,064
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Net of receipts/(payments)	86,888	- 139,588	-	- 52,700	105,607
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,862	139,588	-	162,450	56,844
Cash funds this year end	109,750	- 0	-	109,750	162,451

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest €	Restricted funds to nearest €	Endowment funds to nearest €
B1 Cash funds	BNP Paribas (Belgium)	11,737	-	-
	Triodos (UK)	98,013	-	-
		-	-	-

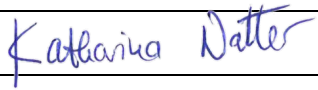
		Total cash funds	109,750	-	-
		(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	OK	OK	OK
			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
			to nearest €	to nearest €	to nearest €
B2 Other monetary assets	Details		-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	
			-	-	

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Katharina Natter	23/6/2023

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Asylos CIO ("the CIO") for the year ended 31 December 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required under section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.



Trevor James FCA DChA FCIE
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR

14 June 2023

ASYLOS

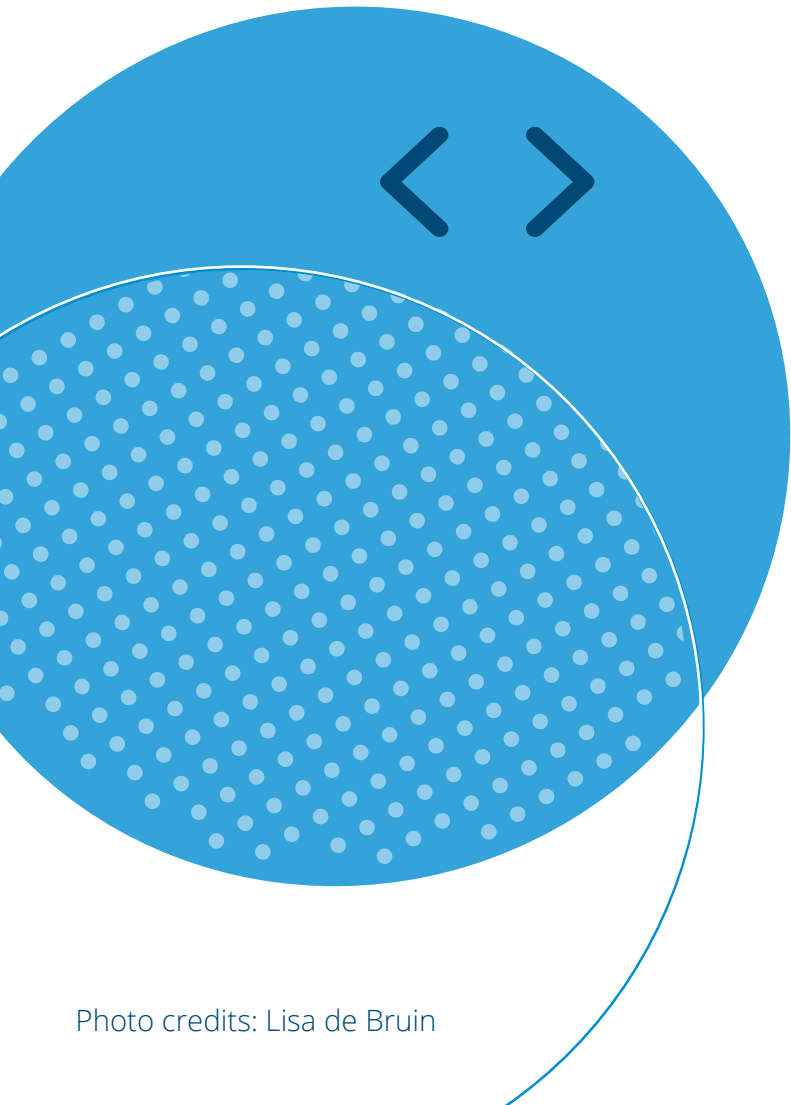
England & Wales - Charity number 1158386

Accounts

Report of the trustees and financial accounts

for the year ending 31 December 2021

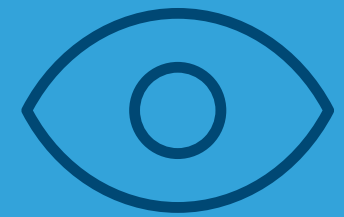




Content

- 03** Report of the Trustees
- 05** Achievements and Performance
- 17** Financial Review
- 18** Structure, Governance and Management

Report of the Trustees



Our Vision

A world in which all asylum decisions are based on fair process and accurate information.

About Asylos

Asylos is an international network of volunteers who provide high-quality human rights research and documentation to asylum seekers around the world. This Country of Origin Information is essential to corroborate the testimony of individuals fleeing persecution, and often makes the difference between winning and losing a case.

We are a charity

Asylos is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the Charities Commission for England and Wales (charity number 1158386) at Unit 12 Imperial Works, Fountayne Road, South Tottenham, London N15 4QL. Our principal office is located at Asterweg 20N, 1031 HN Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Objectives

The objective of Asylos, as set out in its original constitution from July 29, 2014 and its amended version from May 19, 2020, is the promotion of human rights law, particularly with respect to people seeking asylum and stateless people.

1

Access to information.

Country of Origin Information (COI) is accessible to all who need it. People seeking asylum and their legal counsel have access to relevant, timely and high-quality information to substantiate their claims.

2

Use of information.

The asylum procedure is always evidence-based. Relevant, timely and high-quality Country of Origin Information is considered in every asylum decision.

3

Absence of prejudice.

The asylum procedure is always unbiased. Processes involving people seeking asylum are conducted in a fair and impartial manner with no room for assumptions or preconceptions.

4

Societal Awareness.

There is broad recognition within host societies of the importance of high-quality COI in the asylum procedure.

5

Organisational stability.

Asylos is sustainable and fit to deliver its mission. This includes financial stability and a participatory organisational structure.

Consistently fill COI gaps.



Our research investigates human rights violations in specific countries or deals with specific facts relating to the claimant's testimony. Our reports are free of charge and compiled on demand for asylum lawyers and (I)NGOs who assist people fleeing persecution and grave threats with their claim to protection. In addition, we publish larger thematic research reports that fill information gaps.

Create additional COI research capacity.



We train volunteer researchers, lawyers and (I) NGO representatives on researching and using Country of Origin Information to represent their clients with better informed procedures, leading to fairer decision-making on asylum claims.

Improve the accessibility and reach of high-quality COI.



We administer a growing database of research reports and constantly invest in growing its audience and improving its functions. The database is accessible to anyone supporting persons seeking asylum worldwide. Through outreach online and offline, we aim to ensure that our research can support as many people seeking asylum as possible.

Identify and serve the most vulnerable people seeking asylum.

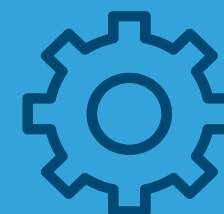


We develop training modules addressing particularly vulnerable groups of asylum-seekers, accompanied by outreach to raise awareness of the research services we offer for these groups.

Build capacity of the COI sector.



We conduct outreach and conversations with key COI actors, primarily in the EU and UK, to ensure effective exchange of knowledge and research insights.



Goals

Our activities advance the goals listed on this page. All of these are carried out for the public benefit. In setting our activities each year we have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees always ensure that the programmes we undertake are in line with our charitable objectives and aims.



We continued to produce and provide new COI research reports

In total, we produced 64 reports for people seeking asylum originating from 44 countries.

The completed reports were split as follows between our regional research teams:

- MENA (27%)
- Americas (23%)
- Africa (20%)
- Asia (19%) and Russia
- and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS, 11%).

The reports that we produced were used at the following stages of the asylum procedure: initial administrative application (50%), first appeal (23%), and further submission / fresh claim (9%). 18% of reports produced were not applicable or used in other procedures such as statelessness, Article 8 and Article 3 claims.

Reports produced in 2021 covered questions on:

- social group (21 reports; 33%)
- national – local governance practices (16 reports; 25%)
- domestic security (13 reports; 20%)
- gender (8 reports; 13%)
- political opposition (4 reports; 6%) and civil status (2 reports; 3%).

Asylos received 77 research requests in 2021. These were requested by a wide range of stakeholders, including lawyers and caseworkers from (I)NGOs. Our referrers support their clients either on a pro bono (14%) basis, through charity funding in the case of charities (30%), for cases funded by legal aid (26%), financed by the client (25%) or other means (5%). This underlines the value and importance of Asylos providing COI reports free of charge.

The top four countries for research requests were:

- Afghanistan
- Honduras
- Ethiopia and
- Nigeria.

Research requests came from 9 host countries:

- the US (29),
- the UK (28)
- France (11)
- Belgium (6),
- Germany (3)
- Bahamas (1)
- Canada (1)
- Italy (1) and
- Sweden (1).



We consistently filled Country of Origin Information (COI) gaps



We traced the impact of our research :



Through our robust feedback protocol, we continued to monitor the impact of our reports in order to further develop and refine our work. Our feedback collection usually takes time with a time lag of at least one year, given the time it typically takes between a research request to Asylos and the actual date of the respective hearing. We collect feedback on a quarterly basis and aggregate it once a year. Throughout 2021, we collected feedback on all research reports that were requested in 2020. In total, we were able to obtain feedback on 44.59% of respective reports produced.

Feedback on reports requested in 2020:

We followed up and recorded information on final outcomes of cases that were requested in 2020. Of the 74 cases requested in 2020, Asylos received feedback on 44.59% (33 cases). Of these:

- 21.2% had received a 'successful' outcome, 54.6% had an 'alternative outcome', 15.2% were unsuccessful and 9% 'other'. Of the respondents noting 'alternative outcome', 38.9% indicated that the hearing or submission was delayed due to COVID-19; an additional 50% of respondents indicated they were awaiting the decision.
- 45.5% of respondents shared our report with colleagues (an increase of 5% as compared to last year).

Feedback on reports requested in 2021:

At the time of writing, feedback collection on final outcomes for research requested in 2021 is currently still ongoing. Initial data on feedback regarding the quality and usefulness of these reports is already available:

- Lawyers stressed the indispensability of contacts on the ground as well as expert reports, and commended the thoroughness and quality of our research.
- In 98% of feedback collected for requests made in 2021, requestors said that our research provided them with information they did not already have before (testimonials are available [online](#)).

In a number of cases, our reports helped people seeking asylum to be legally recognised as refugees:

- We published a selection of successful 'Asylum Stories' on our [website](#).



We consistently filled Country of Origin Information (COI) gaps



Feedback and Successes 2021

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A young woman from Pakistan obtained refugee status in France after our research was used to support her claim. Her lawyer said, “thank you again for your brilliant work which is so helpful.”

Immigration Lawyer (France)

We published the full story on our blog:
Atheist asylee: Aynoor’s story

//

In response to our research on the situation of Hmong People in Laos a lawyer provided the following feedback to us: “Thank you so much for the extensively researched report that you provided. It was extremely helpful in convincing the Judge to approve our asylum case. My clients are very grateful.”

Immigration Lawyer (USA)

//

In response to a research report on Sudan, we received the following feedback: “Asylos staff was highly professional and responsive.

They reacted and responded to our call for support in spite of extremely narrow deadlines, understanding the importance of the ECtHR cases for the concrete individual but also for the EU/European future asylum and human rights legal practice. Your report helped us a lot in order to supply our observations with the appropriate sources. Without your report we would not be able to support some of our arguments in the pleadings. Besides, we couldn’t find local sources in Arabic having in mind that we couldn’t read nor speak Arabic ourselves.”

Rados Djurovic, Executive Director Asylum Protection Center (Serbia)

Feedback 2021



We consistently filled Country of Origin Information (COI) gaps

Achievements and Performance

Feedback on our Ghana report

We increased our thematic research (with support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation):

We continued to monitor and address COI gaps to identify the most pertinent research topics. Our thematic research reports are designed to address these gaps by combining publicly available information with new information obtained from interviewing.

We published our fourth and fifth thematic research reports in 2021 in partnership with ARC Foundation.

The report [Ghana: State Treatment of LGBTQI+ Persons](#) was published in March 2021.

Recent information, particularly from January 2021 onwards highlighted the deterioration of the situation of LGBTI+ persons in Ghana, particularly by state actors. This includes arbitrary arrests, evictions and a new proposed legislation that would criminalise being gay, bisexual or transgender. Throughout 2021, our Ghana report was downloaded from our website, [ecoi.net](#) and ARC Foundation's website by over 2,228 unique users and used in numerous asylum cases.

Elements of the report were incorporated in the UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Note on Sexual and Gender Identity and Expression in Ghana, as well as in a report by the Dutch Directorate-General for Migration and cited by ILGA World and others.

//

"It contains information we knew existed but never thought it had been researched on and documented for reference. This has been very helpful. Also, the report gave vital information on UK asylum seeking guidelines which we passed onto community members wishing to take that route in the UK."

//

"Excellent report. With so few LGBTQI+ asylum claims able to get protection in the UK, this report speaks volumes."

Phil Arnold of the British Red Cross / Asylos Trustee on Twitter

Alex Kofi Donkor, Director of LGBT+ Rights Ghana



We consistently filled Country of Origin Information (COI) gaps

Achievements and Performance

We increased our thematic research (with support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation):

We published our report **Nigeria: Children and Young People with Disabilities in October 2021**, again in partnership with ARC Foundation.

The topic choice was prompted by lawyers in the UK representing Nigerian children and young people with disabilities seeking asylum, who identified an information gap on this topic. The lack of good quality COI on issues related to disability stems from the way international protection claims for persons with disabilities are commonly presented: with a focus on medical responses to an impairment, a failure to take a holistic and intersectional approach in identifying the relevant issues, and an absence of relevant material or sources.

We felt that there was a particularly pressing need to research disability at this time because persons with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, new case law (DH (Particular Social Group: Mental Health) Afghanistan **[2020] UKUT 223 (IAC)**) recognises for the first time in UK asylum law that a “person living with disability or mental ill-health” may qualify as a member of a particular social group (PSG), suggesting that there may be momentum towards a better understanding of disability within the asylum system.

Sources interviewed for the report paint a troubling picture of the situation for children and young people with disabilities in Nigeria, despite the recent adoption of legislation by the State to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

They highlight the multiple forms and layers of discrimination, by state actors and within communities and families, and the prevailing lack of protection or access to redress, that affect children and young people with disabilities in Nigeria, severely impairing their lives and in many cases putting them at (further) risk of exploitation and harm.

Throughout 2021, the Nigeria report was downloaded from our website, ecoi.net and ARC Foundation's website by over 813 unique users and used in numerous asylum cases. The report was the foundation from which we built our Principles Document, Training Handbook and series of webinar training sessions on researching information for asylum claims involving disability discussed further below. We were pleased to partner with Garden Court Chambers and the Helen Bamber Foundation to deliver the webinar and launch event “**Country of Origin Information for Persons with Disabilities**” in February 2022, to discuss the Nigeria report in a [blog post on the Free Movement website](#) and to have seen it featured on ecoi.net and Lifos, the Swedish Migration Agency's database for country information and legal governance.



We consistently filled Country of Origin Information (COI) gaps



Achievements and Performance

We trained new Asylos volunteers:

In 2021, we conducted a big volunteer recruitment drive. 22 new volunteers were recruited, trained and onboarded. The drive is part of an initiative to switch to an annual volunteer recruitment model, which we are hoping will make our volunteer recruitment more efficient and allow us to streamline volunteer check-ins throughout the year.

We invested in developing our research tools and standards:

We conducted an annual update on our core research training curriculum for Asylos volunteer researchers and ensured that volunteer researchers refresh their knowledge by re-taking the core training modules:

- About Asylos
- Country-of-origin Information
- From a Research Assignment to the Start of your Research
- Assessing and Selecting Source Material
- Writing the Report.

In addition, we launched four new thematic training modules specifically for Asylos volunteers.

- Our Interviewing training module launched in March 2021 and provides guidance for researchers on incorporating interviews into their research process, including guidelines on confidentiality and anonymity, as well as practical interviewing tips.
- We launched a child-specific research training module in June 2021. The training provides advice and guidance for conducting COI research on cases that involve children.



- In response to volunteer requests, we drafted and launched a new training module on researching medical Country of Origin Information in October 2021. The module explains the legal framework for medical cases and best practice of substantiating these with COI.
- We also launched a new internal training module on COI research for Family and Private Life related cases in December 2021, offering guidance on how to frame and approach research for these type of cases.

We invited Asylos volunteers to participate in our external COI training webinars covering basic, child-specific and disability-specific COI research. In addition, we started work on a new disability-specific research training module for Asylos volunteers, which was ultimately launched in early 2022. On occasion, further training opportunities were made available to volunteers in the context of our monthly Network Calls, to which sometimes invited external guest speakers who presented relevant work.



We created additional COI research capacity

Achievements and Performance

Feedback on our core research training modules:

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"I found it extremely interesting and useful, and very thorough and well designed. I feel as though I definitely got a clear picture of how Asylos works, and the expectations, principles and standards required to complete COI research."

Andrew Moore (Africa team)

//

"I enjoyed doing the research training, which was interesting, clear and straight to the point. I found Asylos methodology very professional."

Silvia Frugoni (Asia team)

//

"I was very pleased and impressed! I've never had such comprehensive tutorials with such detail. I also found the quizzes very useful."

Baya Faure (MENA team)

//

"I really enjoyed the training. It was so informative. I've actually just started the 'Interviewing in COI research' module, which I'm also enjoying."

Kauthar Menhal (MENA team)

Feedback
on our core
research training
modules



We created
additional COI
research capacity

Achievements and Performance

We offered COI training webinars to legal representatives in and beyond the UK:

(With project funding from the AB Charitable Trust, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Leathersellers Company Charitable Fund)

Throughout 2021, we conducted external COI research training webinars for legal representatives in the UK and beyond in partnership with ARC Foundation.

- We delivered a series of 5 basic COI training webinars.
- In addition, we delivered 5 child-specific training webinars.
- We developed a new training module and handbook on disability-specific COI research, in preparation for the delivery of a series of disability-specific training webinars that took place in early 2022

In total, we trained 261 individuals in 2021.

- 96% of participants stated that as a result of the workshop they felt more confident in researching and using COI and 100% rated the training as 'excellent' or 'very good'.



We created additional COI research capacity



Feedback for 2021 Training Webinars

“

“Thank you both so much for today’s excellent training. I found it really helpful [...]. It’s not always easy taking time out of case work, but this was absolutely worthwhile.”

Charlotte Alderson - solicitor at Asylum Aid (January 2021)

“The resources and practical activities. I have learnt loads and felt really engaged by it. Definitely the most helpful workshop I’ve been to in a long time!”

A training participant (February 2021)

“

“The workshop was one of the best I had been to and I was able to learn a great deal! The information I was able to take away from this workshop will continue to improve my research skills invaluable when advocating for others.”

Carla Field on LinkedIn (2021)

We raised awareness of our work:

Throughout 2021, we engaged in advocacy and communication activities to raise awareness for the circumstances that motivate our work:

- We published nine **news items** and six **blog posts** on our website, including: **"Atheist Asylee: Aynoor's story"**, **"Four tips for efficient child-specific COI research"** and **"How interviews can help fill information gaps"**.
- We welcomed 18,474 visitors to our main website (57.33% increase on previous year) and 3,829 visitors to our database of research reports (0.85% decrease on previous year).

- We increased the number of followers on social media (from 929 to 1,376 on LinkedIn, from 3,456 to 3,671 on Facebook and from 3,456 to 3,515 on Twitter).

Next to working on the production of research reports, we also worked on increasing the reach of our research:

- Even when we produce research with an individual asylum claim in mind, the evidence we find frequently applies to the cases of many other

people seeking asylum. Our website is where our research lives, and registered lawyers can search our database for existing research by a range of countries and key words.

- In 2021, our case-specific research reports were downloaded 1,128 times. This gives us an approximate indication of how many asylum cases they were used for. We estimate that each download represents approximately one use in an asylum case, with some downloads not leading to a use and other downloads leading to multiple uses.
- We disseminated our research reports to 2,810 lawyers, caseworkers and (I)NGOs worldwide through monthly research updates (up from 2,536 subscribers).

We made our resources more accessible:

Together with Clifford Chance, ARC Foundation and Thomson Reuters, we continue to develop a shared COI database to serve as a one-stop-shop for COI. This will increase access to our research, ensure the process is more user friendly and ultimately assist more people seeking asylum. While we had hoped to have completed this by the end of 2021, we have encountered some hurdles with the developers and look forward to continuing work on this project in 2022



We improved the accessibility and reach of high-quality COI



Achievements and Performance

We responded to Emergency COI needs:

In response to the crisis in Afghanistan, in September 2021 we started working with ARC Foundation, Clifford Chance and Refugee Action to compile an [Afghanistan Country of Origin Information Repository](#). Updated weekly, the Repository covers topics such as life under the Taliban, access to medical care, freedom of movement and particular issues faced by women, people with disabilities, children and other targeted groups. Following extremely positive feedback, what started as an impromptu idea very quickly grew into a more concrete project.

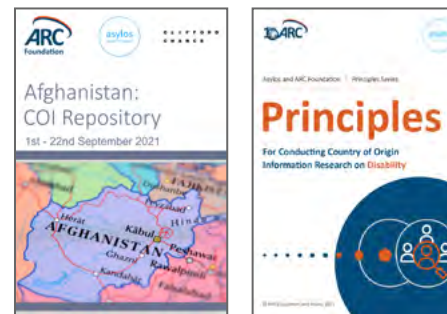
At the end of 2021, we had over 4,201 unique visitors to the Afghanistan project page on our website, and 4,174 downloads of the Repository from our website and ecoi.net.

Our ability to respond quickly and nimbly to the crisis in Afghanistan was largely thanks to the core funding from donors like the Sigrid Rausing Trust. In addition, we were awarded an Emergency grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation that is allowing us to continue the work by engaging a consultant to take this work forward from January 2022 onwards.

Continue improving COI access for cases that concern people with disabilities:

(with project funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation)

We created and launched a [principles document](#) on researching disability which will be used in ongoing advocacy with the Home Office and EASO around the need for better informed COI on disability issues. [Afternote: in early 2022, we also launched a disability-specific research training handbook, a series of four training webinars and a project launch event hosted by Garden Court Chambers]



Feedback on the Afghanistan Repository

//

"It's bang up to date, with a new edition every Thursday for the time being."

Free Movement's post

//

"I have just become aware of your wonderful resource and intend to share it widely along with my own research efforts... So grateful for what you and so many others are doing!!"

Cyndy Levy, VECINA and VIISTA – Villanova



We identified and served the most vulnerable people seeking asylum



Achievements and Performance

We prepared for a project transfer from our long-term partner, ARC Foundation:

We have been preparing for an imminent project transfer from our long-term project partner, ARC Foundation (after which ARC Foundation will wind up). Combined with our core work, the additional projects will considerably strengthen our capacity to advocate for stronger, more evidence-based asylum determinations and to make systematic changes to UK asylum policy, ultimately improving the lives of people seeking asylum across the UK. To that end, we have been able to hire two part-time Programme Managers who commenced in January 2022 and will share responsibility for this work.

We developed and nurtured partnerships:

Throughout 2021, we developed new partnerships and nurtured ongoing ones.

Our Nigeria disability project involved close collaboration with colleagues from the Helen Bamber Foundation, as well as with a Steering Committee composed of individuals specialised in disability law and research.

Our Afghanistan Emergency research initiative was launched in partnership with Clifford Chance, ARC Foundation and Refugee Action.

In the context of this project, we also established and strengthened working relationships with organisations including:

- the Public Interest Litigation Network (PILnet)
- the Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)
- the Afghan Pro Bono Initiative
- the ATLAS network
- the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and
- Villanova University.

Working closely in partnership with others allowed us to pool resources in a context where we needed to act fast, as well as to ensure that we work efficiently and effectively, complementing each others' work.



Build capacity in the COI sector



We strengthened our governance and advisory structures:

In 2021, we convened a total of 7 network-wide calls, 5 board meetings and 3 fundraising sub-committee meetings.

We convened one two-day coordination meeting in April 2021. Because of the pandemic and related travel restrictions, the conference was convened online, covering discussions about our shared vision and impact so far, our plans for 2021, the research and coordination process as well as a training workshop on interviewing in COI research.

We recruited two new highly competent members of the board of trustees: Phil Arnold, Head of Refugee Support for the British Red Cross (BRC) joined the Board in January 2021. Liz Williams, Policy Impact Manager at the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre and former Co-Founder and Co-Director of ARC Foundation, joined the Board in December 2021. [Afternote: In early 2022, we recruited an additional new trustee, Stephanie Huber, Co-Founder and (former) Co-Director of ARC Foundation]

Colin Yeo retired from the board upon the expiration of his term at the end of May 2021 and is now a member of our Advisory Committee.

We also went through a rotation of Chair of the Board: This role was handed from Dick Oosting to Alexandra Dufresne. Dick Oosting remains a trustee at Asylos.

We focused on fundraising:

We continued to convene quarterly finance and fundraising sub-committee meetings with a subgroup of the Board, the Director and the Fundraiser to monitor progress and ensure financial stability.

We renewed funding with existing funders: Sigrid Rausing Trust, AB Charitable Trust, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, a Dutch private philanthropist, the Haella Foundation, and the Souter Trust.

We also confirmed grants with several new funders: the Allen Lane Foundation, Evan Cornish Foundation, an Austrian private Philanthropist, Hilden Charitable Fund, Oak Foundation and Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund.

We raised 2,197 EUR in individual donations.



Build capacity in
the COI sector

Financial Review

During the year, the net funds raised from the general public and philanthropies was 272,000 EUR. Philanthropic donations are our biggest source of income and in total we raised a net income of 235,000 EUR from this source. In addition, we carried over 57,000 EUR from the previous year. Our total expenses in 2021 amounted to 166,000 EUR.

As shown in the restricted funds column in the Statement of Financial Activities, restrictive income was 241,000 EUR which was raised for particular programmes or to be spent within a particular timeframe. We still have 140,000 EUR left which will be used as these programmes progress.

INCOME				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2020
Paul Hamlyn Foundation		€104,302	€104,302	€57,946
Sigrid Rausing Trust	€13,907	€55,628	€69,535	€46,357
AB Charitable Trust		€23,178	€23,178	€23,178
Open Society Initiative for Europe				€21,687
Dutch private donor	€15,000		€15,000	€15,000
Haella Foundation		€5,000	€5,000	€5,000
Stichting Niks Voor Niks				€5,000
European Programme for Integration and Migration				€1,000
Allen Lane Foundation		€11,589	€11,589	
Leathersellers' Company Charitable Trust		€1,738	€1,738	
Austrian Private Philanthropist		€20,000	€20,000	
Evan Cornish Foundation		€5,795	€5,795	
Souter Trust		€4,634	€4,634	
Oak Foundation		€8,692	€8,692	
Other donations	€2,197		€2,197	€2,573
Interest and other	€11		€11	€133
TOTAL INCOME	€31,115	€240,556	€271,671	€177,874



Financial Review

At the end of 2021, Asylos had 22,862 EUR in reserves. This represents more than one month unrestricted funds expenditure on charitable activities. It is the trustees' view that the charity ideally needs about three months' worth of expenditure to cover emergency situations and prevent disruptions to programmes. Trustees will therefore aim to build further reserves over time.

Restricted funds and unrestricted funds that are earmarked to be spent in a certain timeframe are not included in the trustees' view of reserve needs because these funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant activities. Normally these funds are spent within one year of receipt.

EXPENDITURE				
Payments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2020
Network coordination	€8,253	€95,799	€104,052	€99,840
Volunteer meetings		€218	€218	€4,076
Office costs		€12,822	€12,822	€7,096
UK Project		€43,777	€43,777	€63,255
Governance and development		€5,195	€5,195	€5,017
TOTAL PAYMENTS	€8,253	€157,812	€166,065	€179,284

NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2020
Net of receipts/payments	€22,862	€82,744	€105,606	-€1,410
Transfer between funds	€10,292	€10,292		
Cash funds last year end	€10,292	€46,552	€56,844	€58,254
TOTAL PAYMENTS	€22,862	€139,588	€162,450	€56,844

CASH FUNDS				
BNP Paribas (Belgium)	€22,862	€27,288		
Triodos (UK)		€112,299		
TOTAL	€22,862	€139,588		



Asylos is an international non-governmental organisation established in 2010. Its original constitution is dated July 29, 2014 and was amended on May 19, 2020. It is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. The constitution defines the charity's objects as:

'The promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to people seeking asylum and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere.'

Board of Trustees

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees to be appointed. Trustees serve for renewable terms of three years, with the exception of the founding trustees, who served for renewable terms of four years. Trustees can serve until they either resign or their term ends without renewal. None of our trustees were remunerated for their trusteeship aside from expenses.

Our trustees are responsible for setting the strategy and are responsible in law for the running of Asylos. All trustees, except where otherwise stated, served for the whole year:

- Alexandra Dufresne (chair)
- Katharina Natter (vice chair)
- Phil Arnold (appointed in January 2021)
- Anna Magyarlaki
- Dick Oosting
- Diamantoula Vlantoni
- Liz Williams (appointed in December 2021)
- Mira Wolf-Bauwens [Afternote: Mira Wolf-Bauwens relinquished her duties as Trustee in 2022]

When new trustees are appointed, they are given a formal induction to the work of the charity and provided with the information they need to fulfill their roles, which includes information about the role of trustees and charity law. New trustees are nominated by the board of trustees, and appointed where they have the necessary skills to contribute to the charity's management and development.



Structure, Governance and Management

Advisory Committee

Since 2012, Asylos has benefitted from an Advisory Committee to advise on research priorities and to support fundraising. In 2021, its members are:

- Thomas Klau (Chair of the Advisory Committee, co-founder of Asylos and editor of Eurointelligence)
- Franziska Brantner (member of the German Bundestag) [Afternote: Franziska Brantner relinquished her duties as Advisory Committee member in 2022]
- Géraud de Geouffre de la Pradelle (President of the Citizen's Enquiry Commission on France's Role in Rwanda and a Patron of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine)
- Gunnar Lund (former Ambassador of Sweden to France, the US, and the EU)
- Anila Noor (Refugee activist based in the Netherlands)
- Salim Salamah (Activist focusing on the issue of statelessness among the Syrian-Palestinian population)
- Satya Staes Polet (lawyer in a leading international law firm)
- Nick Witney (senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations)
- Colin Yeo (Founder and Editor of the Free Movement blog; barrister at Garden Court Chambers)

Staff

At the end of 2021, Asylos had three staff members (two full-time and one part-time), all based in the Netherlands. Asylos' Director, Sophie Kloos, is responsible for the strategic management of the organisation and the daily coordination and delegation of all Asylos-related tasks. The Network Coordinator, Nanneke Wisman (full-time), coordinates the volunteer network. Our part-time Fundraiser, Laura Wu, raises funds for Asylos. Asylos also worked with two part-time consultants, Maya Pritchard and Lara Casalotti, based in London, who delivered its UK-specific activities. [Afternote: In January 2022, two new part-time members of staff and one new part-time consultant were recruited to coordinate Asylos' UK-specific activities and Afghanistan Emergency Response].

Asylos' staff work closely with the volunteer coordination team, comprising Asylos' 12 regional research coordinators (up to three per team) for Africa, Americas, Asia, MENA and the Russia/CIS team. Each coordinator oversees the work of the volunteer researchers in the respective team and contributes to the strategic development of the network and its functions.



Declarations

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulation 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In the interest of transparency and accountability to our donors we publish our annual report and accounts on our website. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



31st October 2022

Katharina Natter

Date



Declaration



**We stand for asylum
decisions based on
evidence.**

www.asylos.eu





Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1/1/2021		31/12/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest €	Restricted funds to the nearest €	Endowment funds to the nearest €	Total funds to the nearest €	Last year to the nearest €
A1 Receipts					
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	104,302	-	104,302	57,946
Sigrid Rausing Trust	13,907	55,628	-	69,535	46,357
AB Charitable Trust	-	23,178	-	23,178	23,178
Open Society Initiative for Europe	-	-	-	-	21,687
Dutch private donor	15,000	-	-	15,000	15,000
Haella Foundation	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Stichting Niks Voor Niks	-	-	-	-	5,000
European Programme for Integration and	-	-	-	-	1,000
Allen Lane Foundation	-	11,589	-	11,589	-
Leathersellers' Company Charitable Trust	-	1,738	-	1,738	-
Austrian Private Philanthropist	-	20,000	-	20,000	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	5,795	-	5,795	-
Souter Trust	-	4,634	-	4,634	-
Oak Foundation	-	8,692	-	8,692	-
Other donations	2,197	-	-	2,197	2,573
Interest and other	11	-	-	11	133
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,115	240,556	-	271,671	177,874
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,115	240,556	-	271,671	177,874
A3 Payments					
Network Coordination	8,253	95,799	-	104,052	99,840
Volunteer meetings	-	218	-	218	4,076
Office costs	-	12,822	-	12,822	7,096
UK Project	-	43,777	-	43,777	63,255
Governance and Development	-	5,195	-	5,195	5,017
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,253	157,812	-	166,065	179,284
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	8,253	157,812	-	166,065	179,284
Net of receipts/(payments)	22,862	82,744	-	105,606	- 1,410
A5 Transfers between funds	- 10,292	10,292	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,292	46,552	-	56,844	58,254
Cash funds this year end	22,862	139,588	-	162,450	56,844

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest €	Restricted funds to nearest €	Endowment funds to nearest €
B1 Cash funds				
	BNP Paribas (Belgium)	22,862	27,288	-
	Triodos (UK)		112,299	-

	-	-	-
Total cash funds	22,862	139,588	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	OK	OK	OK

Unrestricted funds

Restricted funds

Endowment funds

to nearest €

to nearest €

to nearest €

B2 Other monetary assets

Details

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details

Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details

Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details

Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Funds incurred in 2021, but not paid until 2022	5,157	-
	-	
	-	
	-	
	-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Katharina Natter

Katharina Natter

24.10.2022

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Asylos CIO ("the CIO") for the year ended 31 December 2021

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

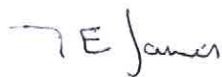
I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required under section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.



Trevor James FCA DChA FCIE
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR

20 October 2022

ASYLOS

England & Wales - Charity number 1158386

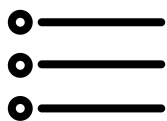
Accounts



Report of the trustees and financial accounts

for the year ending 31 December 2020





Content

Report of the Trustees	3
Achievements and Performance	5
Financial Review	11
Governance	12

We dedicate this annual report to our colleague Lara Casalotti, who passed away in May 2021. We are incredibly grateful for her work and the impact it has made on the communities that we serve.



Asylos is an international network of volunteers who provide high-quality human rights research and documentation to asylum seekers around the world. This country-of-origin information is essential to corroborating the testimony of individuals fleeing persecution, and often makes the difference between winning and losing a case.

Objectives

The objective of Asylos, as set out in its original constitution from July 29, 2014 and its amended version from May 19, 2020, is the promotion of human rights law, particularly with respect to people seeking asylum and stateless people.

Asylos' mission statement reads as follows:

At Asylos, we believe that every person seeking asylum deserves a fair opportunity to claim their right to protection. Evidence to prove persecution or to support the credibility of individual testimony is a vital element in the decisions taken to grant or withhold asylum. But many refugees and their legal representatives cannot access this necessary information.

To redress this imbalance and protect the right to asylum, Asylos aims to:

➔ **ensure that people seeking asylum and their legal counsel have access to crucial information to substantiate their claim**

We believe that refugees and their counsel should have equal access to information and sufficient resources to conduct the needed research. Those helping to defend the rights of people seeking asylum face great difficulties when researching information: it often requires knowledge of local languages, experience in researching complex human rights issues and access to expert evidence in the countries of origin. We leverage our research skills, contextual knowledge, and contacts on the ground to ensure access to proper documentation.

➔ **ensure that the asylum procedure is evidence-based and unbiased**

We believe that decisions on individual claims should be fair and based on proper evidence instead of on preconceptions. Country-of-origin information (COI) reports produced by public administrations should meet the highest standards of our legal system and be driven by respect for human rights. Information relied upon by public authorities should be accessible to the public. Officials with decision-making power should receive sufficient training to make evidence-based decisions.

Activities

To access very detailed information from remote areas, and often conflict zones, we use academic and investigative research techniques and consult primary as well as secondary data available. We consult relevant publications from human rights (I)NGOs, governments, international organisations, and international and local media. Collectively, Asylos volunteers can conduct research in 27 languages. To fill information gaps, we conduct interviews with experienced individuals, such as (I)NGO professionals in the countries of origin, academics or journalists.

The activities currently carried out for the public benefit by the charity can be categorised into the following strands:



➔ Fill country-of-origin information (COI) gaps.

Our research investigates human rights violations in specific countries or deals with specific facts relating to the claimant's testimony. Our reports are free of charge and compiled on demand for asylum lawyers and (I)NGOs who assist people fleeing persecution and grave threats with their claim to protection.

➔ Create more country-of-origin information research capacity.

We train volunteer researchers, lawyers and (I)NGO representatives on researching and using country-of-origin information to represent their clients with better informed procedures, leading to fairer decision-making on asylum claims.

➔ Improve the accessibility and reach of high-quality country-of-origin information.

We administer a growing database of research reports and constantly invest in growing its audience and improving its functions. The database is accessible to anyone supporting persons seeking asylum worldwide.

In setting our activities each year we have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees always ensure that the programmes we undertake are in line with our charitable objectives and aims.

In 2020, Asylos' main objectives as set out in the work plan were to:

- 1. Improve access to high quality COI**
- 2. Broaden the impact of our research**
- 3. Raise awareness about the need for our work**
- 4. Strengthen and expand Asylos' organisational capacity**

In order to meet these objectives, we took on the following activities:

1. Improve access to high quality COI

We continued to provide a large number of high-quality individual-case reports:

- In total, we produced 74 reports for people seeking asylum originating from 46 countries
- The completed reports were split as follows between our regional research teams: Africa (28%), Americas (34%), MENA (15%), Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS, 12%) and Asia (11%).
- The reports that we produced were used at the following stages of the asylum procedure: first appeal (32%), second and subsequent appeals (5%), initial administrative application (35%) and further submission / fresh claim (19%). 9% of reports produced were used in other procedures such as statelessness claims.

- Reports produced in 2020 covered questions on civil status (2 reports; 3%), domestic security (11 reports; 15%), national - local governance practices (15 reports; 15%), political opposition (10 reports; 13%), social group (21 reports; 28%) and gender (20 reports; 26%).
- Asylos received 86 research requests in 2020. These were requested by a wide range of stakeholders, including lawyers and caseworkers from (I) NGOs.
- An approximate 30% of lawyers submitting research requests support their clients either on a pro bono (9%) basis or through charity funding (20%) which underlines the value and importance of Asylos providing COI reports free of charge. Remaining reports were submitted for cases funded by legal aid (50.6%), financed by the client (14.7%) or other means (2.7%).
- The top five countries for research requests were: Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Honduras and Zimbabwe.
- Research requests came from 9 host countries: the UK (33), the US (28), France (13) and Belgium (5), as well as Germany (2), Sweden (2), Bolivia (1), Morocco (1) and New Zealand (1).
- Compared to 2019, the proportion of research requests from the US, UK and France increased slightly, while the proportion of requests from Belgium decreased.

Achievements and Performance

Through our robust feedback protocol, Asylos continued to monitor the impact of our reports in order to further develop and refine our work. At the time of writing (end May 2021), an approximate 39.7% of requesters have provided feedback on research reports requested in 2020.

Some outcomes from the feedback collection are as follows:

- Lawyers stressed the indispensability of contacts on the ground, the broad range of language skills, and commended the thoroughness and quality of our research.
- In 88% of feedback collected for requests made in 2020, requestors said that our research provided them with information they did not already have before (**testimonials are available on our website**).

In 2020, we also followed up and recorded information on final outcomes of cases we worked on in 2019. We followed up case outcomes with a time lag of at least one year as final case outcomes are not usually available until long after we provide a COI report. Asylos received feedback on 33% (25 cases) of the 77 cases completed in 2019. Of these:

- 36% had received a 'successful' outcome, 24% had an 'alternative outcome', 12% were unsuccessful and 28% did not have a result yet.
- 56% indicated that they submitted the whole report to authorities/the court, 8% indicated that they submitted selected sources and 36% indicated that they used it for their own preparation or did not complete the field.
- 40% of respondents shared our report with colleagues.

Next to working on the production of research reports, we also worked on increasing the reach of our research:

- Even when we produce research with an individual asylum claim in mind, the evidence we find frequently applies to the cases of many other people seeking asylum. Our website is where our research lives, and registered lawyers can search our database for existing research by a range of countries and key words.

Among the feedback we received on reports requested in 2020 were the following comments:

- "The research I requested from Asylos provided me with new evidence, which helped me greatly to establish my client's risk of persecution." *Cecile Taymans, Lawyer, Belgium*
- "The reports are very useful in preparation (...) The reports are particularly useful in cases where the client has been refused legal aid and has no funds to pay for an official expert report (...) The client is very grateful." *UK lawyer representing a person seeking asylum from Afghanistan*
- "Thank you again for your brilliant work which is so helpful." *French lawyer representing a person seeking asylum from Pakistan*
- "Seems very on point. Thank you!" *US lawyer representing a person seeking asylum from Turkey*
- "Thank you for the work - it was an excellent report (...) I also think it is very high quality work considering it is free - which was essential as I was representing my client pro bono." *UK lawyer representing a person seeking asylum from Honduras*

Achievements and Performance

- In 2020, our case-specific research reports were downloaded 1,097 times. This gives us an approximate indication of how many asylum cases they were used for. We estimate that each download represents approximately one use in an asylum case, with some downloads not leading to a use and other downloads leading to multiple uses.
- We disseminated our research reports to 2,378 lawyers, caseworkers and (I)NGOs worldwide through monthly research updates.
- In 2020 we started collaborating with Refugee Action, ARC Foundation, and Clifford Chance to further increase access to our research database by building a an improved and joint online resource platform, which we are expecting to launch towards the end of 2021

In a number of cases, our reports helped people seeking asylum to be legally recognised as refugees:

- We published a selection of successful 'Asylum Stories' on our **website**.

We also increased our thematic research (with support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation):

- We continued to monitor and address COI gaps to identify the most pertinent research topics. Our thematic research reports are designed to address these gaps by combining publicly available information with new information obtained from interviewing.
- We published our third thematic research report in May 2020, in partnership with ARC Foundation. The report **Vietnam: Returned Victims of Trafficking** has since been downloaded from our website, ecoi.net and ARC Foundation by over 540 unique users and used in numerous asylum cases.

- The report was cited by the United States Department of Justice, and other organisations such as the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Stichting Los, Free Movement and the Electronic Immigration Network while an article was published in **The Independent**.
- We have been working on two more reports in this format. '**Ghana: State Treatment of LGBTQI+ Persons**' was later published in early 2021 and the next report, which is focussing on people with disabilities in Nigeria, will be published in late 2021.

Feedback on our Vietnam report //

"As highlighted in the report, victims of trafficking face significant stigma and discrimination upon return. In our work supporting survivors, we have witnessed the discrimination that both women and men face from being a 'failed migrant.' Women face additional stigma associated with being sexually exploited. Recognizing the stigmas is crucial in helping the survivors receive the support that they need to successfully reintegrate and thereby reducing re-trafficking risks." *Diep Vuong, President and Co-Founder of Pacific Links Foundation*

"At our centre, we have supported many Vietnamese people seeking asylum, some of whom are victims of trafficking or modern slavery. We notice refusals tend to mention it is safe for them to return. The Asylos/ ARC report counters the Home Office's guidance and has provided a clearer picture of the risk to Vietnamese VoTs if they are returned to Vietnam." *Nikki Lee Clarke, Immigration advisor at St Augustine's Centre*

Achievements and Performance

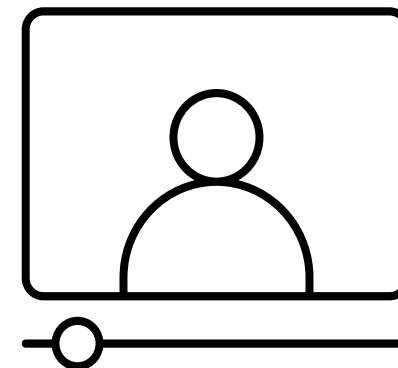
2. We increased the impact of our research and expertise

We invested in developing our research tools and standards:

- We conducted a major overhaul and expansion of our current research training curriculum, which had originally been launched in 2015. The new core curriculum is mandatory for all Asylos volunteers, spans over 94 pages, contains tips, examples and practical exercises and consists of the following modules:
 - **About Asylos**
 - **Country-of-origin Information**
 - **From a Research Assignment to the Start of your Research**
 - **Assessing and Selecting Source Material**
 - **Writing the Report**
- In addition, we launched one new thematic training module specifically for Asylos volunteers who coordinate the research process. The 26-page module provides practical and substantive guidance for COI research coordination
- With the launch of the new training, we introduced a new policy for continued training of Asylos volunteers. For the first time, volunteers are now required to pass an annual refresher training
- We facilitated a (digital) conference at the occasion of our 10th Anniversary, during which we offered advanced research training to volunteers about: 'Refugee Law 101', 'COI in the UK', 'COI in the US', 'Child-specific COI' and 'Interviewing in COI research'. We are currently working them into new training modules, which will be rolled out internally over the course of the next two years.

In January 2020, we managed to secure funding from the AB Charitable Trust to expand our training initiative for legal representatives in the UK, which we had previously started with the kind support of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Throughout 2020, we:

- Mapped 'legal aid deserts' in the UK - areas where our services are most needed and which are marked by absence of specialist legal advice.
- Wrote and published a public training manual about COI research.
- Delivered a series of 7 basic COI training webinars, particularly advertised to representatives from 'legal aid deserts'.
- Developed a new training module and handbook on child-specific COI research (which was rolled out in January 2021) and delivered the first child-focused training webinar
- Trained a total of 143 individuals through this initiative. 48% of all UK participants were from 'legal aid deserts'
- 100% of participants stated that as a result of the workshop they felt more confident in researching and using COI and 98% rated the training as 'excellent' or 'very good'.





Feedback from our training webinars //

"Both the handbook and the presentations (...) were very useful. They complemented each other well and showed me how good open source COI research can be done, even with limited time and resources, and how good research can substantiate a client's case. It also helped me think more strategically about my client's asylum and human rights claims at different stages of their immigration proceedings. So thank you for running this workshop!"

A training participant

"Very interactive, stimulating, and useful even for experienced professionals"

A training participant

"I was impressed with the way in which the virtual workshop was managed remotely and the groups divided. (...)."

A training participant

Feedback from the new research training //

"Asylos' research training is key to everything we do. The modules are of course essential for every new volunteer to get up to speed with the quality standards and inner workings of Asylos. But what I find so wonderful is that they are a dynamic resource that develops as Asylos develops, that lives from volunteer's use and feedback, and that can be flexibly adapted and expanded as Asylos grows."

Katharina Natter, Trustee

"[The training] was very interesting. I definitely learned a lot and now I am looking forward to putting it into practice."

A prospective Asylos volunteer



Achievements and Performance

3. We engaged in strategic outreach to broaden the base of beneficiaries

Throughout 2020, we engaged in advocacy and communication activities to raise awareness for the circumstances that motivate our work:

- Published ten **blog posts** and ten **news items** to raise awareness for our work and tell the stories behind the individual cases we work on.
- We had 11,742 website visitors (compared to 9,239 website visitors in 2019).
- Slightly increased the number of followers on social media (from 3,423 to 3,456 on Facebook and from 3,319 to 3,456 on Twitter. We also expanded outreach on LinkedIn, bringing the number of followers to 929).

4. We strengthened Asylos' organisational structure and expanded our organisational capacity

Asylos was incorporated in the UK and has developed a significant body of work there, not least because of evident need. However, its aim was and is to reach out to as many countries as possible where reliable COI is hard to come by domestically. At the same time, its relative UK focus has allowed us to enhance our research, systems and networks, and enabled the development of high quality training and capacity building that is now internationally used and recognised.

Our network has expanded throughout the year:

- We recruited and trained 6 new volunteers. Our total number of active volunteers at the end of 2020 is 94. Volunteers are based in 29 countries.

We strengthened our governance and advisory structures:

- We convened one in-person coordination conference, 10 network-wide calls, one network-wide anniversary conference and 7 Board meetings.
- We recruited three highly competent new members of the board of trustees: Anna Magyarlaci, Development Officer at Fair Trials, and Diamantoula Vlantoni, Asylum Officer at the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum. Phil Arnold, Head of Refugee Support at the British Red Cross, joined the Board on 1 January 2021.

We incorporated in Germany:

- Asylos now has a sister entity in Germany, Asylos gemeinnützige Unternehmergeellschaft.

We focused on fundraising:

- We hired a part-time Fundraiser, Laura Wu, who started her role on 1 December 2020.
- Confirmed new grants from the AB Charitable Trust, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, a Dutch private philanthropist, the Haella Foundation, Stichting Niks Voor Niks and the Souter Trust.
- Raised 2,344 EUR in individual donations.

Financial Review

During the year, the net funds raised from the general public and philanthropies was 178,000 EUR. All of this income and some of the carryover from the preceding year was spent in 2020, bringing our total expenses to 179,000 EUR. Philanthropic donations are our biggest source of income and in total we raised a net income of 174,000 EUR from this source.

As shown in the restricted funds column in the Statement of Financial Activities, restrictive income was 66,000 EUR which was raised for particular programmes. We still have 47,000 EUR left which will be used as these programmes progress.

At the end of 2020, Asylos had almost 3,000 EUR in reserves. This represents less than one month unrestricted funds expenditure on charitable activities. It is the trustees' view that the charity ideally needs about three months' worth of expenditure to cover emergency situations and prevent disruptions to programmes. Trustees will therefore aim to build further reserves over time.

Restricted funds and unrestricted funds that are earmarked to be spent in a certain timeframe are not included in the trustees' view of reserve needs because these funds are held by the charity for only as long as is necessary to organise the relevant activities. Normally these funds are spent within one year of receipt.

INCOME				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2019
Paul Hamlyn Foundation		€57,946	€57,946	€57,366
Sigrid Rausing Trust	€46,357		€46,357	€45,853
AB Charitable Trust		€23,178	€23,178	
Open Society Initiative for Europe	€21,687		€21,687	€40,237
Dutch private donor	€15,000		€15,000	
Haella Foundation	€5,000		€5,000	
Stichting Niks Voor Niks	€5,000		€5,000	
European Programme for Integration and Migration		€1,000	€1,000	€4,000
Other donations	€2,573		€2,573	€9,861
Interest and other	€133		€133	€5,251
TOTAL INCOME	€95,749	€82,124	€177,873	€162,568

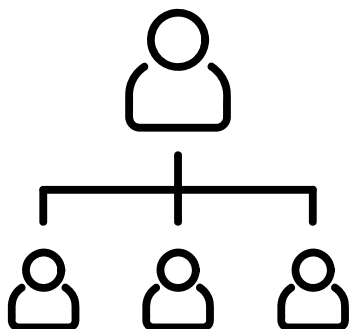
EXPENDITURE				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2019
Payments				
Network coordination	€99,840		€99,840	€70,339
Volunteer meetings	€985	€3,091	€4,076	€3,447
Office costs	€7,096		€7,096	€10,722
UK Project		€63,255	€63,255	€57,841
Governance and development	€5,017		€5,017	€8,267
TOTAL PAYMENTS	€112,937	€66,346	€179,283	€150,616

Cash funds				
Unrestricted	€10,292			€27,480
Restricted	€46,552			€30,774
TOTAL	€56,844			

Structure

Asylos is an international non-governmental organisation established in 2010. Its original constitution is dated July 29, 2014 and was amended on May 19, 2020. It is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. The constitution defines the charity's objects as:

'The promotion of human rights law as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations or regional conventions and declarations, and in national law. In pursuing this object, Asylos will focus on the advancement of human rights law with respect to people seeking asylum and stateless people in the UK and elsewhere.'



Board of Trustees

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees to be appointed. Trustees serve for renewable terms of three years, with the exception of the founding trustees, who served for renewable terms of four years. Trustees can serve until they either resign or their term ends without renewal. None of our trustees were remunerated for their trusteeship aside from expenses.

Our trustees are responsible for setting the strategy and are responsible in law for the running of Asylos. All trustees, except where otherwise stated, served for the whole year:

Dick Oosting (chair)

Daphne Bouteillet-Paquet

(Daphne relinquished her duties in January 2020)

Katharina Natter (vice chair)

Alexandra Dufresne

Anna Magyarlaki (appointed in June 2020)

Colin Yeo

Diamantoula Vlantoni (appointed in November 2020)

Mira Wolf-Bauwens

Where new trustees are appointed, they are given a formal induction to the work of the trust and provided with the information they need to fulfill their roles, which includes information about the role of trustees and charity law. New trustees are nominated by the board of trustees, and appointed where they have the necessary skills to contribute to the charity's management and development.

Advisory Committee

Since 2012, Asylos has benefitted from an Advisory Committee to advise on research priorities and to support fundraising. In 2020, its members are:

- Thomas Klau (Chair of the Advisory Committee, co-founder of Asylos and editor of Eurointelligence)
- Franziska Brantner (member of the German Bundestag)
- Géraud de Geouffre de la Pradelle (President of the Citizen's Enquiry Commission on France's Role in Rwanda and a Patron of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine)
- Gunnar Lund (former Ambassador of Sweden to France, the US, and the EU)
- Anila Noor (Refugee activist based in the Netherlands)
- Salim Salamah (Activist focusing on the issue of statelessness among the Syrian-Palestinian population)
- Satya Staes Polet (lawyer in a leading international law firm)
- Nick Witney (senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations)

Staff

At the end of 2020, Asylos had three staff members (one full-time and two part-time). Asylos' Director, Sophie Kloos, is responsible for the strategic management of the organisation and the daily coordination and delegation of all Asylos-related tasks. The Network Coordinator supports the Director in the coordination of the volunteer network. This position was occupied by Olivia Baskerville until she resigned at the end of 2020 to pursue a PhD degree. Her successor, Nanneke Wisman, has been recruited and will commence in mid-January 2021. The part-time fundraiser, Laura Wu, commenced in December 2020. This was a new role created to meet urgent fundraising needs.

In March 2020, Asylos Brussels staff, Director, Sophie Kloos, and Network Coordinator, Olivia Baskerville, left Belgium and moved to the Netherlands and the UK respectively. Since Olivia's resignation, all Asylos staff are now based in the Netherlands. Asylos has also been working with two part-time consultants, Maya Pritchard and Lara Casalotti, based in London, who deliver its UK-specific activities.

Asylos' Director and Network Coordinator work closely with the volunteer coordination team, comprising Asylos' 12 regional research coordinators (up to three per team) for Africa, Americas, Asia, MENA and the Russia/CIS team. Each coordinator oversees the work of the volunteers in the respective team and contributes to the strategic development of the network and its functions.



**We stand for asylum
decisions based on
evidence.**





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Asylos

No (if any)
1158386

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
1/1/2020

To

Period end date
31/12/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest €	Restricted funds to the nearest €	Endowment funds to the nearest €	Total funds to the nearest €	Last year to the nearest €
A1 Receipts					
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	57,946	-	57,946	57,366
Sigrid Rausing Trust	46,357	-	-	46,357	45,853
AB Charitable Trust	-	23,178	-	23,178	-
Open Society Initiative for Europe	21,687	-	-	21,687	40,237
Dutch private donor	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
Haella Foundation	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
Stichting Niks Voor Niks	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
European Programme for Integration and		1,000		1,000	4,000
Other donations	2,573			2,573	9,861
Interest and other	133	-	-	133	5,251
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	95,749	82,124	-	177,873	162,568
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	95,749	82,124	-	177,873	162,568
A3 Payments					
Network Coordination	99,840	-	-	99,840	70,339
Volunteer meetings	985	3,091	-	4,076	3,447
Office costs	7,096	-	-	7,096	10,722
UK Project	-	63,255	-	63,255	57,841
Governance and Development	5,017	-	-	5,017	8,267
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	112,937	66,346	-	179,283	150,616
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	112,937	66,346	-	179,283	150,616
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 17,188	15,778	-	Cross Add	11,952
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,480	30,774	-	58,254	-
Cash funds this year end	10,292	46,552	-	#VALUE!	11,952

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest €	Restricted funds to nearest €	Endowment funds to nearest €
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B1 Cash funds

BNP Paribas (Belgium)	6,852	-	-
Triodos (UK)	3,440	46,552	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	10,292	46,552	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

Unrestricted funds

to nearest €

OK

Restricted funds

to nearest €

OK

Endowment funds

to nearest €

B2 Other monetary assets**Details**

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets**Details**

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use**Details**

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities**Details**

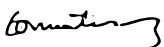
	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

	Dick Oosting	28-09-2021

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Asylos CIO ("the CIO") for the year ended 31 December 2020

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required under section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.



Trevor James FCA DChA
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3PR

15 September 2021

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Asylos

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Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required under section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.



Trevor James FCA DChA
Dormer Cottage
West Broyle
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West Sussex
PO19 3PR

15 September 2021