



Stand Together Network (STN)
End violence & inequality for a brighter tomorrow

Annual Report for year ending 31st October 2023

Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

For the period ended

31st October 2023

Company number: 7839780 (England and Wales)
Charity number: 1161029



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General Information

Directors & Trustees:

Tasneem Zeenat Pervaiz

Dr Mohamed Elhaythem Abdelatey

Maha Galaleldin

Basirat Matemí Opakunle – Not a trustee from 24th February 2021

Dr Mohamed Elmeselhi – Not a trustee from 18th August 2023

Shakiratu Opeyemi Akinleye

Dr Mohamed Fatouh - Not a trustee from 15th July 2022

Aleih Khazali

Secretary :

Soad (Sue) Halawa

Registered office:

311 Fore Street

Community House

London

N9 0PZ

Governing document

Stand Together Network (formerly Skills and Training Network) is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association

Bankers: Unity Trust bank and The Cooperative Bank

Accountant: TACTS Accountant, 61 Fountains Crescent, London, N14 6BD



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Trustees’/ Director’s Report

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st October 2023 which is also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors’ report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Special disclosure

Our board of trustees have responded to the latest survey and views of our beneficiaries and stakeholder and changed the name of the organisation from **Skills and Training Network (STN)** to **Stand Together Network (STN)** also to match the new services that we offer. The board passed a resolution for this change and application been accepted at both Companies House and Charity Commission.

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

Small company special provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime.

Statement of Directors’ and Trustees’ Responsibilities

The Companies Act 2006 requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company. Charity trustees are the people who serve on the governing body of a charity. They may be known as trustees, directors, board members, governors or committee members. The principles and main duties are the same in all cases. Trustees have, and must accept, ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, and ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and meeting the needs for which it has been set up.

Risk management

The Trustees continue to appraise the management risk facing the organisation. This involves identifying the types of risk the charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying ways of mitigating the risks. As part of this process, the Trustees have reviewed the adequacy of the Centre’s current internal controls. The Trustees are pleased to report that the Centre’s internal financial controls, in particular, conform to guidelines issued by the Charities Commission.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Stand Together Network’s emergency responses were activated which mitigated for associated risks and amend accordingly as this reporting period falls partly within the pandemic period. The organisation resilience was responsive and strong which ensured business resilience and sustainability.



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Objectives and aims

The charity's objectives are to support and improve the lives of disadvantaged people.

Main Charity Objectives

"The charity's objects (objects) are specifically restricted to the following:

To promote for the public benefit the provision of culturally sensitive support and advice services for those in need:

- (a) To relieve and support those in need due to domestic violence, immigration, homelessness, disability and or unemployment,
- (b) Assisting in finding a safe shelter or temporary refuge accommodation,
- (c) Advancing education for those who have experienced domestic violence, immigration, homelessness, disability and unemployment by developing skills, capacities and capabilities. to enable them to actively participate in society independently.
- (d) Organising recreational and leisure time activities in the interest of social welfare to improve the conditions of life of disadvantaged people.

Our volunteers

Stand Together Network's volunteers are very involved in the community and rely on voluntary help. 6 volunteers assisted with our on-going activities. We wish to thank our volunteers for their loyal support and contribution.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Reserves policy

The Board has assessed the charity's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. As a result, the Board has approved a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed, should be held in reserve and maintained at a level which ensures that Stand Together Network core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The target reserve amount represents at least 6 months' (26 weeks) expenditure and will be reviewed annually.



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This past year has been a dynamic one, filled with challenges and thrills. However, it was ultimately a highly gratifying year as the Stand Together Network (STN) succeeded in enhancing, broadening, and maintaining its primary services, reaching an even larger number of racialised communities with personalised services. This was during a time when the entire nation was grappling with the aftermath of Covid-19, the ongoing devastation of the cost-of-living crisis, inflation surges, and a dysfunctional immigration system. These circumstances significantly affected many STN beneficiaries who have asylum or refugee status.

You might have noticed our new name, Stand Together Network. We made this change for two main reasons. Firstly, our services are being increasingly utilised by women, and secondly, many of these women are dealing with domestic abuse issues. As a result, our Information, Advice, and Guidance services have been increasingly addressing matters related to violence against women and then assisting survivors in rebuilding their lives through skill enhancement, education, and training. Our former name, Skills and Training Network, did not fully reflect this significant strategic shift. Stand Together signifies our advocacy and campaigning against gender-based violence.

Our beneficiaries are primarily migrants or refugees from the Middle East (e.g., Syria), North & East Africa (e.g., Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Algeria, Egypt etc.), Arab, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Ukraine, or are Black British. 95% of our users are women, many of whom are single parents, often with caregiving responsibilities, and a significant number have experienced domestic abuse, coercive control, forced marriage, and/or female genital mutilation (FGM).

The accomplishments of STN would not have been possible without the dedication, resolve, and enthusiasm of my fellow trustees, our staff, volunteers, funders, supporters, and the beneficiaries we support and collaborate with, who face systemic inequalities.

We are deeply grateful for the transparency and contributions of our staff team and volunteers, which have enabled the organisation to enhance its robustness, for instance, by achieving the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) accreditation this year. We are also extremely proud of the relationships we have fostered with our beneficiaries, partners, businesses, supporters, and the broader community. Our ability to learn from others and share our experience and understanding of the racialised communities in Enfield, Haringey, and Islington has been instrumental in our continued success.

I am immensely proud of how Sue Halawa, STN's CEO, has guided the organisation in the right direction to meet the needs of local people who are experiencing profound levels of deprivation. Many of these individuals' lives are further complicated by a broken immigration system that does not permit asylum seekers to work while they await the outcome of their settlement claim, sometimes for years. Refugees with leave to remain status are allowed to work, but those who lost jobs due to the pandemic could not receive any social welfare support due to the Government's No Resource to Public Funds



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(NRPF) ruling. A significant portion of our IAG work has involved challenging NRPF decisions and advocating for BAMER women experiencing domestic violence.

Readers of this report will find that the financial accounts presented indicate that the organisation remains financially stable. In fact, our income has grown by approximately 178% between 2019 and 2022. However, we still need to grow to achieve true sustainability levels to meet the increasing and complex needs of our beneficiaries.

STN is deeply grateful to its beneficiaries, funders, partners, local businesses, and supporters. Without them, we could not accomplish all the work that we do. THANK YOU!

Tasneem Pervaiz
Director and Chairperson



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Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stand Together Network

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st October 2023, which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records:
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Date: 27/12/2023

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



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31ST OCTOBER 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> 2023	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> 2022
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES: -</u>		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Services, Contracts & Commissioning		12,540	-	12,540	51,961
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Grants to provide charitable activities	(9)	27,250	247,883	275,133	205,837
Other income					
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		39,790	247,883	287,673	257,798
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>					
Expenses in raising funds	(10)	-	13,777	13,777	4,050
Charitable Expenses	(10)	-	195,612	195,612	258,179
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		-	209,388	209,388	262,229
Net Incomings and (outgoings) resources		39,790	38,495	78,285	(4,431)
Balances Brought Forward		48,969	53,824	102,793	107,225
Balances Carried Forward		88,759	92,319	181,077	102,793

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

(The notes attached form part of these financial statements)



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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2023

	Notes	Funds <u>2023</u> £	Funds <u>2022</u> £
Fixed Assets			
Equipment		-	-
Current Assets:			
Debtor	(6)	-	2,000
Cash at Bank and In Hand		202,784	105,564
Current Liability:			
Creditors & Accruals	(7)	21,707	4,771
Net Assets		181,077	102,793

As Represented By:

Unrestricted Fund		88,759	48,969
Restricted Fund	(8)	92,319	53,824
Total Funds		181,077	102,793

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

*The accounts were approved by the Directors on **27/12/2023** and signed on their behalf by: -*


Chairperson
(Tasneem Pervaiz)


Secretary
(Soad Halawa)



Notes to the account.

Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting convention

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

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. STN meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

1.2 Fund structure

Fund accounting unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity particular areas of the charity's work. The charity did not have any designated funds in this financial year.

1.3 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT as the Charity is exempt from registration for VAT and therefore is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, of all fixed assets over its expected useful life: - No Fixed acquired in this financial year

1.6 Cash Flow Statement

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



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2. Taxation

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

3. Support Cost

Allocation of support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, and governance costs which support the Charity activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 11.

4. Stand Together Network is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee without a share capital.

5. Staff Costs

The total Staff Costs (Including Sessional workers) for the year were £147,354 (£183,962 in 2021/2022), including Tax and NIC.

Total staff paid on payroll were £52,685 and the number of employees on payroll were 6 (part-time).

The total number of self-employed staff were 7.

None of the employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year or the previous year.

Trustees are not remunerated for their trusteeship duties.

6. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
People's Health Trust	-	2,000
Total	-	2,000

7. Creditors & Accruals

	2023	2022
	£	£
HMRC Tax and NIC	215	220
Pension	48	51
Professional Fees	-	1,300
Other Creditors	21,445	3,200
Total	21,707	4,771



8. Analysis of Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1st November 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31st October 2023
	£	£	£	£
Awards For All	7,332	-	7,332	-
Peoples Health Trust	2,062	19,576	16,529	5,109
The London Community Fund	10,007	60,030	42,562	27,475
Garfield Weston	-	10,000	-	10,000
Enfield Voluntary Action	-	10,415	6,334	4,081
City of London	8,798	31,000	28,404	11,394
Big Lottery Fund	15,885	81,252	81,014	16,123
Groundwork London	-	12,830	8,732	4,098
Trust For London	8,988	12,500	11,422	10,066
Good Thing Foundation	752	10,280	7,059	3,973
	53,824	247,883	209,388	92,319

9. Grant receivable breakdown

Funder	Purpose	2023 £	2022 £
Awards For All	Education and Guidance	-	9,998
Big Lottery Fund	Advice, Employability & Education	81,252	39,970
City of London	Information and advice	31,000	11,168
London Community Fund	Information and advice	60,030	24,195
Lloyds Bank Foundation	Core Support and advice	27,250	25,000
Trust For London	Welfare advice and guidance	12,500	31,000
Garfield Weston	AQS and Capacity Building	10,000	-
Enfield Voluntary Action	Trusted Voice and Communication	10,415	-
London Borough of Enfield	Employability & Guidance	-	37,592
Peoples Health Trust	Community Activities Engagement	19,576	19,454
Groundwork London	Vocation, Health and Social care	12,830	100
Good Thing Foundation	Information and advice	10,280	7,360
		275,133	205,837

****Unrestricted Fund of £27,250 received from Lloyds Bank Foundation to support the core cost of the organisation.**



10. Resources Expended

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> 2023	<u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> 2022
	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds	-	13,777	13,777	4,050
Salary and Sessional worker	-	133,577	133,577	183,962
Volunteer Expenses	-	3,175	3,175	4,453
Premises and Room Hire	-	12,963	12,963	14,024
Partnership and Training	-	15,050	15,050	12,000
Refreshment	-	432	432	613
Accreditation and Subscriptions	-	2,998	2,998	2,520
Contracts Compliance	-	-	-	21,200
Foodbank and emergency support	-	2,681	2,681	-
Equipment	-	5,417	5,417	1,344
E-Learning, Printing & Website	-	8,238	8,238	7,998
Insurance	-	547	547	1,109
Travel and Transport	-	33	33	156
Professional fees	-	4,534	4,534	2,970
General Running Expenses	-	5,967	5,967	5,831
Total resource expended	-	209,388	209,388	262,230

11. Governance and Support Costs

	Support £	Governance £	Total £
Premises and Room Hire	12,963	-	12,963
E-Learning, Printing & Website	8,238	-	8,238
Equipment	5,417	-	5,417
Professional fees compliance	-	2,000	2,000
Insurance	-	547	547
General Running Expenses	5,873	94	5,967
	32,491	2,640	35,131