

# EVOLVE - FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

England & Wales · Charity number 1167888

## Details

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Other names	EVOLVE INTERNATIONAL
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-06-28
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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**Address** C/O 1MCB Chambers  
44 Southampton Buildings  
London  
WC2A 1AP

**Phone** 02074528900

**Website** [www.evolvefila.org](http://www.evolvefila.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN UGANDA AND EAST AFRICA BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE,ADVICE, TRAINING, EDUCATION AND OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT TO:• THOSE CHARGED OR CONVICTED, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON DEATH ROW;• MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION; AND• INDIVIDUALS/ ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTOR.

**Activities:** To promote the criminal justice system in Uganda and East Africa by providing assistance, advice, training, education and other forms of support to: - Those charged or convicted of a criminal offence, particularly those on death row- Members of the legal profession and - Individuals/organisations working within the criminal justice sector

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- Uganda
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£14,841	£17,552	-	-
2023-12-31	£55,354	£53,177	-	-
2022-12-31	£42,816	£39,229	-	-
2021-12-31	£49,998	£31,243	-	-
2020-12-31	£20,659	£18,152	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>TANYA MURSHED</b>	Chair	2016-06-28
Bernadette Anne Smith		2020-04-16
James Murray-Smith		2020-04-16
<b>MARIANNE ALTON</b>		2016-06-28
Naomi Barnard		2022-05-12

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			T o	Period end date	
	01	01	2024		31	12

**Section A Reference and administration details**

<b>Charity name</b>	Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Evolve International
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1167888
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	C/O 1MCB, 44 Southampton Buildings
	London
<b>Postcode</b>	WC2A 1AP

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1	Tanya Murshed	As above		
2	Marianne Alton	As above		
3	James Murray-Smith	As above		
4	Bernadette Smith	As above		
5	Naomi Barnard	As above		

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>
Same as above	Same as above

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

<b>Type of adviser</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by resolution

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the criminal justice system in Uganda and East Africa by providing assistance, advice, training, education and other forms of support to:

1. Those charged or convicted of a criminal offence, particularly those on death row;
2. Members of the legal profession and
3. Individuals/organizations working within the criminal justice sector

**Technical Legal Assistance** – Evolve continued to offer pro bono technical legal assistance in individual capital appeals and to build capacity in the legal profession in Uganda by working closely with Ugandan defence advocates to prepare capital appeal cases.

**Defence Advocacy Training Project** – Evolve entered into a new partnership with the Uganda Law Society to provide for training and guidance for lawyers undertaking appeals of death row inmates. The scheme aims to widen access to justice and improve the quality of representation in capital cases. In September 2024, Evolve’s pro bono barristers provided specialist training to defence lawyers undertaking capital cases through Moodle, an online platform.

**The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.**

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year****TRAINING, EDUCATION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE:****Technical Legal Assistance in Capital Cases**

Evolve continued to improve access to justice and build capacity in the legal profession by working closely with Ugandan advocates in the preparation of capital appeals cases, and through the preparation of high quality written submissions.

In 2024, Evolve's barristers worked pro bono alongside Ugandan advocates to prepare the following appeals:

- Uganda v NM – Evolve (AB) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal against the death penalty succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a determinate sentence.
- Uganda v WM – Evolve (MRKC & MA) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. Evolve's submissions contended (amongst other things) that the findings in relation to WM's age were seriously flawed. The Court of Appeal agreed and, following a determination that the state had failed to prove that WM had been an adult at the time of the offence, quashed the death sentence and imposed a sentence resulting in his immediate release.
- Uganda v OJ – Evolve (MRKC & MA) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appellant had killed his father while suffering an episode in which he described hearing voices and thought that he was bewitched. He had no previous history of violence. Despite these factors, no investigation had been conducted into his mental health at the time of his conviction. Evolve's intervention ensured that a psychiatric assessment was obtained. The Court of Appeal found that he had not been of sound mind at the time of the offence, and accordingly quashed the death sentence and ordered his immediate release.
- Uganda v VT and another – Evolve (TM & AB) worked alongside Ugandan advocates to prepare this appeal. The appeal against sentence succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a determinate sentence.
- Uganda v EB – Evolve (MA) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal against sentence succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a determinate sentence.

Evolve's barristers also worked pro bono on the following appeals that were heard in 2024 and had their judgments delivered in 2025:

- Uganda v GB – Evolve (MA) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal against sentence succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a determinate sentence.
- Uganda v AS – Evolve (FH) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal against sentence succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a determinate sentence.
- Uganda v TM and KB – Evolve (RF, FH and MA) worked alongside Ugandan advocates to prepare this appeal. The appeal was refused by the Court of Appeal and Evolve will continue to provide the appellants with assistance before the Supreme Court.
- Uganda v LM - Evolve (FH) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal against sentence succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a determinate sentence.
- Uganda v MA – Evolve (AB) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal was refused by the Court of Appeal and Evolve will continue to provide the appellant with assistance before the Supreme Court.
- Uganda v CO and two others – Evolve (TM, AB and FH) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. The appeal against sentence succeeded and the death sentence was replaced with a sentence of life imprisonment.

Evolve worked alongside Ugandan advocates to prepare the following appeals that were heard in 2024 but are still pending judgment:

- Uganda v LR; HB – Evolve (TM & AB) worked alongside a Ugandan advocate to prepare this appeal. Judgment was reserved and is still pending as of the date of this report.

### **Defence Advocacy Training Project**

In January 2024, following an in-person trip to Uganda by Evolve's head of casework (MA), Evolve entered into a new partnership with the Uganda Law Society ('ULS'). The Memorandum of Understanding provides for training and guidance for lawyers undertaking appeals of death row inmates. The scheme aims to widen access to justice and improve the quality of representation in capital cases. Under the agreement, Ugandan

lawyers will receive specialist training in the law and procedure in capital cases, and work alongside UK-based lawyers during the phases of case preparation and presentation. The programme aims to provide Ugandan lawyers with best-practice guidance and equip them with the appropriate expertise to handle capital cases. It aims to increase capacity among those available to undertake this category of work, and to meaningfully contribute towards enhancing the rule of law.

In September 2024, Evolve (AB, TM, MA) provided training on capital cases to defence lawyers recruited through the partnership with ULS. The training covered:

- Common grounds of appeal against conviction and sentence in capital cases;
- Initial case preparation in capital cases;
- Appellate client conferencing;
- Capital sentencing law and procedure;
- Drafting grounds of appeal;
- Mitigation and aggravation in practice; and
- Practical guidance on drafting submissions in capital appeals.

This enabled Evolve to progress to the case allocation stage in 2025, and to provide further in-depth training to the Ugandan lawyers recruited to the programme.

**Section E Financial review**

**Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves**

The charity does not currently have a policy on reserves.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

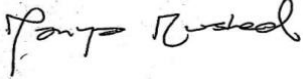

**Section F Other optional information**

**Section G Declaration**

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

	
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**Full name(s)**

Tanya Hasan Murshed	Marianne Alton
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**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair/Deputy Chair	
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**Date**

23 October 2025
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**Receipts and payments accounts**

Month	2024
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**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Individual Donation	11285		-	11,285	-
ROLE Funding		2936	-	2,936	-
SCCF Grant		0	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	620		-	620	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income)	11,905	2,936	-	14,841	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,905</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,841</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Bank charges	343.24	75.0	-	418.24	-
Hotel Travel and Subsistence	6844.73	723.95	-	7,568.68	-
Capital Expenditure	0	0	-	- .00	-
Phone & Internet	444.52	0	-	444.52	-
Printing and Stationery	493.9	0	-	493.90	-
Consultancy fees & expenses	7220.14	1,406	-	8,627	-
			-	-	-
Sub total	15,347	2,205	-	17,552	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,347</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,552</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>-3,442</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,117</b>	<b>-</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	-3,442	731	0	2,117	-

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in hand	150	-	-
	Cash at Bank	39,525	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>39,675</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-



Receipts and payments accounts

Table with columns: Month, 2024, and two empty columns.

B3 Investment assets

Table with columns: Details, Fund to which asset belongs, Cost (optional), Current value (optional).

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Table with columns: Details, Fund to which asset belongs, Cost (optional), Current value (optional). Includes items like Asus Laptop and Huawei Matebook.

B5 Liabilities

Table with columns: 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 table with columns: Signature, Print Name, Date of approval. Includes signature of Tanya Murshed and date 23 Oct 2025.

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From	Period start date			T o	Period end date		
	01	01	2023		31	12	2023

**Charity name** Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance

**Other names charity is known by** Evolve International

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1167888

**Charity's principal address**

C/O 1MCB, 44 Southampton Buildings	
Holborn, London	
<b>Postcode</b> WC2A 1AP	

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1	Tanya Murshed	As above		
2	Marianne Alton	As above		
3	James Murray-Smith	As above		
4	Bernadette Smith	As above		
5	Naomi Barnard	As above		

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>
Same as above	Same as above

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

<b>Type of adviser</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document  
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted  
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods  
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by resolution

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

## Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the criminal justice system in Uganda and East Africa by providing assistance, advice, training, education and other forms of support to:

1. Those charged or convicted of a criminal offence, particularly those on death row
2. Members of the legal profession and
3. Individuals/organizations working within the criminal justice sector

**Technical Legal Assistance** – Evolve continued to offer technical legal assistance in individual capital appeals and to build capacity in the legal

profession in Uganda by working closely with Ugandan defence advocates to prepare a number of capital appeal cases.

**File Tracing** - As part of our access to justice project, Evolve carried out file tracing in the central and northern regions of Uganda in relation to the cases of death row inmates which are pending before the Court of Appeal.

**ODPP Online Training Project** – Evolve with support from A4ID’s ROLE UK programme developed and delivered an online training platform for The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Uganda.

**Defence Advocacy Training Project** – Evolve commenced work towards a new partnership with Uganda Law Society to provide training and guidance for lawyers undertaking appeals of death row inmates.

**The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.**

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

### **TRAINING, EDUCATION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE:**

#### **Technical Legal Assistance**

Evolve continued to improve access to justice and build capacity in the legal profession by working closely with Ugandan advocates in the preparation of capital appeals cases, and through the preparation of high quality written submissions.

Evolve assisted seven capital appellants (in three cases) whose cases were heard in sessions of the Court of Appeal in Mbale, Arua and Kabale. All judgments were reserved.

#### **File Tracing**

Evolve's coordinators continued to trace files of death row inmates. The exercise involved locating and scanning files as well as typing up handwritten notes of proceedings. Five files that had been misplaced were located in the central region. A file tracing exercise conducted in the northern region resulted in locating four files involving five death row inmates. We have been working with the relevant court registries to have the files moved to the Court of Appeal.

#### **ODPP Online Training Project**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions ('ODPP') sought Evolve's technical assistance with the design and delivery of a virtual online training platform for prosecution advocates in Uganda. The purpose of this project was to build capacity in the legal profession by equipping every prosecutor in Uganda with the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to carry out their professional duties and obligations to the highest of standards.

The project involved building digital resources, and training materials for new prosecutors covering prosecutorial duties, criminal law and procedure, case management, advocacy and other critical competencies.

A successful four-day pilot training course (legal induction course and advocacy) was delivered in January 2023 by Evolve's Director of Programmes and Head of Casework and Advocacy. The pilot was conducted with a select group of senior Uganda prosecutors who were also trained to deliver the course after handover.

The project is a significant step towards raising the quality and consistency of prosecutors in Uganda, thus promoting the rule of law and access to justice. This project was funded by A4ID's ROLE UK programme.

## Defence Advocacy Training Project

In December 2023, Evolve commenced work towards a new partnership with the Uganda Law Society to provide training and guidance for lawyers undertaking appeals of death row inmates. The aim of the scheme is to widen access to justice and improve the quality of representation in capital cases. Ugandan lawyers will receive training and supervision by UK-based lawyers who will guide them through the phases of case preparation and presentation. This partnership and training programme was further progressed in 2024.

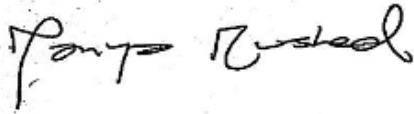

<b>Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves</b>	The charity does not currently have a policy on reserves.
<b>Details of any funds materially in deficit</b>	
<b>Further financial review details (Optional information)</b>	
You <b>may choose</b> to include additional information, where relevant about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);</li><li>• how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;</li><li>• investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.</li></ul>	

## Section F Other optional information

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Tanya Hasan Murshed	Marianne Alton
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair/Deputy Chair	
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Date

24 October 2024
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Receipts and payments accounts

Month	2023
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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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Individual Donation	10,254		-	10,254	-
ROLE Funding		45,100	-	45,100	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income)	10,254	45,100	-	55,354	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>10,254</b>	<b>45,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,354.00</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Phone & Internet	0	275.2	-	275.20	-
Hotel Travel and Subsistence	627.1	19723.8	-	20,350.90	-
Printing and Stationery	52.7	438.2	-	490.90	-
Consultancy fees & expenses	360	31065.3	-	31,425.30	-
Bank charges	0	634.4	-	634.40	-
				-	-
Sub total	1,039.80	52,136.90	-	53,176.70	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,039.80</b>	<b>52,136.90</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,176.70</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>9,214.20</b>	<b>-7,036.90</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,117.30</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>9,214.20</b>	<b>-7,036.90</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,117.30</b>	<b>-</b>

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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in hand	150	-	-
	Cash at Bank	42,318	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>42,468</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-



### Receipts and payments accounts

Month	2023		
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

**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)
Asus Laptop	N/A	-	-
Huawei Matebook D14 - 14 Inch Laptop		-	-
Huawei Matebook D14 - 14 Inch Laptop		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

**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
	Tanya Murshed	29 Oct 2024

[ ]

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Evolve-Foundation for International Legal Assistance Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 Decemnber 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

The accounts do not accord with those records ; or

The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:



Name: Mansukh Vekaria. M M Vekaria & Co

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies :

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 36 St Andrews Drive, Stanmore, Middlesex

Date: 30 October 2024

**EVOLVE - FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167888

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From	Period start date			T o	Period end date		
	01	01	2022		31	12	2022

**Charity name** Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance

**Other names charity is known by** Evolve International

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1167888

**Charity's principal address**  
 C/O 1MCB, 5 Chancery Lane  
 London  
 Postcode WC2A 1LG

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tanya Murshed	As above		
2	Marianne Alton	As above		
3	Mohammed Ismail	As above		
4	James Murray-Smith	As above		
5	Bernadette Smith	As above		
6	Naomi Barnard	As above	12 May 2022 onwards	

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Same as above	Same as above

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by resolution

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

To promote the criminal justice system in Uganda and East Africa by providing assistance, advice, training, education and other forms of support to:

1. Those charged or convicted of a criminal offence, particularly those on death row
2. Members of the legal profession and
3. Individuals/organizations working within the criminal justice sector

**Technical Legal Assistance** – Evolve continued to offer technical legal assistance in individual capital appeals and to build capacity in the legal

profession in Uganda by working closely with Ugandan defence advocates to prepare a number of capital appeal cases (details below).

**File Tracing** – Evolve continued to improve access to justice by searching for missing case files in capital cases and cases pending Minister’s Orders. Evolve achieved this by conducting an extensive search of the regional Court registries in Western Uganda (details below).

**ODPP Online Training Project** – Evolve worked in partnership with the Uganda Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (‘ODPP’) to build capacity in the legal profession by designing an online training platform for the training of prosecution advocates in Uganda (details below).

**Ministers Orders** – Evolve continued to work with high level stake holders to find a solution to the predicament of inmates held indefinitely on Minister’s orders having been either declared unfit to plead, or having received an insanity verdict (details below).

**Supreme Court Registry Reorganisation** – in November 2022, Evolve completed the reorganisation of the registry and archives of Uganda’s Supreme Court (a project commenced in 2020), thereby improving access to justice for all those with criminal or civil cases pending before the Supreme Court (details below).

**The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.**

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

### **TRAINING, EDUCATION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE:**

#### **Technical Legal Assistance**

Evolve continued to improve access to justice and build capacity in the legal profession by working closely with Ugandan advocates in the preparation of capital appeals cases, and through the preparation of high quality written submissions.

Sessions of the Court of Appeal were held in the districts of Arua, Fort Portal and Kampala in 2022. Evolve assisted in five capital cases heard during these sessions. In one case, the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal against conviction and quashed the appellant's conviction and death sentence. In three cases, the Court of Appeal allowed the appeals against sentence and reduced the capital sentences to determinate sentences of imprisonment (20 years, 25 years and 35 years respectively).

In 2022, delayed judgments were also delivered in three cases in which Evolve provided technical assistance in 2021. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal against sentence in each case, reducing the death sentences previously imposed on the appellants to 20 years, 29 years and 30 years of imprisonment respectively.

We drafted two applications for review for two death row inmates whose death sentences were confirmed by the Supreme Court. These were lodged in June and December 2022 and are still pending.

#### **File Tracing**

In December 2021, Evolve's Project Coordinators launched a file tracing project and searched for all missing case files in capital cases and cases pending Minister's Orders in Uganda. This essential file tracing work intersects with Evolve's projects to offer technical assistance in all current death row cases (see above), and to address the situation of inmates wrongly detained under Minister's Orders without release dates (see below).

In 2022, Evolve's Project Coordinators progressed this project by carrying out an extensive file tracing exercise in Western Uganda. This entailed travelling to regional registries in Western Uganda and searching for missing files for condemned inmates and those pending Minister's Orders. Searches were conducted across six different Court Centres for 18 files. Evolve's Coordinators located files of three inmates who had been waiting to access the Courts for many years. 11 files were identified as missing, and Court records recorded that the remaining four files had previously been transferred to other Courts.

Evolve identified that there was a chronic shortage of typists which can delay the progress of a case by many months and even years. This is because a case cannot progress until the handwritten notes of the proceedings have been typed up and certified as accurate by the Court. Therefore, where files were located, Evolve's Project Coordinators obtained permission to type up the handwritten notes of proceedings themselves so that the files could be sent to the Court of Appeal without delay.

Where files could not be located, the Registrars in each registry confirmed this to be the case in writing. In March 2022, Evolve's volunteer barristers met with the Registrars of the High Court and Court of Appeal in Kampala to discuss the progress of this project and next steps. As of 2023, work is ongoing to find a solution for appellants whose files have been permanently lost or misplaced by the Courts so that they are not kept waiting indefinitely to exercise their rights of appeal.

### **ODPP Online Training Project**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions ('ODPP') sought Evolve's technical assistance with the design and delivery of a virtual online training platform for prosecution advocates in Uganda. The purpose of this project was to build capacity in the legal profession by equipping every prosecutor in Uganda with the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence to carry out their professional duties and obligations to the highest of standards. In furtherance of this objective, Evolve designed an online course platform, syllabus, course content and resources for training use.

Evolve deployed two specialists in March 2022 to progress Evolve's work on this project. Meetings were held with ODPP heads of department in a round table exercise to refine a syllabus and a Memorandum of Understanding was subsequently signed between Evolve and the ODPP.

Between July and December 2022, Evolve created a Moodle platform and populated the site with legal and practical resources. The platform included two core training courses for new prosecutors covering advocacy skills and legal knowledge. These courses (which can be delivered simultaneously) cover core competencies such as ethics and criminal procedure, as well as advocacy in criminal proceedings (applications, witness examination, opening and closing speeches and sentencing submissions). Critically, both courses can be delivered remotely, allowing for centralized training to be cascaded down to prosecutors throughout the country for the first time without the expense of physical attendance. The platform also features permanent reference resources which prosecutors can access on demand in court.

A successful four-day pilot course was delivered by Evolve in January 2023 with a select group of senior Uganda prosecutors, who themselves were also trained to deliver the course after handover.

The project is a significant step towards raising the quality and consistency of prosecutors in Uganda, thus promoting the rule of law and access to justice. This project was funded by A4ID's ROLE UK programme.

### **Minister's Orders**

Evolve continues to advocate for the resolution of a small number of mental health cases in which prisoners, originally remanded on fitness to plead, or insanity verdict bases have been held indefinitely in prison, despite in many cases having recovered soon after initial remand.

In March 2022, Evolve's volunteer barristers met with high level stakeholders as well as a psychiatrist responsible for the preparation of mental health assessments. All parties agreed to collaborate with Evolve in order to progress the cases of individuals pending Ministers Orders, many of whom have been languishing in prison for well over a decade. All parties agreed to share information about Ministers Orders cases in order to efficiently progress the cases. In the course of the file tracing project (described above) Evolve's Coordinators located a number of files in Minister's Orders cases.

Evolve continues to work in partnership with a number of stakeholders to ensure that the relevant files are located and that Minister's Orders cases are prepared and listed for hearing as a matter of priority.

## **ADVISORY WORK AND REFORM**

### **Supreme Court Registry**

In July 2020, Evolve commenced the reorganisation of the registry and archives of the Supreme Court of Uganda. Evolve was invited by the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Uganda to organise the Supreme Court registry to prevent file loss, and increase efficiency in the appellate process. The registries were in an almost unusable state prior to intervention with no method of file organisation or retrieval.

This project was completed in November 2022. During the course of the project (July 2020 – November 2022), Evolve's team of volunteers fully reorganised both the civil and criminal registries and archives. They used the digital database created by Evolve in 2020 to log all Supreme Court cases. Over the course of the project volunteers viewed, vetted, boxed and shelved over 1300 case files, and logged them in the database.

The third and final stage of the project commenced upon procurement of new shelves by the Supreme Court. This phase was managed and overseen by Evolve’s Project Coordinators who ensured completion and handover of the reorganised archive and registry to the administration of the Supreme Court. The focus of the final phase of the project was on sustainability. Evolve aimed to achieve this by training officials tasked with the management of case files in the registry and archives. The staff were trained on how to operate the file system and maintain the archive and registry. The training was completed shortly before the Supreme Court moved its premises from Kololo to Nakasero; and the staff handled the organisation of the files for transfer and set up at the new premises.



**Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves**

The charity does not currently have a policy on reserves.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

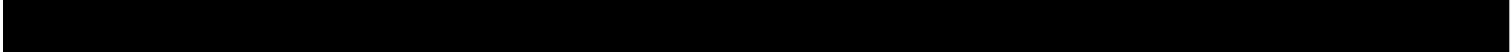
**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

**Section F Other optional information**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Tanya Hasan Murshed

Marianne Alton

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair/Deputy Chair

Date

23 October 2023



## Receipts and payments accounts

Month		2022	
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Individual Donation	11,095		-	11,095	-
ROLE Funding		31,721	-	31,721	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income)	11,095	31,721	-	42,816	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,095</b>	<b>31,721</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,816</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Hotel Travel and Subsistence	226	4,975	-	5,201	-
Bank charges	91	501	-	592	-
Volunteer allowances	34	44	-	78	-
Printing and Stationery	51	39	-	90	-
Phone & Internet	345	32	-	377	-
Consultancy fees & expenses	66	30,373	-	30,440	-
Capital Expenditure	2,417		-	2,417	-
Prison fees for documents	13			13	-
Erroneous payment	23			23	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,266</b>	<b>35,963</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,229</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,266</b>	<b>35,963</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,229</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>7,830</b>	<b>- 4,242</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,587</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>7,830</b>	<b>- 4,242</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,587</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in hand	150	-	-
	Cash at Bank	39,323	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>39,473</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-



Evolve - Foundation for International Legal Assistance	1167888
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**CC16a**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

Month	2022		
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

**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)
Asus Laptop	N/A	-	-
Huawei Matebook D14 - 14 Inch Laptop		-	-
Huawei Matebook D14 - 14 Inch Laptop		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

**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
	Tanya Murshed	24 Oct 2023

Dear members of EVOLVE,

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

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- where the charity is a small company charity, it is exempt from audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 • where accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011, that the charity trustees have elected to prepare accounts under this sub-section
- if the charity has subsidiaries, the group income is below the threshold for the preparation of group accounts (section 138 of the Charities Act 2011). The current threshold is specified in The Charities Act 2011 (Group Accounts) Regulations 2015

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.

Name: Etleva Hysa

Signed: 

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):  
Member of Association of Accounting Technician(MAAT)

Address: 2 Beechholm Mews, EN8 0DH, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire

Date: 24/10/2023

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			T o	Period end date	
	01	01	2021		31	12

**Section A Reference and administration details**

<b>Charity name</b>	Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Evolve International
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1167888
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	C/O 1MCB, 5 Chancery Lane London  Postcode WC2A 1LG

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tanya Murshed	As above		
2	Marianne Alton	As above		
3	Mohammed Ismail	As above		
4	James Murray-Smith	As above		
5	Bernadette Smith	As above		

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Same as above	

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by resolution

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the criminal justice system in Uganda and East Africa by providing assistance, advice, training, education and other forms of support to:

1. Those charged or convicted of a criminal offence, particularly those on death row
2. Members of the legal profession and
3. Individuals/organizations working within the criminal justice sector

### Technical Legal Assistance

Evolve continued to offer technical legal assistance in individual capital appeals. Sessions of the Court of Appeal were held at Jinja, Kampala and Mbarara in 2021. Evolve offered technical assistance in seven capital cases heard during these sessions. In three cases, the Court of Appeal allowed the

appeals against sentence and reduced the appellants' capital sentences to determinate sentences of imprisonment (31 years, 29 years and 20 years respectively). One case was adjourned until 2022. When the Court of Appeal heard the case the following year, it quashed the appellant's convictions for murder and arson. In one case, Evolve identified that the appellant was suffering from a mental health illness at the time of the offence. Consequently, the case was adjourned for a mental health assessment to be obtained. Judgment is still pending in the remaining cases in which technical assistance was offered.

### **Supreme Court Registry Reorganization**

In July 2020, Evolve commenced the reorganization of the registry of the Supreme Court of Uganda. Work continued prior to, and in April 2021, and in October 2021. Following a hiatus pending sourcing of more shelving space in the Archives, work remained ongoing.

The reorganization took a large team of volunteers led by Evolve's Project Coordinators hundreds of hours to complete. Evolve's team fully reorganized both the civil and criminal registries and the archives. They used the digital database created by Evolve in 2020 to log all Supreme Court cases. During the course of the project, volunteers viewed, vetted, boxed and shelved over 1300 case files, and logged them in the database. Supreme Court staff were given an induction on the use of the database and have been using it efficiently to locate files since.

### **Advisory work**

In October 2021, Evolve presented a report on the completion of the registry reorganization to members of the Supreme Court, and presented also on current questions and challenges surrounding the transition away from mandatory death sentences.

Evolve deployed specialists in March/April 2021 and September/October 2021 to progress Evolve's ongoing work with the Sentencing Guidelines Committee in relation to drafting, releasing and monitoring new High Court Sentencing Guidelines.

### **Ministers Orders**

Evolve continued to advocate for a solution to the predicament of inmates held indefinitely on Minister's orders having been either declared unfit to plead, or having received an insanity verdict. Evolve's collaboration with high level stakeholders on this issue culminated in significant progress being made in late 2022. This will be addressed in next year's report.

### **File Tracing**

In December 2021, Evolve's Project Coordinators launched a programme to trace for capital case files and cases pending Minister's Orders, in the East of Uganda and Central Uganda. Several files were found.

**The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.**

### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

## Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

### ADVISORY WORK AND REFORM

#### Review of the Sentencing Guidelines:

New Sentencing Guidelines remain a critical reform necessary to safeguard human rights on appeal, and promote a uniform approach to sentencing. Evolve's Directors visited Uganda in March/April 2021 and September/October 2021 to progress Evolve's work with the Sentencing Guidelines Committee, drafting, releasing and monitoring new High Court Sentencing Guidelines.

In March/April 2021 and September/October 2021, Evolve's team met with the Principal Judge with a view to progressing the finalised draft Guidelines. An accelerated timetable was agreed. Since then the Sentencing Guidelines have been considered by the Law Reform committee, and a final draft completed, incorporating Evolve's comments and proposed amendments to date. It is understood that the guidelines have been drafted into a statutory instrument ready to be laid before parliament.

#### Presentation to Supreme Court

In October 2021, Evolve presented to members of the Supreme Court on current questions and challenges surrounding the transition away from mandatory death sentences. The Chief Justice attended the presentation together with four other justices of the Supreme Court. Evolve presented on several issues which abolition of the mandatory death penalty has given rise to, and comparative strategies for dealing with them given experiences in other jurisdictions. Evolve also presented on the completion of the registry reorganization (see below).

#### Supreme Court Registry

In July 2020, Evolve commenced the reorganization of the registry of the Supreme Court of Uganda. As detailed in last year's Report, Evolve was invited by the registrar of the Supreme Court of Uganda to organise the Supreme Court registry to prevent file loss, and increase efficiency in the appellate process. The registries were in an almost unusable state prior to intervention with no method of file organization or retrieval. Evolve recruited a number of volunteers who were led by our Project Coordinators to complete the work. The project involved hand sorting over 1300 individual files, rectifying their contents, and the creation of a digital database for storing and retrieving file information and location, as well as the partitioning of a new archival area on top of the Supreme Court for storing completed files. Bookshelves are awaited for excess files in the archive, but

all files have otherwise been sorted, shelved in order of procedural progress in the registries, and chronology in the archive, and logged onto a searchable digital database for the first time. The key innovation is creation of a digital record of physical file locations which should go a significant way towards reducing file loss, and enabling swift file retrieval for judges, appellate representatives, and appellants.

Registrars have recognised the quality of the work undertaken by the volunteers and the systems they have put in place; Evolve has received multiple requests to reorganize registries across the country, including the High Court registry.

Our volunteers consisted of prospective Ugandan lawyers and advocates, led by Evolve's Project Coordinators. They report finding the project eye-opening, enjoying an insider's view of case management logistics in the Supreme Court. They were able to observe the entire registry and archiving process in detail and to develop professional relationships with key members of Court staff. They also had the opportunity to read a great many of the case files passing through the system, gained exposure to the types of work carried out by the higher courts and observed the types of pleadings appropriate in appellate hearings. They reported this to be a very useful learning opportunity in their own professional development.

In October 2021, Evolve delivered a PowerPoint presentation to members of the Supreme Court, detailing Evolve's work in the Supreme Court Registry and Archive.

## **TRAINING, EDUCATION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE:**

### **Mental Health Cases:**

Evolve has continued to advocate for the resolution of a small number of mental health cases in which prisoners, originally remanded on fitness to plead, or insanity verdict bases have been held indefinitely in prison despite – in many cases – having in fact recovered soon after initial remand. Evolve's collaboration with high level stakeholders on this issue culminated in significant progress being made in late 2022. This will be addressed in next year's report.

### **Technical Legal Assistance:**

Evolve continued to work closely with Ugandan advocates on capital appeal cases. Sessions of the Court of Appeal were held at Jinja, Kampala and Mbarara in 2021.

### *Jinja*

In the case of *KA v Uganda* the appellant appealed against a death sentence. The Evolve team worked with a local criminal advocate who presented the case to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, replacing a capital sentence with imprisonment for 31 years from the date of conviction, subject to remission.

In the case of *OJ v Uganda* the appellant appealed against a death sentence. Evolve barristers collaborated again with a local advocate in preparation of the case. They identified *prima facie* evidence of mental disturbance prior to the commission of the offence. This was highly relevant to the appeal against the death sentence as international law prohibits the imposition of death sentences on individuals with mental disorders at the time of the offence or at the time of sentence or execution. The Court of Appeal was persuaded to adjourn proceedings in order to obtain a mental health assessment.

In the case of *ES v Uganda*, the appellant appealed against conviction (murder) and sentence (death). Evolve barristers perfected the grounds and submissions. The case concerned the Judge's treatment of the appellant's alibi, and its corroboration by an independent prosecution witness. Judgment is still pending.

### Kampala

Evolve provided technical assistance in relation to a further three cases. In *KB v Uganda* and *RC v Uganda* the appellants appealed against the death sentence. In the case of *KB*, the Court of Appeal replaced a capital sentence with one of 20 years imprisonment (resulting in the appellant's immediate release). In the case of *RC*, the Court of Appeal replaced a capital sentence with one of 29 years imprisonment. In the case of *SF v Uganda*, the appellant appealed against conviction (murder and arson) and sentence (death). The case turned on the question of whether there was adequate evidence to establish that the appellant had caused a fire that killed the deceased. Judgment was delivered in 2022, allowing the conviction appeal and quashing the appellant's conviction. The Court found that it would be "speculative to assume that the appellant caused the fire which cause two deaths". The Court ordered the appellant's immediate release.

### Mbarara

In the case of *KJ v Uganda* the appellant appealed against conviction (murder and aggravated robbery) and sentence (death). Evolve barristers perfected the grounds and submissions, which addressed a number of legal errors including the admission of repudiated confession evidence, the misapplication of the doctrine of recent possession, errors in relation to the trial Judge's treatment of telephone evidence, the Judge's approach to unreliable hearsay evidence and the failure to correctly apply the test for imposing a discretionary death penalty. Judgment is still pending.

## **File Tracing**

In December 2021, Evolve’s Project Coordinators launched a concerted effort to trace for capital case files and cases pending Minister’s Orders, in the East of Uganda and Central Uganda.

This essential file tracing work intersects with Evolve’s projects to offer technical assistance in all current death row cases, and to address the situation of inmates wrongly detained under Minister’s Orders without release dates.

Evolve’s Project Coordinators eliminated the High Court Archives in Kampala as a possible location, locating seventeen lost capital case files there. They then travelled systematically to regional registries in the east to trace for files. Causes of lost files were various and surprising including insects, and previous fires. Where files could not be located, the Registrars in each registry confirmed this to be the case in writing.

**Section E Financial review**

**Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves**

The charity does not currently have a policy on reserves.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

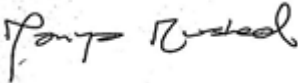

**Section F Other optional information**

**Section G Declaration**

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

	
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**Full name(s)**

Tanya Murshed	Marianne Alton
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**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair/Deputy Chair	
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**Date**

25 October 2022
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**Receipts and payments accounts**

Month	2021
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**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Individual Donation	22,816		-	22,816	-
ROLE Funding		13,738	-	13,738	-
SCCF Grant		13,443	-	13,443	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income)	22,816	27,181	-	49,998	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>22,816</b>	<b>27,181</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,998</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Hotel Travel and Subsistence	5,665	6,176		11,841	-
Bank charges	140	1,593		1,733	-
Volunteer allowances	243	1,522		1,765	-
Printing and Stationery	424	138		562	-
Phone & Internet	367	33		400	-
Consultancy fees & expenses	1,753	13,188		14,941	-
				-	-
				-	-
Sub total	8,593	22,650	-	31,243	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,593</b>	<b>22,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,243</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>14,223</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,755</b>	<b>-</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>14,223</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,755</b>	<b>-</b>

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in hand	214	-	-
	Cash at Bank	34,396	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>34,610</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-



## Receipts and payments accounts

Month	2021
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### Section A Receipts and payments

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

**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)
Asus Laptop	N/A	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

**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
	Tanya Murshed	30 Oct 2022

For the attention of:

The Trustees of Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Evolve-Foundation for International Legal Assistance

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Evolve-Foundation for International Legal Assistance (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or the accounts do not accord with those records; or the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Edwards', written over a horizontal line.

Name:

James Edwards

Director – Daizun Investments Limited

53 Davies Street, W1K 5JH

Date: 31/10/2022

**EVOLVE - FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167888

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			T o	Period end date	
	01	01	2020		31	12

**Charity name** Evolve – Foundation for International Legal Assistance

**Other names charity is known by** Evolve International

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1167888

**Charity's principal address**

C/O 1MCB, Third Floor, 15 New Bridge Street	
London	
<b>Postcode</b>	EC4V 6AU

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tanya Murshed	As above		
2	Marianne Alton	As above		
3	Mohammed Ismail	As above	April- Dec 2020	Trustees
4	James Murray-Smith	As above	April- Dec 2020	Trustees
5	Bernadette Smith	As above	April- Dec 2020	Trustees

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Same as above	

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by resolution

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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## Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote the criminal justice system in Uganda and East Africa by providing assistance, advice, training, education and other forms of support to:

1. Those charged or convicted of a criminal offence, particularly those on death row
2. Members of the legal profession and
3. Individuals/organisations working within the criminal justice sector

### Advisory work and reform:

#### Sentencing Guidelines Reform

Evolve deployed specialists in Feb-March 2020, and then in October-November 2020, to progress work on the draft High Court Sentencing Guidelines and other projects. The Sentencing Guidelines Committee were sensitised on amendments to the guidelines required to accommodate the new Law Reform (Penalties in Criminal Matters)

Miscellaneous (Amendment) Act 2019 which will introduce significant sentencing reforms when gazetted. Fresh commentary on the guidelines to facilitate these changes was provided on each occasion, and a renewed programme to support their release, implementation and monitoring was agreed at the end of the October trip.

#### Supreme Court Registry

In response to an invitation by the then Supreme Court Registrar. Evolve commenced reorganisation of the registry of the Supreme Court of Uganda in July 2020. Eight volunteers were recruited and led by Evolve's Junior Project Coordinator. The volunteers commenced hand sorting all of the case files in the registries, separating them into complete and incomplete files, and shelving them into newly organised registry and archive rooms. A digital database was developed and handed over to store case file information and permit swift retrieval of their physical locations.

#### Legal Reform and Advocacy

Evolve drafted guidance documents on the implementation of the new 2019 Act; challenges surrounding life sentencing; and challenges surrounding capital sentencing in Uganda and circulated them to key stakeholders. These documents are part of a wider sensitisation campaign on the significant reforms which will be introduced by the 2019 Act which legislates a new test for the discretionary death penalty, a new ceiling on life sentences of 50 years, and requires the creation of extensive parole and probation capacities.

#### Technical Legal Assistance

Evolve continued to offer technical legal assistance in individual capital appeals. Technical assistance in the capital case of *Mwanje Peter and Anr v. Uganda* resulted in the quashing of their convictions by the Court of Appeal in August 2020. Submissions were drafted in the capital cases of *Emmanuel Drazua v. Uganda*, and *Kizito David v. Uganda*, heard in

October 2020. Appeal against sentence succeeded in the former reducing a capital sentence to one of 23 years and seven months; appeal against conviction succeeded in the latter resulting in immediate release.

Judgment is still pending in other cases in which technical assistance was offered, the outcomes of which will be included in the next annual report.

#### Ministers Orders

Evolve advocated for a solution to the predicament of inmates held indefinitely on Minister's orders having been either declared unfit to plead, or having received an insanity verdict. The issue was raised with high level stakeholders including the Solicitor General; fresh data and psychiatric reports were gathered documenting the condition of relevant prisoners; and advice was provided on the legal processes available for their release.

#### File Tracing

Evolve's experts observed and participated in a multi-day plea bargaining exercise held in Mbarara. The research was used to inform commentary provided upon the draft sentencing guidelines to the Sentencing Guidelines Committee. The opportunity was taken to successfully trace a file which has been pending appeal in the Court of Appeal for eight years, in the High Court archives at Mbarara.

**The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.**

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The work of Evolve is carried out by volunteers. Funds raised cover expenses only. Specific projects and trips were funded by the Rule of Law Expertise ('ROLE UK') Programme - a Department for International Development initiative (now FCDO) and Evolve.

## **Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

### **ADVISORY WORK AND REFORM**

#### **Review of the Sentencing Guidelines:**

Evolve presented to the Sentencing Guidelines Committee on amendments to the draft guidelines necessitated by the passage of the Law Reform (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous (Amendment) Act 2019 which will introduce significant sentencing reforms when gazetted. The presentation briefed the Committee members on those reforms and indeed on the fact of passage of the new Act, which had evaded notice.

Evolve submitted technical commentaries on the draft guidelines in both Feb/March, and Oct/Nov after stakeholder feedback gathering exercises conducted during both trips. Evolve advocated for swift passage of the new guidelines, supported by road testing, training and capacity building, and monitoring over the next two years and agreed revised timelines with the Sentencing Guidelines Committee for those phases in light of Covid-19 disruption.

#### **Legal Reform Advocacy**

Evolve drafted legal briefings on the impacts of the new Act, and specific reports in the areas of Life Sentencing and Capital Sentencing for high level criminal justice stakeholders. The Act legislates a new definition of Life Sentences, and new duration of life sentences, with far reaching consequences. Most obviously it shifts the emphasis from capital to life sentencing, and with the introduction of minimum term life sentences requires the introduction of extensive parole and probation systems to enable prisoner release, permit prisoner monitoring, and facilitate prisoner recall in the event of reoffending or licence breaches. Evolve also consulted widely with relevant criminal justice stakeholders on the reforms to raise awareness.

#### **Supreme Court Registry**

Evolve was invited by the registrar of the Supreme Court of Uganda to organise the Supreme Court registry to prevent file loss, and increase efficiency in the appellate process. The registries were in an almost unusable state prior to intervention with no method of file organization or retrieval. Evolve recruited eight volunteers who were led by our Junior Project Coordinator to complete the work. The project involved hand sorting over 1300 individual files, rectifying their contents, and the creation of a digital database for storing and

retrieving file information and location, as well as the partitioning of a new archival area on top of the Supreme Court for storing completed files. Bookshelves are awaited for excess files in the archive, but all files have otherwise been sorted, shelved in order of procedural progress in the registries, and chronology in the archive, and logged onto a searchable digital database for the first time. The key innovation is creation of a digital record of physical file locations which should go a significant way towards reducing file loss, and enabling swift file retrieval for judges, appellate representatives, and appellants.

## **TRAINING, EDUCATION & ACCESS TO JUSTICE:**

### **Mental Health Cases:**

Evolve has continued to advocate for the resolution of a small number of mental health cases in which prisoners, originally remanded on fitness to plead, or insanity verdict bases have been held indefinitely in prison despite – in many cases – having in fact recovered soon after initial remand. In one of the worst cases the defendant has been imprisoned for over 20 years despite having recovered almost immediately from substance induced psychosis prior to trial.

The issue was raised with the Principal Judge and the Solicitor General. Evolve advised on different legal processes for securing the release of the affected inmates and liaised with a Consultant Psychiatrist to organise updated medical reports on their situations for the court's assistance pending relisting of the cases and decisions whether to retry inmates, or immediately release them where prosecution could not longer be realistically attempted due to passage of time.

### **Technical Legal Assistance:**

Evolve continued to work closely with Ugandan advocates on capital appeal cases.

In the case of *Uganda v MP* the appellant appealed against conviction (murder) and sentence (death). The case was based almost entirely on circumstantial evidence, namely sightings of the appellant with the deceased before he had died. Tanya Murshed, Alex Bennie (Programme Director and Barrister at 1MCB Chambers) and Victoria Lewis (Lincoln House Chambers) assisted with written submissions addressing the grounds of appeal against conviction and sentence. The appeal against conviction was allowed, the conviction and sentence were quashed and the appellant was released.

In the case of *DE v Uganda* the appellant appealed against the death sentence following his conviction for murder by shooting. Richard English (Lincoln House Chambers) assisted with written submissions detailing why the imposition of the death penalty in the circumstances of the case was manifestly excessive and wrong in principle. The Court of Appeal allowed the sentence appeal, quashed the death sentence and substituted a sentence of 23 years and seven months imprisonment.

In the case of *DK v Uganda* the appellant appealed against conviction (murder) and sentence (death). The Prosecution case had relied upon weak and contradictory circumstantial evidence introduced by a police officer and flawed forensic evidence provided by a government analyst. Marianne Alton and Rachel Cooper (Lincoln House Chambers) assisted with written submissions addressing the grounds of appeal against

conviction and sentence. The Court of Appeal allowed the conviction appeal, the conviction and sentence were quashed and the appellant was released.

Marianne Alton recently provided technical assistance in the case of *SW v Uganda* - an appeal against conviction (murder) and sentence (death). The appeal against conviction centered around flaws in the key identification evidence. The outcome of the appeal is awaited.

## File Tracing

In March 2020 Tanya Murshed, Alex Bennie and Vincent Lwanga spent several days in prisons in Mbarara observing and participating in plea bargaining sessions organised by Pepperdine University, the International Justice Mission, and the Ugandan Judiciary. They took the opportunity to trace for a capital case involving two appellants that had been pending appeal in the Court of Appeal for eight years without progress due to being physically lost. After several hours of a physical search, the file was found, and Evolve volunteers typed its contents up for the High Court Registrar to prepare the case for immediate Court of Appeal listing to prevent any further delay.

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity does not currently have a policy on reserves.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's general funds have come from individual donations. In addition, specific projects / trips were funded by ROLE UK (see above).

## Section F Other optional information

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**Full name(s)**

Tanya Murshed

Marianne Alton

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair/Deputy Chair

**Date**

30 October 2021



## Receipts and payments accounts

Month		2020	
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### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Donations	12,735	7,924	-	20,659
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income)	12,735	7,924	-	20,659
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>12,735</b>	<b>7,924</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,659</b>

### A3 Payments

Travel, Hotel, Subsistence	5,905	3,473	#	-	9,377
Phone and Internet	16	20	#	-	36
Printing and Stationery	252	810	#	-	1,062
Volunteer Allowances	2,269	3,994	#	-	6,263
Media and Communication	212	-	#	-	212
Per Diem	-	-	#	-	-

Miscellaneous	221	982	#	-	1,203
	-	-		-	-
	-	-		-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,874</b>	<b>9,279</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>18,152</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-		-	-
	-	-		-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,874</b>	<b>9,279</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>18,152</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,861</b>	<b>- 1,355</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>2,507</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>3,861</b>	<b>- 1,355</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>2,507</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash in hand	150	-
	Cash at Bank	15,808	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>15,958</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>

**B2 Other monetary assets**

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

**B3 Investment assets**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

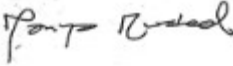
**B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>
Asus Laptop	N/A	-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

**B5 Liabilities**

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

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

Signature	Print Name
	Tanya Murshed

**CC16a**



**Last year  
to the nearest £**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-

-
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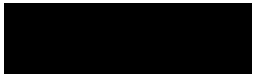
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**Endowment funds**  
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment funds**  
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

**Current value  
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-

**Current value  
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

**When due  
(optional)**


Date of  
approval

29 Oct 2021