



Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2024		31	12	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

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
	London
Postcode	WC2A 1AP

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	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)

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)

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:

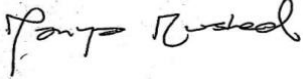

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

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



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 £
A1 Receipts					
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	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,905	2,936	-	14,841	-
A3 Payments					
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	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,347	2,205	-	17,552	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	-3,442	731	0	2,117	-
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 £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in hand	150	-	-
	Cash at Bank	39,525	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	39,675	-	-
	(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 £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-



Receipts and payments accounts

Month	2024		
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

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

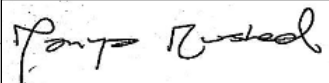
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Asus Laptop		-	-
Huawei Matebook D14 - 14 Inch Laptop		-	-
Huawei Matebook D14 - 14 Inch Laptop		-	-
Laptop screen extender		-	-
Laptop screen extender		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

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	23 Oct 2025