

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

England & Wales · Charity number 1169213

Details

Other names	CWJ
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-09-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (AS SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS) BY: SEEKING TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS WHICH ARE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS; AND THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Activities: The Centre for Women's Justice aims to advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales by- holding the state to account for failures in the prevention of violence against women and girls and - challenging discrimination against women within the criminal justice system

Classification

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

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£987,289	£798,691	£680,353	16
2024-03-31	£785,518	£792,085	£491,755	14
2023-03-31	£636,292	£628,311	£498,322	13
2022-03-31	£738,677	£517,472	£490,341	10
2021-03-31	£428,615	£370,515	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
SASHA HELEN DEEPWELL	Chair	2016-09-17
Davina James-Hanman		2022-01-21
Esohe Aghatise		2018-07-09
Karon Monaghan		2024-06-05
Samira Ahmed		2017-03-25
Sanchita Fay Hosali		2018-07-09
Sarah Ricca		2016-09-17
Yasmin Rehman		2025-09-01

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

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Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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OUR MISSION:

TO HOLD THE STATE TO ACCOUNT AND CHALLENGE DISCRIMINATION IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AROUND MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

OUR VISION:

A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS WORK EFFECTIVELY TO ERADICATE MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

KEY INFORMATION

Centre for Women's Justice
Oxford House
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London
E2 6HG

www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk
info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Banker: CafBank Limited, PO BOX 289, West Malling ME19 4TA

Auditors: Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited, 11 Park Square, Newport, NP20 4EL

Structure, Governance & Management:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under Charity number: 1169213.

The charity is governed by the Board of Trustees (whose members during the year are listed below). The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the management of all the affairs of CWJ and delegate day-to-day management of the organisation to the Director, Harriet Wistrich, who is assisted by Nic Mainwood, Head of Finance and Operations.

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 17/03/2016.

Appointment of charity trustees:

CWJ recruits trustees in line with its formal Trustee Recruitment Policy, which sets out a clear and transparent process for identifying and selecting suitable candidates. Recruitment begins with understanding the skills and experience needed on the board, followed by sourcing potential trustees through trusted networks and specialist contacts. Candidates are then assessed through applications, interviews, and due-diligence checks to ensure they reflect CWJ's values and strengthen its governance.

1) Apart from the first three charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experiences needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Board Members

Sasha Deepwell (Chair)
Fiona Mackenzie (Treasurer, resigned September '25)
Sanchita Hosali (Treasurer from September '25)
Sarah Ricca
Esohe Aghatise
Samira Ahmed
Davina James-Hanman
Heather Harvey (resigned March '25)
Janice Turner (resigned Sept '24)
Karon Monaghan (appointed June '24)
Yasmin Rehman (appointed September '25)

The Board of Trustees met four times during this financial year. There were two finance subcommittee meetings comprising Sasha Deepwell and Sanchita Hosali, chaired by the Treasurer, Fiona Mackenzie.

Due diligence is carried out before the appointment of all new board members. New trustees are given a board pack which includes key information about the organisation as well as important policies and procedures. Training is offered to board members according to their needs.

Pay and remuneration of all personnel is awarded in line with our pay policy and procedure.

Major risks faced by the charity have been reviewed, and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives & Activities:

To advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by: seeking to prevent violence against women and girls, and protect those rights which are adversely impacted by violence against women and girls; and the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) provides benefits to women and girls who have been, or may in the future be, subject to male violence. We assist with providing access to justice for those who have been failed by the state and subject to discriminatory treatment within the criminal justice system.

Public benefit statement:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '[Charities and Public Benefit](#)'.

INTRODUCTION

**HARRIET WISTRICH,
CEO**

In July 2024, a new Labour Government was elected with an ambitious aim to halve violence against women and girls in a decade. We have seen this as an opportunity to work closely with Ministers to help achieve policy and legislative changes to advance our mission. In the autumn I was invited to sit on their VAWG strategy advisory group, which included leaders of other national women's organisations. One of the government's manifesto pledges was to introduce Independent Legal Advice for rape victims a model we have been piloting in partnership with Women and Girls Network. At the conclusion of this financial year we are still waiting for any concrete proposals from the government in this area.

Our work around Police Perpetrated Domestic Violence led to the publication of an update report following our impactful police super-complaint and the continuation of two large group strategic litigation claims on behalf of victims of PPDA. We have recruited a new senior lawyer with expertise in public law and look forward to expanding our litigation work in this area. We were also pleased to finally secure insurance to enable us to start advising some of the many women who contact us who have been convicted of murder in cases where they were victims of male violence. This will also assist our work in preparation for the important Law Commission review of the law of homicide.

Our team remains strong and committed during a period where we face many challenges externally from the difficult economic and political situation both in the UK and globally but we continue to consolidate and build an effective and impactful organisation that has made a significant mark on the VAWG landscape. Next year we look forward to celebrating our tenth anniversary and launching our impact report.



**SASHA DEEPWELL,
CHAIR**



This year has reinforced the importance of Centre for Women's Justice's work. Across the justice system, persistent issues remain - from delays in rape investigations to the criminalisation of victims of abuse and further evidence of police-perpetrated violence. These systemic problems, alongside ongoing threats to human rights protections, remind us why our mission matters and why our voice must remain strong.

As trustees, our role is to ensure CWJ has the stability and strength to meet these challenges. While the funding landscape continues to be uncertain and demand for our work grows, CWJ is in a strong position thanks to careful planning and the resilience of our team. This year, we completed a review of our pay structure to ensure fairness and transparency, and we continue to prioritise staff well-being and professional development. We want CWJ to be a place where people feel valued, supported, and able to grow - because investing in our people is investing in the future of this organisation.

Through our internships, mentoring, training, and collaborative networks, CWJ is helping to shape the next generation of feminist lawyers - individuals who will carry forward the fight for equality and justice. It is also encouraging that CWJ continues to be called upon by the media and changemakers for our expertise and insight, ensuring that survivors' voices and systemic issues remain at the forefront of public debate.

As we look ahead to our tenth anniversary, I feel proud of what CWJ has achieved and excited for what's to come. Our new three-year strategy will set out bold plans for systemic change, and as trustees we will do everything we can to ensure the charity has the resources and governance it needs to thrive. Thank you to our incredible staff, my fellow trustees, and all our supporters - you make this work possible.

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS:

STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Undertaking strategic litigation and providing access to legal assistance in cases concerning violence against women and girls (VAWG).

CWJ bring challenges that have the potential to impact on how the state deals with perpetrators and survivors of violence against women and girls. These cases help develop and strengthen the rights of women across a broad spectrum of issues.

We are involved in many significant strategic legal challenges, which have evolved through our advice work and in partnership with women sector organisations.

Litigation can take many years – below we highlight some key cases that have attracted wider public interest over the year of this annual report.

POLICE PERPETRATED DOMESTIC ABUSE (PPDA)

We have continued with the two large group claims on behalf of victims of police perpetrated domestic abuse. The first includes a group claim on behalf of nine women against Devon and Cornwall Police arguing their system for preventing, investigating and prosecuting PPDA is so flawed that it breaches their human rights. We also continue acting for eight victims of David Carrick in a claim against the Metropolitan Police Service, who, whilst a serving Met police officer, subjected our clients to serious domestic and sexual abuse. In both group claims, in addition to claims for compensation, our clients are seeking changes to policies and practices in order to protect other women from future harm.

SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT AGAINST CPS IN 'SEXSOMNIA' CASE

We assisted Jade Blue to secure £35,000 and an apology from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) after they wrongly stopped a rape prosecution two weeks before trial. Jade had reported a rape to the police in 2017 which was investigated and charged, but three years later shortly before the trial was set to begin, the CPS offered no further evidence and the defendant was formally acquitted. The reason, Jade was told, was that they could not rule out the possibility of Jade having a rare sleep disorder, 'sexsomnia', which may have led the defendant to believe she was consenting to sex, whilst in fact she was asleep. This defence was only raised after the defence team gained access to Jade's medical records which revealed that Jade had a couple of episodes of sleepwalking when a teenager.

Jade pursued a Victim's Right of Review (VRR), which eventually led to the CPS conceding they had made a 'significant error' in discontinuing the prosecution at such a late stage when the evidence should have been left to the jury for consideration. With CWJ's assistance Jade set out and eventually settled a claim against the CPS under the Human Rights Act, that her rights under Article 3 ECHR had been violated when she was denied access to justice.

Jade had continued to push for change. Her case is one of a number that CWJ presented to the Attorney General arguing that victims of rape should have meaningful access to the VRR scheme where a CPS decision is made following charge to offer no evidence. As a consequence of these representations, the CPS announced a pilot scheme which will provide the opportunity for a victim to challenge and possibly potentially reverse a decision to end a prosecution.



"This pilot is an important first step. It can't undo the harm already done to victims like me, but it's real, tangible progress - and I hope it marks the beginning of a fairer system, one where victims' voices are not just heard, but acted on."

Jade Blue

HIDDEN HOMICIDES AND SUICIDES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MALE VIOLENCE

CWJ is currently acting for a number of families in circumstances where a young woman has died in suspicious circumstances, following domestic abuse and/or violent threats from a man, but no criminal action has been taken against the suspect, and the death has ultimately been treated as accident or suicide.

The issue of 'hidden homicides', which often involve women falling to their death from a height, has recently received wider public attention, Groups such as the Killed Women campaign estimating that there could be as many as 130 'hidden homicides' a year in England and Wales. Police and/or prosecutors may decide that such deaths are accidental or the result of suicide, despite evidence of a history of domestic abuse from a male partner who was present at the scene. Campaigners have highlighted the failure of police to follow key lines of inquiry that might result in a perpetrator being properly interrogated.

We also act for families of women who have died by suicide following violence and/or coercive and controlling behaviour by their partner, that may have driven them to take their own life. In such cases, it may be possible to charge the perpetrator with unlawful act manslaughter if it is possible to show that the violence, or coercive and controlling behaviour, more than minimally contributed to her death. We assist families in these cases through domestic homicide reviews, police complaints and, inquest proceedings.

Campaigners estimate there may be as many as 130 'hidden homicides' each year in England and Wales

R V NURUZZAMAN SHAHIN – CIVIL CLAIM AGAINST MET POLICE STARTED

Following the successful prosecution of Nuruzzaman Shahin, who was convicted of 22 offences - including eight counts of rape, multiple counts of sexual assault, assault by penetration, and controlling prostitution for gain in respect of four women - for which he received a 31-year custodial sentence. CWJ are advising two of his victims, 'Sam' and 'Audrey', in a claim against the Metropolitan Police arising from their initial and long-running failure to investigate Shahin, which left victims unprotected and resulted in one of the women undertaking her own investigation. The claim alleges breaches of their rights under Articles 3, 4, 8 and 14 of the European Conventions on Human Rights in respect of the police's failures during the criminal investigation(s) into their perpetrator's unlawful conduct.

CASE AGAINST MI5 FOR FAILURE TO SAFEGUARD VICTIM OF ABUSE BY INFORMER

CWJ have been acting for 'Beth' in a complex case concerning serious allegations of abuse perpetrated by her former partner, an informer for MI5. 'Beth' suffered repeated and escalating violence during the course of the relationship, including a machete attack, which was met with inaction by the police despite her making multiple reports and providing evidence.

We commenced proceedings in the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) arguing that MI5 failed in its obligations under Articles 2, 3, 8 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights by recruiting and failing to control a dangerous perpetrator. MI5 argued that, due to its policy of "Neither Confirm Nor Deny" (NCND), Beth should not be provided with disclosure, preventing her from meaningful participation in the proceedings. The IPT accepted MI5's submissions, and CWJ issued judicial review proceedings against the IPT. In linked proceedings in the High Court, involving an injunction issued by the Attorney General to prevent the BBC from reporting on the case, it was revealed that MI5 misled the courts about its application of the NCND policy.

The High Court subsequently handed down a significant ruling, calling for a robust and independent investigation into MI5's serious misleading of the courts and raising the possibility of future contempt proceedings against the agency. The Court also ruled that if public authorities wish to rely on NCND in legal proceedings, they must demonstrate a genuine risk to national security, properly evidence that application, and be upfront and candid about any information that might undermine it.

"Beth's case raises a number of serious questions about the state's protection - whether intentionally or through neglect - of individuals with extreme misogynistic views who pose a clear risk of violence to women and girls.

The situation highlights a systemic failure to recognize the danger these individuals represent and, most troublingly, the failure to act before it's too late."

Kate Ellis, CWJ solicitor

"Had any person on the street inflicted the violence and degradation I was subjected to that night there would have been no question as to their guilt. So to understand as long as they rape you too, they can claim you consented to your own abuse horrifies me.

I have continued to fight this case, accepting the horrific effects of reliving this again and again because I cannot and will not accept for my daughters and all women that this is ok. It is not ok."

Amanda

ROUGH SEX DEFENCE OVERCOME AFTER SIX YEAR BATTLE FOR JUSTICE

CWJ supported 'Amanda' through a long and nightmarish criminal process, during which she had to reply on the Victims' Right to Review (VRR) process a total of four times before the case against her rapist eventually went to trial. The perpetrator, Paul Green, had asserted that she had consented to "rough sex" as part of BDSM. Following a trial which resulted in a 'hung jury', a second trial took place at Sheffield Crown Court, where the perpetrator was convicted and sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for anal rape, assault by penetration, and two counts of causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent.



EMPOWERING FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS & IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

We provide training and second-tier legal advice to front-line women's sector service providers supporting victim-survivors of VAWG across England and Wales.

By increasing access to justice for survivors who have been failed by criminal justice agencies, our work also enables us to gather evidence of systemic failings and malpractice. This evidence informs strategic litigation and other legal and policy interventions aimed at holding institutions accountable and driving change in law, policy, and practice.

Through our training, we equip front-line advocates to identify cases requiring legal advice and to support women in challenging criminal justice failures.

The majority of second-tier enquiries we receive are from front-line VAWG organisations we have trained, though a small number are referred to us by politicians, journalists, lawyers, and others.

To further assist frontline advocates we provide access to our password protected resource hub which contains CWJ toolkits, template letters and guides on Victims' Rights to Review, Police Complaints System, and other relevant areas.

Additionally, we provide easy to access information and signposting materials on different areas of law on our website. This consists of a section aimed at frontline advocates and other professionals, and another which is for the general public.

THIS YEAR WE:

**TRAINED
390
FRONTLINE
ADVOCATES**

**RESPONDED TO
354
SECOND-TIER
ENQUIRIES**

**RECEIVED
2704
VISITS** TO OUR
RESOURCE
HUB

3914 VISITS
TO OUR ADVOCATE SIGNPOSTING PAGE

8471 VISITS
TO OUR PUBLIC SIGNPOSTING PAGE

FRONTLINE FEEDBACK

ON TRAINING

"The facilitator was very engaging and clearly passionate about her role."

Independent Sexual Violence Advocate

"Have attended two training sessions by CWJ and found both extremely to the point and informative - thank you"

Independent Sexual Violence Advocate

"Our trainer was excellent. She was so informative, and the pace of the delivery and content of the course was excellent."

Independent Sexual Violence Advocate

ON ADVICE

"I cannot express my gratitude enough to you all, I have come to you many times for help but this time the help you provided quite literally saved a woman's life, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I know you know, how invaluable your work is at CWJ but on occasions like this where the stakes are so high - not only in the sense that a woman is unfairly criminalised but on top of that her life is at stake, it's so important (I think) you know how powerful your work is"

Independent Sexual Violence Advocate

"I am so thankful for all the help and support! You have been informative and patient throughout the process and helping me assist my client. I cannot thank you enough. This service is brilliant and truly beneficial for women, especially dealing with the Criminal Justice System!"

Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate

"The legal advice we have been able to source via CWJ for our clients has honestly been transformative, such a powerful and important way to empower women and make a concrete difference to their circumstances."

Independent Sexual Violence Advocate Manager

SURVIVOR FEEDBACK

"Thank you for your encouragement re: 'fighting the good fight' and seeking to make things better for others, and for your advocacy in the early stages setting the ground work for the letter. Thank you all for 'being there' when I was barraged with unsettling demands / requests for information to enable me to make positive choices and string a sensible response sentence to the police when needed (which I recognise was often)"

Victim-survivor

"We want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to all of you. You were the first to truly believe in us and in what we were saying, when no one else did. Your empathy, kindness, and unwavering support have meant the world to us. Your dedication, kindness, and tireless efforts in fighting our case have meant so much to us. Thank you for standing by us, for always being so compassionate, and for giving us hope and strength when we needed it most."

Two victim-survivors

"I want to thank you for all your hard work, I cannot express how much I appreciate having you fighting my corner."

Victim-survivor

"I'd like to express my overwhelming sense of gratitude to [you] both ...for making me feel so seen, heard, and believed in the last few weeks in a way I haven't experienced in the last four years. Each time I hear from you both, I struggle to put into words how thankful I am for your support."

Victim-survivor

LEGAL PROJECTS & POLICY INITIATIVES

We are undertaking a number of projects dealing with particular issues arising for women, which, in turn, feeds into our litigation and policy advocacy work.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

This year, CWJ has been able to commence advising women in relation to potential criminal appeals after our insurer finally confirmed that we were covered for this type of work in cases where the appellant offended in the context of being a victim of domestic abuse. We have begun to review a number of cases in which women have been convicted of the murder of their violent partners. Previously, our Director, Harriet Wistrich, acted in the successful appeals of Sally Challen and Farieissia Martin, which were supported by campaigning from CWJ. As a result of these cases and our 2021 report, we are approached by many women convicted of murder seeking our assistance. These cases highlight women at the most severe end of a criminal justice system that fails to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse.

CWJ has also started convening a criminal appeals networking group of lawyers and campaigners focused on cases of women convicted of murder. We meet every six weeks and discuss issues and cases, including preparation for the Law Commission review on homicide and criminal appeals.

INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST LEGAL NETWORK

In July 2024, we convened a day-long hybrid conference, 'A Feminist Approach to Legal Advocacy and Litigation Internationally'. The event, attended by 153 people from 20 countries, included sessions on femicide, honour killing, and suicide arising from domestic abuse; using defamation to silence victims of abuse; and torture as gender-based violence, among other topics.

We have a specialist consultant working on an analysis of the network's impact so far and scoping potential new hosts, with the hope of the network being hosted by an organisation outside the UK in the near future.

POLICE PERPETRATED DOMESTIC ABUSE

In September 2024, we published our follow-up report to our police super-complaint **'Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse: Has anything really changed since the 2020 super-complaint'**

This report draws on the accounts of some of the 200 victim-survivors who contacted us following the super-complaint and tracks the deluge of reports, investigations, inspections, and inquiries undertaken since the scale—and scandal—of police violence towards women was exposed.

The report found there is still ample evidence that far too many police officers escape sanction despite multiple allegations of abuse, with some rising through the ranks and even being promoted to roles with responsibility for policing rape and domestic abuse. Many women reported that the officer they accused attempted to criminalise them, while others manipulated family law proceedings for revenge.

The report attracted national media coverage and responses from the College of Policing, the Independent Office for Police Conduct, and the Police Federation of England and Wales. We are now exploring legislative and other reforms highlighted in our recommendations.

"Far too many police officers escape sanction despite multiple allegations of abuse, with some even promoted to roles policing rape and domestic abuse."

INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE FOR RAPE SURVIVORS

The independent legal advice service run jointly with Women and Girls Network has now completed its first year, and funding has been secured for a second year, with the aim of bridging the gap until a national scheme for independent legal advice for rape survivors is established. In year one, the scheme assisted 141 survivors on 164 legal matters, and a very positive evaluation report by an academic is to be published shortly. There was a high level of demand, with the service having to close at various points during the year due to capacity constraints. A new barrister and paralegal have been recruited for year two. CWJ continues to provide legal training, supervision, and input into the strategic direction for the project.

"In its first year, the service assisted 141 survivors on 164 legal matters, highlighting the urgent need for accessible independent legal advice."

FEMICIDE WORKING GROUP

We continue to host bi-monthly meetings for lawyers and specialist practitioners working on the issue of femicide. Over the last year, topics addressed have included the Assisted Dying Bill and its implications for women in domestic abuse situations, 'Fallen Women', a campaign concerning women who fall from heights when abusive partners are present, and posthumous prosecutions of perpetrators following suicides in the context of domestic abuse.

KEEP COUNSELLING CONFIDENTIAL

In April 2024, we celebrated the Government's climbdown and acceptance of an amendment tabled by Baroness Bertin in the Victims and Prisoners Bill, aimed at keeping counselling records for rape victims confidential. This followed a campaign run jointly by CWJ, EVAW, Rights of Women, and Rape Crisis.

CRIMINALISATION OF VICTIMS OF MALE VIOLENCE

Led by CWJ consultant Katy Swaine Williams, we have continued to push for legislative and practice reforms to counter the criminalisation of victims of domestic abuse, tabling amendments in Parliament and meeting with the NPCC lead on female offending as well as with policy leads, including the Director of Public Prosecutions at the Crown Prosecution Service.

"CWJ continues to push for legislative and practice reforms to counter the criminalisation of victims of domestic abuse."

In July 2024, we welcomed the publication of an Independent Inquiry report by Dame Vera Baird KC, which examined the terrible experiences of women and girls in police custody following arrests by Greater Manchester Police. CWJ contributed analysis to the report based on our own evidence from work around the criminalisation of victims of domestic abuse.

RAISING AWARENESS

As well as our legal work and policy reform, CWJ also raises awareness of state violence against women and girls through appearances on television, radio, podcasts and quotes in press. During the last 12 months, CWJ has featured in the media on at least 130 occasions including all national newspapers and news outlets.



CWJ's founder and CEO Harriet Wistrich appeared on the popular 'BBC Radio 4 series Desert Island Discs', in January 2025. Harriet spoke about her professional and personal life and selected songs to soundtrack pivotal moments.

In October 2024, the charity Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP) made the difficult decision to close. We have partnered with EHMP over the last few years to run the prize ceremony, and while it is sad to see the charity go, we are delighted to be able to take over the administration of the prize and keep its legacy alive. We hope to continue the prize in the spirit in which it was originally established.



THE YEAR AHEAD:

Our financial year began with the tragic news of the death of Stacey Hyde, aged 32. Stacey's case has long been emblematic of the injustices faced by women who kill in the context of male violence. At just 17, Stacey was jailed for life for the murder of her friend's violent boyfriend, who was attacking her at the time. Our CEO, Harriet Wistrich, supported by colleagues at Justice for Women, represented Stacey in her successful appeal against conviction in 2014. She was acquitted at retrial on the grounds of self-defence.

However, Stacey's experience of male violence and suffering a miscarriage of justice - alongside five years served in prison - left her particularly vulnerable, and she struggled with life after release. Her story is a stark reminder of why our work remains so vital.

This year, we are ramping up efforts to challenge the criminalisation of women who have killed abusive men. We will launch a powerful new film that shines a light on these injustices and amplifies survivors' voices. Alongside this, we are drawing on our evidence base to submit recommendations to the Law Commission's review of the Law of Homicide. Our submission will highlight the urgent need for reforms that ensure the law properly reflects the context of abuse in cases where women kill - whether in self-defence or as a consequence of prolonged coercive and controlling behaviour, sexual violence and other forms of male violence.

We will also draw on our expertise in police-perpetrated domestic abuse (PPDA) to submit evidence to the Angiolini Inquiry, ensuring that survivors' experiences inform recommendations for systemic change.

In addition, we are working with Cambridge Rape Crisis, Rape Crisis England & Wales, and Bindmans Solicitors to submit a new police super-complaint. This complaint addresses the systemic failure by police forces across the country to progress investigations into rape and other serious sexual offences - where delays now routinely exceed three years and, in many cases, run beyond seven years. These delays have devastating impacts on survivors trapped in the system and amount to a breach of the UK's obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Our data shows that over 20,000 police investigations have not been completed within three years in the past decade, with many taking considerably longer.

The government's long-overdue VAWG strategy, which sets out how ministers plan to halve violence against women and girls within a decade, has now been published and CWJ will continue to hold the government to account on this commitment.

We will publish our impact report and launch a new three-year strategy. The impact report will provide a comprehensive overview of all that we have achieved since our formation in 2016, and the new strategy will set out how we will drive forward systemic change and justice for women.

We are also deeply concerned about proposals to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) or repeal the Human Rights Act. These protections have been critical in advancing the rights of women and girls subjected to male violence - driving profound legislative and procedural reforms that help victims of rape, trafficking, and state failures secure justice and hold authorities accountable. CWJ will use our voice and influence to highlight the dangers of dismantling these protections and to ensure the public understands what is at stake.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year ended 31st March 2025, the charity received income totalling £987,289 (2024: £785,518). The income consisted of donations and grants receivable of £772,676 (2024: £646,243) and income from charitable activities of £213,653 (2024: £138,261). £687,832 (2024: £648,125) of the income was unrestricted and £299,457 (2024: £137,393) was restricted.

The expenditure for the year consisted of unrestricted costs of £597,366 (2024: £535,100) and restricted costs of £201,325 (2024: £256,985), totalling £798,691 (2024: £792,085).

This resulted in a surplus on unrestricted reserves of £90,466 (2024: surplus of £112,856) and a surplus on restricted reserves of £98,132 (2024: deficit £119,423). At 31 March 2025, reserves totalled £680,353 consisting of £439,143 unrestricted reserves and £241,210 restricted reserves.

Details of the various restricted funds can be found in note 17.

Like many charities, CWJ continues to face risks that could affect our ability to achieve our objectives. The biggest ongoing challenge is the continuity and availability of grants and donations.

Our work relies heavily on these funding streams, and any reduction would impact our financial stability. Whilst the financial outlook for this year is positive, the lack of regular, secured income—such as multi-year grants—makes long-term planning difficult and can leave us operating in a somewhat hand-to-mouth way. To manage this, we are focused on maintaining strong, transparent relationships with our existing donors and funders, meeting and exceeding grant requirements, and continuing to implement our donor stewardship strategy. We are also exploring ways to increase earned income and actively monitoring the funding landscape to identify opportunities that align with our mission. This proactive approach helps us respond quickly to changes and supports the long-term sustainability of our work.

The charity's future financial position will continue to be shaped by the wider economic climate and the availability of grant funding. With competition for resources increasing across the sector, we remain vigilant in our financial planning and fundraising efforts. Our risk management policy and regularly updated risk register help us stay on top of emerging challenges and maintain resilience and adaptability in uncertain times.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

The Director of Finance and Operations continues to lead on fundraising, overseeing all activities including the organisation of fundraising events and coordination of supporter-led initiatives on behalf of CWJ. We do not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators, and we remain committed to ensuring that all fundraising is carried out ethically and transparently.

CWJ is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies fully with the Code of Fundraising Practice. All direct marketing is overseen by the Director of Finance and Operations to ensure it is neither intrusive nor persistent. Every piece of marketing material includes clear instructions on how individuals can opt out of future communications, and we handle all personal data in accordance with GDPR requirements.

We are proud to report that there have been no complaints regarding our fundraising activities during this year or in previous years. Trustees maintain oversight of fundraising through regular reporting and review, ensuring that our approach reflects our values and prioritises respect for donors and supporters.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

For the year ending March 2025, it was agreed that our reserves level be set at £194,000.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

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

Charity law in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. This enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board by:

Sanchita Hosali

Sanchita Hosali (Jan 29, 2026 09:44:26 GMT)

29/01/2026

Sanchita Hosali
Trustee

Sasha Deepwell

Sasha Deepwell (Jan 29, 2026 09:44:26 GMT)

29/01/2026

Sasha Deepwell
Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Women's Justice (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance and misappropriation of assets. Audit procedures performed included:

- discussions with management and trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- reviewing relevant meeting minutes of those charged with governance;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected variances;
- identifying and reviewing journal entries to ensure that we understood the reasoning behind them and agreeing that they were appropriate;
- selecting a sample of transactions and tracing to documentation to establish that they are bonafide business transactions; and
- designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design

audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kara Williams

Kara Williams (char-29, 2026-11-29-2026)

Kara Williams BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
11 Park Square
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4EL

Date 29/01/2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations & legacies	4	473,219	299,457	772,676	646,243
Charitable activities	5	213,653	-	213,653	138,261
Investment income	6	960	-	960	1,014
Total income		<u>687,832</u>	<u>299,457</u>	<u>987,289</u>	<u>785,518</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	597,366	201,325	798,691	792,085
Total expenditure		<u>597,366</u>	<u>201,325</u>	<u>798,691</u>	<u>792,085</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		<u>90,466</u>	<u>98,132</u>	<u>188,598</u>	<u>(6,567)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		348,677	143,078	491,755	498,322
Total funds carried forward		<u>439,143</u>	<u>241,210</u>	<u>680,353</u>	<u>491,755</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	13	7,531	6,377
Current assets			
Debtors	14	207,125	158,187
Cash at bank and in hand		517,177	392,697
		<u>724,302</u>	<u>550,884</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	51,480	65,506
Net current assets		<u>672,822</u>	<u>485,378</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>680,353</u>	<u>491,755</u>
Net assets		<u>680,353</u>	<u>491,755</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		241,210	143,078
Unrestricted funds		439,143	348,677
Total charity funds	17	<u>680,353</u>	<u>491,755</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 29/01/2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Sanchita Hosali
Sanchita Hosali (Jan 29, 2025 09:29:40 GMT)

Sanchita Hosali
Trustee

Sasha Deepwell
Sasha Deepwell (Jan 29, 2025 09:44:26 GMT)

Sasha Deepwell
Trustee

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure)	188,598	(6,567)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,638	3,783
Other interest receivable and similar income	(960)	(1,014)
Accrued (income)/expenses	(5,957)	9,972
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(48,938)	(677)
Trade and other creditors	(8,069)	15,505
Cash generated from operations	<u>128,312</u>	<u>21,002</u>
Interest received	960	1,014
Net cash from operating activities	<u>129,272</u>	<u>22,016</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(4,792)	(4,218)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,792)</u>	<u>(4,218)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	124,480	17,798
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>392,697</u>	<u>374,899</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>517,177</u>	<u>392,697</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is a charitable incorporated organisation. The address of the principal office is Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The presentational currency is pound sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. The figures in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is dependent on the outcome of cases and is only recognised when it is virtually certain. This income is classified as unrestricted income, unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case, it may be regarded as restricted

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity

in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings - 10% straight line

Equipment - 25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	125,969	42,136	168,105
Grants			
Grants receivable	<u>347,250</u>	<u>257,321</u>	<u>604,571</u>
	<u>473,219</u>	<u>299,457</u>	<u>772,676</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	257,850	30,669	288,519
Grants			
Grants receivable	<u>251,000</u>	<u>106,724</u>	<u>357,724</u>
	<u>508,850</u>	<u>137,393</u>	<u>646,243</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Other income from charitable activities	<u>213,653</u>	<u>213,653</u>	<u>138,261</u>	<u>138,261</u>

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>960</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>1,014</u>	<u>1,014</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	584,205	201,325	785,530
Support costs	<u>13,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,161</u>
	<u>597,366</u>	<u>201,325</u>	<u>798,691</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	524,052	256,985	781,037
Support costs	<u>11,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,048</u>
	<u>535,100</u>	<u>256,985</u>	<u>792,085</u>

8. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support Costs £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	785,530	-	785,530	781,037
Governance costs	<u>-</u>	<u>13,161</u>	<u>13,161</u>	<u>11,048</u>
	<u>785,530</u>	<u>13,161</u>	<u>798,691</u>	<u>792,085</u>

9. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting)

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>3,638</u>	<u>3,783</u>

10. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>11,160</u>	<u>9,350</u>

11. STAFF COSTS

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	522,788	456,087
Social security costs	48,673	41,074
Employer contributions to pension plans	<u>21,379</u>	<u>14,767</u>
	<u>592,840</u>	<u>511,928</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 16 (2024: 14).

During the year there were an average of 7 part time employees (2024: 6), as a result the average full time equivalent head count during the year was 14 (2024: 12).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £105,658 (2024: £99,893).

12. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	3,053	13,910	16,963
Additions	-	4,792	4,792
At 31 March 2025	3,053	18,702	21,755
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	1,469	9,117	10,586
Charge for the year	305	3,333	3,638
At 31 March 2025	1,774	12,450	14,224
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	1,279	6,252	7,531
At 31 March 2024	1,584	4,793	6,377

14. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments & accrued income	9,901	10,696
Amounts recoverable on cases	179,257	135,239
Other debtors	17,967	12,252
	207,125	158,187

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income	14,976	20,933
Social security and other taxes	24,085	23,406
Other creditors	12,419	21,167
	51,480	65,506

16. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £21,379 (2024: £14,767)

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	348,677	687,832	(597,366)	-	439,143

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	235,821	648,125	(535,100)	(169)	348,677

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Digital Freedom Fund	2,448	-	-	-	2,448
The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
The Oak Foundation International Project	25,106	-	(14,425)	-	10,681
The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women	32,701	-	(14,813)	-	17,888
Anonymous Research Project	14,234	10,400	-	-	24,634
PPDA Litigation - Crowdjustice	3,832	-	(1,000)	-	2,832
Daisy Fund - CrowdJustice	1,380	-	(684)	-	696
Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	40,000	45,000	(51,291)	-	33,709
Allen & Overy Foundation	5,927	-	(5,927)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation	-	57,240	(50,433)	-	6,807
Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize	2,741	12,035	(1,079)	-	13,697
The Big Give - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	14,709	-	(7,811)	-	6,898
Big Give - Appeals 2024	-	20,203	-	-	20,203
The Olwyn Foundation - Criminalisation	-	90,000	(43,747)	-	46,253
CrowdJustice: Azra Kemal Internship Programme	-	6,533	-	-	6,533
Anonymous Trust	-	50,000	(8,332)	-	41,668
HOPE Campaign (CrowdJustice)	-	6,546	(283)	-	6,263
	143,078	299,457	(201,325)	-	241,210

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	208	-	(208)	-	-
The Access to Justice Foundation	746	-	(746)	-	-
The Olwyn Foundation	46,532	-	(46,532)	-	-
The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	5,382	-	(5,382)	-	-
Rape Justice Now	11,615	-	(11,615)	-	-
Digital Freedom Fund	7,448	-	(5,000)	-	2,448
The Baring Foundation	31,155	-	(31,155)	-	-
The IHL Trust	17,076	-	(17,076)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation	5,052	32,844	(37,896)	-	-
The Oak Foundation International Project	50,326	-	(25,220)	-	25,106
The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages	38,766	-	(6,065)	-	32,701
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021	248	-	(248)	-	-
Anonymous Research Project	19,693	10,000	(15,459)	-	14,234
The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped	17,627	-	(17,627)	-	-
The Oak Foundation - Care Fund	2,320	-	(2,489)	169	-
PPDA Litigation - CrowdJustice	8,099	-	(4,267)	-	3,832
The Big Give Women and Girls Digital Grant	208	-	(208)	-	-
Daisy Fund - CrowdJustice	-	1,380	-	-	1,380
Sam & Bella Sebba Foundation	-	45,000	(5,000)	-	40,000
Allen & Overy Foundation	-	7,500	(1,573)	-	5,927
The Legal Education Foundation JFF 2024	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize	-	15,000	(12,259)	-	2,741
The Big Give - Azra Kemal Internship	-	20,669	(5,960)	-	14,709
	<u>262,501</u>	<u>137,393</u>	<u>(256,985)</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>143,078</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Digital Freedom Fund

Victim/witness digital data extraction in sexual offence investigations - strategic litigation.

The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse

This project aims to bring about structural change to the way such complaints are investigated and dealt with. We will support individual women who have been victims of police perpetrated abuse through legal advice and access to appropriate other services.

The Oak Foundation - International Project

Creation of a sustainable international network of lawyers and legally-focused NGOs to combat psychological violence towards women and girls, its harmful impacts, and build state accountability.

The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women

Providing legal advice to women who have been wrongly or disproportionately punished for resisting male violence so that they may appeal wrongful convictions and unjust sentences.

Anonymous research project

Dissemination of the Women Who Kill research project via presentations, training and related articles and reports.

CrowdJustice - PPDA Litigation

Funds remaining following a legal challenge around police perpetrated domestic abuse. Restricted to disbursements and fees related to litigation where perpetrator(s) are from within the police force

Daisy Fund - CrowdJustice

Donated from the Forgotten Victims: Conceived in Rape CrowdJustice fund. To assist in cases or project that will benefit victims from a black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation - Tackling police perpetrated domestic and sexual violence

Restricted funds to tackle police perpetrated domestic and sexual violence.

Allen & Overy Foundation - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme:

Funding for our paid part-time internship programme for women from Black, Asian and/or minoritised backgrounds.

The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme 2024

To fund the hosting of a Justice First Fellow Trainee Solicitor.

Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize

To organise and host the 2023/24 awards to remember, recognise and reward those who have worked to end violence against women and bring it to the attention of the wider public.

The Big Give - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme

Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme: funding for our paid part-time internship programme for women from Black, Asian and/or minoritised backgrounds

The Big Give - Appeals 2024

Provide legal assistance to women wrongly convicted of crimes as a consequence of being victims of abuse.

CrowdJustice: Azra Kemal Internship Programme

Paid internship programme for women from a Black, Asian and/or minoritised background to promote and increase diversity in the legal profession.

The Olwyn Foundation

Challenging the unjust criminalisation of women and girls who offend due to domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

Anonymous Trust: Litigation Department Funding

To contribute towards the annual pay and other associated costs of hiring an additional solicitor

CrowdJustice: HOPE Campaign

Raising awareness and campaigning around wiping the criminal record of women in street prostitution.

Restricted funds with movement in the year to 31 March 2024 but none in the year to 31 March 2025

Rosa UK - Advice and Support

Improving access to justice for women and girls throughout England and Wales by empowering the women's sector to recognise and challenge criminal justice failings and connect them to feminist lawyers.

The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund

Support for specialist advice services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rape Justice Now (Crowd Justice)

Funds remaining following a case to judicially review the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to prosecuting rape. These funds will be used on any work carried out around rape and sexual violence.

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS

Joint project with Imkaan - analysing and challenging the institutionalised abuse and racism experienced by Black and minoritised women and girls in the criminal justice system.

The Legal Education Foundation: Justice First Fellowship Scheme

Funding for a Justice First Fellowship trainee solicitor for 2 years.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021 - Digital Capacity Building Grant

Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped:

Empowering Survivors of Violence Providing specialist training to frontline women's sector organisations to upskill them to identify police duties and failures around domestic violence, sexual violence, and other areas of male violence.

The Oak Foundation - Care Fund

Staff training on vicarious-trauma and support in their work with survivors of sexual violence.

The Big Give - Women and Girls Digital Grant

Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	7,531	-	7,531
Current assets	483,091	241,211	724,302
Creditors less than 1 year	(51,480)	-	(51,480)
Net assets	439,142	241,211	680,353

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,377	-	6,377
Current assets	407,806	143,078	550,884
Creditors less than 1 year	(65,506)	-	(65,506)
Net assets	348,677	143,078	491,755

19. OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 Mar 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>392,697</u>	<u>124,480</u>	<u>517,177</u>

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	54,932	52,841
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<u>1,538</u>	<u>2,097</u>
	<u>56,470</u>	<u>54,938</u>

The amount on lease payments made in the year recognised as an expense is £52,840 (2024: £44,872).

**WITH THANKS TO ALL
OUR FUNDERS, DONORS,
STAFF, CLIENTS AND
VOLUNTEERS**



CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

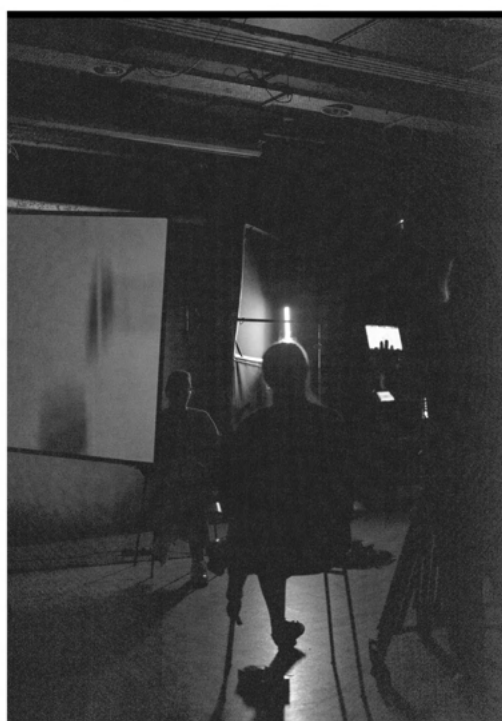
England & Wales - Charity number 1169213

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

CWVJ
entre for Women's Justice
CWVJ



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OUR MISSION:

TO HOLD THE STATE TO ACCOUNT AND CHALLENGE DISCRIMINATION IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AROUND MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

OUR VISION:

A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS WORK EFFECTIVELY TO ERADICATE MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

KEY INFORMATION

Centre for Women's Justice
Oxford House
Derbyshire Street
London
E2 6HG
www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk
info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Banker: CafBank Limited, PO BOX 289, West Malling ME19 4TA

Auditors: Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited, 11 Park Square, Newport, NP20 4EL

Structure, Governance & Management:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under Charity number: 1169213.

The charity is governed by the Board of Trustees (whose members during the year are listed below). The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the management of all the affairs of CWJ and delegate day-to-day management of the organisation to the Director, Harriet Wistrich, who is assisted by Nic Mainwood, Head of Finance and Operations.

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 17/03/2016.

1) Apart from the first three charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experiences needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Board Members

Sasha Deepwell (Chair)
Fiona Mackenzie (Treasurer)
Sarah Ricca
Janice Turner
Esohe Aghatise
Samira Ahmed
Davina James-Hanman
Sanchita Hosali
Heather Harvey
Karon Monaghan (appointed June '24)

The Board of Trustees met four times during this financial year. There were three finance subcommittee meetings comprising Sasha Deepwell and Sanchita Hosali, chaired by the Treasurer, Fiona Mackenzie.

Due diligence is carried out before the appointment of all new board members. New trustees are given a board pack which includes key information about the organisation as well as important policies and procedures. Training is offered to board members according to their needs.

Pay and remuneration of all personnel is awarded in line with our pay policy and procedure.

Major risks faced by the charity have been reviewed, and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

Objectives & Activities:

To advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by: seeking to prevent violence against women and girls, and protect those rights which are adversely impacted by violence against women and girls; and the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) provides benefits to women and girls who have been, or may in the future be, subject to male violence. We assist with providing access to justice for those who have been failed by the state and subject to discriminatory treatment within the criminal justice system.

Public benefit statement:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '[Charities and Public Benefit](#)'.

INTRODUCTION

HARRIET WISTRICH, DIRECTOR

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) continues to grow both in size and impact. Our work and expertise around police perpetrated domestic abuse, the criminalisation of survivors, independent legal advice for victims of rape and some of the other areas highlighted in this report are making a unique impact on these critically important issues, providing hope for survivors, expertise for legislators, and challenges for those who lead the criminal justice agencies we seek to hold to account.

Our staff team is stretched but well supported by our governing board and operational management. We have built a great team spirit with a combined desire to work to support victims of male violence and create change through litigation, project work, and advocacy, where needed. The big challenge remains deciding what we must prioritise and learning to sometimes say no to the many cases, projects, and interventions we would like to contribute to. We are determined to remain nimble, strategic, and impactful in the work we do.

The expertise and evidence base we have built often creates further demands from others for us to contribute and again, that provides the challenge of prioritising when to engage with the media, when to respond to consultations, and when to lobby and promote legislative reform.

Almost inevitably, in recent years, CWJ has developed more of a policy focus than I had originally envisaged when the charity was founded. The primary intention had been to focus on strategic litigation – which remains a central focus of our work – however, our ability to understand and show evidence of systemic flaws in the system, means that we can add something unique to the policy and legal framework.

We remain extremely grateful to our funders and donors who have supported CWJ, trusting us to deliver and develop our programme of work flexibly in order to meet our objectives and mission.



SASHA DEEPWELL, CHAIR



CWJ has had another impactful year, and continues to be a beacon of hope for justice for women. In focusing on long-term change and working collaboratively in the women's sector, CWJ has the potential to completely transform the experience of victims of rape, in particular, engaging with the criminal justice system. We are pleased to have been able to work with the Women and Girls Network in the set-up and legal supervision of a pilot project providing free independent legal advice to survivors of rape and sexual assault and look forward to seeing how this project develops.

We were delighted to hear in April, shortly after the close of this financial year, that the government had accepted an amendment to the Victims and Prisoners Bill that CWJ, Rape Crisis, End Violence Against Women Coalition and Rights of Women had been campaigning on for a number of years. This 'Keep Counselling Confidential' amendment will raise the legal threshold for when survivors' counselling notes can be requested by the police and CPS. We hope that, as with the pilot project, it will improve women's experiences of reporting.

Whilst CWJ has grown, year on year, it is still a fairly small charity although one which certainly punches above its weight with regards to reputation, achievements, and impact. None of this remarkable work would be possible though without the determination and bravery of our clients, the commitment and talent of the staff team, and the generosity and support of our network of donors and funders. The board would like to thank everyone who has been part of our success over the past year.



Sasha Deepwell
Sasha Deepwell (Jan 14, 2025 16:37 GMT)



STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS

STRATEGIC LITIGATION

UNDERTAKING STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CASES CONCERNING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

CWJ bring challenges that have the potential to impact on how the state deals with perpetrators and survivors of violence against women and girls. These cases help develop and strengthen the rights of women across a broad spectrum of issues.

We are involved in many significant strategic legal challenges, which have evolved through our advice work and in partnership with women sector organisations.

Litigation can take many years – below we highlight some key cases that have attracted wider public interest over the year of this annual report. In the last couple of years, new strategic litigation has arisen from our work on police perpetrated domestic abuse, providing another tool to challenge systemic police failings in this area.

SYSTEMIC FAILINGS IN DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE

CWJ is representing seven victims/survivors of domestic abuse perpetrated by officers from Devon and Cornwall Police force.

The women, who approached CWJ individually, reported a range of abuse by their then police officer partners. This included rape; physical and mental abuse; coercive and controlling behaviour; and harassment and stalking. In each case, Devon and Cornwall Police failed to take basic investigative steps and, in one case, even treated the victim, herself a former police officer, as a potential offender on the basis of counter-allegations raised by her perpetrator which were later determined to be false.

Other failings include appointing investigators who were connected to the accused officers, failing to gather statements from potential witnesses, and wholesale failure to update the women, some of whom remain in the dark as to what, if any, investigation has been conducted. Without exception, the victims say that the failure to maintain their confidence in the investigations left them unable to pursue the matter in any other way except by legal action.

In the letter before claim, we have argued that the seven, unrelated, reports of police perpetrated domestic abuse were so poorly handled that they demonstrate a systemic failing by Devon and Cornwall Police to investigate such crimes, amounting to a violation of the women's human rights under Articles 3, 8, and 14 ECHR.

As part of their claim, the women have offered to help Devon and Cornwall Police improve its practices and procedures, with the hope that other women won't suffer as they have.

“It’s quite a terrifying experience knowing that every single officer I have dealt with over the years will prioritise protecting a fellow officer rather than investigating a report of abuse.”

‘Lizzie’, one of the seven women

“Coming together with the Centre for Women’s Justice and other women who have experienced similar at the hands of D&C police has been the only hope I have had over the last few years.

If I can help to ensure that no other woman is made to feel as vulnerable and hopeless as I have been left feeling by D&C police, then this action will have been a success.”

‘Samantha’, one of the seven women

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE FAILURES THAT LED TO A CHILD MURDERER REMAINING FREE FOR 31 YEARS

Seven-year-old Nikki Allan was murdered in Sunderland in October 1992 but her killer, David Boyd, was not convicted until May 2023.

Following an initial murder investigation, Northumbria Police arrested the wrong man and forced a confession from him. When the confession was thrown out by the judge at a trial in Leeds Crown Court in 1993, the wrongly accused man, George Heron was acquitted.

It then took Northumbria Police another twenty-five years to commence a full review of all the evidence available at the time of the murder, after Nikki's mother, Sharon Henderson, begged them to properly resource the investigation.

Following a formal complaint lodged by CWJ on Sharon's behalf, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) announced they would be independently investigating Northumbria police.

CWJ represent Sharon in a civil claim against Northumbria Police for their failure to adequately investigate her daughter's murder.

See our short film below with Nikki's mother, Sharon.



CLAIM AGAINST METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE REGARDING SERIAL RAPIST POLICE OFFICER DAVID CARRICK

We are acting on behalf of eight victims/survivors of David Carrick, a former Metropolitan Police Officer. In 2023, Carrick pleaded guilty to 85 serious offences against women, including 48 rapes. He was convicted of multiple criminal offences, including rape, sexual abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, and false imprisonment against our clients and other women. He was sentenced to 32 years in prison.

Described as one of the UK's worst ever sex offenders, Carrick used his position as a police officer to trap, abuse, and silence women. After his conviction, it became known that the Metropolitan Police had received numerous allegations of Carrick's violence against women. Some of these incidents took place before being accepted as a police officer, and then during his probation period. Despite this, he was deemed fit and proper not only to become a police officer and remain one, but to hold a firearm and work in the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command. This is the Command of the police which guard parliament and Number 10.

**“You behaved as if you were untouchable.
You were bold and at times relentless, trusting that no victim would overcome her shame and fear to report you.
For nearly two decades you were proved right.”**

Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb on sentencing Carrick to 36 life sentences with a minimum term of 32 years in prison.

Our clients are now bringing a joint civil claim against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The claim will argue that their human rights have been breached, and that the police were negligent in their handling of Carrick's employment in the face of multiple allegations of violence.

Our clients seek answers on why Carrick was not stopped before he abused them and many others, and to use the case to examine the system of vetting for police officers, scrutinise the policies and procedures, and suggest better ways forward.



SETTLEMENT IN CLAIM AGAINST WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AFTER A 39-YEAR BATTLE TO GET JUSTICE

Our client, Carol Higgins, first reported her father for sexual abuse when she was 15, but he was not charged. Decades later, Carol reported the historical abuse several more times in the hope of eventually getting a prosecution but it wasn't until 2019, that her abuser Elliot Appleyard finally stood trial. He was found guilty of 15 sexual offences against her including rape and sexual assault and sentenced to 20 years in prison. CWJ supported Carol in her complaint against West Yorkshire Police, and acted for her in a civil claim which secured her a full and wide-ranging apology, as well as damages.

“I realise first hand how important your work is and cannot imagine where I would be without CWJ’s help...

Apart from the legal work, you also restore many women’s sense of self worth, helping them to value themselves more. The world is a better place having you all in it.”

Carol Higgins

EMPOWERING FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS

WE PROVIDE TRAINING AND SECOND-TIER LEGAL ADVICE TO FRONTLINE WOMEN’S SECTOR SERVICE PROVIDERS SUPPORTING VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF VAWG ACROSS ENGLAND AND WALES.

As well as increasing access to justice for many survivors who have been failed by criminal justice agencies, our work enables us to gather evidence of systemic failings and malpractice, which, in turn, feeds into strategic litigation, and other legal and policy interventions aimed at holding institutions accountable and bringing about change in laws, policy, and practice.

We empower frontline advocates to assist women in challenging criminal justice failures and identify cases that need legal advice through our training. During this financial year, we trained 160 individuals across 27 organisations and received 1,266 visits to our password protected resource hub from women’s services advocates. This hub includes CWJ toolkits, template letters and guides on Victims’ Rights to Review, Police Complaints System, and other relevant areas.

Following the introduction of an online referrals process, we have reduced the volume of enquiries we receive but increased the depth of the assistance we are able to provide. We responded to 379 enquiries during the year. The majority of these were from frontline VAWG organisations, but a small number were referred to us by politicians, journalists, lawyers, and others.

Additionally, we signposted 188 women who contacted us directly on a range of legal issues. We also provide easy to access information and signposting materials on our website on different areas of law. Our 2nd tier signposting page for frontline advocates was visited 1,545 times this year. Our, first tier page (which is set up to assist members of the public) received 2,370 visits.



85% SAID THE WRITTEN MATERIALS WERE VERY USEFUL IN THEIR DAY TO DAY WORK.



72% OF THOSE TRAINED SAID THEY FELT MUCH MORE CONFIDENT DEALING WITH POLICE AND CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

FEEDBACK FROM THOSE TRAINED

“One of the most informative, engaging and enjoyable sessions of training I’ve had, and about a subject that can be confusing and jargon-y! Very impressed.”

“It was absolutely brilliant!”

“Amazing. I absolutely love the CWJ. You do some amazing work and the training has definitely given me more confidence. Thank you so so so much :) x”

“I could have listened to CWJ all week. Amazing work and an amazing organization :) Thank you for all you do for victims, survivors and women.”

FEEDBACK FROM THOSE ASSISTED

“Thank you for your email and for all you have done for me. I am very grateful. The police would have continued to ignore me and treat me with contempt if you had not been involved. Solicitors generally won’t get involved with VRRs so CWJ is really the only hope for women when the police fail and behave so appallingly.”

“Thank you for everything you and the rest of the Centre for Women’s Justice have done for me. I’m truly grateful. It’s been a long healing process, but the journey has inspired a real passion for law.”

“I want to thank you in, particular, and Centre for Women’s Justice, for all your work and everything you’ve done to advise and guide us. There has never been more need for a charity like CWJ in this deeply misogynistic society.”

“It’s been absolutely crucial to this family’s psychological equilibrium to have a salient voice talk us through the process. We remain extremely grateful for that to you.”

“Couldn’t have done it without your invaluable insight and I hope other victims you support get the justice they so desperately deserve!”



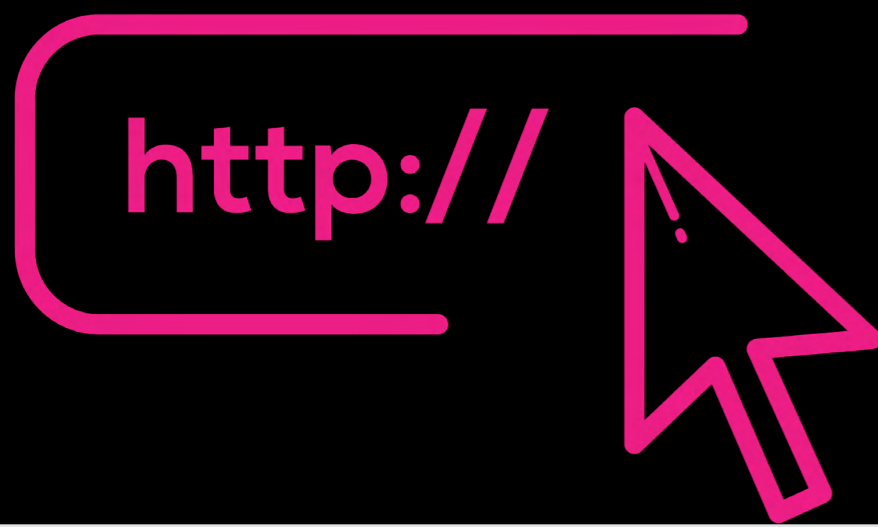
WE HAVE HELPED
599
WOMEN

THROUGH
LEGAL
ADVICE OR
ONE-TO-ONE
SIGNPOSTING



WE HAVE TRAINED
160
FRONTLINE
SUPPORT
WORKERS

ACROSS
27
WOMEN'S
ORGANISATIONS



3,915

VISITS TO OUR
ONLINE
SIGNPOSTING
RESOURCES

LEGAL PROJECTS & POLICY INITIATIVES

WE ARE UNDERTAKING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS DEALING WITH PARTICULAR ISSUES ARISING FOR WOMEN, WHICH, IN TURN, FEEDS INTO OUR LITIGATION AND POLICY ADVOCACY WORK.

POLICE PERPETRATED DOMESTIC ABUSE (PPDA)

We continue to push for changes in the culture of policing, challenging institutionalised misogyny, racism and homophobia driven by our continued legal work and advocacy around PPDA.

As well as the strategic litigation mentioned earlier in this report, we have been building a repository of accounts from the victims/survivors of PPDA, who have approached us since the publication of our super-complaint in 2020. These accounts will form the basis of our much-anticipated report, which will be published in September 2024. This report will document the raft of policing initiatives that have been announced since our super-complaint was submitted, including a summary of the response from the super-complaint bodies to the original PPDA super-complaint. It concludes by identifying areas where there is the most urgent need for action.

INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST LEGAL NETWORK

Over the past two years, we have been working to establish an international network of feminist lawyers and legal organisations to share strategic litigation and advocacy strategies – including the use of international legal instruments. This year we launched the website and held a number of webinars with international speakers.

INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE FOR RAPE SURVIVORS

CWJ's work on providing and promoting independent legal advice for rape survivors has led to an exciting collaboration with the Women and Girls Network (WGN). WGN have been funded by MOPAC to run a pilot delivering independent legal advice to women who have reported rape or serious sexual offences. CWJ in partnership with WGN, designed the project implementation, assisted with recruitment of legal staff, and are providing expert legal supervision for the team.

The outcome of the pilot is being watched closely by those in government, who have committed to providing some form of such independent legal advice provision.

FEMICIDE WORKING GROUP

We continue to organise and host bi-monthly meetings with other professionals using these meetings to share cases, strategies, and research.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

We are exploring ways to promote access to justice for women who are convicted of crimes in the context of male violence. These include murder appeals, cases involving complainants of rape and domestic abuse being prosecuted for perverting the course of justice, and, potentially, a flurry of recent prosecutions of women who had very late abortions.

KEEP COUNSELLING CONFIDENTIAL

We have been campaigning alongside End Violence Against Women Coalition, Rape Crisis England and Wales, and Rights of Women to introduce a new provision within the Victims and Prisoners Act for a higher threshold for disclosure of counselling records of victims/survivors in rape and other sexual violence cases. In April 2024 we were delighted to hear the amendment was passed.

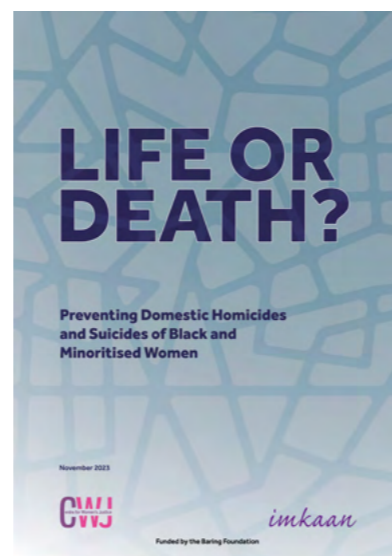
PREVENTING HOMICIDES AND SUICIDES OF BLACK AND MINORITISED WOMEN AND GIRLS

Our joint project with Imkaan, an umbrella organisation dedicated to addressing violence against Black and minoritised women and girls, explored domestic homicides and suicides of minoritised women in the context of domestic abuse.

Through the analysis of 44 cases and by conducting workshops with frontline support workers, we produced a report 'Life or Death?' – launched to a large online audience (217 attended) and published in November 2023.

Through this report we examine the many different ways in which Black and minoritised women can face barriers and state failings when seeking protection from domestic abuse. We also consider the implications for support services run by and for Black and minoritised women, and what more is needed during post-death investigation.

The findings of our report were presented to a meeting chaired by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and attended by police leads, Home Office officials and others – we await their further proposals of concrete actions to promote change.



Chantelle

Chantelle was a British woman of African-Caribbean heritage living in London who was killed by her partner after reporting death threats to the police. She was reluctant to report her African-Caribbean partner to the police for a range of reasons including racism, and discrimination. She also believed that if she approached the police this would lead to deportation action being taken against him, and that he would blame her for this. She was clearly extremely anxious when she attended the police station, and she only did so with the support of a male friend who went with her and reassured her that she was doing the right thing. This must have been a big step for her to take, which she took because she was aware of the level of risk she faced. However, the officer she saw minimised her report and she did not approach the police again. Not a single action was taken by the police on the case before she was killed by her partner several weeks later.

Not a single action was taken by the police on the case before she was killed by her partner several weeks later.

CRIMINALISATION OF VICTIMS OF MALE VIOLENCE

This project aims to achieve permanent change in the state's treatment of women at risk of criminalisation due to domestic abuse and other forms of male violence by exploring legal action and advocacy, research, training for criminal defence lawyers, and dissemination of our research and recommended reforms.



Following a preview screening at the FiLiA women's rights conference in Glasgow in October 2023, in December we publicly launched our short film 'Stop Criminalising Survivors' alongside online resources aimed at raising awareness amongst policy makers and practitioners, and stimulating action to achieve change. This film is now being used widely by police, CPS and others to highlight the lived experience of survivors of domestic abuse who are being prosecuted.

We continue to campaign and engage with legislators in our attempts to introduce a reform to the defence of self-defence which rarely works for women where they use force in response to attacks by abusers. We are also proposing a new statutory defence for victims of domestic abuse who offend, modelled on the defence for victims of trafficking set out in section 45 Modern Slavery Act 2015.



RAISING AWARENESS

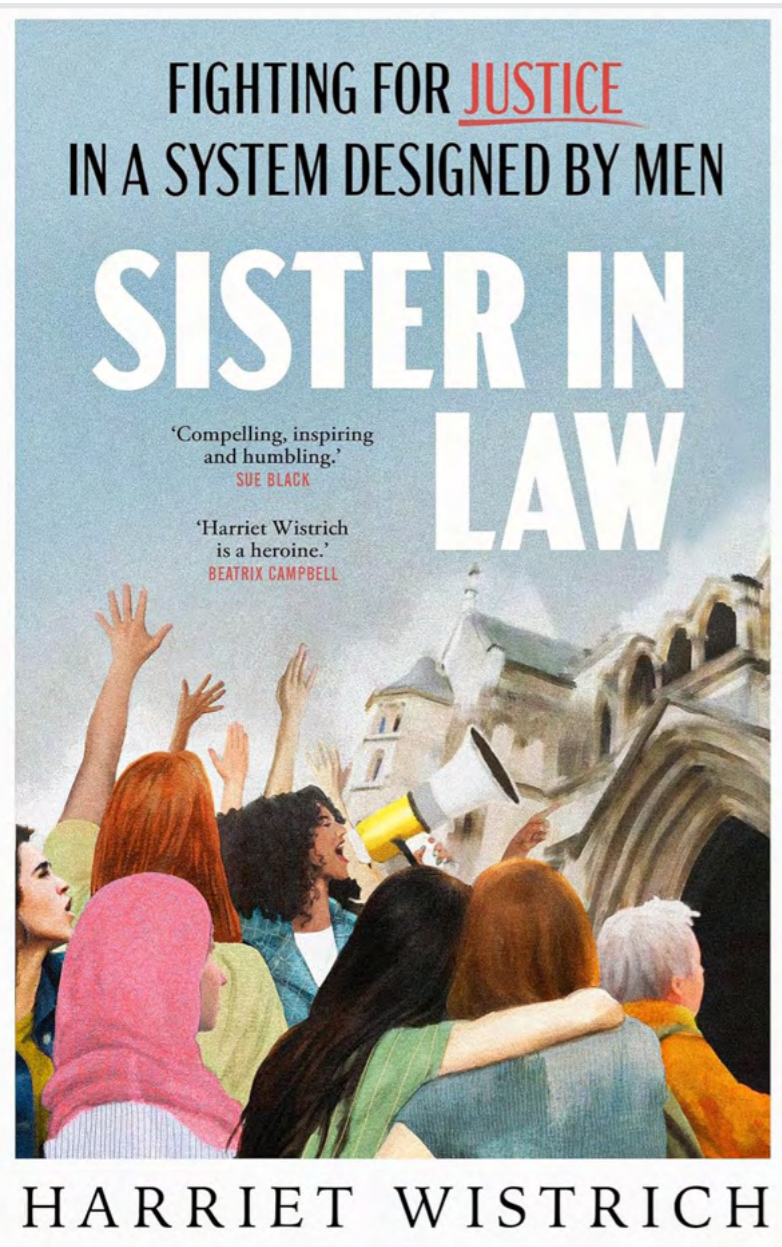
WE ARE FREQUENTLY APPROACHED BY THE MEDIA TO PROVIDE COMMENT AND INSIGHT ON TOPICAL ISSUES CONCERNING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, LAW AND POLICY.

During the last 12 months, CWJ has featured in the media on at least 200 occasions including all national newspapers and news outlets.

SISTER IN LAW

We were proud to support promotion of Harriet's book 'Sister in Law' – described as a “page-turning fight against a misogynistic system.” Exploring her landmark cases, Sister in Law covers the shocking true stories demonstrating that, terrifyingly often, the law is not-fit-for-purpose for half the population and shines a feminist light on the landscape of arcane laws and systems skewed towards men.

Published 2nd May 2024



“Inventive, compassionate and tenacious, Wistrich... [is] a magnificent, radical, uncompromising warrior of a woman.”

Melanie Reid, *The Times*

“A history of her three-decade career, peppered by some of Britain's most significant cases of violence against women.”

Suzanne Moore, *The Telegraph*

“Through these enraging and astonishing stories, Wistrich... shows us the best of humanity. [She is] empathetic, dogged, canny, always up for the fight.”

Fiona Sturges, *The Guardian*



DEFEATING THE SILENCING OF WOMEN SPEAKING OUT ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

On 25 May 2023, we held our 'Defeating the Silencing of Women Speaking Out About Sexual Assault' event, which included a panel discussion chaired by Harriet Wistrich with speakers Zelda Perkins (whistleblower in the Harvey Weinstein case); Jennifer Robinson (barrister who acted for Amber Heard in assisting The Sun to successfully defend the UK libel action brought by Johnny Depp); Tamsin Allen (barrister who defended Nina Cresswell in a libel action winning a landmark judgment in April 2023, which defended her right to speak out about the man who sexually assaulted her); and Verity Nevitt (co-founder of the Gemini Project and survivor who faced and fought libel action from her abuser).

The discussion was followed by a screening of the biographical film 'She Said', starring Carey Mulligan and Zoe Kazan. The film tells the story of the two New York Times journalists who investigated and exposed movie producer, Harvey Weinstein's, decades long campaign of sexual assault and harassment against women.



EMMA HUMPHREYS MEMORIAL PRIZE AND CWJ AWARD CEREMONY 2023/24

In February 2024, we were again delighted to join forces with the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP) in hosting the awards.

Each year, since the untimely death of Emma Humphreys in 1998 prizes of £1,000 are awarded to an individual and/or group who has raised awareness of male violence against women through writing and campaigning. Five years ago the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize teamed up with CWJ so that one of the awards would be given to a woman who had brought an important legal challenge or campaign.

Activism and campaigning around male violence against women is not glamorous, it is often tireless and sometimes traumatising, but, ultimately, it can provide hope. The purpose of the prize is to celebrate the work of survivors and activists who have gone above and beyond through an annual awards ceremony aimed at recognising, remembering and rewarding the often unsung heroines who make a difference.

In this, the 25th Anniversary, we were joined by award winning singer/songwriter and human rights activist, Tanita Tikaram. We also paid tribute, with her family and friends, to trailblazing feminist activist and academic, Jalna Hamner, who died in May 2023.



From left to right: Ali Morris, Jill Radford's Granddaughter, Ali Ceesay, Sisters Salon, Sharon Holland, Ayse Hussein, Lisa-Marie Taylor, Jade Blue McCrossen-Nethercott, Samira Ahmed, 'Sam'



Tanita Tikaram performing at the EHMP awards



THE YEAR AHEAD

The new financial year has got off to an eventful start with May seeing the publication of Harriet Wistrich's book 'Sister in Law: Shocking true stories of fighting for justice in a legal system designed by men'. The first International Feminist Legal Network hybrid conference took place in July 2024, and our Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse research report was published in September. We now look forward to sharing our findings from further research on the criminalisation of women with recommendations on courtroom practices and police and CPS responses to victims of abuse, who are accused of offending. We will be using our research and expertise in these areas to engage key changemakers and push for reform.

We, will of course, be progressing some key litigation, and plans are in place to launch a public crowdfunding campaign to assist the eight victims/survivors of serial rapist and ex Metropolitan Police Officer David Carrick. We will also be further exploring potential litigation on issues that have been highlighted in our 'Life or Death' research related to domestic homicides and suicides of Black, Asian and minoritised women in the context of domestic abuse.

We will be further developing our work on criminal appeals of women who have offended, or have been accused of offending, in response to, or as a result of male violence. The forthcoming Law Commission consultation on defences to domestic homicide will provide further opportunity for CWJ to share its substantial case studies and significant expertise.

Over the following months, we will be focussing on our fundraising strategy and exploring new ways to diversify and ultimately increase income. As with most (if not all) charities, securing enough funding to allow us to meet demand, continue making impact and adequately support and reward our incredibly hard working team, is a constant challenge. We recognise the importance of investing in people and we are fortunate to have a resilient, committed and tenacious team at CWJ. We must, however, ensure we can continue to retain our brilliant colleagues, helping them recognise their ambitions, whilst maintaining good mental health and work/life balance. Succession planning will also, therefore, be high on the agenda as we begin work on our 2025-2028 strategic plan. The board and staff team will be reviewing how we prioritise different areas of work, assessing potential opportunities on the horizon and agreeing our new future aims and objectives. The results of this will be shared with our stakeholders in the new year.

Before then, we will be further sharing past achievements with the publication of our first three-year impact report due this winter. We've been developing our monitoring and evaluation framework and implemented several new processes and procedures during this financial year to make reflection and assessment simpler. This will also allow us to celebrate and communicate our successes, and identify any opportunities for improvement.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year, the charity received income totalling £785,518 (2023: £636,292). The income consisted of donations and grants receivable of £646,243 (2023: £489,213) and income from charitable activities of £138,261 (2023: £146,487). £648,125 (2023: £409,130) of the income was unrestricted and £137,393 (2023: £227,162) was restricted.

The expenditure for the year consisted of unrestricted costs of £535,100 (2023: £409,342) and restricted costs of £256,985 (2023: £218,969), totalling £792,085 (2023: £628,311).

This resulted in a surplus on unrestricted reserves of £112,856 (2023: deficit of £212) and a deficit on restricted reserves of £119,423 (2023: surplus £8,193). At 31 March 2024, reserves totalled £491,755, consisting of £348,677 unrestricted reserves and £143,078 restricted reserves.

Details of the various restricted funds can be found in note 17.

As with many charities, CWJ faces several risks that could impact its ability to achieve its objectives. Two principal risks identified during the year are the continuity and availability of grants and donations, and the retention of key employees.

The charity is reliant on grants and donations to sustain its operations and deliver its mission. A potential reduction in funding streams poses a significant risk to financial stability. Our mitigation strategies include fostering strong, transparent relationships with existing donors and funders, ensuring that grant requirements are consistently met and exceeded. We will be implementing a new donor stewardship strategy to strengthen relationships further, and reviewing ways in which we can maximise our earned income. Furthermore, we continuously monitor the funding landscape to identify and engage with funders whose objectives align with ours. This proactive approach helps us respond swiftly to emerging funding opportunities and ensures the long-term sustainability of our work.

The retention of skilled and committed staff is also critical to achieving our mission. High staff turnover can disrupt operations and lead to increased recruitment and training costs. To address this, we prioritise staff well-being and professional development, offering opportunities for growth and fostering an inclusive and supportive workplace culture. We are currently reviewing our pay structure to ensure we continue to award the team fairly and transparently. By investing in our people, we aim to build a resilient and motivated team committed to the charity's goals.

The financial performance and position of the charity in the future will be influenced by the broader economic climate and the availability of grant funding. In light of increasing competition for limited resources in the charitable sector, CWJ remains vigilant in its financial planning and fundraising efforts. The charity's comprehensive risk management policy, underpinned by an actively maintained risk register ensures robust

management of risks and a focus on long-term sustainability. By proactively monitoring and addressing these risks, we aim to ensure resilience and adaptability in the face of uncertainties.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

The Head of Finance and Operations is the fundraising lead responsible for organising fundraising events and co-ordinating the activities of our supporters in the wider community, on behalf of CWJ. We do not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators. There have been no complaints about fundraising activities this year, or any previous year.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and comply with all of the fundraising guidance set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice.

All direct marketing is overseen by Head of Finance and Operations to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. All marketing material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

For the year ending March 2024, it was agreed that our reserves level be set at £120,000.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

OF CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S

JUSTICE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Women's Justice (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance and misappropriation of assets. Audit procedures performed included:

- Discussions with management and trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes of those charged with governance;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected variances;
- Identifying and reviewing journal entries to ensure that we understood the reasoning behind them and agreeing that they were appropriate;
- Selecting a sample of transactions and tracing to documentation to establish that they are bonafide business transactions; and
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design

audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kara Williams

Kara Williams (Jan 14, 2025 18:41 GMT)

Kara Williams BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
11 Park Square
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4EL

Date Jan 14, 2025.....

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	508,850	137,393	646,243	489,213
Charitable activities	5	138,261	-	138,261	146,487
Investment income	6	1,014	-	1,014	592
Total income		648,125	137,393	785,518	636,292
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	535,100	256,985	792,085	628,311
Total expenditure		535,100	256,985	792,085	628,311
Net (expenditure)/income		113,025	(119,592)	(6,567)	7,981
Transfers between funds		(169)	169	-	-
Net movement in funds		112,856	(119,423)	(6,567)	7,981
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		235,821	262,501	498,322	490,341
Total funds carried forward		348,677	143,078	491,755	498,322


The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	13	6,377	5,942
Current assets			
Debtors	14	158,187	157,510
Cash at bank and in hand		392,697	374,899
		<u>550,884</u>	<u>532,409</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>65,506</u>	<u>40,029</u>
Net current assets		<u>485,378</u>	<u>492,380</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>491,755</u>	<u>498,322</u>
Net assets		<u>491,755</u>	<u>498,322</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		143,078	262,501
Unrestricted funds		348,677	235,821
Total charity funds	17	<u>491,755</u>	<u>498,322</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on Jan 14, 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Fiona MacKenzie (Jan 14, 2025 17:02 GMT)
 Fiona MacKenzie
 Trustee


Sasha Deepwell (Jan 14, 2025 16:37 GMT)
 Sasha Deepwell
 Trustee

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income	(6,567)	7,981
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,783	2,750
Other interest receivable and similar income	(1,014)	(592)
Accrued expenses/(income)	9,972	(1,780)
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(677)	(9,374)
Trade and other creditors	15,505	19,486
Cash generated from operations	<u>21,002</u>	<u>18,471</u>
Interest received	1,014	592
Net cash from operating activities	<u>22,016</u>	<u>19,063</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(4,218)	(2,487)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,218)</u>	<u>(2,487)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	17,798	16,576
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	374,899	358,323
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>392,697</u>	<u>374,899</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is a charitable incorporated organisation. The address of the principal office is Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The presentational currency is pound sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. The figures in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is dependent on the outcome of cases and is only recognised when it is virtually certain. This income is classified as unrestricted income, unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case, it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity

in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	257,850	30,669	288,519
Grants			
Grants receivable	251,000	106,724	357,724
	<u>508,850</u>	<u>137,393</u>	<u>646,243</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	97,105	34,746	131,851
Grants			
Grants receivable	164,946	192,416	357,362
	<u>262,051</u>	<u>227,162</u>	<u>489,213</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Other income from charitable activities	<u>138,261</u>	<u>138,261</u>	<u>146,487</u>	<u>146,487</u>

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>1,014</u>	<u>1,014</u>	<u>592</u>	<u>592</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY FUND TYPE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England	524,052	256,985	781,037
Support costs	11,048	-	11,048
	<u>535,100</u>	<u>256,985</u>	<u>792,085</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England	397,291	218,955	616,246
Support costs	12,051	14	12,065
	<u>409,342</u>	<u>218,969</u>	<u>628,311</u>

8. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in	781,037	-	781,037	616,246
Governance costs	-	11,048	11,048	12,065
	<u>781,037</u>	<u>11,048</u>	<u>792,085</u>	<u>628,311</u>

9. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting)

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>3,783</u>	<u>2,750</u>

10. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>9,350</u>	<u>9,600</u>

11. STAFF COSTS

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	456,087	388,795
Social security costs	41,074	34,892
Employer contributions to pension plans	14,767	12,097
	<u>511,928</u>	<u>435,784</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 14 (2023: 13).

During the year there were an average of 6 part time employees (2023: 6), as a result the average full time equivalent head count during the year was 12 (2023: 11).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel include all persons that have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charity. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for services provided to the charity was £99,893 (2023: £87,631).

12. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	2,910	9,835	12,745
Additions	143	4,075	4,218
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,053</u>	<u>13,910</u>	<u>16,963</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	1,164	5,639	6,803
Charge for the year	305	3,478	3,783
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,469</u>	<u>9,117</u>	<u>10,586</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	1,584	4,793	6,377
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,746</u>	<u>4,196</u>	<u>5,942</u>

14. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	10,696	12,891
Amounts recoverable on ongoing cases	135,239	65,258
Other debtors	12,252	79,361
	<u>158,187</u>	<u>157,510</u>

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	20,933	10,961
Social security and other taxes	23,406	16,254
Other creditors	21,167	12,814
	<u>65,506</u>	<u>40,029</u>

16. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £14,767 (2023: £12,097)

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	<u>235,821</u>	<u>648,125</u>	<u>(535,100)</u>	<u>(169)</u>	<u>348,677</u>
	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	<u>236,033</u>	<u>409,130</u>	<u>(409,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>235,821</u>
Restricted funds	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	208	-	(208)	-	-
The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund	746	-	(746)	-	-
The Olwyn Foundation - Criminalisation	46,532	-	(46,532)	-	-
Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	5,382	-	(5,382)	-	-
Rape Justice Now (CrowdJustice)	11,615	-	(11,615)	-	-
Digital Freedom Fund	7,448	-	(5,000)	-	2,448
The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS	31,155	-	(31,155)	-	-
The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse	17,076	-	(17,076)	-	-
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme	5,052	32,844	(37,896)	-	-
The Oak Foundation - International Project	50,326	-	(25,220)	-	25,106
The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women	38,766	-	(6,065)	-	32,701
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021	248	-	(248)	-	-
Anonymous Research Project	19,693	10,000	(15,459)	-	14,234
The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped	17,627	-	(17,627)	-	-
The Oak Foundation - Care Fund	2,320	-	(2,489)	169	-
PPDA Litigation (CrowdJustice)	8,099	-	(4,267)	-	3,832

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The Big Give - Women & Girls Digital Grant	208	-	(208)	-	-
Daisy Fund (CrowdJustice)	-	1,380	-	-	1,380
Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation - Tackling police perpetrated domestic and sexual violence	-	45,000	(5,000)	-	40,000
Allen & Overy Foundation - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	-	7,500	(1,573)	-	5,927
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme 2024	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize	-	15,000	(12,259)	-	2,741
The Big Give - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	-	20,669	(5,960)	-	14,709
	<u>262,501</u>	<u>137,393</u>	<u>(256,985)</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>143,078</u>
	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	416	-	(208)	-	208
Sexual assault fund (CrowdJustice)	5,003	-	(5,003)	-	-
The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund	1,492	-	(746)	-	746
The Olwyn Foundation - Criminalisation	34,576	45,000	(33,044)	-	46,532
Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	18,824	117	(13,559)	-	5,382
Rape Justice Now (CrowdJustice)	25,163	-	(13,548)	-	11,615
Digital Freedom Fund	11,706	-	(4,258)	-	7,448
The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS	50,000	2,000	(20,845)	-	31,155
The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse	11,735	24,813	(19,472)	-	17,076
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme	4,519	49,724	(49,191)	-	5,052

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS *(CONTINUED)*

The Oak Foundation - International Project	15,219	45,500	(19,517)	9,124	50,326
The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women	44,527	-	(5,761)	-	38,766
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021	11,981	-	(11,733)	-	248
Anonymous Research Project	8,093	16,600	(5,000)	-	19,693
The Oak Foundation - Capacity Building	11,054	750	(2,680)	(9,124)	
The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped	-	22,859	(5,232)	-	17,627
The Oak Foundation - Care Fund	-	4,000	(1,680)	-	2,320
PPDA Litigation (CrowdJustice)	-	8,099	-	-	8,099
The Big Give - Women & Girls Digital Grant	-	700	(492)	-	208
Esmee Fairbairn - Organisational Infrastructure and Capacity Review	-	7,000	(7,000)	-	
	<u>254,308</u>	<u>227,162</u>	<u>(218,969)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>262,501</u>

Rosa UK - Advice and Support

Improving access to justice for women and girls throughout England and Wales by empowering the women's sector to recognise and challenge criminal justice failings and connect them to feminist lawyers.

The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund

Support for specialist advice services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Olwyn Foundation

Challenging the unjust criminalisation of women and girls who offend due to domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme

Paid internship programme for women from a Black, Asian and/or minoritised backgrounds to promote and increase diversity in the legal profession.

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS *(CONTINUED)*

Rape Justice Now (Crowd Justice)

Funds remaining following a case to judicially review the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to prosecuting rape. These funds will be used on any work carried out around rape and sexual violence.

Digital Freedom Fund

Victim/witness digital data extraction in sexual offence investigations - strategic litigation.

The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS

Joint project with Imkaan - analysing and challenging the institutionalised abuse and racism experienced by Black and minoritised women and girls in the criminal justice system.

The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse

This project aims to bring about structural change to the way such complaints are investigated and dealt with. We will support individual women who have been victims of police perpetrated abuse through legal advice and access to appropriate other services.

The Legal Education Foundation: Justice First Fellowship Scheme

Funding for a Justice First Fellowship trainee solicitor for 2 years.

The Oak Foundation - International Project

Creation of a sustainable international network of lawyers and legally-focused NGOs to combat psychological violence towards women and girls, its harmful impacts, and build state accountability.

The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women

Providing legal advice to women who have been wrongly or disproportionately punished for resisting male violence so that they may appeal wrongful convictions and unjust sentences.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021 - Digital Capacity Building Grant

Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

Anonymous research project

Dissemination of the Women Who Kill research project via presentations, training and related articles and reports.

The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped: Empowering Survivors of Violence

Providing specialist training to frontline women's sector organisations to upskill them to identify police duties and failures around domestic violence, sexual violence, and other areas of male violence.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(CONTINUED)*

The Oak Foundation - Care Fund

Staff training on vicarious-trauma and support in their work with survivors of sexual violence

CrowdJustice - PPDA Litigation

Funds remaining following a legal challenge around police perpetrated domestic abuse. Restricted to disbursements and fees related to litigation where perpetrator(s) are from within the police force

The Big Give - Women and Girls Digital Grant

Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

Daisy Fund - CrowdJustice

Donated from the Forgotten Victims: Conceived in Rape CrowdJustice fund. To assist in cases or project that will benefit victims from a black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation - Tackling police perpetrated domestic and sexual violence

Restricted funds to tackle police perpetrated domestic and sexual violence.

Allen & Overy Foundation - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme:

Funding for our paid part-time internship programme for women from Black, Asian and/or minoritised backgrounds.

The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme 2024

To fund the hosting of a Justice First Fellow Trainee Solicitor.

Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize

To organise and host the 2023/24 awards to remember, recognise and reward those who have worked to end violence against women and bring it to the attention of the wider public.

The Big Give - Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme

Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme: funding for our paid part-time internship programme for women from Black, Asian and/or minoritised backgrounds.

Restricted funds with movement in the year to 31 March 2023 but none in the year to 31 March 2024

Sexual assault fund (CrowdJustice)

Money raised through crowdfunding to judicially review the parole board decisions to release serial rapist John Worboys. Due to a successful challenge the remaining funds are to be used for paralegal costs to support other cases where women have suffered from violence and/or sexual assault.

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS *(CONTINUED)*

The Oak Foundation - Capacity Building Grant

Building the organisations' internal capacity, implementing the next three-year strategy and creating an internship programme for black and global majority women.

Esmee Fairbairn - Organisational Infrastructure and Capacity Review

External consultant assistance to review capacity and infrastructure.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,377	-	6,377
Current assets	407,806	143,078	550,884
Creditors less than 1 year	(65,506)	-	(65,506)
Net assets	348,677	143,078	491,755

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,988	954	5,942
Current assets	270,862	261,547	532,409
Creditors less than 1 year	(40,029)	-	(40,029)
Net assets	235,821	262,501	498,322

19. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 Apr 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 Mar 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	374,899	17,798	392,697

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	52,841	31,768
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,097	
	<u>54,938</u>	<u>31,768</u>

The amount on lease payments made in the year recognised as an expense is £44,872 (2023: £29,603).














Report draft v14-compressed_1

Final Audit Report

2025-01-14

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By:	Centre Justice (n.mainwood@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAADUVvyiUoAKJkRQsY1yu5WqU2m_lxj4jQ

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2025-01-14 - 6:41:25 PM GMT

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1169213

Accounts

Centre for Women's Justice

Annual Report 2022/23



'abused' by MI5 agent takes
action against service

"It sets a scary precedent": Woman
suing CPS after it dropped her rape
case over claims she had sexsomnia

CRIME
Police not ready for new
throttling law, warn
campaigners

'materially contributed'
of mother and daughter

organisations condemn 'shameful'
institutional misogyny

I fought to send my rapist
father to jail — Daisy's Law can
help others like me

Police officers are abusing their
status to intimidate domestic
violence victims, major report
finds

Children born as result of rape will be classed
as victims

Chilling 999 call of woman failed by
police before ex-husband murdered
her and mum

Can women in Britain ever trust the police
again? Here's what must happen first
Austriach



'The endemic level of misogyny within certain parts of

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MISSION

To hold the state to account and challenge discrimination in the justice system around male violence against women and girls.

KEY INFORMATION

Centre for Women's Justice
Oxford House
Derbyshire Street
London
E2 6HG

www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: 1169213

info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Trustees:

Sasha Deepwell (Chair)
Fiona MacKenzie (Treasurer)
Heather Harvey
Sanchita Hosali
Yasmin Rehman*

Sarah Ricca
Janice Turner
Esohe Aghatise
Samira Ahmed
Davina James-Hanman

** resigned 28/03/22*

Key Management:

Harriet Wistrich (Director)

Bankers:

CafBank Limited,
PO BOX 289, West Malling ME19 4TA

Governance & Management:

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 17/03/2016.

1) Apart from the first three charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experiences needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives & Activities:

To advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by: seeking to prevent violence against women and girls, and protect those rights which are adversely impacted by violence against women and girls; and the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) provides benefits to women and girls who have been, or may in the future be, subject to male violence. We assist with providing access to justice for those who have been failed by the state and subject to discriminatory treatment within the criminal justice system.

Public benefit statement:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, '[Charities and Public Benefit](#)'.

INTRODUCTION



Harriet Wistrich, Director

This year has been as busy as ever, as CWJ has further expanded. In contemplation of the operational challenges of such growth in the organisation, we undertook an infrastructure review to ensure CWJ continues to operate in an impactful way that also takes account of the needs of all staff members and the need for effective internal, as well as external, communications.

The year was marked by further unfolding scandals in the Metropolitan Police, following the conviction, and sentencing of police officer murderer, Wayne Couzens and the prosecution of multiple rapist and torturer, David Carrick, also serving in the same unit as Couzens at the Met. CWJ, as experts in police misconduct towards women, have been one of the main organisations asked to comment on the multiple reviews commissioned, including the excoriating report by Baroness Louise Casey.

The challenge of responding to external requests for legal assistance from survivors of male violence and those that support them, has been met by the introduction of a digital portal allowing us to provide the most appropriate and expert advice where we are able to.

Our project work in a range of areas identified in this report continues to bring new expertise and interventions that are making a real difference. Our challenge in moving forward is to consolidate existing work and impact whilst resisting taking on too many new challenges which have the potential to overwhelm.

Harriet Wistrich



Sasha Deepwell, Chair

CWJ has further developed its work, staff team and infrastructure over the past year and has again, made an enormous impact. In particular, CWJ continues to be at the forefront on challenging police perpetrated abuse. Although there is so much still to do, the influence that CWJ has had in this area shows that change is possible, with support for reform constantly building.

CWJ's work in supporting the campaigns around the new criminal offence of non-fatal strangulation and the introduction of Daisy's Law, as well as several changes to the Victims and Prisoners Bill, has shown the power of partnership working.

The enormous amount of press interest, including some incredibly powerful documentaries, is testament to the tenacity of our clients and staff team. Who better to continue highlighting the dire response of the criminal justice system to violence against women and girls?

The board would again like to thank CWJ's many clients, funders, staff, volunteers, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to CWJ and justice for women and girls.

S.H. Deepwell
S.H. Deepwell (Nov 4, 2023 13:12 GMT)

Nov 3, 2023

Sasha Deepwell

The background of the entire image is a solid purple color. Overlaid on this background are four raised fists, each of a different skin tone: dark brown, light tan, medium brown, and light beige. The fists are arranged in a row from left to right, with the dark brown fist on the far left and the light beige fist on the far right. The text is overlaid on the image in two large, light blue rectangular boxes.

Strategic Report:

Achievements 2022/2023

Strategic Litigation

Undertaking strategic litigation and providing access to legal assistance in cases concerning violence against women and girls (VAWG)

CWJ bring challenges that have the potential to impact on how the state deals with perpetrators and survivors of violence against women and girls. These cases help develop and strengthen the rights of women across a broad spectrum of issues.

We continue to be involved in many significant strategic legal challenges, which have evolved through our advice work and in partnership with women sector organisations. Litigation can take many years – below we highlight some key cases that have attracted wider public interest over the year of this annual report.

Nuruzzaman Shahin: convicted of multiple counts of rape and controlling prostitution for gain

CWJ assisted two of the many women who were groomed and exploited by Shahin. When the women initially reported Shahin, the police failed to adequately investigate and then announced they were taking no further action. CWJ assisted the women in getting the case re-opened and investigated by police who had expertise in trafficking. In January 2023, he was convicted and sentenced to 31 years imprisonment. CWJ are now assisting the women with a civil claim for damages against the Metropolitan Police. We invite any other victims of Shahin to contact us.

ITV followed one of the women in a documentary about her horrific experience and struggle for justice.

Catching My Rapist (Exposure)

FACTUAL · 1H 15M

With descriptions of sexual abuse and some strong language. Turn on Parental controls

One woman's extraordinary struggle for justice - an intimate documentary

[More info](#)

▶ WATCH EPISODE



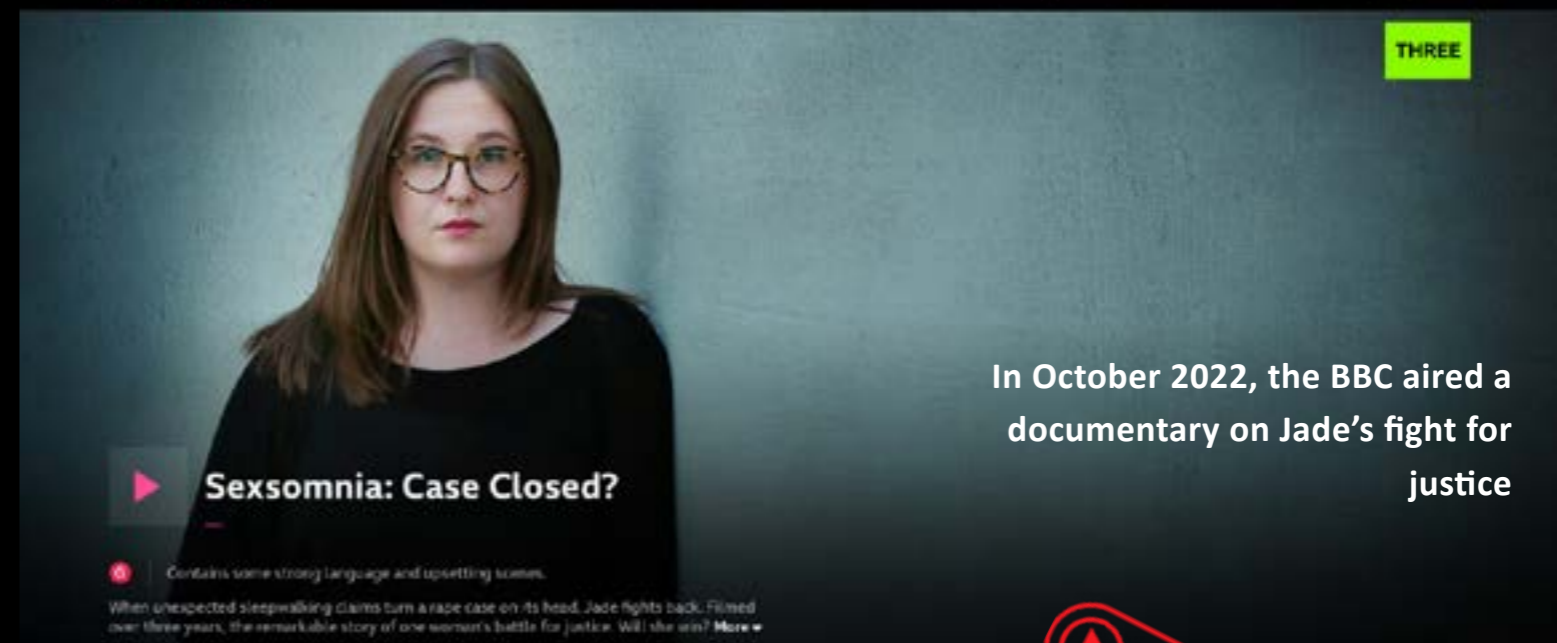


Legal claim launched against MI5 in the Investigatory Powers Tribunal

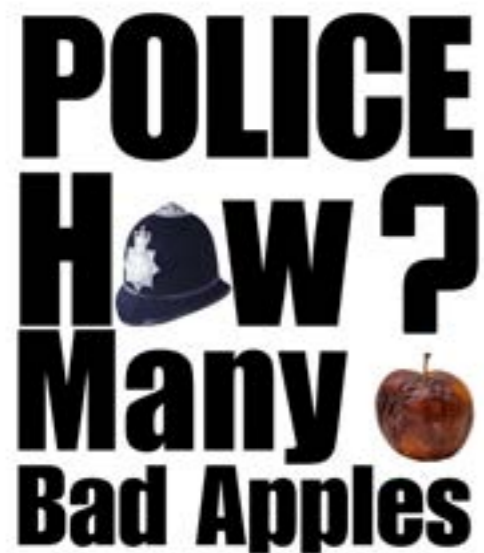
CWJ represents the victim-survivor of a very violent and abusive MI5 informant who infiltrated far right groups. In April '22, the Attorney General won an injunction to stop the BBC from naming the man who has been described as a 'dangerous extremist and misogynist'. Our client, 'Beth,' has launched a legal complaint and claim with the Investigatory Powers Tribunal, the watchdog for the intelligence agencies. She is asking them to investigate the recruitment and protection of this man, with the hope that the investigation into the sexual and domestic abuse he subjected her to is reopened. 'Beth' is also exploring a claim against West Yorkshire Police, who failed to adequately investigate her complaints of abuse.

Sexsomnia: Article 3 human rights claim against the Crown Prosecution Service for discontinuing a rape complaint on the eve of trial

The CWJ enquiries team advised Jade McCrossen-Nethercott, whose rape case was dropped by the CPS shortly before trial resulting in the acquittal of the alleged perpetrator. The suspect's unusual defence to the accusation of raping Jade while she was sleeping, was that he believed she was consenting during what he asserted must have been an episode of sexsomnia (a rare sleep disorder) Jade exercised a Victims' Right to Review which eventually led to an apology from the CPS reviewer who accepted the decision to drop the case was wrong. CWJ have commenced a claim on behalf of Jade against the CPS for an Article 3 ECHR (Equality and Human Rights Commission) failure to prosecute.



In October 2022, the BBC aired a documentary on Jade's fight for justice



Judicial Review of Home Secretary re public inquiry post Couzens

Following the announcement by Priti Patel, Home Secretary that she was to establish a public inquiry into police failures that led to the kidnap, rape, and murder of Sarah Everard by serving police officer, Wayne Couzens, CWJ commenced judicial review proceedings to challenge the refusal to place this on a statutory footing. The case was supported by many women's sector organisations and crowd funded. Unfortunately, the court refused to grant us permission to proceed but the work undertaken in preparing the case is supporting our work on police perpetrated abuse.

Civil claim against Metropolitan Police on behalf of Carrick survivors

Following the conviction and sentencing of David Carrick, another police officer who served in the same unit as Wayne Couzens, CWJ was approached by a number of his victims. We now act for 7 of his victims in a civil claim for damages against the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis arising from their failure to take action when made aware of complaints about him.

Group claim for failure to tackle police perpetrated domestic abuse

Following our successful super-complaint regarding the failure of police forces to tackle police perpetrated domestic abuse, we were contacted by many women from around the country who had suffered similar issues. We have started a group claim for eight women against Devon and Cornwall Police Force, which has a particularly poor track record, arguing that their system for dealing with such complaints is so poor that it breaches their duties under Article 3 ECHR.

Enhancing and publicising legal challenges brought by CWJ panel members

We are made aware of important legal challenges brought by lawyers on our panel and share our expertise and help publicise these cases where appropriate. CWJ have worked closely with Birnberg Peirce solicitors, where our director remains a consultant, on a number of cases which we have also helped publicise including:

Solihull double homicide

In November 2022, an [inquest concluded](#) that the murder of Khaola Saleem and her daughter, Raneem Oudeh involved multiple failures by West Midlands police to provide protection and investigation of multiple reports of domestic violence, coercive and controlling behaviour and stalking.

Gaia Pope inquest

The inquest into the death of [Gaia Pope](#) concluded in July 2022. Gaia went missing shortly after being told the man she had accused of rape would not be charged. After Gaia's death, he was convicted of sexual offences against a number of other young women.

Undercover police public inquiry

Hearings concluded in Tranche 1 of the Inquiry which has been examining, amongst other things, undercover police officers forming sexual relationships with women they are spying on. In February 2022 CWJ contributed to closing submissions made on behalf of the women impacted highlighting the history of institutionalised misogyny in policing and linking with the recent developments we have worked on in relation to police perpetrated abuse.

Empowering Frontline Service Providers

We have developed an expert legal hub, providing training and second-tier legal advice to frontline women's sector service providers supporting victims and survivors of VAWG across England and Wales, including a legal panel of solicitor and barristers.

A range of legal enquiries have borne fruit in prosecutions and convictions, successful civil claims, and other positive outcomes. As well as increasing access to justice for many survivors, who have been failed by criminal justice agencies, our work enables us to gather evidence of systemic failings and malpractice, which, in turn, feeds into strategic litigation, and other legal and policy interventions aimed at holding institutions accountable and bringing about change in laws, policy and practice.

During 2022, we overhauled and streamlined our legal enquiries procedures, introducing a digital portal for submitting requests for legal advice, including data and regulatory requirements, creating a detailed manual and signposting and other resources for our website, and conducted an evaluation of our new systems.

"I wanted to thank you and all the team at CWJ, as it's thanks to your resources and the training I've attended over the years that I had the knowledge and abilities to draft this VRR.

I'm so happy at this outcome and that my client will finally get a chance to potentially see justice"



ISVA who drafted a VRR letter which led to the CPS reversing their decision and charging suspect with rape

"The support, advice and guidance I have been provided by the CWJ through this time has been incredible. I have had some cases where I felt I was unable to advice appropriately due to complex legal matters and I have been to Nogah and the team on a number of occasions and already received a fantastic response"



Support worker



We have helped

613
women

through
legal
advice or
signposting



We have trained

338
frontline
support workers

across

20
women's
sector orgs



2,415

users have
accessed our
new online
resources

Legal projects and policy initiatives

We are undertaking a number of projects dealing with particular issues arising for women, which, in turn, feeds into our litigation and policy advocacy work.

Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse

The outcome of the investigation into our police super-complaint on police perpetrated domestic abuse was published and a series of recommendations made for reform. CWJ contributed to a number of documentaries and news stories on this issue which remained prominent in the news due to further revelations about Wayne Couzens, David Carrick and the publication of reports by Her Majesty's inspectorate and Dame Louise Casey. As a consequence, many more women came forward to highlight their poor experiences when reporting domestic abuse by police officers. We have been contacted by over 180 such women and taken accounts from them. With assistance from barrister consultant Ruth Brander, CWJ are working on pulling together a further research report to highlight the common themes and what needs to change.

One of the victims of police perpetrated domestic abuse, who was part of our super-complaint report, sued the police successfully for failure to investigate her reports and in addition to compensation, they agreed to re-open the case against the abuser:

"Thank you for everything you and the rest of the Centre for Women's Justice have done for me. I'm truly grateful. It's been a long healing process, but the journey has inspired a real passion for law and I plan to study to become a paralegal now I'm on track again."

The retiring Assistant Chief Constable of the College of Policing, Iain Raphael, wrote to us following a meeting concluding our work on the super-complaint:

"This Super Complaint and its findings quite rightly has reverberated change across policing to the absolute benefit of survivors within this space. We recognise there is still more work to do until every survivor or victim feels the benefit but nevertheless the impact and the change it has triggered will continue. ... can I add that the manner of how you challenge is also warmly felt. You never step away from telling us exactly what we need to recognise but at the same time you do so in a way that totally engenders maintaining those professional relationships. These challenging and professional partnerships as we know are critical for sustainable change."

Criminalisation of victims of male violence

Our work on this project, led by consultant Katy Swaine-Williams, aims to change the law, policy and practice around the criminalisation of victims of male violence. Following the publication and launch of '[Double Standard](#)' in March 2022, we went on to publish a more focussed study, '[No Safe Space: Lessons for National Policy and Local Practice](#)' on West Midlands multi-agency response to women involved in offending who are victims of domestic abuse. We also initiated research with frontline organisations into police response to counter allegations. Work progressed on the design and delivery of pilot training and toolkits for those lawyers' representing victims who are being prosecuted for offending as a consequence of abuse. We have also continued to lobby for new statutory defences to improve women's ability to access self-defence and to propose a new defence for women coerced into offending based on a similar model to the defences for victims of trafficking in the Modern Slavey Act. Recently the Victims and Prisoners Bill has created an opportunity. We have also assisted the [HOPE campaign](#) with proposals for a statutory mechanism to expunge criminal records for those exploited in prostitution.

International Feminist Legal Network

With help from our consultant, Dr Purna Sen, we have continued to develop the international network and held a number of online webinars on issues of interest to the network. We also launched a new website for the network.



[Find out more](#)

Femicide Working Group

CWJ convenes a bi-monthly working group of lawyers and specialist practitioners working around issues of femicide to share news of litigation, research, inquest outcomes, and policy developments in this area.

Partnerships on changes to the law for rape survivors

We are working in partnership with Rape Crisis and the End Violence Against Women coalition on campaigns for two changes to the law in the Victims and Prisoners Bill as it goes through Parliament. These are the introduction of legal measures to preserve the confidentiality of therapy records during rape investigations and prosecutions, and the introduction of a legal duty to provide independent legal advice for rape survivors as they navigate the criminal justice process.



Independent Legal Advice pilot

CWJ has partnered with Women and Girls Network, who run the West London Rape Crisis Centre and the pan-London Survivors Gateway, on a pilot providing independent legal advice to rape survivors. CWJ's role is to provide training and legal supervision as well as the design and establishment of the pilot. Three part time lawyers were recruited in February 2023.

Project with Imkaan on homicides & suicides of black and minoritised women

CWJ received funding to work alongside Imkaan, an umbrella organisation that supports frontline organisations working by and for black and minoritised women. The project aims to explore domestic homicides and suicides in the context of domestic abuse of black and minoritised women, looking at patterns relating to state failings associated with such deaths. We analysed a database of 44 cases and conducted workshops with frontline support workers, and are creating a detailed report and legal analysis around the intersection of gender and race in the police response to domestic abuse.

Daisy's Law

From our work with Daisy, who fought to raise awareness of children born of rape and their entitlement to victim status, we made submissions to Parliament via consultations on the Victims and Prisoners Bill to change the law. In September, the Justice Select Committee supported our proposals and the government have now adopted the proposal to recognise in law that children born of rape be considered secondary victims.



Top, from left: Ellie Lyons, Alison Thewliss MP, Ruth Jones MP, Paulette Hamilton MP, Daisy and some of the CWJ team (from left - Nic, Harriet, Daisy, Kate, Giulia), Sarah Champion MP, Kim Leadbeater MP, Christina Rees MP, Anna McMorris MP
Bottom, from left: Alex Cunningham MP, Jo Stevens MP, Jess Phillips MP, Apsana Begum MP, Tim Loughton MP, Olivia Robey, Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Wayne David MP

Femicide Working Group

CWJ convenes a bi-monthly working group of lawyers and specialist practitioners working around issues of femicide to share news of litigation, inquest outcomes, research and policy developments in this area.

Non-fatal strangulation implementation

In June 2022, the new criminal offence of non-fatal strangulation came into force, following a campaign in which CWJ played a leading role. We recruited a judge to provide training via the Judicial College on the new offence to all District Judges, and we continue to take part in an expert advisory group for a new Institute for Addressing Strangulation. We have provided training for a range of professionals on the new offence and written on it in the [legal press](#).

Policy work on consultations in our areas of expertise

We input into a wide range of Government consultations on issues where we have an evidence base and expertise from our legal work and have seen a range of matters raised by us incorporated into state policies and procedures. These have included participation in panels and the academic advisory group for Operation Soteria, a Home Office project bringing academics to overhaul policing systems for the investigation of rape. We have also inputted to consultations on disclosure of survivors' personal records in rape investigations, independent legal advice for rape survivors, CPS policy on domestic abuse, statutory guidance on bail, College of Policing guidance on police misconduct procedures, and the Victims and Prisoners Bill, where our contribution has been referenced by others in their own work, such as the London Victims Commissioner and the Law Commission.

Raising Awareness:

We are being approached even more frequently by the media to provide comment and insight on topical issues concerning violence against women, law and policy. During the last 12 months, CWJ has featured in the media on at least 168 occasions.

We have appeared in regional and national media such as BBC (Newsnight, Woman's Hour, Today Programme), Channel 4, Channel 5, ITV, i paper, Sky News, The Independent, The Telegraph and The Times. We have also featured in overseas publications, including The New York Times, CNN World and CBC News.



THE YEAR AHEAD...

From March '23, we will be implementing the remaining recommendations of the infrastructure review completed last year and will begin evaluating new processes such as our streamlined enquiries system. We will be improving communications internally and establishing a senior management team to ensure that decision making and the taking forward of projects is more transparent and considered. We will ensure that staff wellbeing is at the heart of the work we do and that we are supporting our paralegals and trainees with new comprehensive training and supervision standards.

We will continue to focus our strategic litigation on systemic issues arising from the frontline and enquiries. In particular, we will focus on developing claims arising from police perpetrated abuse and on failures to investigate rape, domestic violence and stalking. We will roll out our training for criminal defence lawyers and undertake new research in relation to the criminalisation of victims of male violence. We will find new ways of raising awareness around this issue including the commissioning of a film with survivors voices. We will explore ways of facilitating criminal appeals for women convicted of offences in response to, or in the context of, male violence. We aim to publish the outcomes of our work with Imkaan on the domestic homicides of black and minoritised women and a follow up report on police perpetrated domestic abuse. We are working towards an in person networking and outreach event for the International Feminist Lawyers Network with a view to exploring long term sustainability.

We will look for opportunities for legislative and policy reform, such as the forthcoming Victims and Prisoners Bill, to secure changes such as new statutory defences for victims of domestic abuse and independent legal representation for victims of rape. We will contribute to significant consultations where we believe we have evidence and expertise that we can make a meaningful contribution, such as around domestic homicide.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

The CWJ fundraising lead organises fundraising events and co-ordinates the activities of our supporters in the wider community on behalf of CWJ. We do not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators. There have been no complaints about fundraising activities this year, or any previous year.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and comply with all of the fundraising guidance set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice.

All direct marketing is overseen by Head of Finance and Operations to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. All marketing material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level with equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

For the year ending March 2023 it was agreed that our reserves level be set at £95,000.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the financial year, the charity received income totalling £636,292 (2022: £738,677). The income consisted of donations and grants receivable of £489,213 (2022: £647,150) and income from charitable activities of £146,487 (2022: £91,527).

Of our total income, £409,130 (2022: £402,799) was unrestricted and £227,162 (2022: £335,878) was restricted. The expenditure for the year consisted of unrestricted spending of £409,342 (2022: £312,572) and restricted costs of £218,969 (2022: £204,900), totalling £628,311 (2022: £517,472).

This resulted in a slight decrease in our unrestricted reserves of £212 (2022: increase of £90,277) and an increase in restricted reserves of £8,193 (2022: £130,978). At 31 March 2023, reserves totalled £498,322, consisting of £235,821 unrestricted reserves and £262,501 restricted reserves.

Details of the various restricted funds can be found in note 18.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Women's Justice (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial

statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it

exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance and misappropriation of assets. Audit procedures performed included:

- Discussions with management and trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes of those charged with governance;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected variances;
- Identifying and reviewing journal entries to ensure that we understood the reasoning behind them and agreeing that they were appropriate;
- Selecting a sample of transactions and tracing to documentation to establish that they are bonafide business transactions; and
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become

aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.


As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Kara Williams (Nov 6, 2023 09:33 GMT)

Nov 6, 2023

Kara Williams BSc BFP FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
11 Park Square
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4EL

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	262,051	227,162	489,213	647,150
Charitable activities	5	146,487	–	146,487	91,527
Investment income	6	592	–	592	–
Total income		<u>409,130</u>	<u>227,162</u>	<u>636,292</u>	<u>738,677</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	409,342	218,969	628,311	517,472
Total expenditure		<u>409,342</u>	<u>218,969</u>	<u>628,311</u>	<u>517,472</u>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		<u>(212)</u>	<u>8,193</u>	<u>7,981</u>	<u>221,205</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		236,033	254,308	490,341	269,136
Total funds carried forward		<u>235,821</u>	<u>262,501</u>	<u>498,322</u>	<u>490,341</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

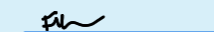
Statement of Financial Position

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	13	5,942	6,205
Current assets			
Debtors	14	157,510	148,136
Cash at bank and in hand		374,899	358,323
		<u>532,409</u>	<u>506,459</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	40,029	22,323
Net current assets		<u>492,380</u>	<u>484,136</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>498,322</u>	<u>490,341</u>
Net assets		<u>498,322</u>	<u>490,341</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		262,501	254,308
Unrestricted funds		235,821	236,033
Total charity funds	17	<u>498,322</u>	<u>490,341</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on

.Nov.3.2023....., and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Fiona MacKenzie (Nov 3, 2023 13:17 GMT)

Fiona MacKenzie
Trustee/Treasurer

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income	7,981	221,205
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,750	2,128
Other interest receivable and similar income	(592)	–
Accrued expenses/(income)	(1,780)	(5,359)
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Debtors	(9,374)	(100,265)
Creditors	19,486	(3,860)
Cash generated from operations	<u>18,471</u>	<u>113,849</u>
Interest received	592	–
Net cash from operating activities	<u>19,063</u>	<u>113,849</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(2,487)	(1,976)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(2,487)</u>	<u>(1,976)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	16,576	111,873
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	358,323	246,450
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>374,899</u>	<u>358,323</u>

Statement Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is a charitable incorporated organisation. The address of the principal office is Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The presentational currency is pound sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. The figures in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is dependent on the outcome of cases and is only recognised when it is virtually certain. This income is classified as unrestricted income, unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case, it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	97,105	34,746	131,851
Grants			
Grants receivable	164,946	192,416	357,362
	<u>262,051</u>	<u>227,162</u>	<u>489,213</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Donations	104,272	128,834	233,106
Grants			
Grants receivable	207,000	207,044	414,044
	<u>311,272</u>	<u>335,878</u>	<u>647,150</u>

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Other income from charitable activities	146,487	146,487	91,527	91,527
	<u>146,487</u>	<u>146,487</u>	<u>91,527</u>	<u>91,527</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	592	592	–	–
	<u>592</u>	<u>592</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	397,291	218,955	616,246
Support costs	12,051	14	12,065
	<u>409,342</u>	<u>218,969</u>	<u>628,311</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	319,716	186,630	506,345
Support costs	(7,144)	18,270	11,127
	<u>312,572</u>	<u>204,900</u>	<u>517,472</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2023 £	Total fund 2022 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	616,246	–	616,246	506,345
Governance costs	–	12,065	12,065	11,127
	<u>616,246</u>	<u>12,065</u>	<u>628,311</u>	<u>517,472</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>2,750</u>	<u>2,128</u>

10. Auditors remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>9,600</u>	<u>9,870</u>

11. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	388,795	303,827
Social security costs	34,892	25,959
Employer contributions to pension plans	12,097	8,135
	<u>435,784</u>	<u>337,921</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 13 (2022: 10).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

12. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	2,910	7,348	10,258
Additions	–	2,487	2,487
	<u>2,910</u>	<u>9,835</u>	<u>12,745</u>
At 31 March 2023			
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	873	3,180	4,053
Charge for the year	291	2,459	2,750
	<u>1,164</u>	<u>5,639</u>	<u>6,803</u>
At 31 March 2023			
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,746</u>	<u>4,196</u>	<u>5,942</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,037</u>	<u>4,168</u>	<u>6,205</u>

14. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	12,891	6,433
Amounts recoverable on ongoing cases	65,258	80,787
Other debtors	79,361	60,916
	<u>157,510</u>	<u>148,136</u>
	<u><u>157,510</u></u>	<u><u>148,136</u></u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	10,961	12,741
Social security and other taxes	16,254	4,478
Other creditors	12,814	5,104
	<u>40,029</u>	<u>22,323</u>
	<u><u>40,029</u></u>	<u><u>22,323</u></u>

16. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £12,097 (2022: £8,135).

17. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At				At 31 March	
	1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	
General funds	236,033	409,130	(409,342)	–	235,821	
	<u>236,033</u>	<u>409,130</u>	<u>(409,342)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>235,821</u>	
	<u><u>236,033</u></u>	<u><u>409,130</u></u>	<u><u>(409,342)</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>235,821</u></u>	

	At				At 31 March	
	1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	
General funds	145,806	402,799	(312,572)	–	236,033	
	<u>145,806</u>	<u>402,799</u>	<u>(312,572)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>236,033</u>	
	<u><u>145,806</u></u>	<u><u>402,799</u></u>	<u><u>(312,572)</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>236,033</u></u>	

Restricted funds

	At	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March
	1 April 2022	£	£	£	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	416	–	(208)	–	208
Sexual assault fund (CrowdJustice)	5,003	–	(5,003)	–	–
The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund	1,492	–	(746)	–	746
The Olwyn Foundation	34,576	45,00	(33,044)	–	46,532
The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	18,824	117	(13,559)	–	5,382
Rape Justice Now (CrowdJustice)	25,163	–	(13,548)	–	11,615
Digital Freedom Fund	11,706	–	(4,258)	–	7,448
The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS	50,000	2,000	(20,845)	–	31,155
The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse	11,735	24,813	(19,472)	–	17,076
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme	4,519	49,724	(49,191)	–	5,052
The Oak Foundation International Project	15,219	45,500	(19,517)	9,124	50,326
The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women	44,527	–	(5,761)	–	38,766
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021	11,981	–	(11,733)	–	248
Anonymous Research Project	8,093	16,600	(5,000)	–	19,693
The Oak Foundation Capacity Building Grant	11,054	750	(2,680)	(9,124)	–
The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped	–	22,859	(5,232)	–	17,627
The Oak Foundation - Care Fund	–	4,000	(1,680)	–	2,320
PPDA Litigation - Crowdjustice	–	8,099	–	–	8,099

Restricted funds (continued)

The Big Give -Women and Girls Digital Grant	–	700	(492)	–	208
Esmee Fairbairn - Organisational Infrastructure and Capacity Review	–	7,000	(7,000)	–	–
	<u>254,308</u>	<u>227,162</u>	<u>(218,969)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>262,501</u>
	<u><u>254,308</u></u>	<u><u>227,162</u></u>	<u><u>(218,969)</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>262,501</u></u>

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Anonymous research project	8,690	–	(8,690)	–	–
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	624	–	(208)	–	416
Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation	373	–	(373)	–	–
Garden Court Chambers	1,250	4,000	(5,250)	–	–
Sexual assault fund (CrowdJustice)	29,284	–	(24,281)	–	5,003
The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund	3,899	–	(2,407)	–	1,492
Evan Cornish Foundation	909	–	(909)	–	–
Matrix Chambers Causes Fund	1,255	–	(1,255)	–	–
The Olwyn Foundation	36,255	45,000	(46,679)	–	34,576
The Baring Foundation Covid-19 Response Fund	30,000	–	(30,000)	–	–
Anonymous Donor - Criminalisation of Women from sexual exploitation	1,946	–	(1,946)	–	–
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020	8,845	–	(8,845)	–	–
The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	–	21,204	(2,380)	–	18,824
Rape Justice Now (CrowdJustice)	–	25,163	–	–	25,163
Digital Freedom Fund	–	11,706	–	–	11,706

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Disappearing Women The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS	–	12,311	(12,311)	–	–
The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse	–	50,000	–	–	50,000
The Jabbs Foundation	–	21,165	(9,430)	–	11,735
The Legal Education Foundation - Justice First Fellowship Scheme	–	2,240	(2,240)	–	–
The Oak Foundation International Project	–	17,232	(12,713)	–	4,519
The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women	–	37,000	(21,781)	–	15,219
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021	–	45,876	(1,349)	–	44,527
Anonymous Research Project	–	11,981	–	–	11,981
The Oak Foundation Capacity Building Grant	–	13,000	(4,907)	–	8,093
	<u>–</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>(6,946)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>11,054</u>
	<u><u>123,330</u></u>	<u><u>335,878</u></u>	<u><u>(204,900)</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>254,308</u></u>
	<u><u><u>123,330</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>335,878</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>(204,900)</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>–</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>254,308</u></u></u>

Rosa UK - Advice and Support

Improving access to justice for women and girls throughout England and Wales by empowering the women's sector to recognise and challenge criminal justice failings and connect them to feminist lawyers.

Sexual assault fund (CrowdJustice)

Money raised through crowdfunding to judicially review the parole board decisions to release serial rapist John Worboys. Due to a successful challenge the remaining funds are to be used for paralegal costs to support other cases where women have suffered from violence and/or sexual assault.

The Olwyn Foundation

Challenging the unjust criminalisation of women and girls who offend due to domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme

Paid internship programme for women from a Black, Asian and/ or minoritised backgrounds to promote and increase diversity in the legal profession.

Rape Justice Now (CrowdJustice)

Funds remaining following a case to judicially review the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to prosecuting rape. These funds will be used on any work carried out around rape and sexual violence.

Digital Freedom Fund

Victim/witness digital data extraction in sexual offence investigations - strategic litigation.

The Baring Foundation - Racial Injustice in the CJS

Joint project with Imkaan - analysing and challenging the institutionalised abuse and racism experienced by Black and minoritised women and girls in the criminal justice system.

The IHL Trust - Police Perpetrated Abuse

This project aims to bring about structural change to the way such complaints are investigated and dealt with. We will support individual women who have been victims of police perpetrated abuse through legal advice and access to appropriate other services.

The Legal Education Foundation: Justice First Fellowship Scheme

Funding for a Justice First Fellowship trainee solicitor for 2 years.

The Oak Foundation - International Project

Creation of a sustainable international network of lawyers and legally-focused NGOs to combat psychological violence towards women and girls, its harmful impacts, and build state accountability.

The Big Give - Challenging Miscarriages of Justice of Women

Providing legal advice to women who have been wrongly or disproportionately punished for resisting male violence so that they may appeal wrongful convictions and unjust sentences.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021 - Digital Capacity Building Grant

Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

Anonymous research project

Dissemination of the Women Who Kill research project via presentations, training and related articles and reports.

The Oak Foundation - Capacity Building Grant

Building the organisations' internal capacity, implementing the next three-year strategy and creating an internship programme for black and global majority women.

The Big Give - Justice Unwrapped: Empowering Survivors of Violence

Providing specialist training to frontline women's sector organisations to upskill them to identify police duties and failures around domestic violence, sexual violence, and other areas of male violence.

The Oak Foundation - Care Fund

Staff training on vicarious-trauma and support in their work with survivors of sexual violence

CrowdJustice - PPDA Litigation

Funds remaining following a legal challenge around police perpetrated domestic abuse. Restricted to disbursements and fees related to litigation where perpetrator(s) are from within the police force

The Big Give - Women and Girls Digital Grant

Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

Esmee Fairbairn - Organisational Infrastructure and Capacity Review

External consultant assistance to review capacity and infrastructure.

Restricted funds with movement in the year to 31 March 2022 but none in the year to 31 March 2023**Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation – relating to Fixed Assets movements**

To be a full and active member of the Justice and Equality Fund's 'Changing the Conversation' strategic communications network.

The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund – relating to Fixed Assets movements

Support for specialist advice services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Garden Court Chambers

Funding for facilitating the lawyers reference panel and providing training for frontline organisations.

TAR 2023 SIGNED

Final Audit Report

2023-11-06

Created:	2023-11-03
By:	Centre Justice (n.mainwood@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAATFkAIWkQZ-v3yU4T_Aw_rGR8pvnf9VKT

"TAR 2023 SIGNED" History

 Document created by Centre Justice (n.mainwood@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk)


2023-11-03 - 12:55:13 PM GMT- IP address: 146.199.201.227

 Document emailed to sashadeepwell@gmail.com for signature

2023-11-03 - 1:01:38 PM GMT

 Email viewed by sashadeepwell@gmail.com

2023-11-03 - 1:06:22 PM GMT- IP address: 104.28.89.71

 Signer sashadeepwell@gmail.com entered name at signing as S.H.Deepwell

2023-11-03 - 1:12:48 PM GMT- IP address: 2.98.23.8

 Document e-signed by S.H.Deepwell (sashadeepwell@gmail.com)


Signature Date: 2023-11-03 - 1:12:50 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 2.98.23.8

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2023-11-03 - 1:16:03 PM GMT- IP address: 66.249.93.67

 Signer fionalouisemackenzie@gmail.com entered name at signing as Fiona Mackenzie

2023-11-03 - 1:17:29 PM GMT- IP address: 82.132.215.185

 Document e-signed by Fiona Mackenzie (fionalouisemackenzie@gmail.com)

Signature Date: 2023-11-03 - 1:17:31 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 82.132.215.185

 Document emailed to Kara Williams (kara@ellisloydjones.co.uk) for signature

2023-11-03 - 1:17:32 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Kara Williams (kara@ellisloydjones.co.uk)

2023-11-06 - 9:33:09 AM GMT- IP address: 176.35.94.177

 Document e-signed by Kara Williams (kara@ellisloydjones.co.uk)

Signature Date: 2023-11-06 - 9:33:52 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 176.35.94.177

 Agreement completed.

2023-11-06 - 9:33:52 AM GMT

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1169213

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22



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KEY INFORMATION

Centre for Women's Justice
Oxford House
Derbyshire Street
London
E2 6HG

www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: 1169213

info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Trustees:

Sasha Deepwell (Chair)
Fiona MacKenzie (Treasurer)
Heather Harvey
Sanchita Hosali
Yasmin Rehman

Sarah Ricca
Janice Turner
Esohe Aghatise
Samira Ahmed
Davina James-Hanman*

*temporarily stepped down July '22 - Oct '22)

Key Management:

Harriet Wistrich (Director)

Bankers:

CafBank Limited,
PO BOX 289, West Malling ME19 4TA

Governance & Management:

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 17/03/2016.

1) Apart from the first three charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolutions passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experiences needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives & Activities:

To advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by: seeking to prevent violence against women and girls, and protect those rights which are adversely impacted by violence against women and girls; and the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) provides benefits to women and girls who have been, or may in the future be, subject to male violence. We assist with providing access to justice for those who have been failed by the state and subject to discriminatory treatment within the criminal justice system.

Public benefit statement:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

INTRODUCTION



Harriet Wistrich, Director

The year has been dominated in the news by the aftermath of the murder of Sarah Everard in March 2021, and other high-profile murders of women, which has led to a media focus on misogyny, police perpetrators and more generally violence against women. CWJ's unique expertise on the intersection of violence against women and state

accountability, means we have been inundated with requests from the media and politicians to provide evidence of issues relevant to this national conversation. We have continued to develop our expertise in police perpetrated domestic abuse, since our police super-complaint on this subject, and have gathered significant further evidence from the large number of women who have approached us to share their experience.

We have also made great progress with the work on unjust criminalisation of survivors of abuse, continuing to disseminate learning from the 'women who kill' report and publishing a new report, 'Double Standard', which was launched at a high-level virtual summit. Work has begun on the development of an international feminist lawyers' network which will enable us to expand our knowledge and capacity whilst sharing expertise with others doing similar work in different areas of the globe.

Strategic litigation has resulted in some significant settlements, including a historic apology from the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester police for the harm caused to victims of child sexual exploitation. Our training and enquiries work continues to expand, with the feedback from women's sector organisations and their clients being incredibly positive. Our femicide working group has led to a number of important initiatives, including contributing towards the development of a femicide oversight mechanism and developing expertise on suicides in the context of domestic abuse.

We were delighted to recruit our first two paid interns for the Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme and were inundated with passionate feminist applicants.

We continue to be well supported by our Trustees as we embark on a review of infrastructure and staff benefits.

Harriet Wistrich



Sasha Deepwell, Chair

CWJ continues to punch above its weight, making a significant impact in bringing legal expertise to violence against women and the criminal justice system. The work of the dedicated staff team continues to expand and develop, filling spaces of unmet need. The team should feel incredibly proud of what

they have achieved this year.

The board has worked closely with the organisation's team to develop our next three-year strategic plan. This plan seeks to build on, and develop, the vision and the outcomes identified back in 2018, reflecting not only the changed context of the last three years but also the learning and experience that has come out of CWJ's work over the previous three-year period.

The trustees are now focused on reviewing the internal infrastructure and capacity, to ensure that the organisation remains robust, efficient, flexible and sustainable.

The board would like to thank CWJ's many clients, funders, staff, volunteers and supporters for their unwavering commitment to CWJ and to justice for women and girls.

24 / 01 / 2023

Sasha Deepwell

STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/2022

STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Undertaking strategic litigation and providing access to legal assistance in cases concerning violence against women (VAWG)

We bring challenges that have the potential to impact on how the state deals with perpetrators and survivors of violence against women and girls. These cases help develop and strengthen rights across a broad spectrum of issues.

We are involved in many highly publicised legal challenges, which have evolved through our advice work and in partnership with women sector organisations:

Civil Claim Against Gwent Police

CWJ acted for two former Gwent police officers (known as 'Jodie' & 'Sarah'), who had been subjected to domestic violence by a senior police officer who had targeted and groomed them into relationships with him. They both reported their abuser, PC Clarke Joslyn, but their allegations were not properly investigated, and instead they were subject to victimisation by colleagues of Joslyn, and left unsupported. It later transpired that several other women had also been victimised by Joslyn, over a period of years, yet he remained a serving officer with easy access to young female trainees until misconduct proceedings were finally brought against him in 2018. He resigned shortly before a panel found his conduct amounted to gross misconduct at a hearing in 2019.

In August 2021, our clients received a personal apology from Deputy Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman of Gwent police as part of a wider settlement of a civil claim for damages brought by the two women raising issues of negligence.

"It took all of my strength and courage for me to report these crimes back in 2012. When I wasn't taken seriously, my confidence and trust were shattered beyond repair. I was left not only feeling worthless but also that my integrity was being questioned..."

My aim all the way through this was to bring a domestic violence perpetrator to justice and prevent anybody else going through what I did. Sadly this was not the case due to the negligence of Gwent police and its boys club culture."

Jodie*

"When I came forward to report Clarke Joslyn's illegal behaviour - doing exactly what I had always been, as a police officer, trained to do - I wasn't just denied support; I lost everything. My reputation, my health, and ultimately my career in the police. I entered Gwent Police a bubbly young woman who was excited about her job and her future. When I left just 5 years later, I was completely broken. I have even lost my confidence in the police as a public service."

Sarah*

Rochdale Grooming Survivors

CWJ acted for three young women from deprived backgrounds who, when in their teens, were targeted by the so-called Rochdale grooming gang. They were multiply raped by many men who lured them in through the offer of alcohol, cigarettes and occasionally cash. Despite the police and social services being aware of some of these activities, nothing was done to stop it. In fact, one of our clients was arrested several times as a teenager and has criminal convictions as a consequence. Eventually, the case went to trial in 2012, and two of our clients gave evidence which led to the first historic conviction. In 2019, CWJ started a human rights legal claim against Greater Manchester Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

In April 2022, the three women received substantial damages and a personal and public apology from the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, who acknowledged the catalogue of investigative failings that prevented their abusers from being brought to justice.

The case against the Crown Prosecution Service continues.

“I feel like this is the first time I’ve really been seen and publicly recognised by authorities as an innocent child victim who needed protection. The way I was treated at the time had a terrible impact on my life, for years after the abuse ended. As a victim, I should never have been treated the way I was, so it is a relief, after all these years, that the police have finally recognised that.”

Amber*

“I don’t know if I believe that Greater Manchester Police have really changed their ways as they say they have, but I’m happy that they’ve taken into account their failings and there’s finally been some accountability. It’s been 10 years since Operation Span and, until now, they’d never accepted what really happened. If we’d never found lawyers, I don’t know if they ever would have apologised to us.”

Daisy*





Daisy

Daisy, a campaigner and client of CWJ, was born in 1975 and immediately placed in foster care and subsequently adopted. At 18, she was devastated to discover that her birth mother had been a child aged just 13 when a family friend in his late 20s, Carvel Bennett, had raped her, resulting in a pregnancy. Although Daisy's birth mother had accused Bennett at the time, the police had declined to take any action.

As Daisy's birth mother did not feel able to pursue a fresh complaint to the police, having been ignored when she first sought to report it as a child, Daisy approached West Midlands Police herself. She made the case that in the circumstances, she herself was living, breathing "proof" of a sexual offence committed against a child - given that her DNA would now be capable of proving paternity. Even with the compelling evidence available it was the police's view that a prosecution was impossible, and that in any event Daisy could not pursue a complaint herself, since she was not strictly a 'victim' of the crime. Daisy took to campaigning publicly for a proper criminal investigation. Bennett was eventually prosecuted and sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment in August 2021.

CWJ continues to assist Daisy with her campaign for a change in law campaign for children conceived in rape to be recognised as secondary victims in law.

CEDAW - Expunging records for street prostitution offences

On the 28th September 2021, CWJ lodged an application to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), challenging the UK's laws in relation to criminalisation of women in prostitution and the retention of those criminal records for 100 years. The application coincided with the launch of a campaign by two sex-trade survivors, Fiona Broadfoot and Julie Swede

MISSION:

We want all criminal convictions of women in street prostitution wiped from the record, so we can live freely without stigma

History
Of
Prostitution
Expunged

Freeing women from the stigma of prostitution

RE. JB

CWJ intervened in support of the respondent's position in this case in the Supreme Court. We acted as both the "client" and the lawyers in the intervention.

The issue related to whether a decision as to whether someone with an impairment has capacity to have sex, must also include the fact that they have capacity to understand that the other person must be able to consent and gives and maintains consent throughout.

We argued that an ability to understand, retain and use or weigh information about the consent of a sexual partner being required for sex to be lawful is basic information that everyone who engages in sexual relationships ought to be expected to grasp and that it properly reflects the requirements of the criminal law. We also argued that consideration must be given to the wider context, including: the state's duties under Article 3 and 8 ECHR; the wider context of the criminal justice system in investigating rape and sexual assault, including that people with mental disorders or impairments are less likely to have complaints of sexual assault investigated and prosecuted; and that there is no coherent framework for the management of risk otherwise.

The respondent was successful, on 24 November 2021, and our submissions are described in the judgment as having "greatly assisted the court." While there were no specific references to the content of our submissions, there is focus on the need to protect others, who might be at risk of sexual harm about the criminal law test, both of which were within our arguments.

Prosecution policies

We are exploring strategic litigation opportunities in respect of prosecution policies where victims are threatened with prosecution – in particular, focussing on the application of the public interest test and opportunities to hold the CPS accountable. We have held a round table of experts, bringing criminal specialists together with public lawyers.

RE. C

On 22 October 2021, the Court of Appeal overturned a decision in the Court of Protection which many feared would imply a "human right" to buy sex. The case concerned whether a care worker should be able to assist men in their care to access prostituted women and whether in doing so, would constitute a criminal offence.

CWJ acted for two women's organisations working with women in, or at risk of exploitation, in prostitution, NIA and Women@theWell, who jointly intervened in the successful appeal.

Both intervening organisations gave evidence setting out the realities of prostitution, which is a "trade" characterised by coercion, abuse and violence against women and girls. The point was made that no one "buying sex" for themselves or another can, in reality, know whether the woman is being exploited, given the extreme levels of exploitation of women and girls inherent in prostitution. They would thus be committing a criminal offence.

This case underlines the fact that there is no "human right" to pay for sex and that it is an inherently exploitative industry. Significantly, CWJ's arguments were adopted by the government which was the appellant in the case, which may help with campaigning in the future.

EMPOWERING FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS

We have developed as an expert legal hub, providing training and second-tier legal advice, advocacy and representation to frontline women's sector service providers supporting victims and survivors of VAWG across England and Wales. As well as increasing access to justice for many survivors, who have been failed by criminal justice agencies, our work enables us to gather evidence of systemic failings and malpractice, which, in turn, feeds into strategic litigation, and other legal and policy interventions aimed at holding institutions accountable and bringing about change in laws, policy and practice.

The feedback from our training sessions and the follow-up support has been consistently positive.

98.5%

**SAY THEY FELT MORE CONFIDENT WITH DEALING
WITH THE POLICE AND CROWN PROSECUTION
SERVICE AFTER RECEIVING THE CWJ TRAINING**

688 women

**ASSISTED WITH
LEGAL ADVICE
OR SIGNPOSTING**

LEGAL PROJECTS AND POLICY INITIATIVES

We are undertaking a number of projects dealing with particular issues arising for women, which, in turn, feeds into our litigation and policy advocacy work.

These include:

Non-fatal strangulation

During the passage of the Domestic Abuse Bill through Parliament, we used academic materials shared through the Femicide Working Group and experience from our training with domestic abuse frontline workers to put together a Parliamentary briefing on the need for a new offence. This was picked up by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, the Victim's Commissioner and others in the sector, who lobbied hard in support. A Conservative Peer put down an amendment in the Lords, which was voted in and we secured Government support to introduce a new offence. Since then, we have been involved with a sector-wide implementation group, sharing resources for a fuller understanding, guidance and training to be introduced across the criminal justice system. We recruited and briefed a Crown Court judge, who has provided training on the new offence through the Judicial College to all District Judges across the UK as part of their annual mandatory course. The new offence came into force on 7 June 2022.

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

We acted as a core participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) in the strand covering Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks, making key interventions on behalf of black and minoritised survivors of CSE, highlighted perspectives of victims and survivors often let down in the criminal justice system and too frequently criminalised.

Police Perpetrated Abuse

Alongside our super-complaint on this issue, especially since the murder of Sarah Everard, we have contributed to a wide range of press, including a number of documentaries, TV news items and newspaper reports. We have been able to link a large number of survivors with journalists, enabling those women to tell their stories. We have worked with the women's charity, Safelives, which delivers training for police officers, on a bespoke training module on this topic, inputting into the content and linking with survivors who provided case studies. This course has been piloted with staff from Professional Standards and will be rolled out to other forces.

We have been contacted by nearly 200 women altogether and have taken accounts from approximately 60. Many of the issues highlighted by victims concern the police perpetrator using his status and power as a police officer to coercively control the victim – sometimes through the mis-use of police powers and the manipulation of evidence in criminal and family cases. We have assisted with legal enquiries, sometimes referring cases to specialist lawyers and have taken on some cases ourselves. We are now planning to produce a follow up report.

Femicide Oversight Mechanism

As founders and conveners of the Femicide Working Group, we have discussed with other group members the need for a properly funded state system to follow up post-death recommendations and create a 'national oversight mechanism' to act strategically to reduce femicides. The Group met with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC), Nicole Jacobs, shortly after her appointment and lobbied for her office to establish this mechanism. The proposal was taken up and the DAC's office has secured funding from the Home Office for this work, has devised and begun establishing a domestic homicides oversight mechanism in early 2022.

Extending time limit for common assault charges in domestic abuse cases

We were consulted by Yvette Cooper MP on a proposed change in the law which would apply only to domestic abuse cases, to extend the legal deadline to charge a case of common assault from six months to two years. This is because many domestic abuse survivors do not disclose and report abuse for some time and are then too late for prosecutions. We advised on a form of wording that would avoid creating delays in those cases that are reported immediately, and this wording was taken up by Yvette Cooper and by the Government and included in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act and comes into force on 28 June 2022.

Disproportionate requests for third party materials in rape investigations

Within our legal enquiries, we have seen a pattern of disproportionate requests by police and prosecutors for rape survivors' past records including medical, therapy, social services, educational records. ISVA services we work with were raising their concerns about blanket requests, including for their notes and pre-trial therapy records. With the help of criminal barristers on our panel, we explored the complex legal position in such requests, and drafted a submission setting out where the approach we were seeing was unlawful. We also prepared a dossier of ten case examples. We provided the submission and the dossier to the national police lead on sexual offences and the CPS, and met with them to discuss the issue. They accepted that the inappropriate practices that we had identified were common. CPS later provided us with draft slides for fresh training on this issue for police and prosecutors, which used some of the case studies we had supplied as well as extracts from our submission. A new draft national police rape investigation guidance also includes the issues we have raised.

International Feminist Legal Network (IFLN)

We have been working with Dr Purna Sen (a former Executive Director of UN Women) to establish a sustainable, international feminist legal network of lawyers and legally focussed NGOs, who do strategic legal work and other policy impact work on male psychological violence against women.

Independent legal advice for rape survivors

We brought together an ISVA service, which would welcome an in-house lawyer, with one of the academics working on a new approach to police investigations of rape known as 'Operation Soteria'. She presented a project proposal for a one-year pilot for a lawyer based at the ISVA service supervised by CWJ. The academic has secured funding for the pilot and will be evaluating it, within the Operation Soteria framework and recruitment of the new lawyer is planned for autumn 2022.

Suicides in the context of domestic abuse

Jointly, with three members of the Femicide Working Group we prepared a submission for the Home Office Domestic Abuse Strategy, on the failure to address this issue within official suicide prevention strategies and lack of proper police investigations. The Home Office 'DA Plan', eventually published in March 2022, includes suicides as a new area of focus, with a number of actions. This includes a commitment by Dept of Health and Social Care to review suicide prevention strategies, strengthened DHR processes for such cases, new data gathering and review of police guidance (though the latter is not broad enough.)

DOUBLE STANDARD

Ending the unjust criminalisation of victims of violence against women and girls

The Double Standard report, published in 2022, sets out evidence of the unjust criminalisation of victims of VAWG in England and Wales for alleged offending resulting from their experience of abuse, and the reforms in law and practice that are needed to address this. It draws on our briefings to parliamentarians debating the Domestic Abuse Bill and our submissions to the government's recent consultations on domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG. It includes new qualitative research and legal analysis and draws out the wider learning from CWJ's recent report on the state response to women who kill their abuser. Relevant case examples are included, taken from CWJ's own caseload and other sources. The report is primarily focused on women, but we seek to draw out learning relating to girls, where possible, and many of the issues faced are common to both. We conclude with detailed recommendations for reform.

"I have been let down and failed by ... Police and all the other bodies involved, I am being punished by the system that was supposed to be there to help and protect me..."

Naomi, domestic abuse survivor

EMMA

Rape victim charged with ABH following her assailant's counter-allegation against her relating to a scratch on his head. The perpetrator had locked Emma in his apartment, raped her and hidden her shoes so that she could not leave. The scratch to his head was caused by a tussle over an iPad that took place during the incident. When Emma let it go, due to the force he was using to pull it towards him, it smacked him in the face. After she reported him for rape, he made a counter-allegation that she had assaulted him.





Azra Kemal



Nevres Kemal (left) pictured with the first AKLIP intern, Sannam Kerley (right)

Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme

In 2021, we were approached by Nevres Kemal, the mother of a young law graduate called Azra who died at the age of 24. Azra cared deeply about injustice, particularly struggles of people from minoritised and disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, and so we worked with Nevres to develop a programme in her daughter's name. The paid internship is open to black, Asian and minoritized women. We were inundated with applications from passionate young women and recruited our first intern, Sannam, in January 2021.

CWJ Mentorship Scheme

We have introduced a mentorship scheme for Black, Asian and minoritised women who are applying for training contracts and/or pupillage. Mentees are offered informal one-to-one meetings with their mentor to discuss applications, interviews, tips on writing CVs and other useful information. This year, we have managed to match 53 women with a mentor.

“The CWJ internship for women is a fantastic initiative. By ensuring that the internship is paid, CWJ have removed the financial barrier to completing this sort of work experience that many women from these groups face, while simultaneously giving them the opportunity to advance their careers in the legal profession by doing important work for and on behalf of other women.”

Una Morris, barrister, Garden Court Chambers

“I very much admire the work that you do to ensure women from underrepresented backgrounds are supported when pursuing a career in law. I think it is paramount that schemes such as this continue to grow”

Mentee, 2022

THE YEAR AHEAD...

We have secured funding to bring in some external expertise to assist with a major review of capacity and infrastructure. The review will look at short and medium-term issues and areas for development, in order for CWJ to remain sustainable and resilient, whilst meeting the high ongoing demand for services. It will look at support structures, management functions and structures, strategic and operational decision making and roles and responsibilities, workplace policies, internal and external communications, monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity, producing a series of recommendations that should help CWJ further develop. Additionally, we will be carrying out a salary benchmarking exercise and reviewing staff benefits to ensure we are able to continue to both recruit and retain colleagues.

We hope that improved infrastructure and evaluation will enable us to meet the needs of our beneficiaries, increase impact and fulfil our mission of holding the state to account around male violence against women and girls as stated in our 3-year strategy.

Strategic litigation will remain the bedrock of CWJ and we are committed to ensuring it reaches across a broad spectrum of issues that impact on women and girls who are subjected to male violence and to ensure it reaches, in particular, those who suffer multiple discrimination within the justice system.

We will continue to contribute to policy and research, where it can make a unique and particular contribution based on the experiences of women and girls it supports. We will be further developing the international feminist legal network of lawyers. This network will allow experts to share learning with each other and with decision makers in their own jurisdictions, which will contribute towards improvements in law and practice in order to tackle psychological violence to women and girls, and its harmful impacts. Whilst the project is initiated by CWJ, we consider it is important for this not to be a UK run project, moving forward, and are therefore working to create a representative secretariat.

ANTI-RACISM

CWJ remains committed to developing its anti-racism strategy further, with a focus on promoting and increasing diversity in the legal profession and creating an inclusive culture in which everyone, regardless of their ethnic background, can reach their full potential. We have, so far, set up a unique paid internship for women from underrepresented groups as well as a mentorship programme.

We believe we must continue to ensure that our work is reaching those women most in need and so have developed our relationships with specialist organisations supporting Global Majority women.

We have begun a joint project with Imkaan, an umbrella women's organisation dedicated to addressing violence against Black and Minoritised women and girls. The project aims to identify and challenge failings preceding the domestic homicides of Black and Minoritised women.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

The CWJ fundraising lead organises fundraising events and co-ordinates the activities of our supporters in the wider community on behalf of CWJ. We do not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators. There have been no complaints about fundraising activities this year, or any previous year.

We registered with the Fundraising Regulator and comply with all of the fundraising guidance set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice.

All direct marketing is undertaken by the fundraising lead (the operations manager) to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. All marketing material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

For the year starting April 2021 it was agreed that our reserves level be set at £117,000. The trustees agreed to update the reserves level to £95,000 in January 2022 to reflect changes to unrestricted expenditure.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year, the charity received income totalling £738,677 (2021: £428,615). The income consisted of donations of £647,150 (2021: £368,519) and income from charitable activities of £91,527 (2021: £60,096). £402,799 (2021: £284,160) of the income was unrestricted and £335,878 (2021: £144,455) was restricted.

The expenditure for the year consisted of unrestricted costs of £312,572 (2021: £178,070) and restricted costs of £204,900 (2021: £192,445), totalling £517,472 (2021: £370,515).

This resulted in a surplus on unrestricted reserves of £90,227 (2021: surplus of £106,090) and a surplus on restricted reserves of £130,978 (2021: deficit of £47,990). At 31 March 2022, reserves totalled £490,341, consisting of £236,033 unrestricted reserves and £254,308 restricted reserves. Details of the various restricted funds can be found in note 18.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

Year ended 31 March 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Women's Justice (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance and misappropriation of assets. Audit procedures performed included:

- Discussions with management and trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes of those charged with governance;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected variances;
- Identifying and reviewing journal entries to ensure that we understood the reasoning behind them and agreeing that they were appropriate;
- Selecting a sample of transactions and tracing to documentation to establish that they are bonafide business transactions; and
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kara Williams

25 / 01 / 2023

Kara Williams BSc BFP FCA

Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
11 Park Square
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4EL

Statement of Financial Activities Year ended 31 March 2022

		2022	2021		
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies		311,272	335,878	647,150	368,519
Charitable activities	5	91,527	–	91,527	60,096
Total income		<u>402,799</u>	<u>335,878</u>	<u>738,677</u>	<u>428,615</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of raising donations and legacies	6	–	–	–	140
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	312,572	204,900	517,472	370,375
Total expenditure		<u>312,572</u>	<u>204,900</u>	<u>517,472</u>	<u>370,515</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>90,227</u>	<u>130,978</u>	<u>221,205</u>	<u>58,100</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as previously reported		145,806	123,330	269,136	153,048
Prior year adjustment		–	–	–	57,988
Total funds brought forward as restated		<u>145,806</u>	<u>123,330</u>	<u>269,136</u>	<u>211,036</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>236,033</u>	<u>254,308</u>	<u>490,341</u>	<u>269,136</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Statement of Financial Position 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	6,205	6,357
Current assets			
Debtors	15	148,136	47,871
Cash at bank and in hand		358,323	246,450
		<u>506,459</u>	<u>294,321</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>22,323</u>	<u>31,542</u>
Net current assets		484,136	262,779
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>490,341</u>	<u>269,136</u>
Net assets		<u>490,341</u>	<u>269,136</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		254,308	123,330
Unrestricted funds		236,033	145,806
Total charity funds	18	<u>490,341</u>	<u>269,136</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 25 / 01 / 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Fiona MacKenzie
Trustee

Statement of Cash Flows Year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income	221,205	58,100
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,128	1,634
Accrued income	(5,359)	(29,381)
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(100,265)	73,324
Trade and other creditors	(3,860)	4,920
Cash generated from operations	<u>113,849</u>	<u>108,597</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>113,849</u>	<u>108,597</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(1,976)	(5,372)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,976)</u>	<u>(5,372)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	111,873	103,225
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>246,450</u>	<u>143,225</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>358,323</u>	<u>246,450</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is a charitable incorporated organisation. The address of the principal office is Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The presentational currency is pound sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. The figures in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.

income from contracts for the supply of services is dependent on the outcome of cases and is only recognised when it is virtually certain. This income is classified as unrestricted income, unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case, it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Donations	104,272	128,834	233,106
Grants			
Grants receivable	207,000	207,044	414,044
	<u>311,272</u>	<u>335,878</u>	<u>647,150</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Donations	72,064	24,166	96,230
Grants			
Grants receivable	152,000	120,289	272,289
	<u>224,064</u>	<u>144,455</u>	<u>368,519</u>

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Other income from charitable activities - legal fees recovered	91,527	91,527	60,096	60,096

6. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Costs of raising donations and legacies - Donations	—	—	140	140

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	319,716	186,630	506,346
Support costs	(7,144)	18,270	11,126
	<u>312,572</u>	<u>204,900</u>	<u>517,472</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	168,185	192,445	360,630
Support costs	9,745	—	9,745
	<u>177,930</u>	<u>192,445</u>	<u>370,375</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2022 £	Total fund 2021 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	506,345	—	506,345	360,630
Governance costs	—	11,127	11,127	9,745
	<u>506,345</u>	<u>11,127</u>	<u>517,472</u>	<u>370,375</u>

9. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>2,128</u>	<u>1,634</u>

10. Auditors remuneration

	2022 £	2021 £
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>9,870</u>	<u>8,400</u>

11. Independent examination fees

	2022 £	2021 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Other financial services	<u>—</u>	<u>1,345</u>

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	303,827	233,625
Social security costs	25,959	18,254
Employer contributions to pension plans	8,135	7,027
	<u>337,921</u>	<u>258,906</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 10 (2021: 8).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	2,910	5,372	8,282
Additions	–	1,976	1,976
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,910</u>	<u>7,348</u>	<u>10,258</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	582	1,343	1,925
Charge for the year	291	1,837	2,128
At 31 March 2022	<u>873</u>	<u>3,180</u>	<u>4,053</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,037</u>	<u>4,168</u>	<u>6,205</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,328</u>	<u>4,029</u>	<u>6,357</u>

15. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income	6,433	5,416
Amounts recoverable on ongoing cases	80,787	24,303
Other debtors	60,916	18,152
	<u>148,136</u>	<u>47,871</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals and deferred income	12,741	18,100
Social security and other taxes	4,478	12,031
Other creditors	5,104	1,411
	<u>22,323</u>	<u>31,542</u>

17. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £8,135 (2021: £7,027).

18. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	At 31 March 2022 £
General funds	145,806	402,799	(312,572)	–	236,033

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	At 31 March 2021 £
General funds	30,353	284,160	(178,070)	9,363	145,806

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2022 £
Anonymous research project	8,690	–	(8,690)	–
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	624	–	(208)	416
Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation	373	–	(373)	–
Garden Court Chambers Sexual assault fund (crowdjustice)	1,250	4,000	(5,250)	–
Access to Justice Community Justice Fund	29,284	–	(24,281)	5,003
Evan Cornish Foundation	3,899	–	(2,407)	1,492
Matrix Chambers Causes Fund	909	–	(909)	–
The Olwyn Foundation	1,255	–	(1,255)	–
The Baring Foundation	36,255	45,000	(46,679)	34,576
Covid-19 Response Fund	30,000	–	(30,000)	–

18. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2022 £
Anonymous Donor - Criminalisation of Women from sexual exploitation	1,946	–	(1,946)	–
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020	8,845	–	(8,845)	–
The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme	–	21,204	(2,380)	18,824
Rape Justice Now (Crowd Justice)	–	25,163	–	25,163
Digital Freedom Fund	–	11,706	–	11,706
Disappearing Women	–	12,311	(12,311)	–
The Baring Foundation - Racial Justice Fund	–	50,000	–	50,000
The IHL Trust	–	21,165	(9,430)	11,735
The Jabbs Foundation	–	2,240	(2,240)	–
The Legal Education Foundation	–	17,232	(12,713)	4,519
The Oak Foundation International Project	–	37,000	(21,781)	15,219
The Big Give Women and Girls Matchfunding Campaign	–	45,876	(1,349)	44,527
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021	–	11,981	–	11,981
Anonymous Donor - Criminalisation of Women	–	13,000	(4,907)	8,093
The Oak Foundation Capacity Building Grant	–	18,000	(6,946)	11,054
	<u>123,330</u>	<u>335,878</u>	<u>(204,900)</u>	<u>254,308</u>

18. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Prior year adjustments £	At 31 March 2021 £
Anonymous research project	10,416	5,500	(7,226)	–	8,690
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	44,779	–	(42,780)	(1,375)	624
Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation	14,636	–	(14,263)	–	373
Garden Court Chambers Sexual assault fund (crowdjustice)	4,000	4,000	(6,750)	–	1,250
The Baring Foundation Access to Justice Community Justice Fund	48,864	–	(19,580)	–	29,284
Access to Justice Funder Plus	–	–	(50,000)	50,000	–
Evan Cornish Foundation	–	30,000	(26,101)	–	3,899
Matrix Chambers Causes Fund	–	5,400	(5,400)	–	–
The Olwyn Foundation	–	4,993	(4,084)	–	909
The Baring Foundation Covid-19 Response Fund	–	4,041	(2,786)	–	1,255
Anonymous Donor - Criminalisation of Women from sexual exploitation	–	41,855	(5,600)	–	36,255
The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020	–	30,000	–	–	30,000
	–	7,783	(5,837)	–	1,946
	–	10,883	(2,038)	–	8,845
	<u>122,695</u>	<u>144,455</u>	<u>(192,445)</u>	<u>48,625</u>	<u>123,330</u>

Anonymous research project

Dissemination of the Women Who Kill research project via presentations, training and related articles and reports.

Rosa UK - Advice and Support

Improving access to justice for women and girls throughout England and Wales by empowering the women's sector to recognise and challenge criminal justice failings and connect them to feminist lawyers.

Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation

To be a full and active member of the Justice and Equality Fund's 'Changing the Conversation' strategic communications network.

Garden Court Chambers

Funding for facilitating the lawyers reference panel and providing training for frontline organisations.

Sexual assault fund (crowdjustice)

Money raised through crowdfunding to judicially review the parole board decisions to release serial rapist John Worboys. Due to a successful challenge the remaining funds are to be used for paralegal costs to support other cases where women have suffered from violence and/or sexual assault.

The Baring Foundation

To bring together specialist lawyers, academics and other experts with those working on the frontline as activists, survivors and service providers (across England and Wales) to bring strategic law challenges and ensure access to justice for victims of male violence.

The Access to Justice Foundation - Community Justice Fund Support for specialist advice services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Access to Justice Foundation - Funder Plus programme To fund staff development and consultancy work.

Evan Cornish Foundation

Empowering the women's sector and their service users to fight injustice and protect their human rights in the North of England.

Matrix Chambers Causes Fund

Design and distribution of Women Who Kill research report.

The Olwyn Foundation

Challenging the unjust criminalisation of women and girls who offend due to domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

The Baring Foundation - Covid-19 Response Fund

Supporting work to meet the increased need for legal assistance from women's sector organisations on issues relating to violence against women and girls.

Anonymous donor - Criminalisation of Women from sexual exploitation Project challenging the long-term impact of sexual exploitation which results from women being criminalised in the context of the abuse to which they were subjected.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020

Project challenging the long-term impact of sexual exploitation which results from women being criminalised in the context of the abuse they were subjected to.

The Azra Kemal Legal Internship Programme

Paid internship programme for women from a Black, Asian and/ or minoritised backgrounds to promote and increase diversity in the legal profession.

Rape Justice Now (CrowdJustice)

Funds remaining following a case to judicially review the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to prosecuting rape. These funds will be used on any work carried out around rape and sexual violence.

Digital Freedom Fund

Victim/witness digital data extraction in sexual offence investigations - strategic litigation.

Disappearing Women

Project in partnership with artist, Henny Beaumont and The Femicide Census to create a memorial to honour each of the 118 women killed between 11th March 2020 and 11th March 2021.

The Baring Foundation: Racial Justice Fund

Joint project with Imkaan - analysing and challenging the institutionalised abuse and racism experienced by Black and minoritised women and girls in the criminal justice system.

The IHL Trust : Challenging Police Perpetrated Abuse

This project aims to bring about structural change to the way such complaints are investigated and dealt with. We will support individual women who have been victims of police perpetrated abuse through legal advice and access to appropriate other services.

The JABBS Foundation

Investigating the West Midlands multi-agency response to women involved in offending who are victims of domestic abuse.

The Legal Education Foundation: Justice First Fellowship Scheme Funding for a Justice First Fellowship trainee solicitor for 2 years.

The Oak Foundation - International Project

Creation of a sustainable international network of lawyers and legally-focused NGOs to combat psychological violence towards women and girls, its harmful impacts, and build state accountability.

The Big Give Women and Girls Match Fund

Providing legal advice to women who have been wrongly or disproportionately punished for resisting male violence so that they may appeal wrongful convictions and unjust sentences.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021 - Digital Capacity Building Grant Digital capacity building activities such as training, software and advertising.

Anonymous Donor - Criminalisation of Women

Challenging the unjust criminalisation of women and girls who offend due to domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

The Oak Foundation - Capacity Building Grant

Building the organisations' internal capacity, implementing the next three-year strategy and creating an internship programme for black and global majority women.

20. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2021	Cash flows	At 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	246,450	111,873	358,323

21. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	338	32,897
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	–	169
	<u>338</u>	<u>33,066</u>

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	4,297	1,908	6,205
Current assets	254,059	252,400	506,459
Creditors less than 1 year	(22,323)	–	(22,323)
Net assets	<u>236,033</u>	<u>254,308</u>	<u>490,341</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,495	2,862	6,357
Current assets	173,853	120,468	294,321
Creditors less than 1 year	(31,542)	–	(31,542)
Net assets	<u>145,806</u>	<u>123,330</u>	<u>269,136</u>

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Audit trail date format	DD / MM / YYYY
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CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1169213

Accounts

The background features a stylized, light blue silhouette of the scales of justice, with the Statue of Liberty's head and crown visible on the left side. The scales are positioned in the upper right, and the Statue of Liberty's head is on the left. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/21

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

Holding the state to account and challenging discrimination in the justice system around male violence against women and girls.

KEY INFORMATION

Centre for Women's Justice
Oxford House
Derbyshire Street
London
E2 6HG

www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number: 1169213

info@centreforwomensjustice.org.uk

Trustees:

Esohe Aghatise
Sasha Deepwell (Chair)
Sanchita Hosali
Fiona MacKenzie (Treasurer)
Sarah Ricca

Samira Ahmed
Heather Harvey
Davina James-Hanman
Yasmin Rehman
Janice Turner

Key Management:

Harriet Wistrich (Director)

Bankers:

CafBank Limited,
PO BOX 289, West Malling ME19 4TA

Governance & Management:

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 17/03/2016.

1) Apart from the first three charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolutions passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experiences needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Objectives & Activities:

To advance the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by: seeking to prevent violence against women and girls, and protect those rights which are adversely impacted by violence against women and girls; and the elimination of discrimination against women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit:

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ) provides benefits to women and girls who have been, or may in the future be, subject to male violence. We assist with providing access to justice for those who have been failed by the state and subject to discriminatory treatment within the criminal justice system.

Public benefit statement:

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

CONTENTS

"I am forever grateful to CWJ for having the courage and ability to challenge the police, and the compassion for providing us with a safe place for support".

"Without CWJ it would not have been possible to start to tell my story"

"I thank CWJ for the support, and the endless time spent on me and more importantly, the pure belief in my experience"

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INTRODUCTION



Harriet Wistrich, director

The start of this financial year coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and the country entering a full lockdown, which has presented a range of challenges for CWJ. However, we were able to successfully adapt quickly to remote working. This, inevitably, involved a challenge for staff with young children and for new members of staff, who had to commence

employment working remotely. During this period, we have recruited a new litigator and new member of the enquiries team.

We have, additionally, developed a new project on the unjust criminalisation of survivors of abuse, complementing the work we are already undertaking. All staff have risen to the challenge and this year has been another highly successful year. CWJ continues to expand, developing its networks, new areas of work and its reputation as an organisation. Many media outlets and politicians come to us for our perspective on violence against women and the criminal justice system.

Harriet Wistrich



Sasha Deepwell, chair

In what has been an unprecedented year, CWJ has continued to battle against the injustices that women and girls subjected to male violence are experiencing. The trustees are incredibly proud of what the team has continued to achieve with its dedication and tenacity. The many endorsements featured

throughout this report speak for themselves and we are very much looking forward to seeing how further work on projects and litigation develops.

It has been another successful year for CWJ, although not without some disappointments – in particular, the judicial review brought on behalf of the End Violence Against Women coalition (EVAW), challenging the collapse in the volume of rape prosecutions. However, the media and support we gained through this challenge, and the public awareness of the issues it has brought, has been invaluable. Behind the scenes, the charity has worked further on establishing strong governance and the charity benefits hugely from the diverse skills, passion and knowledge of the established board of trustees.

Our focus for the year ahead is now on ensuring financial sustainability and embedding our new anti-racist initiatives, alongside developing work around other intersecting areas such as discrimination in the criminal justice system against women with disabilities, insecure immigration status and/or those from disadvantaged social-economic backgrounds.

As we enter our fifth year of operation, I would like to thank our many clients, funders, staff, volunteers and supporters for their unwavering commitment to CWJ and to justice for women and girls.



Sasha Deepwell

20 / 12 / 2021

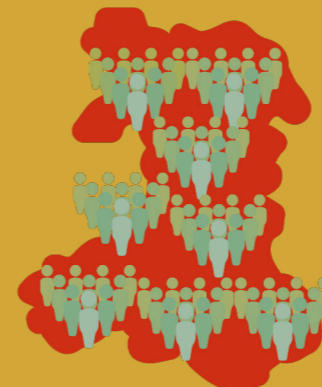
STRATEGIC REPORT

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020/2021



988

Women helped through advice, referrals to panel lawyers or, signposting



211

Panel lawyer across England and Wales

“Organisations such as yourselves offer people like me real hope that things can change for someone else” .

Lily, Bristol

Undertaking strategic litigation and providing access to legal assistance in cases concerning violence against women (VAWG)

We bring challenges that have the potential to impact on how the state deals with perpetrators and survivors of violence against women and girls. These cases help develop and strengthen rights across a broad spectrum of issues.

We are involved in many highly publicised legal challenges which have evolved through our advice work and in partnership with women sector organisations:

XN and XD v the National Police Chiefs Council and others

Following widespread alarm around rape victims routinely being required to hand over all their personal data, if they wished to pursue an allegation, we worked with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to bring a judicial review of the joint National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Crown Prosecution Services' (CPS) digital extraction policy. The case was conceded in our favour, following the publication of the Information Commissioner's report and a related Court of Appeal judgment. In conceding the case, the defendants produced largely improved interim guidance.

R (EVAW) v DPP

Our ambitious judicial review brought on behalf of the End Violence Against Women coalition (EVAW), in respect of a collapse in the volume of rape prosecutions, came to a conclusion in March 2021 when the Court of Appeal dismissed the claim. Whilst a deeply disappointing outcome, there is no doubt that the very high profile legal challenge attracted a huge amount of media coverage, which was mostly extremely supportive of the claim. We were able to use the evidence gathered to input into a shadow rape report produced jointly with EVAW, Imkaan and Rape Crisis, which in turn influenced the government end-to-end rape review published a few months later.

Ongoing civil litigation

Our litigation department continues to progress civil claims for damages on behalf of three victims of the Rochdale grooming gang and two women subjected to abuse by a fellow, more senior police officer, at Gwent police. These claims are slow moving but progressing well. Another civil claim against the police explores damages for a survivor of historic sexual abuse, who had to complain to the police on five separate occasions before her father was eventually prosecuted and convicted.

Inquest case

Following on from our work on femicide, in particular the issue of coercive control causing or contributing to suicide of the victim, we are advising the mother of a woman who took her own life following sustained coercive control.

CICA policy challenge

We commenced a judicial review of the government's failure to consult in relation to the unspent conviction rule, which excludes victims of historic sexual abuse from claiming compensation, contrary to promises made in the government's victim's strategy.

IICSA: Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks

In September, we acted as a core participant in a two week hearing exploring this issue and made important interventions to ensure that the voices of Black, Asian and minoritised victims/survivors of such exploitation were heard and that the Crown Prosecution Service were subject to greater scrutiny in relation to their role.

Farieissia Martin

We organised a public meeting and helped publicise the successful criminal appeal of Farieissia Martin, a young woman who had six years previously been convicted of the murder of her violent boyfriend.

*“I would like to thank everyone for the support and fighting to support my campaign for justice. I have been in prison for over six years now, most of the women I have met inside have been victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse, most are inside because of their relationship with a man...When I walked into the court room, I knew I would be found guilty. It was an all white jury, sitting in a city with a long history of racism. I knew I would be judged as coming from Toxteth”
Farieissia Martin*



22 Frontline women's organisations trained

A total of:

139 individuals trained

"I want to thank you for all your help over the last couple of years. We are so grateful for you and your team, your support and the resources you put together are invaluable."

Léa, ISVA, Oxfordshire

Thank you so much for your hard work, all I can do is pass on my own and my client's appreciation for your assistance. It's frequently disheartening, in our field of work, seeing the uphill battle clients face with the 'legal' system, but just a little help has given my client hope."

'E', IDVA

Empowering frontline service providers with legal knowledge and promoting a collaborative approach to legal challenges

We have developed as an expert legal hub, providing training and second-tier legal advice, advocacy and representation to frontline women's sector service providers supporting victims and survivors of VAWG across England and Wales. As well as increasing access to justice for many survivors, who have been failed by criminal justice agencies, our work enables us to gather evidence of systemic failings and malpractice, which in turn feeds into strategic litigation, and other legal and policy interventions aimed at holding institutions accountable and bringing about change in laws, policy and practice.

The feedback from our training sessions and the follow-up support has been consistently positive.

Legal projects and policy initiatives

We are undertaking a number of projects dealing with particular issues arising for women, which in turn feeds into our litigation and policy advocacy work. These include:

The unjust criminalisation of victims of domestic abuse

A project that developed from work started by the Prison Reform Trust to introduce two new statutory defences for women who commit offences as a consequence of being victims of abuse. Amendments to the Domestic Abuse Act were put forward and passed by the House of Lords, but the government opposed. The project had now been extended to gather further evidence in support, to disseminate the outcome of a major research project on women who kill to undertake policy and advocacy work and consider strategic litigation challenges.

The QSA project

Named after the case we brought, challenging the mandatory disclosure and retention of criminal convictions arising from street prostitution, we are gathering more evidence and assisting women affected through advice, litigation and campaigning to end the criminalisation of survivors of sexual exploitation.

Femicide

We have built a network of lawyers, front line advocates and other experts to share information and advocate for change to tackle the failures of the state in this area. The group meets every two months to share insight and expertise and identify developing project work. We have met with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner about creating a femicide oversight mechanism.

Non-fatal strangulation

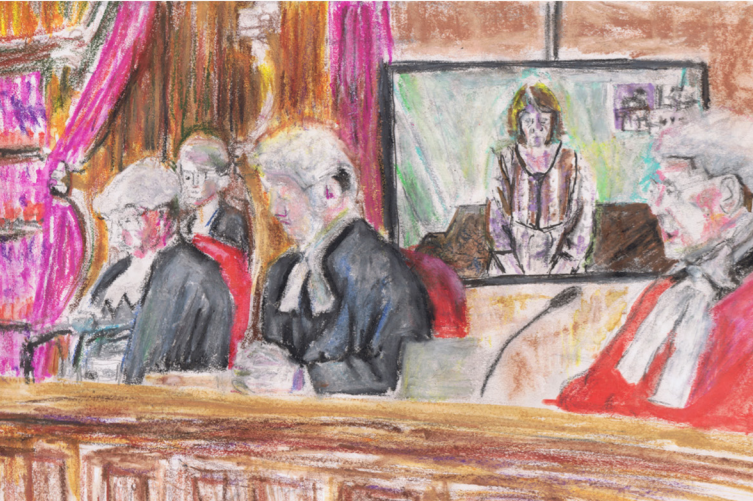
From our work with front line domestic violence organisations, and the femicide group, we identified a need for a stand alone offence of non-fatal strangulation and worked together to achieve an amendment to the Domestic Abuse Act creating a new criminal offence.

"I am forever grateful to CWJ for having the courage and ability to challenge the police, and the compassion for providing us with a safe place for support".

Sarah, victim/survivor*

WOMEN WHO KILL:

how the state criminalises women we might otherwise be burying



“...The main thing for me, he had strangled me at the bottom of the stairs in front of my daughter. And that...frightened me because you can get punched in the face or your hand broken, but i had never lost my breath before...So yes, i was frightened of him”

interview 18

In February 2021, we launched our joint [research report](#) with campaign group, Justice for Women. The report was the culmination of a four year research study that explores the criminal justice response to women who kill abusive men. Through in-depth interviews with some key practitioners in the criminal justice system, and most crucially with women themselves, our research explores the extent to which the law itself, and the way the law is applied, prevents women accessing justice.

Over **1,400** people attended the virtual launch event.

POLICE PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

In March 2020, we submitted our second police [super-complaint](#).

Working with the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, we received numerous reports from women which raised serious concerns about the way policing systems operate, where police officers are accused of domestic abuse. At the heart of the concerns is lack of integrity, officers manipulating the system and acting in bad faith in a variety of ways.

Since then, as a result of publicity generated by the complaint, over 150 women who have suffered domestic abuse from serving police officers have contacted us to share their experience and seek advice. We know there are many others. Some have been unable to report their abuser as it would mean reporting him to his own work colleagues. Others, who have reported, found investigations poor, with officers closing ranks to protect their own. Several of the women were bullied, harassed and victimised, sometimes by police officers manipulating systems by abusing their positions.

Our super-complaint calls for system changes, such as having all investigations carried out by a neighbouring police force, and greater involvement by the Independent Office of Police Conduct.

“Silenced by my abuser, silenced by my colleagues. Without CWJ it would not have been possible to start to tell my story. CWJ is at the forefront of revealing decades of abuse within the police and how we can positively change this culture and support the victims”

**Sarah*

THE YEAR AHEAD

Over the next financial year, the trustees will be working to formulate a new three year forward strategy, consolidating our work with frontline organisations and facilitating advice and referrals. The evidence gathered through that work in turn informs our strategic litigation programme, our policy and reform work and ongoing projects. We will be developing our project work in relation to the unjust criminalisation of victims of domestic abuse, gathering evidence to assist our advocacy for legal reform. We will continue to disseminate the findings from the women who kill report and will be undertaking further research, looking at the treatment within the criminal justice system of women who offend due to abuse. We will be exploring strategic litigation in this area and also in relation to the QSA project that deals with the long term impact of criminalisation on victims of sexual exploitation, supporting efforts to decriminalise street prostitution and expunge the criminal records of those who were prostituted. We will be building on the work we started with our second police super-complaint and will be supporting the women who have been coming forward to us as victims of police perpetrated abuse. Whilst awaiting the outcome of the super-complaint investigation, we will consider other ways in which change in this area might be achieved. We will be recruiting our first trainee under the Justice First Fellowship scheme and our first paid intern under the scheme we are establishing for Black, Asian and minoritised women. We will continue to explore new areas for strategic litigation with an emphasis in challenging those multiply disadvantaged due to race and disability. We aim to increase our income from litigation and continue to build our funding basis to ensure long term growth and sustainability.

ANTI-RACISM

CWJ's work is focused around violence against women and girls and the failings of the state when it comes to their needs for protection and support. We are particularly conscious of how Black, Asian and minoritised women are adversely affected by racism within the criminal justice system and from many other state institutions.

At CWJ, we want to ensure that the anti-racism work we do is substantive and not performative. Our aim is to embed anti-racism inside our organisation, and affect change outside. Our anti-racism strategy can be found on our website, and this strategy is an evolving process, to be updated as it develops.

Some exciting key initiatives for the year going forward:

- We are prioritising strategic litigation which engages issues raised by organisations run by and for Black, Asian and minoritised women.
- We will establish a mentoring scheme for Black, Asian and minoritised women seeking to enter the legal profession, or who are already in the legal profession and seeking a mentor outside their own workplace.
- We will launch a paid internship programme for women from Black, Asian and minoritised women.
- We will ensure our training for frontline women's service workers reaches 'by and for' Black, Asian and minoritised women's organisations by providing training free of charge to those organisations.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

The CWJ fundraising lead organises fundraising events and co-ordinates the activities of our supporters in the wider community on behalf of CWJ. We do not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators. There have been no complaints about fundraising activities this year, or any previous year.

We have recently signed up to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. As a result, all of the fundraising guidance and working practices will be updated to ensure compliance. Volunteer fundraisers are now given a briefing before they raise funds for CWJ.

All direct marketing is undertaken by the fundraising lead (the operations manager) to ensure that it is not unreasonably intrusive or persistent. All marketing material contains clear instructions on how a person can be removed from mailing lists.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

In 2020/21, our reserve policy equated to holding of £93,000 in cash and short term assets.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the 2020/21 financial year, the charity received income totalling £428,615 (2019/20 restated: £328,423). The income consisted of donations of £368,519 (2019/20 restated: £238,016) and income from charitable activities of £60,096 (2019/20 restated: £90,407). £284,160 (2019/20 restated: £132,920) of the income was unrestricted and £144,455 (2019/20 restated: £195,503) was restricted. Prior year 2019/20 figures are after restatements, which are set out in note 20.

The expenditure for the year consisted of unrestricted costs of £178,070 (2019/20 restated: £201,793) and restricted costs of £192,445 (2019/20 restated: £102,837), totalling £370,515 (2019/20 restated: £304,630).

This resulted in a surplus on unrestricted reserves of £106,090 (2019/20 restated: deficit of £68,873) and a deficit on restricted reserves of £47,990 (2019/20 restated: surplus of £92,666). Brought forward reserves, after adjusting for the prior year adjustment detailed in note 20, were £39,716 unrestricted and £171,320 restricted, resulting in carried forward reserves totalling £269,136 consisting of £145,806 unrestricted reserves and £123,330 restricted. Details of the various restricted funds can be found in note 18.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S JUSTICE

Year ended 31 March 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Women's Justice (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charity, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance and misappropriation of assets. Audit procedures performed included:

Discussions with management and trustees, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;

Reviewing relevant meeting minutes of those charged with governance;

Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected variances;

Identifying and reviewing journal entries to ensure that we understood the reasoning behind them and agreeing that they were appropriate;

Selecting a sample of transactions and tracing to documentation to establish that they are bonafide business transactions; and

Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kara Williams

21 / 12 / 2021

Kara Williams BSc, BFP, FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Ellis Lloyd Jones Audit Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
11 Park Square
Newport
South Wales
NP20 4EL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 31 march 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2020 Total funds (restated) £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	224,064	144,455	368,519	238,016
Charitable activities	5	60,096	–	60,096	90,407
Total income		<u>284,160</u>	<u>144,455</u>	<u>428,615</u>	<u>328,423</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of raising donations and legacies	6	140	–	140	3,502
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	177,930	192,445	370,375	301,128
Total expenditure		<u>178,070</u>	<u>192,445</u>	<u>370,515</u>	<u>304,630</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>106,090</u>	<u>(47,990)</u>	<u>58,100</u>	<u>23,793</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as previously reported		30,353	122,695	153,048	190,100
Prior year adjustment		9,363	48,625	57,988	(2,857)
Total funds brought forward as restated		<u>39,716</u>	<u>171,320</u>	<u>211,036</u>	<u>187,243</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>145,806</u>	<u>123,330</u>	<u>269,136</u>	<u>211,036</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2021 £	2020 (restated) £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	6,357	2,619
Current assets			
Debtors	15	47,871	121,195
Cash at bank and in hand		246,450	143,225
		<u>294,321</u>	<u>264,420</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>31,542</u>	<u>56,003</u>
Net current assets		<u>262,779</u>	<u>208,417</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>269,136</u>	<u>211,036</u>
Net assets		<u>269,136</u>	<u>211,036</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		123,330	171,320
Unrestricted funds		145,806	39,716
Total charity funds	18	<u>269,136</u>	<u>211,036</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 20/12/2021....., and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Fiona MacKenzie
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is a charitable incorporated organisation. The address of the principal office is Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The presentational currency is pound sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. The figures in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Fund accounting (continued)

through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.

income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	10% straight line
Equipment	-	25% straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Impairment of fixed assets (continued)

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

4. Donations and legacies

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Donations	72,064	24,166	96,230
Grants			
Grants receivable	152,000	120,289	272,289
	<u>224,064</u>	<u>144,455</u>	<u>368,519</u>

	Unrestricted Funds (restated) £	Restricted Funds (restated) £	Total Funds 2020 (restated) £
Donations			
Donations	27,513	60,351	87,864
Grants			
Grants receivable	15,000	135,152	150,152
	<u>42,513</u>	<u>195,503</u>	<u>238,016</u>

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds (restated) £	Total Funds 2020 (restated) £
Other income from charitable activities				
- legal fees recovered	60,096	60,096	90,407	90,407

6. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds (restated) £	Total Funds 2020 (restated) £
Costs of raising donations and legacies				
- Donations	140	140	3,502	3,502

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	168,185	192,445	360,630
Support costs	9,745	–	9,745
	<u>177,930</u>	<u>192,445</u>	<u>370,375</u>
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	194,466	102,837	297,303
Support costs	3,825	–	3,825
	<u>198,291</u>	<u>102,837</u>	<u>301,128</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020 (restated)
	£	£	£	£
Advancing the human rights of women and girls in England and Wales, as detailed in the objectives and activities on page 3	360,630	–	360,630	297,304
Governance costs	–	9,745	9,745	3,824
	<u>360,630</u>	<u>9,745</u>	<u>370,375</u>	<u>301,128</u>

9. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020 (restated)
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>1,634</u>	<u>291</u>

10. Auditors remuneration

	2021	2020 (restated)
	£	£
Fees payable for the audit of the financial statements	<u>8,400</u>	<u>–</u>

11. Independent examination fees

	2021	2020 (restated)
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	–	2,400
Other financial services	1,345	1,426
	<u>1,345</u>	<u>3,826</u>

12. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020 (restated)
	£	£
Wages and salaries	233,625	181,408
Social security costs	18,254	14,043
Employer contributions to pension plans	7,027	5,282
	<u>258,906</u>	<u>200,733</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2020: 7).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2020: Nil).

13. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020 (as restated)	2,910	–	2,910
Additions	–	5,372	5,372
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,910</u>	<u>5,372</u>	<u>8,282</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020 (as restated)	291	–	291
Charge for the year	291	1,343	1,634
At 31 March 2021	<u>582</u>	<u>1,343</u>	<u>1,925</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,328</u>	<u>4,029</u>	<u>6,357</u>
At 31 March 2020 (as restated)	<u>2,619</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>2,619</u>

15. Debtors

	2021	2020 (restated)
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	5,416	–
Amounts recoverable on ongoing cases	24,303	20,488
Other debtors	18,152	100,707
	<u>47,871</u>	<u>121,195</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020 (restated)
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	18,100	47,481
Social security and other taxes	12,031	7,544
Other creditors	1,411	978
	<u>31,542</u>	<u>56,003</u>

17. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £7,027 (2020: £5,282).

18. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 as previously stated	Prior year adjustments	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>30,353</u>	<u>9,363</u>	<u>284,160</u>	<u>(178,070)</u>	<u>145,806</u>

	At 1 April 2019	Prior year adjustments	Income (restated)	Expenditure (restated)	At 31 March 2020 (restated)
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>127,711</u>	<u>(19,122)</u>	<u>132,920</u>	<u>(201,793)</u>	<u>39,716</u>

18. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 as previously stated	Prior year adjustments	Income	Expenditure	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General restricted fund	–	–	–	–	–
Anonymous research project	10,416	–	5,500	(7,226)	8,690
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	44,779	(1,375)	–	(42,780)	624
Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation	14,636	–	–	(14,263)	373
Access to Justice Foundation	–	–	–	–	–
Garden Court Chambers Sexual assault fund (crowdjustice)	48,864	–	–	(19,580)	29,284
The Baring Foundation	–	50,000	–	(50,000)	–
ATJ Community Justice Fund	–	–	30,000	(26,101)	3,899
ATJ Funder Plus	–	–	5,400	(5,400)	–
Evan Cornish	–	–	4,993	(4,084)	909
Matrix Chambers	–	–	4,041	(2,786)	1,255
Olwyn	–	–	41,855	(5,600)	36,255
The Baring Foundation	–	–	30,000	–	30,000
Anon Donor - Criminalisation	–	–	7,783	(5,837)	1,946
The Big Give	–	–	10,883	(2,038)	8,845
	<u>122,695</u>	<u>48,625</u>	<u>144,455</u>	<u>(192,445)</u>	<u>123,330</u>

18. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2019 £	Prior year adjustments £	Income (restated) £	Expenditure (restated) £	At 31 March 2020 (restated) £
General restricted fund	62,389	(62,389)	–	–	–
Anonymous research project	–	15,543	5,500	(10,627)	10,416
Rosa UK - Advice and Support	–	44,589	61,016	(62,201)	43,404
Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation	–	–	14,636	–	14,636
Access to Justice Foundation	–	16,667	–	(16,667)	–
Garden Court Chambers Sexual assault fund (crowdjustice)	–	1,855	4,000	(1,855)	4,000
The Baring Foundation	–	–	60,351	(11,487)	48,864
ATJ Community Justice Fund	–	–	50,000	–	50,000
ATJ Funder Plus	–	–	–	–	–
Evan Cornish	–	–	–	–	–
Matrix Chambers	–	–	–	–	–
Olwyn	–	–	–	–	–
The Baring Foundation	–	–	–	–	–
Anon Donor - Criminalisation	–	–	–	–	–
The Big Give	–	–	–	–	–
	<u>62,389</u>	<u>16,265</u>	<u>195,503</u>	<u>(102,837)</u>	<u>171,320</u>

Anonymous research project

Research into the criminal justice system response to women who have killed their male abusers. Carried out in partnership with the campaign group Justice for Women.

Rosa UK - Advice and Support

Improving access to justice for women and girls throughout England and Wales by empowering the women's sector to recognise and challenge criminal justice failings and connect them to feminist lawyers.

Rosa UK Fund - Changing the conversation

To be a full and active member of the Justice and Equality Fund's 'Changing the Conversation' strategic communications network.

Access to Justice Foundation

Funding to contribute to staffing costs for assisting in coordinating and administering the CWJ legal reference panel and to facilitate its expansion by publicity and delivery of training sessions for panel members throughout England and Wales.

Garden Court Chambers

Funding for facilitating the lawyers reference panel and providing training for frontline organisations.

Sexual assault fund (crowdjustice)

Money raised through crowdfunding to judicially review the parole board decisions to release serial rapist, John Worboys. Due to a successful challenge, the remaining funds are to be used for paralegal costs to support other cases where women have suffered from violence and/or sexual assault.

The Baring Foundation

To bring together specialist lawyers, academics and other experts with those working on the frontline as activists, survivors and service providers (across England and Wales) to bring strategic law challenges and ensure access to justice for victims of male violence.

The Access to Justice Foundation

Community Justice Fund Support for specialist advice services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Access to Justice Foundation

Funder Plus programme to fund staff development and consultancy work.

Evan Cornish Foundation

Empowering the women's sector and their service users to fight injustice and protect their human rights in the North of England.

Matrix Chambers Causes Fund

Design and distribution of Women Who Kill research report.

The Olwyn Foundation

Challenging the unjust criminalisation of women and girls who offend due to domestic abuse, sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

The Baring Foundation - Covid-19 Response Fund

Supporting work to meet the increased need for legal assistance from women's sector organisations on issues relating to violence against women and girls.

Anonymous donor

Project challenging the long-term impact of sexual exploitation which results from women being criminalised in the context of the abuse they were subjected to.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2020

Project challenging the long-term impact of sexual exploitation which results from women being criminalised in the context of the abuse they were subjected to.

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,495	2,862	6,357
Current assets	173,853	120,468	294,321
Creditors less than 1 year	(31,542)	–	(31,542)
Net assets	<u>145,806</u>	<u>123,330</u>	<u>269,136</u>

	Unrestricted Funds (restated) £	Restricted Funds (restated) £	Total Funds 2020 (restated) £
Tangible fixed assets	2,619	–	2,619
Current assets	91,725	172,695	264,420
Creditors less than 1 year	(54,628)	(1,375)	(56,003)
Net assets	<u>39,716</u>	<u>171,320</u>	<u>211,036</u>

20. Prior year adjustments

Year ended 31 March 2021

Grant income of £50,000, which should have been recognised as received in the year ended 31 March 2020, was not included in the prior year financial statements as it wasn't physically re-received into the bank account at that date. Consultancy fees of £1,375, relating to the year ended 31 March 2020 but not paid until after, weren't accrued in the prior year financial statements. There was also no balance included in current assets relating to amounts recoverable on ongoing cases.

The 2020 figures have been restated, as per note 18. The effect of the opening balance journal is to increase restricted reserves by £48,625, as follows:

The Baring Foundation (grant income)	£50,000
Rosa UK - Advice and Support (consultancy fees)	<u>£(1,375)</u>
	<u>£48,625</u>

and to increase the brought forward unrestricted funds by £9,363 in relation to the amounts recoverable on ongoing cases. The net change in reserves is an increase of £57,988.

The restated debtor and creditor balances are £95,803 and £37,815 higher, respectively, than stated in the 2020 statutory accounts.

21. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 (restated) £
Not later than 1 year	32,897	30,399
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<u>169</u>	<u>31,245</u>
	<u>33,066</u>	<u>61,644</u>

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