

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172565

**ANSARI QADIRI RIFAI SUFI ORDER
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
31 March 2023**

ANSARI QADIRI RIFAI SUFI ORDER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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ANSARI QADIRI RIFAI SUFI ORDER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Trustees' Annual Report 31 March 2023

Reference and Administrative information

Registered charity name: Ansari Qadiri Rifai Sufi Order of the United Kingdom

Charity registration number: 1172565

Principal Office: 6 Sanderstead Close London
SW12 0AQ
England

Board of Trustees: Amina Jappie (Chair)
Sukainah Jauhar (Secretary)
Fadila Laloui (Treasurer)
Faghrie Jappie (Deputy Treasurer)
Rita Ali

Independent Examiner: Irfan Hussain BFP FCA
ASL Partners
14 Honister Gardens
Stanmore HA7 2EH
England

Banking: HSBC UK
Retail Unit 8,
38 Canada Place
Canary Wharf
London E14 5AH

Background

The Ansari Qadiri Rifai Sufi Order of the UK commonly referred as AQRT UK has been operating as an informal group since 2002 and was registered by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in April 2017 (registration number 1172565).

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The legal status of the charity is that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is subject to its governing document, the Constitution that took effect on the 12 April 2017.

Trustees

Management of the charity is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. The trustees come from diverse backgrounds, skills, expertise and experiences. The trustees board meet on a regular basis and between meetings communicate by emails.

Trustees are aware of their legal obligations under charity law, the aims and objectives of the charity, its governing frameworks, decision-making processes; strategic plans and financial performance etc.

In February 2023, there was a change in AQRT UK Board trustees, Reeyaz Goolamhossen stood down as a Board trustee. He was not replaced at this stage as AQRT UK Board trustees number remains above the minimum number requirement (three) as per AQRT UK Constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Any new trustees will be elected and co-opted by members at the annual general meeting in accordance with the Constitution. No new trustees were recruited during this period.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees will undergo orientation and will receive a trustee information pack and the opportunity to attend in-house and/or external training relevant to their roles.

Partnerships

During 2022/2023 AQRT UK continued to work with a range of partners including other faith groups, community groups and voluntary organisations. This included the West London Synagogue, the South London Interfaith Group (SLIG) and the Africa Advocacy Foundation (AAF). AQRT UK is also a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisation (NCVO).

AQRT UK has also a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Islamic Sufi Order of Qadiri Rifai Tariqa of the Americas a registered church in the United States.

Organisational structure and decision-making

The trustees are responsible for setting strategies and policies and ensuring that they are implemented.

Volunteers

AQRT UK recognises that volunteers play a key and integral part in service delivery. We have recruited 10 volunteers from within our membership including trustees. They have a diverse range of experience, skills and backgrounds in terms of professional backgrounds, culture and language. All our trustees are DBS checked and our other volunteers are currently always supervised by trustees and will be DBS checked when appropriate.

We aim to support our volunteers in their roles and receive regular feedback about their performance.

Risk Management

The main risk facing the charity is currently maintaining income at a sufficient level to carry out all the activities and services. In addition to the current policies in place, the trustees have reviewed and assessed the risks to which the charity may be exposed with particular reference to those relating to the operations and finances. The charity has set up a risk management strategy, which comprises:

An annual review of the risks the charity may face.

The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the review; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

In the meanwhile, the trustees remain satisfied that all insurable risks have been identified and adequately dealt with and that the charities exposure to other risks is kept at a minimum by good working practice by the trustees and volunteers.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The trustees are required to comply with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 and consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefits".

Our Charitable Objectives are:

1. To advance the religion of Islam, in particular Sufi practices and teachings, for public benefit, by organising regular prayer meetings, lectures, celebration of religious festivals and literature on Sufism to educate others about Islam and Sufism.
2. The promotion of religious harmony for the benefit of the public by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths through the organisation, participation and support of interfaith events and partnership activities within the United Kingdom.
3. The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or another disadvantage.

Our activities are consistent with national and local strategies and action plans to enhance religious harmony and relieve poverty. Our activities aim to promote equality and diversity, wellbeing and social outcomes and the independence of service users. We are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from harm and isolation. We work to empower and encourage our service users to actively participate in activities and processes that improve their circumstances and positively contribute to their communities.

Achievements and performance

The post COVID-19 pandemic effects have continued to have a significant impact on many charities and AQRT UK is still facing major challenges and restrictions in continuing to deliver our charitable objectives. Although, AQRT UK reverted to holding its weekly onsite congregational zikrs (Sufi meditation) from October 2021, we were still providing a Zoom access. This enabled us to continue providing spiritual meditation, support and Sufi teachings and also offered support with mental wellbeing and social isolation and loneliness.

Overall, we provided services to more than 1,000 individuals through the following activities:

Congregational Zikr

AQRT UK board of Trustees decided to return to onsite weekly zikrs held at the Unitarian Essex Church on 4 October 2021. The format of the weekly zikr remained the same and was open to everyone who came in peace. A short talk on Sufism was given prior to each zikr. The topics covered a range of Sufi teachings. The onsite and online Tuesday zikr was advertised on Meetup and Eventbrite. We regularly had attendees from different faiths and no faith and also from abroad. Those present are welcome to participate or simply observe. After the meditation we pray for Love, Peace, Togetherness, Unity and Prosperity for all humanity. The additional weekly congregational zikr held online from Basildon (Essex) every Sunday continued. This zikr is advertised to all the murids only. From April 2021 to March 2023, the total number of attendees to our onsite and online was about 922 (435 men and 487 women).

Interfaith and Intra-faith work

Although the COVID restrictions in the UK ended in February 2022, there was still a continuing impact on AQRT UK's Interfaith and Intra-faith work particularly in the remainder of 2022. We continued to face restrictions in engaging in as many of our activities which involved face to face, group and Community based initiatives. However, we continued to mitigate the challenges by making use of Zoom and other online methods to continue to engage with Faith and Community Groups as well as focusing on rebuilding existing networks and to develop new contacts. The lead Trustee maintained involvement with NHS and Local Authority groups and Interfaith Networks such as the South London Interfaith Group.

Unfortunately, during 2022-2023, racism, religious intolerance has continued to negatively affect communities and recorded religious hate crime rose by 9 per cent in across the UK (Home Office 2023), with Muslim and Jewish communities experiencing 56 per cent of the offences. AQRT has continued to promote community cohesion and harmony thorough our activities which included challenging the dissemination of a negative and incorrect view of Islam, cultural and traditional practices and anti-Semitism. AQRT UK took part in joint discussion groups and activities aimed to combat and change these belief systems, help differentiate cultural practices from religious practices and promote Islam and Sufi teachings which promote Love, Peace and Togetherness. In this spirit of inclusiveness, we have tried to ensure we support religious harmony and mutual understanding and provide factual information to all interested people. We have continued to collaborate with other community and faith groups with whom we share common principles and aims, by trying to continue to maintain networks and links, and develop and share knowledge and respect for the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths.

A few examples are highlighted below:

- We have continued our active membership of the South London Interfaith Group (SLIFG)

which aims to promote harmony and joint working. In 2022 our representative on the group was elected to the steering committee which has led to closer collaboration and active involvement with the group and its activities. This included monthly interfaith dialogue meetings where we discussed important topical issues, aspects of our beliefs and behaviours from a multi-faith or intra-faith perspective.

AQRT was involved in the planning and delivery of SLIFG organized Faith Community events such as workshops, discussion groups, prayer circles, Eid and Ramadan, Iftar and other festivals. In particular we supported a range of events during Inter Faith Week 2022 which aimed to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities locally, celebrate the contribution which their members make to society; and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

- We have continued to maintain links with the West London Synagogue (WLS), however this has been largely on an informal basis and we look forward to expanding our input particularly with the Women's Group as conditions return to normality.
- AQRT UK continued to take part in the NHS London Clinical Commission Group (CCG) forum which looked at effective engagement methods with Faith and Community Groups to address, mis-information and barriers to accessing services. We took part in a number of targeted events to support this work. We were also involved in London Assembly briefings and with MOPAC (Mayor Office for Policing and Crime) initiatives such as Stand Up-reclaiming or identity as Muslim women.
- AQRT UK is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisation (NCVO) and during the year we have used their information and training services.

A few examples of Interfaith activities we were involved in, are highlighted below:

- AQRT UK was part of the Interfaith team at the Lambeth County Show and helped staff the Interfaith tent providing information and talking to the public.
- AQRT UK attended the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial event at the London Muslim Centre and a Jewish-Muslim workshop at the Muslim College.
- AQRT UK worked with Soul Connections where we disseminated information and took part in activities bringing people from different Faith backgrounds together to form friendships, organized group visits to places of interest and social activities such as community picnics.
- At a number of AQRT UK weekly congregational Zikr talks we explained and discussed a range of Sufi and Islamic beliefs aimed at dispelling misunderstanding to non-Muslim attendees.
- AQRT UK was invited again to join in the annual "Light up a Life" event at St John's Hospice in London. The event started with a multi-faith service at St John's Wood church, where AQRT UK performed a short zikr during the remembrance service and prayed for the deceased and the bereaved family members. We participated in a candle-lit procession to the St John's Hospice, where engaged in networking and discussion with other faith members and we forged new ties with other faith organisations.

Promotion of Islam and Sufism

The promotion of Sufism and Islam took place online and onsite the weekly congregational zikrs. This was delivered through talks followed by questions and answers before or after each zikr where principles, methodology, practices, stories and culture of Sufism are discussed and taught. Spiritual

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teaching by the AQRT UK chaplains was also provided on a one-to-one basis, as well as in depth phone calls to discuss Sufism. Further opportunities for contact, as well as email discussions come via social media. We also use our Inter Faith work as an opportunity to promote Islam and Sufism.

The spiritual head of our Sufi order Shaykh Taner Ansari and his wife Shaykha Muzeyyen Ansari were invited by AQRT UK to provide teaching in London in April and in November 2022. Shaykh Taner Ansari and Shaykha Muzeyyen Ansari led the Tuesday congregational zikrs In April and November 2022 during their stay in London which were attended by an average of 45 to 55 people from different faiths. Our spiritual leader and his wife also provided teaching to AQRT UK members as well as one to one consultations.

Every year AQRT UK usually organises a Sufi study trip under the leadership of the spiritual head of our Sufi order and his wife; unfortunately, this was not possible in 2022.

In addition, we have continued supporting isolated and ill students and members by regular phone contacts.

Support and Mentoring

Practical Help and Support

3 members gave intensive support for over 6 months to an elderly woman who was a regular participant of our weekly zikr for more than 12 years. She had a terminal illness, was living on her own with poor housing conditions and no family in the UK. She was very reluctant to seek support from statutory agencies and exhibited challenging behaviour due to her illness. Initially, our input consisted of frequent visits to her house, helping with practical issues such as shopping and meals etc. In addition, we provided information and encouragement for her to access support services, friendship and offered non-sectarian spiritual support (she was from a Greek Christian Orthodox background). As her illness progressed, we continued to visit her in hospital and nursing homes and on her death helped to organize her funeral.

Work to relieve poverty

Being a very small charity, this aspect of our charitable objectives post COVID-19 pandemic is still being impacted due to the loss of donation and also the availability of our volunteers. This is still an area which we aim to expand despite the COVID-19 pandemic that has negatively impacted our ability to fundraise and apply for funding. We have developed an emergency programme through which families and individuals experiencing hunger, poverty, homelessness and who need emergency support are provided with food and essential goods upon assessment. In 2022, AQRT UK made food donations to a food bank in Brixton and also, we collected and donated clothing to refugee groups including Ukrainian refugees.

We are committed to develop this work stream and we are attempting to attract funding and form partnerships with like-minded voluntary organisations who are already working in this field. This will include recruiting, training and placing our trained volunteers to support activities such as soup kitchens, foodbanks, drop-in centres, night shelters etc...

Our membership and trustees have diverse cultural backgrounds and include social workers, medical professionals, and Safeguarding consultants. We also have links to the Sufi and wider Muslim community. Consequently, we are able to respond quickly by providing support to address and meet urgent needs. We have experience of working in partnership including local Social

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Services and other voluntary sector organisations. We are currently restrained by limited funding and availability of volunteers.

Funding bids

During the year 2022-2023, AQRT UK made 5 funding bids including GLA and National Lottery as well as small charitable trusts related to projects aimed at empowering women from disadvantaged communities around overcoming barriers to accessing health services and reporting domestic violence and more generally workshops promoting better understanding between Faith communities.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in obtaining funding. As a small charity this means we are facing restrictions in our ability to develop and sustain our charitable work.

Future aims and objectives

Our charity objectives will continue to shape the trustees' future plans with a target to expand our activities especially on work to relief poverty. Being a very small charity with limited funding solely based on individual donations at this stage, we intend where possible to focus on partnership bids which will maximise resources by preventing duplication. However, the impact of the post COVID- 19 pandemic still presents major challenges both operationally and financially, as well as increasing the need for services as more people face poverty and isolation.

Financial review

AQRT UK had total receipts of £18,813 as shown on the Receipts and Payments Accounts. For the year ended 31 March 2023, there were net payments of £1,804 (2022: net receipts £998).

All AQRT UK assets are held for the furtherance of its objectives and are adequate and sufficient to meet its objectives. AQRT UK did apply for grants during the year ended 31 March 2023 but was unsuccessful. AQRT UK does not employ any staff and trustees do not receive any remuneration. Trustees and volunteers can receive reasonable travel allowance subsistence cost.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve policy of the organisation annually. Their decision on the level of the reserve depends on the level of the unrestricted funds available. For this year, they decided that the current level of reserve should be maintained at least at a level equivalent to approximately three months' expenditure (excluding the collection and distribution of Zakat, Fidyah, ninety percent of tithing and our community activities and programme). The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of any significant drop in the organisation's funding, they will be able to continue AQRT UK's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

This leaves free reserve at 31 March 2023 of £1,353 which is equal to around 15 months average expenditure during the year ended 31 March 2023.

Principal funding sources

The current Charity's main source of income is through individual donations, donations at zikr, zakat, fidya and ten percent on each tithing collected by members.

The total amount donated at Zikr was £1,975.

Restriction on funds

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Restricted income includes ninety percent tithing payable to the Islamic Sufi Order of Qadiri Rifai Tariqa of the Americas based in New York, USA, linked to the teaching, training, spiritual development and individual support provided to the Charity's members.

Restricted income includes zakat and fidya and these funds are to be used solely for the relief of need, financial hardship and for AQRT UK activities.

Investment Policy

There are no restrictions on the Charity's power to invest but as we do not have available funds to make investments this is not an immediate issue for us.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Receipts and Payments Accounts ("financial statements") in accordance with applicable law and receipts and payments accounting.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the receipts and payments of the charity for that period.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

The trustees' annual report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 January 2024 and signed on its behalf of:



Amina Jappie

Chair of the Ansari Qadiri Sufi Order of the UK

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**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Ansari Qadiri Rifai Sufi Order Of The United Kingdom

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1172565

Set out on pages

10 - 11

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Irfan Hussain BFP FCA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales


Address:

14 Honister Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 2EH

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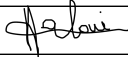
Year ended 31 March 2023

	ANSARI QADIRI RIFAI SUFI ORDER OF THE		1172565		CC16a
	UNITED KINGDOM				
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01-Apr-22	To	Period end date 31-Mar-23	
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	6,025	-	-	6,025	1,861
Tithing	1,168	10,508	-	11,675	10,619
Zakaat and Fidya	-	1,112	-	1,112	20
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,193	11,620	-	18,813	12,500
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,193	11,620	-	18,813	12,500
A3 Payments					
Premises rent	1,674	-	-	1,674	360
Teaching program	3,446	-	-	3,446	2,458
Bank charges	279	-	-	279	172
General expenses	826	-	-	826	712
Zakaat and Fidya	-	1,992	-	1,992	-
Tithing paid	-	12,400	-	12,400	7,800
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,225	14,392	-	20,616	11,502
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,225	14,392	-	20,616	11,502
Net of receipts/(payments)	968	- 2,772	-	- 1,804	998
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	662	5,357	-	6,019	5,021
Cash funds this year end	1,630	2,586	-	4,216	6,019

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Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	1,630	2,586	-
				-
	Total cash funds	1,630	2,586	-
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent examiner's fee	Unrestricted	600	02 January 2024
			-	
			-	
Notes to the accounts				
(i) Under a signed agreement, 90% of tithing received by the charity is payable to a related organisation, Islamic Sufi Order of Qadiri Rifai Tariqa of the Americas based in New York, USA. During the year £12400 was paid to Islamic Sufi Order of Qadiri Rifai Tariqa of the Americas (2022: £7800). A balance of £525 (2022: £2417) remained payable at the year end.				
(ii) The Spiritual Head of both the charity and the Islamic Sufi Order of Qadiri Rifai Tariqa of the Americas, Shaykh Taner Ansari and his wife Shaykha Muzzeyen Ansari, delivered Sufi training programs and consultancy during the year and were paid £4938 (2022: £1838).				
(iii) A Trustee, Sayyed Goolamhossen, was paid £226 for reimbursement of expenses paid on behalf of the charity.				
(iv) There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.				
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Fadila Laloui	28 January 2024	