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# Reports And Accounts For The Year Ended 31/12/21

## Migrant Empowerment Group (MEG)

### MEG Trustees:

Alvine Dongmo-Noumey (Chair)

Nadia Harushimana (Secretary)

Alex Kamgaing Kamguia (Treasurer)

### Advisers:

Dr Femi Obatomi

### Executive Director:

Alvine Dongmo-Noumey (Project Manager)

The trustees present their annual reports and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2021. The trustees confirm that the reports and the financial statement comply fully with the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the charities act 2006, the Migrant Empowerment Group's constitution and the charities SORP 2005.

### **Key Aim:**

The Migrant Empowerment Group was founded by a former asylum seeker in July 2013, in Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands. The Migrant Empowerment Group's constitution is her approved governing document. This document states clearly that the sole aim of our charity is to prevent or relieve poverty among migrant in the United Kingdom, especially for those seeking refuge and asylum. Our main focus is to help migrant integrate within their communities in the West Midlands. Our range of services enable migrants to seek better health, education, employment, family life and also to adapt quickly to multicultural life in the United Kingdom. MEG also aims to reduce negative stereotypes and break down barriers within local communities

**Organizational Structure:**

The overall responsibility for the management of the charity rest upon the trustees as a body. This group of trustees constitute the board of trustees which is led by the chairman of the board. There is no fixed term of service for a trustees. All trustees are appointed and removed at the beginning of the year by the existing trustees at their first meeting for that year based on a majority decision. The chairman of the board of trustees is not appointed by the election of the trustees, but shall serve in an ex officio capacity as the executive director and project manager of the charity. At least half of the number of trustees are required to form a quorum for a valid meeting to be held, however, the chair can waive the requirement for a quorum in order to hold emergency meetings.

The project manager who is also, an executive director and chair of the board of trustees is responsible for the day to day running of the charity. She works with a number of trained volunteers to deliver the services to the users. Her roles includes planning, organizing and coordinating the service delivery process. The project manager reports to the board as a group.

**Achievements and Performance**

Throughout the year our activities have been guided by our commitment to fulfill the objective of alleviating poverty among those seeking refuge and asylum. The beneficiaries of our projects constitutes a significant proportion of the BAME group who have been the hardest hit financially by the Covid pandemic. This group who are already facing difficulty financial choices have been further pressed by the Covid pandemic.

During the year under review, there was a steady increase in the use of our service throughout Wolverhampton and West Midlands. Our strength comes from our staff, volunteers and supporters commitment, time and donations.

The rising number of trained volunteer (Befrienders) has helped us to meet the continuous demand for our services; this year we have seen a marked increase in the number of referrals. During 2021, a total of 3378 people received a service from Migrant Empowerment Group (MEG) representing an average of 65 people supported per week.

Sewing projects remain at the core of our services during the year 2021. The majority of our service users again fall within the 18 – 70 age bracket, all of our service users came from in and around Wolverhampton: 55% Black Africans; 12% white British & Caucasian ; 20% Asians & Middle Easterners and 13% Eastern Europeans. As usual, asylum seekers and refugees make up the biggest number, 63% for the year 2021.

This year our befriending sewing service has continued to offer a free and culturally sensitive listening ear, support, friendship and understanding at a time when most women are vulnerable and isolated across Wolverhampton. Our befrienders sewing group continued to carry out weekly telephone and zoom conversations in order to ensure uninterrupted delivery of our programs. During the year 2021 MEG distributed 250 Tablets, 30 Laptops and 45 Sewing Machines to most vulnerable people in the community to access our services.

Access to food and basic necessities was one of the main issues that our service users faced during these unprecedented times. MEG quickly responded by setting up a local food bank which provides food parcels to families facing food shortages in and around Wolverhampton. A significant proportion of our service users who lost their jobs during the pandemic had to rely on our food parcel to survive the pandemic. This project is ongoing and we hope to make a permanent feature of our services.

During 2021, MEG improved and enhanced its therapeutic service to provide a holistic outlook on the wellbeing of people who are experiencing the devastating and damaging consequences of domestic violence and abuse. We worked hard to ensure a seamless transition to ongoing support within the organization, especially for women who are suffering isolation without knowing who to turn to, or how and where to seek help. A total of 624 women accessed the domestic violence service with 110 women receiving a one on one domestic violence counseling support sessions. Our domestic violence outreach volunteers provided crisis intervention responses to 187 individuals, in relation to 315 incidents. The team met, engaged and advocated for 500 people within the community in the form of 1-2-1 sessions and outreach surgeries as well as completing 105 safety plans for people who are not ready to engage with support services.

### Financial Review

During the year under consideration, our charity received a total of 74,405, a bulk of this amount represents donation from individual members, volunteers and the general public. The magnanimity of the public was on full display. There was a strong desire to be there for one another and to share with those in need. The community spirit rose with full force like we have never seen. Our activities were mainly funded by contributions from individuals. We also received some grant support from some external organizations. For the year under review we recorded an excess of income over expenditure of £750 and a closing bank /cash balance of £1439. There was no significant financial risk associated with running the charity. However, all risk have been assessed and policies have been put in place to mitigate and avert all risk.



### Conclusion:

For the year 2021 we are seeing the pandemic beginning to lose its grip a bit and the mass covid vaccination programme beginning to show positive signs. We at MEG its more of a post covid review and lessons learnt during the pandemic. We are starting to back slowing to our pre pandemic era programmes. We are also starting in person programmes and cutting down on online programmes. Its also been exciting meeting most of our service users in person and getting the opportunity to hear their

experiences during the pandemic. Our commitment to set goals remain intact and we look forward to doing more for the refugee and other vulnerable communities

We want to thank our trustees, volunteers, donors, members, other benefactors, beneficiaries and the public at large for all your support and goodwill towards MEG. Without you we could not have achieved anything this year. We did it together and hopefully next year we shall do better.

Alvine Dongmo-Noumey (Chair)  
60 Ecclestone Road, Wolverhampton  
WV11 2QB

Alex Morel Kamguia (Treasurer)  
14 Mount Street  
Mansfield  
NG19 7AS

**MIGRANT EMPOWERMENT GROUP**  
**CHARITY NUMBER 1183705**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

<b>DETAILS</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
		<b>31/12/21</b>	<b>31/12/20</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>			
Grants	Notes 1	8,450.00	6,550.00
Membership Fees		2,100.00	1,060.00
Donations	Notes 2	46,705.00	43,548.00
Fundraising Events	Notes 3	17,150.00	20,107.00
<b>Total Receipts For The Period</b>		<b>74,405.00</b>	<b>71,265.00</b>
<b>Payments:</b>			
Allowances	Notes 4	5,755.00	5,482.00
Travelling & Transport		1,480.00	1,350.00
Training & Development	Notes 5	3,100.00	2,780.00
Equipment	Notes 6	31,000.00	25,600.00
Repairs		544.00	544.00
Refreshments		940.00	1,220.00
Foodbank	Notes 7	12,880.00	15,302.00
Publicity		1,220.00	1,220.00
Utilities		705.00	705.00
Rent		1,700.00	1,605.00
Workshops	Notes 8	2,501.00	2,540.00
Donations		900.00	1,405.00
Lodging & Hotels		650.00	700.00
Furniture & Fittings		2,600.00	2,600.00
Printing & Stationery		810.00	810.00
Audio Visual Expenses	Notes 9	2,840.00	3,670.00
Decorations		900.00	600.00
Miscellaneous		780.00	780.00
Fabric materials		2,350.00	1,750.00
<b>Total Payments For The Period</b>		<b>73,655.00</b>	<b>70,663.00</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts Over Payments</b>		<b>750.00</b>	<b>602.00</b>
<b>Opening Cash Balance As At 1st January, 2021</b>		<b>689.00</b>	<b>87.00</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance As At 31st December, 2021</b>		<b>1,439.00</b>	<b>689.00</b>

This account have been approved by The Migrant Empowerment Group board of trustees on the 01 March 2022

Miss Alvine Dongmo-Noumey  
 ( Board Chair)

Alex Morel Kamguia  
 (Treasurer)

**MIGRANT EMPOWERMENT GROUP**  
**CHARITY NUMBER 1183705**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSET AND LIABILITY AS 31/12/2020**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	<b>31/12/21</b>	<b>31/12/20</b>
Cash & Bank Balances	1,439.00	689.00
Equipment For Distribution( Sewing Machine, tablets, etc)	4,750.00	2,050.00
Furniture & Fittings	3,100.00	3,100.00
Audio Visual Equipment	4,230.00	4,230.00

This account have been approved by The Migrant Empowerment Group board of trustees  
on the 01 March 2021

Miss Alvine Dongmo-Noumey  
( Board Chair)

Alex Morel Kamguia  
(Treasurer)

**MIGRANT EMPOWERMENT GROUP**  
**CHARITY NUMBER 1183705**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2021**

**Notes 1:** The total grants comprises amounts received from Geoff Charitable Trust, Gimmitt Trust, Roger Vere etc for specific projects during the period under review.

**Notes 2:** The Donations represents contribution from private individuals in the community both in cash and kind. A significant proportion went into supporting people who had been hard hit financially by the pandemic.

**Notes 3:** Our fundraising events yielded the sum reported during the year.  
Our cultural and fashion shows received a wide support and patronage within the city

**Notes 4:** This represents mainly payments made to volunteers who run the foodbank projects during the pandemic.

**Notes 5:** This amount consists of in house monthly online training to equip volunteers to be able support service users during the pandemic

**Notes 6:** This represents the cost of sewing machines, kids sewing kits, tablets, laptops etc which we purchased and distributed as part of our on going projects

**Notes 7:** Because of the pandemic we divested some of our resources to support minorities who had been hard hit financially. The amount represents food parcels and other items distributed during the period under review.

**Notes 8:** During the year under review we had workshop sessions for volunteers and trustees. The amount represents payments to facilitators, refreshments and other related costs

**Notes 9:** The cost invested in equipment used in house for meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences etc

This account has been approved by The Migrant Empowerment Group board of trustees on the 01 March 2021

Miss Alvine Dongmo-Noumey  
( Board Chair)

Alex Morel Kamguia  
(Treasurer)

## **THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MIGRANT EMPOWERMENT GROUP.**

I report on the financial Statements and the accompanying notes of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021

### **THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustee considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

1. Examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

### **BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

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

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
  - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Kenneth Mensah (MSc)      20/04/2022  
1 Dulverton Gove,  
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