

# THE VAVENGERS

England & Wales · Charity number 1184202

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-07-01

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** The Vavengers Headquarters  
59-60 Cornhill House  
First Floor  
London  
United Kingdom  
EC3V 3PD

**Phone** 07983745963

**Email** [info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk)

**Website** <https://www.thevavengers.co.uk/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** (A) TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SURVIVORS OF, AND PEOPLE AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY PROVIDING ADVICE, SUPPORT SERVICES, OUTREACH HUBS AND NETWORK GROUPS TO AND FOR SUCH INDIVIDUALS;(B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY(I) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE,(II) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS CENTRED ON RAISING AWARENESS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND(III) PROVIDING TRAINING, EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL IN THAT REGARD TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BUSINESSES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS), CHARITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS; AND(C) TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN RELATION TO SURVIVORS OF, OR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY(I) THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF BEING A SURVIVOR OF, OR AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE,(II) ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY,(III) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS,(IV) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND PUBLISHING THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC,(V) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, AND(VI) PROMOTING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND MIGRANTS.

**Activities:** The Vavengers is a charity committed to ending Violence Against Women and Girls. We connect, campaign and convene. We are a survivor and women-led organisation, standing with and for every woman and girl who has been subjected to or at risk of Gender-Based Violence.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-04	£633,832	£667,480	£31,489	5
2024-04-04	£361,838	£356,185	-	-
2023-04-04	£323,376	£287,109	-	-
2022-04-04	£83,642	£88,207	-	-
2021-04-04	£81,488	£63,338	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Frederick Thomas Ingham Clark		2023-07-14
Milosz Mieszko Palej		2022-08-25
Naimah Abdullahi Hassan		2024-12-02
Rachel Louise Cullen		2025-10-09
Sahrish Iftikhar		2025-10-09
Sara Samra		2025-10-09

**THE VAVENGERS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1184202

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# Accounts

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**THE VAVENGERS**

# Annual Review and Financial Statements 2024/25

*When women and girls rise, we all thrive. ©*

*The Vavengers; we campaign, convene and connect to end Gender-Based Violence.*

[www.thevavengers.co.uk](http://www.thevavengers.co.uk) | [info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk)



# Structure, Governance and Management

Board of Trustees as of submission date *February 2026*

<b>Co-Chair and Trustee:</b>	Naimah Abdullahi Hassan	<i>Serving as a Trustee since</i> December 2024
<b>Co-Chair and Trustee:</b>	Rachel Louise Cullen	October 2025
<b>Trustee:</b>	Frederick Thomas Ingham Clark	July 2023
<b>Trustee:</b>	Milosz Mieszko Palej	August 2022
<b>Trustee:</b>	Sara Samra	October 2025
<b>Trustee:</b>	Sahrish Iftikhar	October 2025

Trustees during the financial year *April 2024/April 2025*

	<i>Served as a Trustee from</i>
Hodan Ali Warsame	November 2021 to May 2024
Najmo Fiyasko	January 2022 to November 2024
Rose Violet Bonham Carter	June 2022 to December 2024
Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali	January 2022 to February 2025
Mabel Marie Evans	November 2021 to May 2025
Yasmin Fatemeh Pakzad	February 2025 to November 2025

	<i>Serving since</i>	
<b>Chief Executive Officer:</b>	Sema Gornall	October 2021

The Vavengers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales, registered in July 2019.

**Registration Number:** 1184202

**Registration Address:** The Vavengers HQ, 59 Cornhill House, First Floor, London EC3V 3PD, UK

*Contact us at:*

info@thevavengers.co.uk & www.thevavengers.co.uk

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# Foreword

“These are challenging times, particularly for women and girls both nationally and around the world. Funding keeps shrinking for our sector while anti-rights movements continue to rise. Despite all the challenges we have faced, as a survivor and women-led movement, we know what it means for organisations like The Vavengers not only to be present but to continue campaigning against violence, and to do so more strongly than ever. This year has taken its toll on us like any other organisation in this important space and our monetary income dropped significantly. We watched many crucial organisations close their doors due to complete funding cuts and demand increased for our services with no extra financial resources available to us. This is why I am so proud of our gift in kind power. When we were saying goodbye to our incredible partners, hearing how much more the communities need us, all while working to navigate our own survival, our corporate partners stepped in and stepped up. We have understood the meaning of allyship by all the companies pouring in pro bono of services and goods donations and our communities also witnessed how much care there is for vulnerable women and children, despite what it feels like a global turmoil.

We communicated the challenges we were facing and I am proud to announce the biggest ‘yet’ gift in kind we ever received in this incredibly concerning landscape. We welcomed £490,346.66 of gift in kind this year and mobilised lifeline support for our communities, built evidence through one of a kind research and continued campaigning loud and clear. We also convened hundreds of partners through safe spaces hosted at law firms, the UN, UK government departments and in our own home in City of London. We continued providing survivor leadership and wellbeing workshops to our ambassadors and the number of volunteers and ambassadors went up in solidarity with our organisation’s need.

I am proud to be a Vavenger and I am proud to stand by this powerful organisation in the in the most challenging times. So long as there is allyship and survivor leadership - we are not going anywhere. A deep gratitude also to our funders who chose to fund us and acknowledged the importance of our work. I hope our friends and partners will continue to support us while we navigate these uncertain times.”

*- Sema Gornall*  
Chief Executive Officer

# Annual Statement

“We are proud to provide guidance and strong governance to the Vavengers as it continues its vital work connecting, convening and campaigning, and providing a safe space to communities, activists and survivor leaders. While navigating financial challenges, we welcomed new gift in kind partners and continued receiving support from our existing supporters. As the staff team reduced, the Board has strengthened its support to the CEO while making significant changes to improve our governance so that The Vavengers not only survives but remains a beacon of hope and support system for women and children affected by FGM and all forms of violence against women and girls

We reviewed our skills at a board level and stepped into maturity as an organisation with a new strategy reflecting the challenges of today. We welcomed new board members and advisors, so we are fit to navigate the current funding and advocacy landscape. We will continue onboarding more leadership to help guide our brilliant team while also providing essential support to our leadership. We would like to share our sincere gratitude to our Chief Executive Officer Sema Gornall, our ambassadors and volunteers for being brave, bold and persevering during immensely challenging times for the sector and our organisation. Their hard work, vision and leadership, is the reason this movement continues to thrive. . We are also grateful to advisors for stepping in to help guide the trustees and to give us more confidence and support in the work that we do. A recognition also extends to our Patrons Baroness Rosie Boycott and Sir Max Hill KCB KC who both provided above and beyond support and visibility to our charity. We would also like to thank our Co-founders Hoda Ali and Mabel Evans. We are grateful to them for creating The Vavengers and providing a decade of service in various capacities to The Vavengers.

We are stepping into a mature phase while marking our 10th anniversary and we feel proud to be part of a resilient and important movement.”

*- The Board of Trustees*





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# Connect

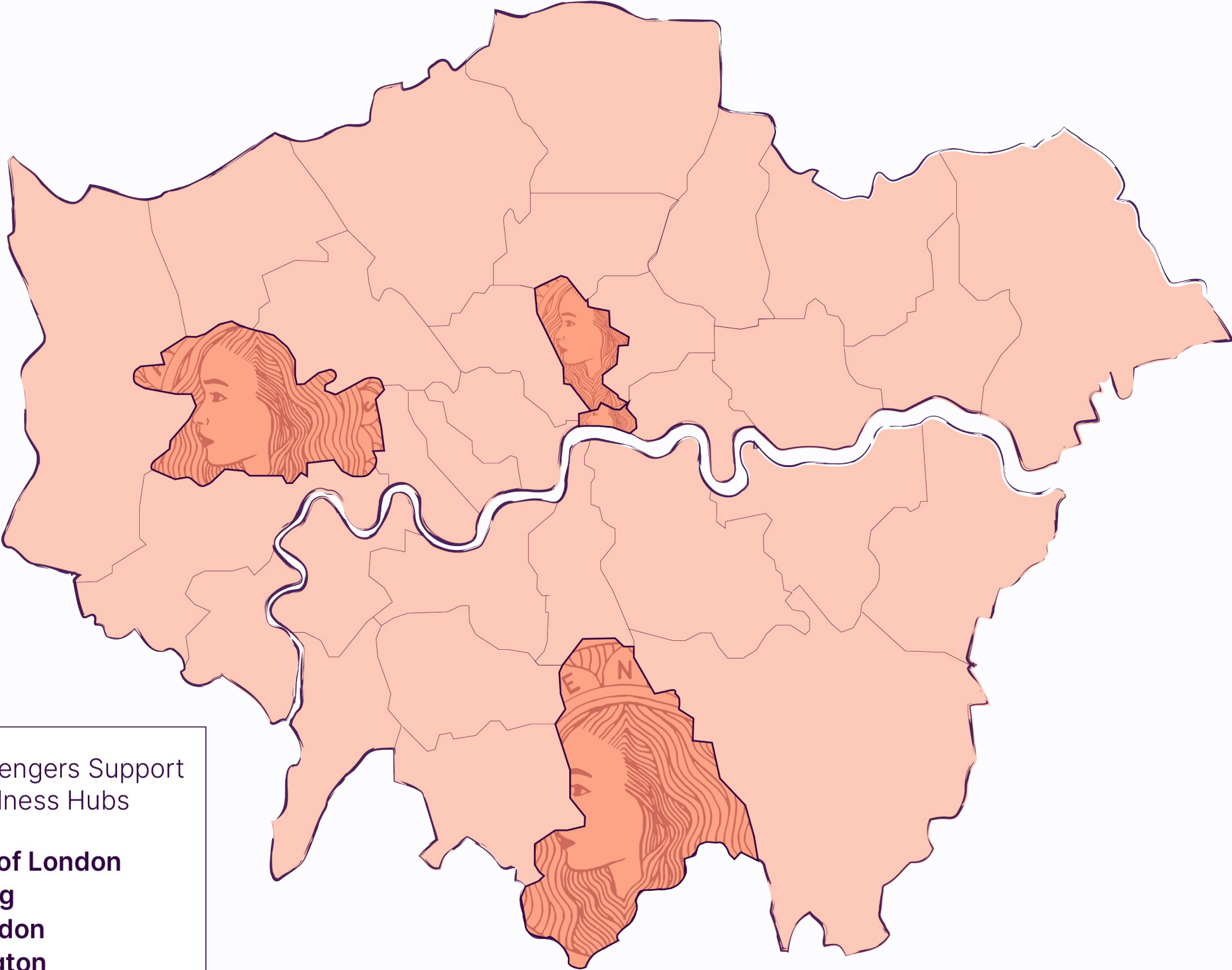


# Support & Wellness Hubs for Women and Girls & Survivor Support

We hosted hubs in Croydon, Islington, and Ealing offered a monthly support & wellness safe spaces online throughout the year to our community, which allowed us to have a nationwide reach.

Our community also had access to referral services, including free legal representation on any matter, housing support, access to mental health care, referrals to physical health care, and practical support such as clothing, furniture, food, children’s essential supplies, toys, period products, self-care items such as make-up, essential supplies, hair products, work clothes and more.

We also continued offering ongoing safe spaces and development workshops, such as media training, leadership, and public engagement courses for activists and survivors in our City of London hub on a monthly basis.



 The Vavengers Support and Wellness Hubs

 1. **City of London**

2. **Ealing**

3. **Croydon**

4. **Islington**

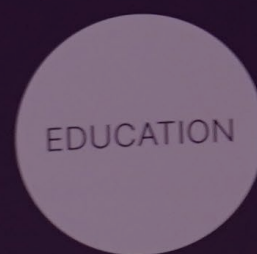


@thevavengers



We are a survivor-led organisation standing with and for every woman subjected to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Violence Against Women and Girls.

We will help end it together.



*10 years of campaigning, convening and connecting to end Gender-Based Violence.*

# My Body, My Book Club

We celebrated the first anniversary of our book club!

'My Body, My Book Club' was created by our Outreach Supporter, Dr Julia Martins, to connect people and create communities while discussing important issues we work to end, including but not limited to Gender-Based Violence, Racism, Displacement, and Sexism. Each book club raises small contributions by attendees, and the donations are sent to partner grassroots movements supporting women and girls in diverse ways.

We are proud to see this safe space continue online and in person with Julia's incredible leadership. Each month, an important subject continues to be discussed through various feminist books.

[mybodymybookclub.com](https://mybodymybookclub.com)



# Campaign & Convene

Government, Civil Society and Public Engagement



## 10 Year of The Vavengers Milestone Celebration Convening | July 2024

We marked our 10th anniversary with an impressive convening. The Vavengers has been working to end Gender-Based Violence since we were founded in 2014 and we convened partners from government, civil society and community to celebrate our collective achievements. The convening was co-hosted by the Crown Prosecution Service and represented a safe space to talk about how we can continue to serve communities while closing systemic issue gaps. With survivors, grassroots activists and creatives sharing tables with the Metropolitan Police, Home Office, MOPAC, corporate lawyers, prosecutors, and other social organisations, we left feeling full of hope and ready for more action.

## The Vavengers wins RMNI Love Award by Rimi Street | July 2024

We were delighted to receive the support of Rimi Street through RMNI Love Award. We made no secret of the fact this year as with all women and girls specialist charities we are struggling to raise funds as grants and individual giving were redirected or halted due to new global wars. At challenging times like this, it's important that for-profit businesses step in to address the funding gap our sector faces as so often the women and girls are the first to be affected at times of crisis. RMNI Love Award recognised our advocacy and direct support work by selecting us as one of their annual winners. The international award also came with a £10,000 unrestricted donation.



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## ■ The Vavengers is at the UN General Assembly 79th Session & Summit of the Future | September 2024

More than 100 world leaders, thousands of diplomats and advocates including The Vavengers came together at UNHQ in New York to join the 79th United Nations General Assembly debate. The summit saw statements delivered to tackle global challenges centered around 21st-century world issues. The theme for the general debate of the 79th session of the General Assembly was “Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations”. The Vavengers took part in important convenings and meetings to discuss global health & legal landscape facing survivors of Gender-Based Violence. We created safe spaces for activists taking part in lived experience conversations, focused on survivor-leadership work in partnership with organisations such as Orchid Project.

## ■ Stirred and The Vavengers partnership work wins the Communique awards | October 2024

We were honoured our partnership work with Stirred Health; a healthcare communications business that provided pro bono work to support our advocacy work was recognised by the Communique awards. We won the category of ‘Excellence in Pro Bono Working Award sponsored by The Green Square and Passion Partnership’.



## Celebrating 10th anniversary of the Girl Summit in partnership with The Girl Generation and Latham & Watkins LLP | October 2024

Co-hosted with The Girl Generation, the convening brought together partners from civil society, government and community to celebrate the 10th anniversary of The Girl Summit on the International Day of Girl Child. We welcomed speakers from The Girl Generation, The Vavengers, Crown Prosecution Service, FCDO, Orchid Project, African Women's Rights Advocates and the Africa-Led Movement to end FGM. We were hosted by one of our long-term corporate partners Latham & Watkins LLP at their London offices.

## Corporate & Civil Society Convening co-hosted with King & Spalding | October 2024

We co-hosted a convening in partnership with King & Spalding at K&S London offices to discuss how we can close the data gap facing the FGM issue. The convening welcomed survivor leaders, activists and NGOs from human rights sector and corporate and government partners. This significant convening then opened up a dialogue where we commissioned the world's first health & legal landscape report on FGM for Wilmer Hale and King & Spalding to deliver as co-counsels.

# Ethics in modern slavery research

Review of the current landscape  
and evaluation of research  
ethics appropriateness

December 2024

## **The Vavengers contributes to 'Ethics in Researches on Modern Slavery' a review of the current landscape and evaluation of research ethics appropriateness | December 2024**

Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre led by the University of Oxford led this research which was carried out by the University of Liverpool and the University of Nottingham to examine the current landscape and evaluate research ethics and appropriateness of ethics in research on modern slavery. With our CEO Sema Gornall taking part as an advocacy expert stakeholder consultant to this important research, The Vavengers proudly contributed to this report and fed in the lived experiences of our communities and how intersectional modern slavery is with other forms of violence and why these extreme vulnerabilities must be considered in the research field while conducting research.

Source and full report:

<https://www.modernslaverypec.org/resources/ethics-in-modern-slavery-research>



## FCDO, Ministry of Justice and Home Office special roundtable to mark 16 Days of Activism | December 2024

In December 2025, FCDO, Ministry of Justice and the Home Office held a special ministerial roundtable with advocates to mark the 16 days of activism on violence against women and girls (VAWG). The agenda was about the violence women and girl children are facing all over the world and why no country or context is immune. Our CEO Sema Gornall was part of the roundtable and she highlighted global issues facing women and girls including the intersectionality of Gender-Based Violence with war, poverty and racial injustice. Our CEO was joined at this roundtable by Anneliese Dodds, Minister for Development and Women & Equalities, Alex Davies-Jones, Minister for Victims and VAWG, Jess Phillips, Minister for Safeguarding and VAWG, Sharon Gaffka, spiking campaigner, Rehema Muthamia, Solace Women's Aid ambassador, Jess Davies, online misogyny campaigner, Nour Norris - domestic abuse campaigner, and Halimot Ogunnaike, anti- FGM & human trafficking campaigner.



■ **Capacity building workshop in Kenya at survivor-leadership & frontline conference hosted by AWRA to mark 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence | November 2024**

We were delighted to be part of African Women Right’s Advocates-organised convening in Nairobi, Kenya with dozens of delegates from East & West Africa and community-based global movement leaders. While we enjoyed hearing from frontline experts in Africa on ongoing work to end FGM and intersecting violence, we were also honoured to deliver a capacity building workshop in partnership with AWRA on the final day of the conference. It’s moments like these we see the impact of our partnership with aligned organisations.

■ **IOPC x Vavengers workshop for frontline organisations to improve policing | January 2025**

IOPC and Vavengers launched a new partnership through a launch convening hosted at IOPC office in London. We brought together activists, survivor leaders and frontline professionals to discuss VAWG landscape in Greater London and the UK and how can policing services be improved. A report was drafted as a result of this day with important discussions and valuable survivor-led feedback which is due to be released to public in 2026.



## Zero tolerance for FGM convening with TGG, AWRA, Home Office | February 2025

Continuing on our public & private partnerships, we brought together law firms, UK government representatives, civil society and community members with our partners The Girl Generation and African Women's Rights Advocates. The convening discussed ongoing work to end FGM and why FGM must be tackled with intersectional approach. Survivor-led narrative and data poverty were key subjects of the day.

## Wellbeing retreat for survivor activists, welcoming our fifty ambassadors to our safe space | February 2025

As a survivor and women-led movement, we created a safe space at this annual retreat. The day included trauma informed workshops both in a group and one to one settings, a safe resting space and a community workshop in a fully funded day for activists.

We are also proud to have continued our support for our fifty ambassadors throughout the year by providing quarterly wellness opportunities to improve their wellbeing.



## ■ The Vavengers at the ministerial roundtable at FCDO to mark International Zero Tolerance for FGM Day | February 2025

Hosted by Annalisa Dodds MP, we joined a ministerial roundtable at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office in London. The high-level meeting welcomed activists and NGOs from around the world working on ending FGM within the FCDO portfolio. The Vavengers talked about our global report on health and legal disparities on ending FGM movement and asked for the UK to address challenges facing survivors and those at risk of FGM within the UK context as well as continuous funding to end Gender-Based Violence globally.



## ■ New York and DC: Marking CSW69 - Mapping out global healthcare and legal disparities facing survivors of FGM | March 2025

We convened hundreds of legal, NGO, health and government representatives in New York and Washington DC during United Nation's Commission on Status of Women 69th session. We soft launched our global health & legal report with data to date and launched the commission of financial report on FGM.

# Welcoming our second Patron, *Sir Max Hill KCB KC*

**We are proud to announce Sir Max Hill KC as the second ever Patron to The Vavengers.**

Joining the Patron's circle alongside Baroness Rosie Boycott, Sir Max brings years of public service experience as well as a significant legal pro-bono workforce to the organisation. As former Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) between 2018 and 2023 and a prominent legal leader, he is invaluable in helping us increase national visibility while also guiding us with his tremendous legal expertise. Sir Max has been an ally in the anti-FGM space, most notably known for his leadership efforts for CPS to increase prosecutions of sexual violence. The first ever successful convictions on FGM was during his time as DPP at the CPS despite the law existing since 1985.



"We welcome this appointment with great excitement as Max's allyship is extremely critical to our women-led movement. Max will add immense value to our leadership with both his contribution to our legal campaigning power and global advocacy outreach."  
- Sema Gornall, CEO



**Sir Max Hill**  
Patron, The Vavengers



“  
Sir Max Hill Said:  
"I recently joined this exceptional charity as their Patron, in order to support this brilliant female, migrant and survivor-led organisation working to end Gender-Based Violence through highly impactful convening, campaigning and direct support work. Both women and men need to step forward, combining with the extraordinary people at The Vavengers to provide positive representation and active allyship to end GBV.  
With literally millions of women and girls at risk of Female Genital Mutilation every year, and with a significant number of those women and girls living amongst us in London and across the UK, it is time to declare our support. This is why I joined this movement as a Patron, offering my expertise and allyship."

#politicslondon



**Sema Gornall**  
CEO, The Vavengers

# Media Coverage



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**Payzee Mahmood**



#politicslondon

**Sir Max Hill**  
Patron, The Vavengers

CAMPAIGN



**CHILD MARRIAGE**

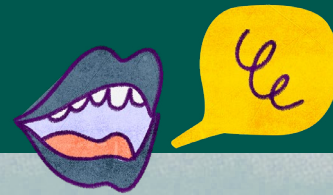
**THE VAVENGERS**

# Campaign: Media Coverage

1



BBC Politics London covers The Gambia's FGM ban reversal debate with The Vavengers.



3



Third prosecution in England and Wales on FGM/C secured; first prosecution on conspiracy.

2

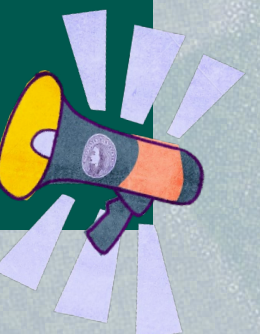


The Vavengers BBC Politics coverage of the Iraqi legislation posing risk of forced marriages against children.

4



Baroness Rosie Boycott talking about lack of survivor healthcare in the UK and request to ban labiaplasty within healthcare at House of Lords



# Campaign, Convene, Connect : Gift in kind powered campaigns, convenings and connected communities

23

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LOVE**

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## THE VAVENGERS

The Vavengers is honoured to serve to communities of women and children with survivor and women-led approach.

Thank you to all supporters from donor, volunteer and partner communities.

Find out more about our ongoing work at:

[www.thevavengers.co.uk](http://www.thevavengers.co.uk)

"**WHEN** *women*  
*and girls* **RISE,**  
**WE** *all thrive.*"

The Vavengers is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in England and Wales  
Registration number: 1184202 Registered address: The Vavengers HQ, 59 Cornhill  
House, First Floor, London EC3V 3PD, United Kingdom  
<https://www.thevavengers.co.uk> | Contact us at: [info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk)



*When women and girls rise, we all thrive. ©*

# **The Vavengers**

Charity Registration No.1184202

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
Year ended 4 April 2025

Shruti Soni Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

# The Vavengers

## Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Status:</b>	Charity Registration No.1184202 The charity's governing document is its constitution dated 1 July 2019 amended on 29 April 2024		
<b>Registered Office:</b>	The Vavengers Headquarters 59-60 Cornhill House, First Floor London United Kingdom EC3V 3PD		
<b>Chief Executive:</b>	Sema Gornall		
<b>Trustees:</b>			
	Hodan Ali Warsame	Trustee	November 2021 to May 2024
	Najmo Fiyasko	Trustee	January 2022 to November 2024
	Rose Violet Bonham Carter	Trustee	June 2022 to December 2024
	Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali	Trustee	January 2022 to February 2025
	Mabel Marie Evans	Trustee	November 2021 to May 2025
	Yasmin Fatemeh Pakzad	Trustee	February 2025 to November 2025
	Milosz Mieszko Palej	Trustee	Appointed in August 2022
	Frederick Thomas Ingham Clark	Trustee	Appointed in July 2023
	Naimah Abdullahi Hassan	Trustee	Appointed in December 2024
	Rachel Louise Cullen	Trustee	Appointed in October 2025
	Sahrish Iftikhar	Trustee	Appointed in October 2025
	Sara Samra	Trustee	Appointed in October 2025
<b>Independent examiner:</b>	Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE Shruti Soni Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE		
<b>Bankers:</b>	Metro Bank 1 Southampton Row London WC1B 5HA WC1B 5HA		

# **The Vavengers**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **for the year ended**

### **4 April 2025**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 4 April 2025. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Constitution. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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)

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Background and Scope**

The Charity was created by a deed dated 1 July 2019 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), exclusively for ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and creating awareness of the issue with the aims of ending both FGM/C and other forms of Gender-Based Violence. The Charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. The charity amended its governing document on 29 April 2024, with the agreement of the Charity Commission, thereby widening the scope of its vision and mission.

The trustee selection process includes trustee role advertisement, followed by applications and a two-stage interview process. At least two trustees must be present during the process, and the voting of a new trustee must be brought to the attention of the entire board for the final decision.

##### **Board of Trustees as of submission date February 2026**

Naimah Abdullahi Hassan, Co-Chair and Trustee, appointed December 2024

Rachel Louise Cullen, Co-Chair and Trustee, appointed October 2025

Frederick Thomas Ingham Clark, appointed July 2023

Milosz Mieszko Palej, appointed August 2022

Sara Samra, appointed, October 2025

Sahrish Iftikhar, appointed October 2025

##### **Trustees during the financial year April 2024/April 2025**

Hodan Ali Warsame | Served as a trustee from November 2021 to May 2024

Najmo Fiyasko | Served as a trustee from January 2022 to November 2024

Rose Violet Bonham Carter | Served as a trustee from June 2022 to December 2024

Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali | Served as a trustee from January 2022 to February 2025

Mabel Marie Evans | Served as a trustee from November 2021 to May 2025

Yasmin Fatemeh Pakzad | Served as a trustee from February 2025 to November 2025

Milosz Mieszko Palej | Serving as a trustee since August 2022

Frederick Thomas Ingham Clark | Serving as a trustee since July 2023

Naimah Abdullahi Hassan | Serving as a trustee since December 2024

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Aims and Objectives for the Public Benefit**

The objectives of the charity are:

(A) TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SURVIVORS OF, AND PEOPLE AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY PROVIDING ADVICE, SUPPORT SERVICES, OUTREACH HUBS AND NETWORK GROUPS TO AND FOR SUCH INDIVIDUALS;

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended  
**4 April 2025**

(B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY (I) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, (II) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS CENTRED ON RAISING AWARENESS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND (III) PROVIDING TRAINING, EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL IN THAT REGARD TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BUSINESSES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS), CHARITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS; AND

(C) TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN RELATION TO SURVIVORS OF, OR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY (I) THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF BEING A SURVIVOR OF, OR AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, (II) ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, (III) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, (IV) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND PUBLISHING THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC, (V) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, AND (VI) PROMOTING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND MIGRANTS.

The activities of the charity are:

1. Community outreach hubs in the UK that support the physical, psychological, and legal wellbeing of vulnerable women and girls who are survivors of FGM/C and all other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
2. Educational workshops about FGM/C and other forms of VAWG for organisations, including healthcare professionals and government agencies.
3. National and international campaigns to ensure FGM/C and other forms of VAWG is on the political and social agenda.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year, the Charity undertook community projects, education, advocacy and campaigning to empower our communities and to build an understanding about legal rights and services available to women and girls, whilst also creating high-level awareness and understanding of the gaps in healthcare and education for the most marginalised people living in the United Kingdom. The charity utilised gift-in-kind in response to the global funding crisis and received six-figure legal & research pro bono support.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

# The Vavengers

## Trustees' Report

### for the year ended

### 4 April 2025

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income during the year under review was £633,832 (2024: £361,838) of which £4,000 (2024: £40,000) was restricted and £629,832 (2024: £321,838) was unrestricted. Expenditure during the year was £667,480 (2024: £356,185). Of the total expenditure £2,946 (2024: £46,543) was from restricted grants. The charity had net expenditure during the year of £33,648 (2024: net income £5,653). General reserves held at the year end were £30,435 (2024: £31,236) and restricted funds were £1,054 (2024: £33,901). Based on these figures, the trustees consider an amount of £45,000 to cover between 3 months of running expenditure to be a sufficient level of reserve.

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated gift-in-kind services received during the year, valued at £490,347, which was for rent waiver for our safe space HQ, and pro bono towards policy, research and campaigning work. The trustees realise that the valuation of pro-bono services included in the accounts is high for a charity of this size, but it explains why the charity's impact has been much bigger than its annual financial income, as a direct result of the generous pro-bono work received. The trustees have decided to reflect the full amount as it showcases the true impact of the charity's Thomson Reuters Foundation membership and valuable legal partnerships.

#### **RESERVE POLICY**

The Charity has a Reserve Policy to build up free reserves of 3-6 months of current running costs. At present, due to the funding challenges facing the anti-Violence Against Women and Girls sector, we operate with less than 6 months of current running costs.

#### **MANAGING RISK OF HARM**

In carrying out the charity's purpose to achieve public benefit, the trustees have managed the risk of detriment or harm to the charity's beneficiaries or to the public in general (which they feel is minimal). This has been achieved by identifying such risks where possible, minimising them and making sure any harm that might arise is of a minor consequence to the carrying out of such purpose.

#### **GOING CONCERN**

While the lack of funding and interest continues to face our area of anti-Violence Against Women and Girls, The Vavengers works hard to secure stability. This financial year, we have continued triple match funding every pound donated to the charity with gift-in-kind pro-bono work, and we are implementing a new strategic plan to identify new sources of funding, such as corporate social responsibility. The charity is also continuing to onboard more trustees and high-level supporters to increase the stability of financial support and organisational visibility. The high-level gift-in-kind support we received through legal, research and goods donations enabled us to continue serving communities during a challenging national funding landscape while also continuing our strong advocacy work. The charity utilises high level gift in kind model to ensure it can continue being effective and have a high impact, even if at times the funding landscape doesn't match the community need.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue for the next year. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements despite the low general reserves at the end of the financial year. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended  
**4 April 2025**

**FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees intend to continue to support as many women and girls as resources permit.

**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the financial year 2024/25, no trustees were paid.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (continued)**

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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf.

*Naimah Hassan*



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Name: Naimah Abdullahi Hassan  
(Trustee and Co-Chair)

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Rachel Louise Cullen  
(Trustee and Co-Chair)

Signed: 02/02/2026

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Vavengers

I report to the charity trustees on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 4 April 2025 as set out on pages 8 to 17.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

### Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

*Shruti Soni*

**Shruti Soni ACCA**

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 3 February 2026

**The Vavengers**  
**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

	<u>Note</u>	2025			2024		
		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total fund	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total fund
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>							
Grants and donations		136,147	4,000	140,147	132,998	40,000	172,998
Donation in Kind	2	490,347	-	490,347	162,535	-	162,535
Fundraising income		3,274	-	3,274	26,100	-	26,100
Investment income							
Interest income		64	-	64	205	-	205
<b>Total income:</b>		<b>629,832</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>633,832</b>	<b>321,838</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>361,838</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<b>Cost of raising funds</b>							
Fundraising costs and events		4,172	-	4,172	37,131	-	37,131
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Direct project cost		23,244	2,946	26,190	34,994	11,296	46,290
Consulting fees		-	-	-	-	232	232
Staff costs		90,404	-	90,404	89,689	29,361	119,050
<b>Support costs</b>							
Bank charges		111	-	111	153	-	153
IT software and consumables		4,464	-	4,464	5,700	3,881	9,581
Printing and postage		158	-	158	665	-	665
Legal and Professional fees		486,938	-	486,938	117,355	-	117,355
Sundry expenses		9,373	-	9,373	3,165	1,773	4,938
Depreciation		8,711	-	8,711	8,185	-	8,185
Travel and subsistence		7,780	-	7,780	6,388	-	6,388
Independent examination		2,447	-	2,447	1,440	-	1,440
Rent, insurance and utilities		25,610	-	25,610	4,777	-	4,777
Council Tax		177	-	177	-	-	-
Recruitment costs		945	-	945	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>664,534</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>667,480</b>	<b>309,642</b>	<b>46,543</b>	<b>356,185</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(34,702)</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>(33,648)</b>	<b>12,196</b>	<b>(6,543)</b>	<b>5,653</b>
Transfer between fund		33,901	(33,901)	-	(1,169)	1,169	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(801)</b>	<b>(32,847)</b>	<b>(33,648)</b>	<b>11,027</b>	<b>(5,374)</b>	<b>5,653</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward	11	31,236	33,901	65,137	20,209	39,275	59,484
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30,435</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>31,489</b>	<b>31,236</b>	<b>33,901</b>	<b>65,137</b>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements.

## The Vavengers

### Balance sheet

As at 4 April 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	7		<u>5,886</u>		<u>13,020</u>
			<b>5,886</b>		<b>13,020</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Debtors	8	<b>15,710</b>		11,246	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>11,219</u>		<u>47,108</u>	
		<b>26,929</b>		<b>58,354</b>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one	9	<u>1,326</u>		<u>6,237</u>	
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>	10		<u><b>31,489</b></u>		<u><b>65,137</b></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds			<b>1,054</b>		33,901
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds			<u><b>30,435</b></u>		<u>31,236</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	11		<u><b>31,489</b></u>		<u><b>65,137</b></u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on  
and signed on its behalf by:



and



Trustees and Co-Chairs

Name: Rachel Louise Cullen and Naimah Abdullahi Hassan

Date: 02/02/2026

**The Vavengers**  
**Statement of cash flows**

**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

	Note	2025	2024
	£	£	£
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period</b>		<b>(33,648)</b>	5,653
Depreciation charges		8,711	8,185
Dividends, interest and rent from investments		(64)	(205)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(4,464)	(11,246)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(4,911)	3,882
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(34,376)</b>	6,269
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	64		205
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets	-		-
Purchase of fixed assets	(1,577)		(14,503)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-		-
Purchase of investments	-		-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing</b>		<b>(1,513)</b>	(14,298)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing</b>			
<b>activities</b>		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(35,889)</b>	(8,029)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		47,108	55,137
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<b>11,219</b>	47,108
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>At 04 April</b>	<b>At 04 April</b>
		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		£	£
Cash in hand and at bank		11,219	47,108
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>11,219</b>	47,108
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The 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 the 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 on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

**b) Public benefit entity**

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**c) Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern as described in the trustees report.

There are no key judgements that the charity has made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**d) Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

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**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**e) Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**f) Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

**g) Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Support costs include the cost of overall direction and administration of the charity's activities, comprising the overhead costs of the central function
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

**h) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**i) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

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**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**j) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**k) Tangible fixed assets**

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price is £250 or more. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Office & Computer Equipment 3 years

**2 Donation in kind**

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated services received during the year valued at £490,347 of which £3,409 was for rent-waiver for the safe space and £486,938 was for legal pro-bono work re: legal advice on policy and campaigning.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

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**3 Staff cost, Trustee remuneration and expenses**

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	<b>87,052</b>	112,149
Social security costs	<b>1,768</b>	4,739
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>1,584</b>	2,162
	<b>90,404</b>	119,050
	<b>90,404</b>	119,050

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2024: nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel consisting of Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director were £52,125 (2024: £52,520).

**4 Staff numbers**

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	<b>5.0</b>	6.0
	<b>5.0</b>	6.0
	<b>5.0</b>	6.0

**5 Related party transactions**

No trustees at the time of their trusteeship were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity during the year (2024: nil). No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2024: nil).

No donations was received from trustees during the year (2024: nil).

**6 Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

**7 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Computer &amp; Office Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£
<b>Cost or valuation</b>		
At the start of the year	24,556	<b>24,556</b>
Additions in year	1,577	<b>1,577</b>
At the end of the year	26,133	<b>26,133</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At the start of the year	11,536	<b>11,536</b>
Charge for the year	8,711	<b>8,711</b>
At the end of the year	20,247	<b>20,247</b>
<b>Net book value</b>		
<b>At the end of the year</b>	5,886	<b>5,886</b>
At the start of the year	13,020	13,020

**8 Debtors**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	6,817	6,817
Prepayments	8,893	4,429
	<b>15,710</b>	11,246

**9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Taxation and social security	-	2,795
Other creditors	(114)	248
Accruals	1,440	3,194
	<b>1,326</b>	6,237

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

**10 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2025			Total funds £
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	
Tangible fixed assets	5,886	-	-	5,886
Net current assets	24,549	-	1,054	25,603
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>30,435</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>31,489</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2024			Total funds £
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	
Tangible fixed assets	13,020	-	-	13,020
Net current assets	18,216	-	33,901	52,117
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>31,236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,901</b>	<b>65,137</b>

**11 Movements in funds**

	5-Apr-24 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-25 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
SafeLives	-	4,000	(2,946)	-	1,054
Prism the grant fund	13,754	-	-	(13,754)	-
Two magpies Fund	14,868	-	-	(14,868)	-
The Clothworkers Foundation	5,279	-	-	(5,279)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>33,901</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>(2,946)</b>	<b>(33,901)</b>	<b>1,054</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	31,236	629,832	(664,534)	33,901	30,435
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>31,236</b>	<b>629,832</b>	<b>(664,534)</b>	<b>33,901</b>	<b>30,435</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>65,137</b>	<b>633,832</b>	<b>(667,480)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,489</b>

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

**11 Movements in funds (continued)**

	5-Apr-23	Incoming resources & gains	Outgoing resources & losses	Transfers	4-Apr-24
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Barclays ML	5	-	-	(5)	-
Heintz Check	3	-	-	(3)	-
Home office	34	-	-	(34)	-
Anonymous donor	153	-	-	(153)	-
Prism the grant fund	18,579	10,000	(14,825)	-	<b>13,754</b>
Two magpies Fund	14,868	-	-	-	<b>14,868</b>
Happy Baby Community	250	-	-	(250)	-
Orchid Project	-	-	-	-	-
Anonymous grant	104	-	-	(104)	-
The Clothworkers Foundation	5,279	-	-	-	<b>5,279</b>
London Community Foundation	-	30,000	(31,718)	1,718	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>39,275</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>(46,543)</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>33,901</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>321,838</b>	<b>(309,642)</b>	<b>(1,169)</b>	<b>31,236</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>321,838</b>	<b>(309,642)</b>	<b>(1,169)</b>	<b>31,236</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>59,484</b>	<b>361,838</b>	<b>(356,185)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,137</b>

**Transfers between funds**

Transfers from restricted grants to general funds represents underspend on these projects moved to general funds. Also, transfer from London Community Foundation to general funds represents overspend which is funded by general funds.

**Purposes of restricted funds**

SafeLives Fund - Funds provided for urgent purchases for the clients of The Vavengers and to spend small amounts on their community members as agreed by SafeLives.

Prism the grant fund - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue its front line programme support hubs by funding various project related costs including staff salaries.

Two magpies Fund - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.

The Clothworkers Foundation - Funds provided to enable for The Vavengers to purchase tech spec to use for Charity's day to day operations.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2025**

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**12 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organizations (CIO) registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. It's members are it's trustees. Currently there are 6 members.

**THE VAVENGERS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1184202

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# Accounts

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THE VAVENGERS

# Annual Review and Financial Statements 2023/24

When women rise, *we all rise.*®

[www.thevavengers.co.uk](http://www.thevavengers.co.uk) | [info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk)



# Board of Trustees

<b>Founding Chair of Board of Trustees:</b>	Mabel Evans	<i>Served as</i> Trustee since November 2021
<b>Co-founder Trustee:</b>	Hodan Ali Warsame	Trustee from November 2021 to May 2024
<b>Founding Member &amp; Trustee:</b>	Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali	Trustee since January 2022
<b>Legal Trustee:</b>	Milosz Mieszko Palej	Trustee since August 2022
<b>Finance &amp; Governance Trustee:</b>	Frederick Thomas Ingham Clark	Trustee since July 2023
<b>Trustee:</b>	Najmo Fiyasko	Trustee from January 2022 to November 2024
<b>Wellness Trustee:</b>	Rose Violet Bonham Carter	Trustee from June 2022 to December 2024
<b>Executive Leadership:</b>	Chief Executive Officer Sema Gornall	Leading the Charity since October 2021
	Chief Financial Officer Bidroha Das	

The Vavengers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales, registered in July 2019. The Vavengers was founded as a survivor and artist collective in 2014.

**Registration Number:** 1184202      **Registration Address:** The Vavengers, 86-90 Paul St, London EC2A 4NE United Kingdom

*Contact us at:*

info@thevavengers.co.uk & www.thevavengers.co.uk

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# Welcomes & Reflections

*When women rise, we all rise.®*

# Mabel Evans

## Co-founder & Chair

As I reflect on the last year at The Vavengers, I am incredibly proud of our team for taking our One Question Campaign to the House of Lords, where we invited professionals from across the globe to present the case for better mental health support, reconstructive surgery available on the NHS and a question to be added to mandatory patient reporting about whether a woman has endured FGM. This felt like a historical moment for our campaign as we were joined by Dame Ruth May, our patron Baroness Rosie Boycott and our campaign ambassador Sabrina Elba. We held interviews with the press following the luncheon, and are now in a very exciting place to take this campaign to the next level with the NHS and surrounding stakeholders. The Vavengers attended the UN CSW 68th Session on Violence Against Women and Girls with our partner organisations. Joining official UN sessions and taking part in important discussions on the global goals of ending FGM/C, modern slavery, trafficking and many other issues affecting women and girls we support, we proudly presented our campaigning work to a wide range of stakeholders from all around the world. It was great to see our partnership work with Orchid Project, The Girl Generation and many other organisations we work with be taken up to a global platform to spread our shared message.

Over this last year, The Vavengers achieved the milestone of opening an HQ and Safespace in the heart of the City of London for our community ambassadors, wider team and stakeholders.

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Relocating from our previous home The Conduit in Covent Garden, we are setting our sights on holding wellness sessions, think tanks, events and discussions within our new HQ. I feel a sense of joy and excitement when I arrive at the HQ and see our plaque, with our tagline 'When women rise, we all rise' We truly feel having this space in the heart of London allows us to engage new communities and audiences, to create cross-sector engagement in how we can stop the brutality happening to women and their bodies, and activate new sectors and stakeholders to join us and proudly call themselves a partner and supporter of The Vavengers. We are excited to announce that we have launched this year our new Artist in Residence program in which our creative Ambassador, Philosopher and poet DYLEMA will be curating events inside and outside of the HQ based around the female experience of empowerment and pleasure, as we seek to always, whilst doing this work create an environment of support, empowerment and celebration.



*Mabel*

**Mabel Evans**

Co-founder and Founding Chair of The Vavengers,  
Filmmaker, Impact Consultant and Producer.

# Hoda Ali

## Co-founder

This year, we saw yet another year of excellence at The Vavengers. I was so proud to see our work taken to the House of Lords with the leadership of our CEO convening survivors, campaigners and NGOs working in the space and having a formal sit-down session with the NHS chiefs to inform them of the healthcare landscape in the UK. Our Nursing Times partnership resulted in me being on the cover of the Nursing Times as well as reaching out to hundreds of nurses and midwives, training them on FGM and how to support survivors and those at risk within the healthcare setting in the UK. As a survivor of FGM who lived through physical and mental health issues as a result of FGM, I was proud to champion the healthcare rights of FGM survivors at various important platforms from the World Health Organisation health forum I have attended to platform The Vavengers' work to House of Lords this year. I am delighted to have been a part of a female-led movement and to see our work go from strength to strength, despite the global challenges we are facing as a sector and activists working to end Gender-Based Violence.



After a decade of service to The Vavengers, firstly as a Safeguarding and Activism Specialist, then as a Trustee as well as a Co-founder, I have decided to retire from my Trustee position to focus on my well-being and to rejuvenate my activism and get back to this important cause with even more energy than I had before. I recognise and champion an activist's need and right to rest and hope my action of taking time off from this important mission sets an example for hard-working activists to recognise when it's time to rest and recover. As a survivor activist who in my childhood survived the intersection of war, displacement and Gender-Based Violence, this important work and my message to end Violence Against Women and Girls came straight from my heart and I thank all the people who put their resources, valuable time and energy to continue the work of The Vavengers.

*Hoda*

**Hodan Ali Warsme**

Co-founder and Founding Trustee,  
Safeguarding specialist, Global Advocate | [www.hodamali.com](http://www.hodamali.com)

# Sema Gornall

## Chief Executive Officer

This year was no different to any other year, The Vavengers have continued the unwavering impact with a dedicated group of people bringing together expertise, passion and hard work. We launched a healthcare disparity report at the House of Lords for the attention of our National Healthcare Service leaders and received the support of over one hundred organisations for our One Question Campaign launch. At this important convening, we also received the support of Activist and Entrepreneur Sabrina Dhowre Elba and her message was loud and clear, that we all have a 'moral duty to end FGM and support survivors'. Later in the year, Sabrina also supported our Anti-Slavery Day campaign where we recognised the work of one of our Community Ambassadors Halimot Ogunnaike with an activist award, shining a light on the intersectionality of forms of Gender-Based Violence and the modern slavery women and girls are subjected to on a daily basis. The issues facing our communities are complex and the hardship women and girls survive continue growing. Without grassroots movements, convening and campaigning organisations and activists, we cannot end violence. Yet, the funding landscape globally still does not meet the needs of the women and girls sector.



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This was another year for us operating under financial constraints but in order to meet our ambitions, we worked hard to mobilise more pro bono resources. Similar to last year, almost every pound donated to the charity was matched with pro-bono work. This meant we could take part in global conversations and campaigns as well as continue to do our national work in the UK. We had regular media coverage of important issues we are working to end, from FGM to police enquiries. It was also a highlight for our charity to be involved in global conversations at the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women 68th Session at UNHQ in New York. Continuing to strengthen our governance and support and campaigning outreach, we welcomed many more new supporters who joined our mission as trustees, board advisors, community and campaign ambassadors as well as youth volunteers. We opened our own campaigning headquarters to provide a safe space for the people we work with, alongside ongoing workshops with practical and professional resources. As we continue to do our important work, we will be on the lookout for more supporters of all kinds, whether they are funding our work or giving up their time to be part of our work.

*Sema*

**Sema Gornall**

CEO of The Vavengers, Writer, Strategist & Global  
Advocacy Advisor | [www.semagornall.com](http://www.semagornall.com)

# Soraya Ali

## Founding Member & Trustee

The past year has been a remarkable one for our charity, particularly in terms of media and PR achievements. We've gained significant attention, notably with our CO-Founder and Trustee, Hoda Ali, gracing the cover of Nursing Times. In her feature, she not only shared her story as a survivor but also highlighted the launch of our One Question Campaign, advocating for every woman in the UK to be asked a question about FGM/C during health visits. We enjoyed extensive coverage across BBC platforms - the largest news organisation in the UK - on multiple occasions this year. A television crew visited our new offices, showcasing our vital work, and featuring interviews with our network of Vavengers, including survivors and campaigners such as midwife Huda Mohamed, community ambassador Halimot Ogunnaike, and our co-founder Hoda Ali.



*Soraya*

**Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali**

Founding member and Trustee of The Vavengers,  
Journalist and Broadcaster

In addition to our media engagements, our CEO, Sema Gornall, led several prime-time interviews. She explored the intersection of FGM with police policies regarding Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) on LBC. Her participation in a BBC Politics panel contributed also to discussions surrounding legislative changes related to FGM in The Gambia. The Vavengers have solidified their position as a pivotal organization in the UK's fight against FGM/C. Through our ongoing efforts, we continue to amplify the voices of survivors and those we serve, utilizing our platform for impactful advocacy.

# Rose Bonham Carter

## Trustee & Wellness Ambassador

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It has been an extraordinary honour to serve on The Vavengers Board of Trustees, helping breathe life into the charity's vision for wellness. My time with the organisation allowed me to weave together an inter-practice wellness team—one that embraces healing practices like sound baths, breath work, and emotional freedom technique. We were fortunate to invite deeply talented professionals into this work, and together, we've created and held space for The Vavengers community, as well as the women and girls we support, offering them sanctuary and care they may not have found elsewhere. Our collective efforts, rooted in love and service, led us to a beautiful and natural next step: opening our own headquarters. This space is more than just a building; it is a haven—a place where campaigners can find warmth, safety, mentorship, and the support needed to continue their vital work. I feel such pride in having stood with the Executive Leadership and Board of Trustees to select the perfect location, one that offers both security and a deep connection to the rich history of the City of London. In a neighbourhood of storied architecture and high-net-worth businesses, it feels like a perfect place for our charity to take root and join the city's evolving journey.



*Rose*

**Rose Violet Bonham Carter**

Trustee, Wellness Ambassador and Practitioner

Watching The Vavengers grow in the face of so many global challenges has been nothing short of inspiring. It has shown me the undeniable power of coming together as a group of like-minded souls, each contributing our unique energies to create something greater than ourselves. As I step into the next chapter of my life, I will be stepping down from my role as Trustee, making way for another person to pour their heart into this important cause. Looking back, I am filled with deep pride in the wellness team we've built and the countless ways we've touched lives. This work, this mission, is what first called me to The Vavengers, and it will forever remain close to my heart. Though my time as a Trustee is ending, my love and commitment to the organisation's mission goes on. I will continue to support The Vavengers in a new capacity because I truly believe in the message that has always guided us: *when women rise, we all rise.*

# Tom Ingham Clark

## Finance & Governance Trustee

10

I am delighted to join The Vavengers as a Trustee, lending my finance and governance expertise after years of military, banking and board experience. The Vavengers is full of people who continuously inspire me. Being part of the Board of Trustees has been a transformative experience having been given an opportunity to closely work with global and national advocates working to end Gender-Based Violence. The charity has a clear focus on ending Female Genital Mutilation as well as all other intersecting issues such as poverty, other forms of violence and gender inequality and this ambition is what we need to bring everyone together to work on a shared goal. As a father of three daughters, it felt incredibly important for me to back this female-led movement, recognising the fact that ending Gender-Based Violence is a societal mission to leave a fairer future for the next generations. Despite global challenges, the charity kept its financial position on a similar scale to the previous year, continuing the strong advocacy and direct support work, even though funding has been tight. We opened our headquarters in the heart of the City of London, to offer a safe space for the hard working campaigners who faced severe social disadvantages as well as continuing to

increase our campaigning and legal reach by being based in the City. As a trustee with financial oversight, it makes me proud to see the charity leadership utilising the power of pro bono work in every way possible, from sourcing free products from corporations to give away to the communities we support to securing six-figured pro bono legal work to maximise our campaigning reach. This charity is a remarkable example of financial responsibility, with cash only being spent on what really matters. As we continue working in a sector with a poor global funding landscape, we will continue to formalise solutions to secure funding from new sources, including international opportunities and corporations.



*Tom*

**Tom Ingham Clark**

Finance and Governance Trustee of The Vavengers

# Milosz Palej

## Legal Trustee

I have been honoured to serve The Vavengers for another year as a Trustee, supporting the organisation's legal framework. The highlight of this year was The Vavengers working closely with Cloisters Chambers to consider how the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 can be deployed in support of healthcare equity for FGM survivors. We also launched a report at the House of Lords for the attention of NHS chiefs and worked closely with many NGOs and law firms to support our important work. Our pro bono network this year included leading law firms, such as Clyde & Co, Travers Smith, Covington & Burling, Simmons & Simmons, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, Cooley, and Pinsent Masons, with their collective pro bono work reaching a six-figure sum in terms of donated billable hours. We also hosted a legal clinic in partnership with our long-standing partner, Latham & Watkins, who identified legal support areas for our grassroots ambassadors.



*Milosz*

**Milosz Palej**

Legal Trustee, Senior Associate

We plan to continue utilising our pro bono legal network in support of the charity's public advocacy and front-line programmes as well as making legal support accessible to our grassroots partners. As The Vavengers marked its 10th anniversary in 2024, it was also time for us to update our constitution to reflect the charity's expansion and future goals. Accordingly, with the approval of the Charity Commission, we have updated our governing document, making us prepared to grow further and take on new challenges in the years to come.

# Salma Jafar

## EA & Operations Manager

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I joined The Vavengers as a volunteer at first because I love everything the charity is doing for both young people and people of all ages. The Vavengers does its work in a very unique, community and survivor-centred way and once I became part of this movement I loved every aspect of the work. I helped build our safe space and brought more young people to support The Vavengers. My prominent role in the team was recognised and I was onboarded as EA & Operations Manager. My role at The Vavengers allows me to work alongside both the executive team and our ambassadors and team which is an incredibly valuable experience for me. Coming from a community where women have been subjected to the intersection of FGM, forced migration and other forms of violence, I can use my voice to prevent violence from happening to the next generations, just like how my mother safeguarded our generation in my immediate family. I am so proud to have been given an opportunity as a recent graduate to build a highly engaging youth programme at The Vavengers and now our Youth Ambassadors support our Community Ambassadors and the charity in a great balance.



*Salma*

**Salma Jafar**

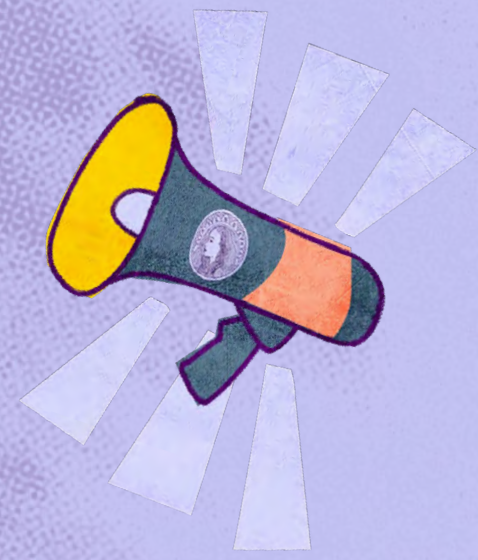
Executive Assistant and Operations Manager

The issues we work to end are very complex and the overall funding available to this type of activism is very small. Working here made me understand to work on such an intersectional issue, you need laser-like focus and deep compassion for the rights of women and girls. Every day at The Vavengers is different and I can see how every single person coming along to support us has so much passion which makes me even more proud to be part of such a movement.

# Engagement Report

*When women rise, we all rise.®*

# Engagement Report



April 23 - March 24

Our media engagement analysis revealed that our refreshed branding is making a significant impact on our audience. With a stronger emphasis on showcasing our campaigns and collaborative sessions aimed at educating and raising awareness about our movement to end FGM/C, our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook has seen increased interactions. This surge in engagement has also sparked greater interest in volunteering and participation in our support and wellness hubs. These insights have become instrumental in shaping more dynamic and effective strategies for our mission.

What happened at the **United Nations** 67th Commission for the Status of Women and Girls?  
*(Where delegates discuss how governments can better support women and girls)*

THE VAVENGERS SOURCE: UN Women Press Release

**FREE**

## Support + wellness hub

A safe health and wellbeing space for **women and children**


- Free essential items
- Referrals – health, legal, housing etc.
- Wellbeing sessions
- Educational workshops
- Children's play and learn sessions
- General support

Find upcoming dates:

 [thevavengers.co.uk/services](https://thevavengers.co.uk/services)

Going abroad THE VAVENGERS

# Know your rights.



Using the law to protect yourself

## Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting *Explained*

**The V Facts**

THE VAVENGERS →

# Financial Report

*When women rise, we all rise.®*

# Bidroha Das

## Chief Financial Officer

This year we saw another great gift-in-kind contribution with over £160,000 market value gift-in-kind contributions. We are thankful for our legal and other gift-in-kind contributors and without them, we wouldn't have the impact that we are having in the policy and campaigning space and they also strengthen our direct support programmes.

Funding scarcity continues in the women and girls sector and because of the low volume of funds allocated in the overall charitable funding pool towards our cause, we will continue relying on the pro bono support. Almost every pound being matched with pro bono work means the cash is only used for important reasons such as our direct support programmes and the people who run our campaigning programmes while supporting survivors.



*Bid*

**Bidroha Das**

Chief Financial Officer of The Vavengers

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**Legal and Gift-in-kind  
contributions added over**

**£162K**  
**in value**

# Year Highlights

*When women rise, we all rise.®*

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# Power of Pro Bono Partnerships



*Legal Clinic at Latham & Watkins*

20

We received an overall gift-in-kind and pro bono contributions of **£162,535**

**24%** of legal contributions

Largest legal pro bono contributor: (£27,863)

**CLYDE&Co**

**7** top Law firms donated their expertise in pro-bono work totalling **£115,904.50**

**12%** of contributions went towards furniture and rent support, creating a better and safe space for impact.

**Stirred**

**CLYDE&Co**



**+simmons  
simmons**

**COVINGTON**

**TRAVERS.  
SMITH**

**orrick**

**LATHAM & WATKINS LLP**

**Pinsent Masons**

**TrustLaw**  
A THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION SERVICE



## FURNISHING FUTURES

A special thanks to our charity partner Furnishing Futures for helping us decorate our headquarters which has been a safe space for our youth, community and campaign ambassadors.





## Our PR & Communications Pro-bono Partner

### Stirred said:

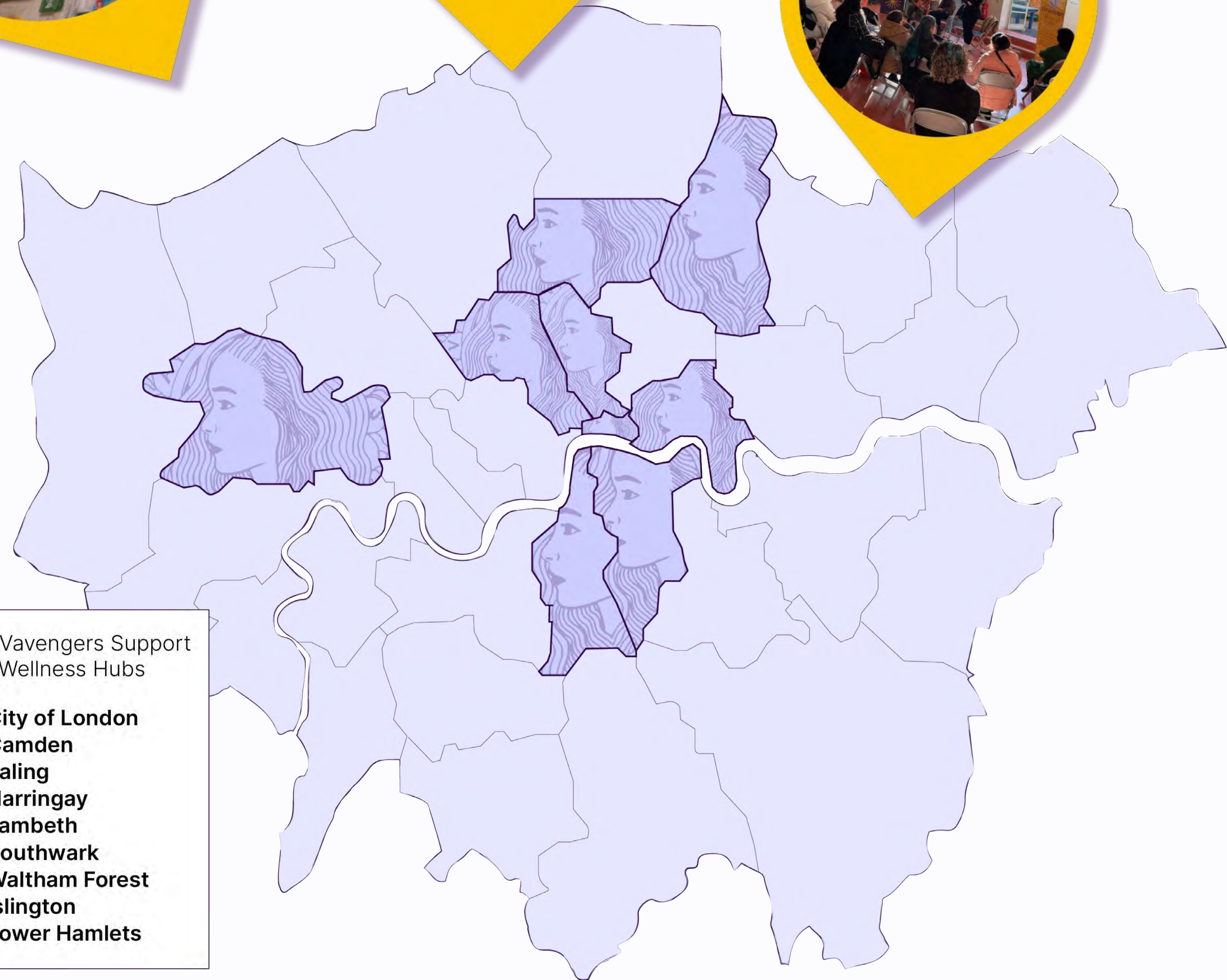
Stirred Health is a B-Corp certified health communications agency mixing things up in the health sector. Stirred has helped us to raise the profile of our message and boost our engagement with healthcare professionals.

“Improving health outcomes through impactful marketing, communications and creative is our focus at Stirred, and being able to deploy our team’s expertise to support the small but mighty Vavengers in their education and campaigning efforts has been immensely rewarding.

In the last year we have some great collective successes to look back on – raising the noise levels to new heights and engaging more deeply with healthcare professionals in particular. We are delighted to have played a part and continue to be proud to stand with the Vavengers against FGM/C and VAWG.”

# Support and Wellness Hubs

We hosted 10 support hubs, 4 special psychotherapy sessions in partnership with Dahlia Project and continuous wellbeing sessions across 9 London boroughs.



-  The Vavengers Support and Wellness Hubs
-  1. City of London
- 2. Camden
- 3. Ealing
- 4. Haringey
- 5. Lambeth
- 6. Southwark
- 7. Waltham Forest
- 8. Islington
- 9. Tower Hamlets

Our new safe space has given us extra capacity to host ongoing wellbeing and support sessions to our community ambassadors, youth ambassadors, our community of women and girls and activists we work with from all across London.



# Special Highlights & Developments

Warda Mohamed  
Founder and CEO  
Lasting Support Services

Sema Gornall  
CEO  
The Vavengers

Halimot Ogunnaike  
Founder and Director  
Haliberry CIC

Crown Prosecution Service x The Vavengers: Tackling FGM in partnership

THE VAVENGERS

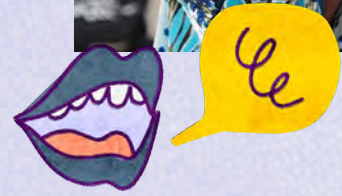
"When women rise,  
we all rise."



*Crown Prosecution Service Partnership*

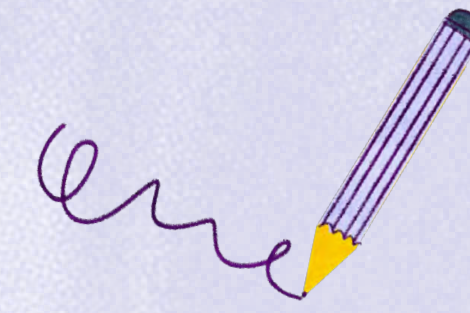
## Celebrating Somali Culture at The Conduit

In partnership with The Conduit Club, we hosted an immersive dinner experience to celebrate the Somali culture and all the Somali women we work with including our Co-founder Hoda Ali.



## Legal Clinic in Partnership with Latham & Watkins

We partnered with TrustLaw, Latham Watkins and JP Morgan to bring world-class legal support to our network of activists and grassroots organisers.



A special film release about The Vavengers by Smiley Movement



## The Vavengers at The United Nations CSW68

Our CEO, Sema Gornall represented The Vavengers in the 68th annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

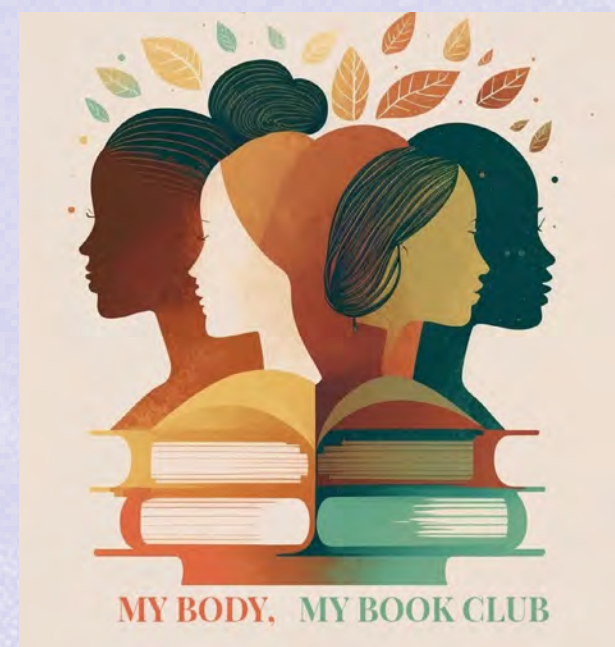


# 26

All Bright Partnership at The Conduit: Female Pleasure

## Launch of My Body, My Book Club

A monthly book club run by Dr Julia Martins, an activism volunteer by The Vavengers.



## FGM Stops Here Campaign with Mayor of London

The Mayor of London supports the 'FGM Stops Here' campaign and discusses with The Vavengers and Survivors on what more can be help tackle FGM.



## Modernising Our Views on Modern Slavery

In partnership with The Conduit, The Vavengers held a panel of experts and Survivors to share their experience and often misinformed understanding of Modern Slavery.



FDCO & ALM Hosts The Vavengers FGM/C Zero Tolerance Summit

## Crown Prosecution Service Partnership

This year's prominent legal partnership, training prosecutors, joining advisory spaces and building long lasting relationships.



## ● Launch of My Body, My Book Club by Dr Julia Martins, Activism Volunteer for The Vavengers

Dr Julia Martins is a historian of the body, an activist, and an unapologetic bookworm. She is an Activism Outreach Supporter with The Vavengers, a member of the Charity Committee of the FGM Education Project, and an editor at the Feminist Perspectives Collective. She writes about gender history the history of medicine, and how history can inform contemporary feminism.

Julia launched My Body, My Book Club in partnership with The Vavengers to connect people and communities online and in person, raising awareness and questioning established narratives. Every month, the club partners with grassroots charities working with one of the topics covered in the book club including but not limited to FGM, all other forms of Gender-Based Violence, displacement, abortion and women’s rights.



A promotional graphic for 'My Body, My Book Club'. At the top is a logo with two stylized figures and the text 'My Body, My Book Club'. Below is a book cover for 'WOMAN OF THE ASHES' by Mia Couto, noted as a 'FINALIST FOR THE MAN BOOKER INTERNATIONAL PRIZE' and 'TRANSLATED BY DAVID BROOKSHAW'. A purple circle says 'Next book'. A yellow box contains the text: 'Woman of the Ashes By Mia Couto Thurs 8th Feb 18:30 on Zoom'. A green box below says 'Special guest: Catherine Thornhill'. At the bottom, it says 'Book now via the link in our bio. Tickets are donation-based: With' followed by a small circular portrait of a woman.



## ● 'FGM Stops Here' Campaign with Mayor of London makes headlines and the digital film campaigns receives over 30 million views

The Vavengers contributed to the 'FGM Stops Here' Campaign which was launched in two parts with the second part launching on February 2023 and continuing for the year. Our CEO consulted the VAWG team at MOPAC during the creation of the campaign and The Vavengers helped recruit role models taking part in the digital campaign. Role models included our Healthcare & Community Ambassador Huda Mohamed, Founding Member & Trustee Soraya Ali, Community Ambassador Shamsa Sharawe and many other names.



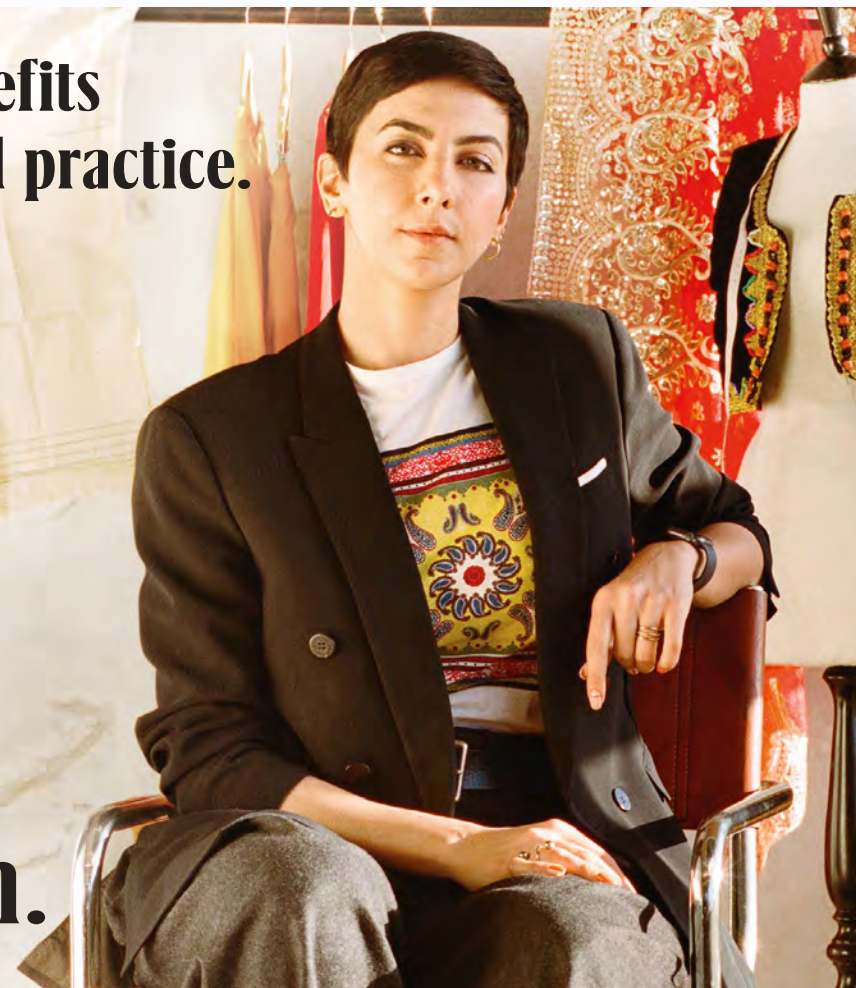
### Sema Gornall, CEO of The Vavengers charity, said:

“We are excited to be part of the MOPAC campaign ‘FGM Stops Here’. Campaigns like these reach out to the most vulnerable members of our community, giving survivors of Gender-Based Violence a platform to speak up. Ending FGM and all other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls requires everyone’s input and we hope this campaign gives that ownership to all Londoners.”

“There are no benefits from this harmful practice.

Together we can make a difference.

It just starts with a conversation.



### The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said:

“The safety of women and girls is a top priority and I am clear that there cannot be any place whatsoever in London for FGM, which is a life-threatening, illegal and devastating practice. That’s why I am joining forces with grassroots campaigners to give a voice to survivors, frontline professionals and activists. A new series of online short films will talk directly to communities on the dangers and impact that FGM has on women, girls and their loved ones. It is vital we have a public health approach to end the epidemic of violence against women and girls in London, to ensure it is treated with the utmost urgency – not just by the police but by society as a whole so together we can build a safer London for everyone.”

## ● Immersive Dinner Gathering in Celebration of Somali Culture



“  
**Cultural acceptance  
 does not mean  
 accepting the  
 unacceptable**  
 - Hoda Ali.



In partnership with The Conduit Club, we hosted an immersive dinner experience to celebrate the Somali culture and all the Somali women we work with including our Co-founder Hoda Ali. Inspired by the childhood cultural experiences of our Somali community, we hosted funders, stakeholders, ambassadors and supporters of our charity and called this experience ‘Through Her Eyes’ bringing people together through Somali music, food, poetry and creativity.

Our co-hosts Hoda Ali and Shamsa Sharawe talked about their culture alongside lived experiences of violence and why abuse cannot be defined as culture. The educational and transformational night brought together many new connections to our organisation and helped us build new working relationships.

## ● Legal Clinic hosted for our Community Ambassadors and grassroots partners with Latham & Watkins

We partnered with TrustLaw, Latham Watkins and JP Morgan to bring world-class legal support to our network of activists and grassroots organisers. We are lucky to already benefit from TrustLaw's global platform, which connects high-impact charities and NGOs with top law firms to provide free legal assistance. But we realised this help is needed not just for established organisations but for the individuals and new charities already doing so much of the work by responding to demand from their communities.



Local activists and organisers take on challenging and high-risk work and must also have access to free, high-quality legal support. Participants were able to address their immediate legal concerns with the expert lawyers present and connect with TrustLaw to join their global pro-bono network.



## ● Crown Prosecution Service partnership

The Vavengers partnered with Crown Prosecution Service to join forces and improve legal outcomes for survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Together, we trained over one thousand complex case prosecutors and joined two advisory boards.

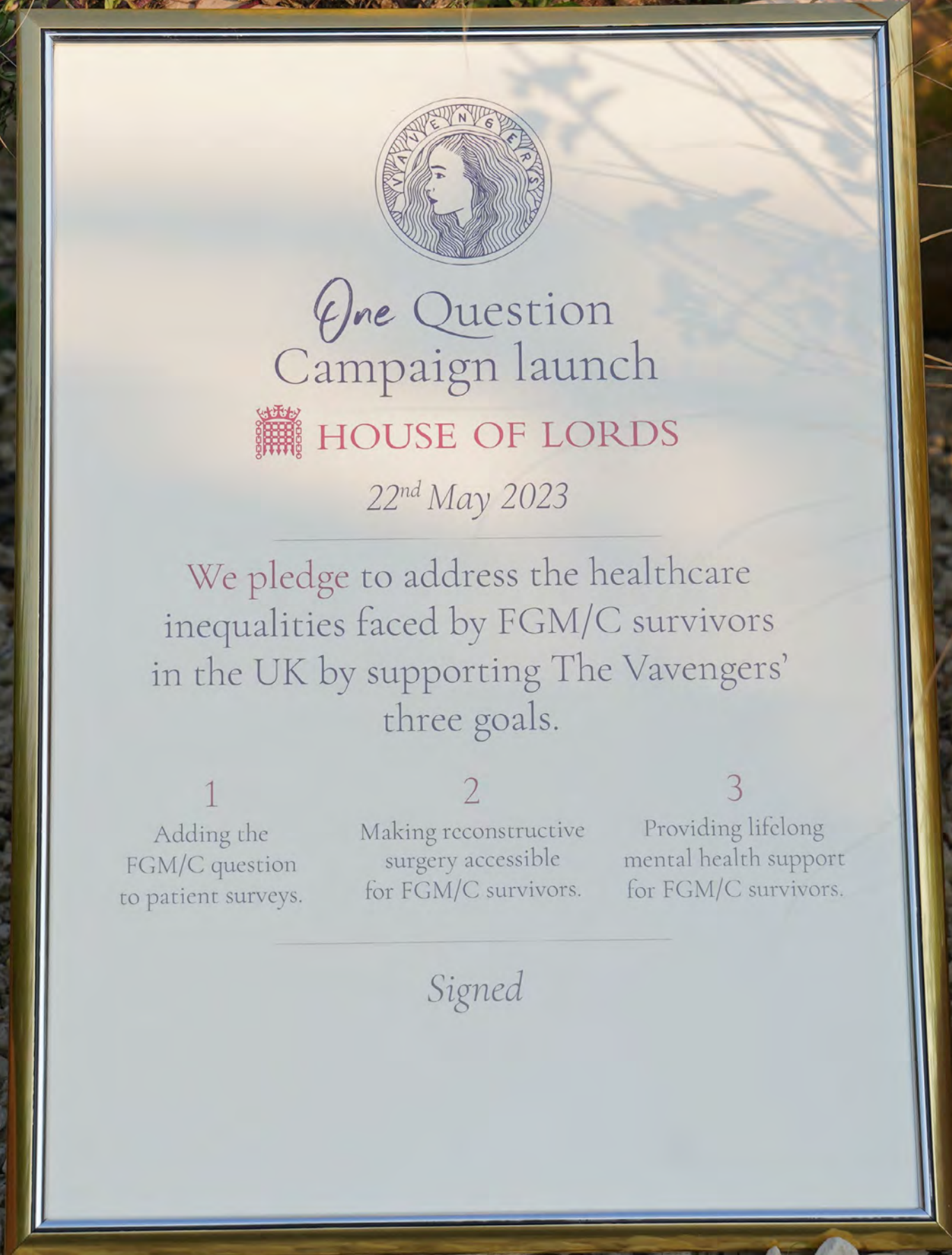


## ● Smiley Movement Partnership

Smiley Movement captures the work of The Vavengers by creating a special edition charity highlight film. The crew followed the team around the City of London and filmed a gathering with some of the charity's Community Ambassadors.



# Campaigning & Convening



*House of Lords Report Launch*

## ● House of Lords Report Launch

On Monday 22nd May 2023, The Vavengers presented a healthcare inequalities report at the House of Lords. The report highlighted the healthcare inequalities faced by survivors of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in the UK healthcare settings.

The Vavengers called upon NHS Chief Nursing Officer for England, Dame Ruth May and the office of NHS Chief Executive Officer Amanda Pritchard to deliver on three critical solutions: adding a question about FGM/C on patient registration forms, offering long-term mental health support and providing reconstructive surgery for survivors. The roundtable lunch meeting was co-chaired by our CEO Sema Gornall and Baroness Rosie Boycott with our Board of Trustees, Campaign Ambassador Sabrina Dhowre Elba in attendance, giving a keynote speech. Dr Leyla Hussein OBE, Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir, Huda Mohamed and Hoda Ali gave their expertise as healthcare professionals in this important convening meeting.



### Sabrina Elba supports campaign against FGM, saying she has a 'moral duty'

London-based charity The Vavengers presented the FGM/C healthcare inequalities report to the chief nursing officer for England on Monday.

Elle Horlitzo • Monday 22 May 2023 17:54 BST



### Sabrina Elba supports campaign against FGM, saying she has a 'moral duty'

London-based charity The Vavengers presented the FGM/C healthcare inequalities report to the chief nursing officer for England on Monday.



Steve Holden hosts The Vavengers to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.



'It's disappointing there haven't been more prosecutions.'

After a woman was found guilty of assisting the genital mutilation of a British girl while in Kenya - @TheVavengers tell LBC News crimes related to FGM remain underground and under-reported.

Our CEO commented on LBC following the first ever successful prosecution on FGM being secured in the UK.

## Media Coverage



Our CEO Sema Gornall and Co-Founder Hoda Ali spoke to Pramod Thomas from the Eastern Eye about potential health complications caused by Gender-Based Violence. Survivors of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting may deal with early onset menopause, as Hoda herself has experienced.



Baroness Boycott (Stephen Gornall/PA)

Baroness Boycott said it was "tremendous" to have Ms Elba supporting the campaign and she remains "completely puzzled" why the UK has not acknowledged and recognised the problem.

She told PA: "This is not a small problem. This is not an isolated case of something happening."



From left, Huda Mohamed, Sabrina Elba and Leyla Hussein. Credit: PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo

Another high-profile backer of the campaign is psychotherapist Dr Leyla Hussein, an FGM survivor and activist, who set up the first counselling service for FGM survivors in Europe and, in 2013, hosted a groundbreaking Channel 4 documentary called *The Cruel Cut*.

# 35

Speaking to *Nursing Times*, Dr Hussein said it was a specialist nurse in London who asked her about FGM and that if that had never happened, then her daughter may have been subjected to it too.



We gave an interview to Smiley Movement covering our campaigning work.

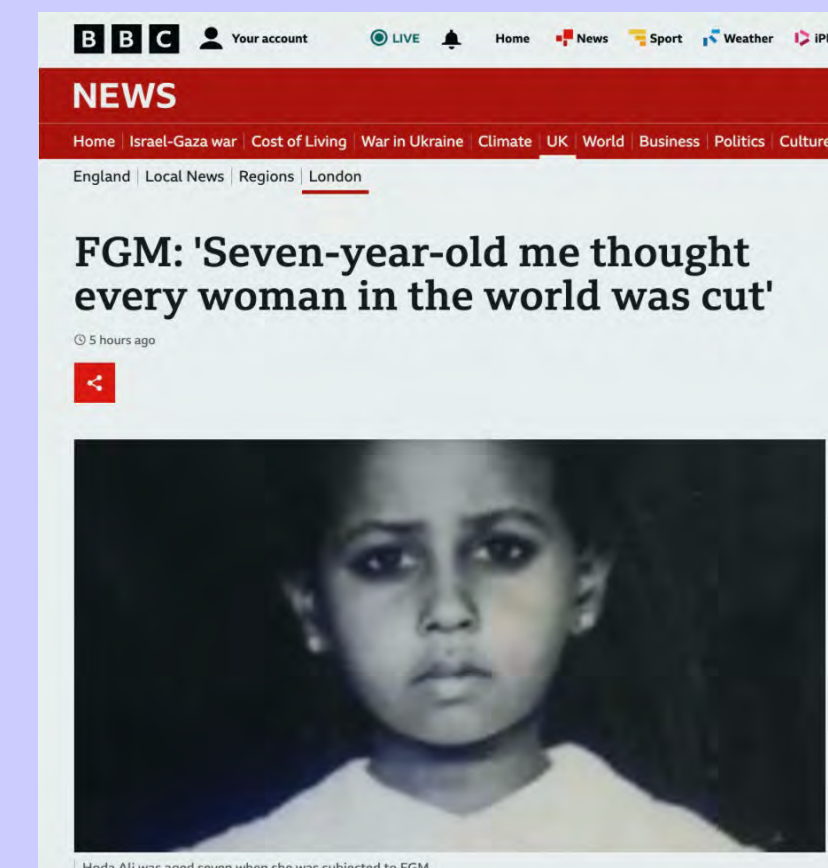
### The superheroes tackling FGM

Words by Abi Scaife

A group of women raising awareness about FGM/C (female genital mutilation/cutting), **The Vavengers** really are like superheroes. Initially, they just wanted to spread the word about FGM/C and gender-based violence. But soon it grew, and grew.



BBC digital article coverage Our Co-founder Hoda Ali interviewed by BBC to mark the international zero tolerance for FGM day.



## ● Nursing Times Partnership

Our Co-Founder Hoda Ali graces the cover of the Nursing Times June 2023 edition. The issue discovers our campaigning and direct support work on multi-page spread. We also trained over one thousand healthcare professionals in partnership with Nursing Times to improve data sets on FGM and informed care for survivors of FGM.



- **Metropolitan Police releases new action plan: 'Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.'**

Following Baroness Casey's report, alongside other charities and experts working to end violence we continuously advised the Metropolitan Police who released an action plan to tackle VAWG.

Published December 2023

**TACKLING VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS  
Action Plan**

● **BBC London News Coverage**

Our Co-founder Hoda Ali, Campaign and Community Ambassador Huda Mohamed and CEO Sema Gornall appeared on BBC London News to discuss healthcare inequalities facing survivors of FGM in the UK.



- **BBC London Politics Coverage**

Joining a live studio debate alongside MPs at the BBC Politics London studio, our CEO Sema Gornall covered reasons why survivors do not have the support they need in healthcare settings.



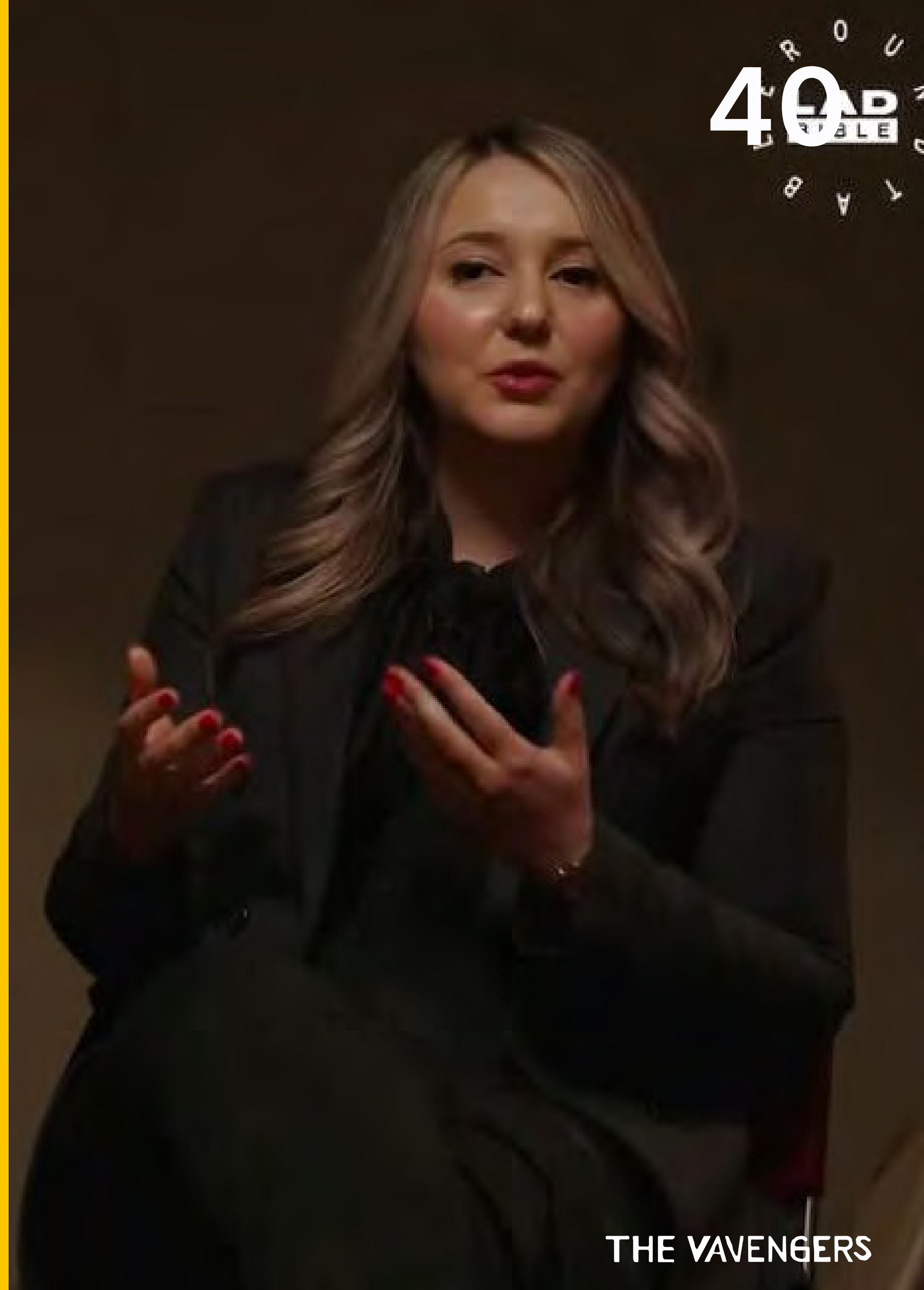
**Sema Gornall**  
CEO, The Vavengers

## ● Ladbible Coverage

To mark International Women's Day, Ladbible hosted a special episode with our CEO Sema Gornall in attendance. The video also hosted ambassadors The Vavengers works with; Shamsa Sharawe and Warda Mohamed.



Above pictured from the film,  
*Warda Mohamed, The Vavengers Community Ambassador*



- **NGO Convening Reception with nearly one hundred partner charities in attendance**

Following our meeting at the House of Lords with the NHS Chiefs, we held a sector convening reception, to celebrate this win as a collective one and to continue joining forces on our shared mission.



- **The Conduit Club Partnership: Modernising our language on modern slavery**

We joined forces with The Conduit Club to mark the modern slavery day in October 2023. The panel was chaired by Dr Leyla Hussein and joined by Sema Gornall. Our Campaign Ambassador Sabrina Elba presented an award to one of our Community Ambassadors Halimot Ogunnaike.



- **Partnership with Allbright Club and Talking Taboos**

Female Pleasure: Uncovering the Taboos: We were joined by an all-female audience at the Allbright Club in partnership with Talking Taboos to discuss why female pleasure is a societal taboo.



- **The Vavengers Join FCDO Roundtable on Ending FGM**

The Vavengers takes a seat at the FCDO roundtable to discuss annual developments and plans to end FGM



- **The Vavengers attend United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 68th Session at UN Headquarters**

The Vavengers join the UN CSW 68th session in UN Headquarters. Joining important discussions focusing both inside and outside the UN, our CEO Sema Gornall and ambassadors and advisors including Dr Leyla Hussein were part of key conversations focusing on global goals to end Gender-Based Violence.



The Vavengers is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in England and Wales Registration number: 1184202

Registered address: The Vavengers, 86-90 Paul St, London EC2A 4NE United Kingdom

<https://www.thevavengers.co.uk> | Contact us at: [info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk)



*When women rise, we all rise.®*

# **The Vavengers**

Charity Registration No.1184202

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
Year ended 4 April 2024

Shruti Soni Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

## The Vavengers

### Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Status:</b>	Charity Registration No.1184202 The Charity's governing document is its constitution dated 1 July 2019. With the approval of the Charity Commission, the Charity amended its governing document on 29 April 2024, widening the scope of the Charity's vision and mission.	
<b>Registered Office:</b>	3rd Floor 86-90 Paul Street London EC2A 4NE	
<b>Chief Executive:</b>	Sema Gornall	
<b>Trustees:</b>	Mabel Evans (Chair) Najmo Fiyasko Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali Hodan Ali Warsame Fredrick Thomas Ingham Clark Milosz Mieszko Palej Rose Violet Bonham Carter Naimah Abdullahi Hassan	Resigned in November 2024 Resigned in May 2024 Appointed in July 2023 Resigned in December 2024 Appointed in December 2024
<b>Independent examiner:</b>	Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE Shruti Soni Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE	
<b>Bankers:</b>	Metro Bank 1 Southampton Row London WC1B 5HA WC1B 5HA	

# **The Vavengers**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **for the year ended**

### **4 April 2024**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 4 April 2024. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Constitution. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Charity was created by a deed dated 1 July 2019 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), exclusively for ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and to create awareness of the issue with the aims of ending both FGM/C and other forms of Gender-Based Violence. The Charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. With the approval of the Charity Commission, the Charity amended its governing document on 29 April 2024, widening the scope of the Charity's vision and mission.

#### **CHARITABLE OBJECTS**

(A) TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SURVIVORS OF, AND PEOPLE AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY PROVIDING ADVICE, SUPPORT SERVICES, OUTREACH HUBS AND NETWORK GROUPS TO AND FOR SUCH INDIVIDUALS;

(B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BY (I) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, (II) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS CENTRED ON RAISING AWARENESS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND (III) PROVIDING TRAINING, EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL IN THAT REGARD TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BUSINESSES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS), CHARITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS; AND

(C) TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN RELATION TO SURVIVORS OF, OR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY (I) THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF BEING A SURVIVOR OF, OR AFFECTED BY, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION / CUTTING AND / OR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, (II) ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, (III) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, (IV) CONDUCTING AND / OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND PUBLISHING THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC, (V) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, AND (VI) PROMOTING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND MIGRANTS.

# The Vavengers

## Trustees' Report for the year ended 4 April 2024

### **CHARITY'S ACTIVITIES**

The activities of the Charity are:

1. Community outreach hubs in the UK that support the physical, psychological, and legal wellbeing of vulnerable women and girls who are survivors, or at risk, of FGM/C and other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
2. Educational workshops about FGM/C and other forms of VAWG for public and private organisations, including healthcare professionals and government agencies.
3. National and international campaigns to ensure that FGM/C and other forms of VAWG are on the political and social agenda.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year, the Charity conducted community projects, advocacy efforts, and campaigns aimed at empowering our communities. We worked to enhance awareness of legal rights and available services for women and girls while also highlighting gaps in healthcare and education for the most marginalized groups in the United Kingdom. Additionally, the Charity continued to secure six-figure pro bono and in-kind support, ensuring that cash resources were dedicated to projects and operations.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income during the year under review was £361,838 (2023: £323,376) of which £40,000 (2023: £52,052) was restricted and £321,838 (2023: £271,324) was unrestricted. Expenditure during the year was £356,185 (2023: £287,109). Of the total expenditure £46,543 (2023: £32,652) was from restricted grants. The Charity had net income during the year of £5,653 (2023: £36,267). General reserves held at the year end were £31,236 (2023: £20,209) and restricted funds were £33,901 (2023: £39,275). Based on these figures, the trustees consider £45,000 to be a sufficient reserve, covering up to three months of operating expenses.

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated services received during the year valued at £162,535 of which: £30,102 was for marketing and communications, £13,120 was furniture donation (assets of the Charity), £3,409 was a rent-waiver for the safe space for the Charity's beneficiaries and £115,904 was for legal pro bono work relating to advocacy and campaigning.

# **The Vavengers**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **for the year ended**

### **4 April 2024**

#### **RESERVE POLICY**

The Charity has a Reserve Policy to build up free reserves of up to 6 months of current running costs. At present, due to the funding challenges facing the anti-Violence Against Women and Girls sector, we operate with less than 6 months of current running costs.

#### **MANAGING RISK OF HARM**

In carrying out the Charity's purpose to achieve public benefit, the trustees have managed risk of detriment or harm to the charity's beneficiaries or to the public in general (which they feel is minimal). This has been achieved by identifying such risks where possible, minimising them and making sure any harm that might arise is of a minor consequence to the carrying out of such purpose.

#### **GOING CONCERN**

While the lack of funding and interest continues to face our area of anti-Violence Against Women and Girls, The Vavengers works hard to secure stability. This financial year, we have continued matching almost every pound donated to the Charity with gift-in-kind pro bono work. Furthermore, the Charity is working on a new business plan to identify new sources of funding such as corporate social responsibility. The Charity is also working to onboard more trustees and high-level supporters such as new Patrons to increase the stability of financial support and organisational visibility. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements despite the low general reserves at the end of the financial year. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees intend to continue to support as many women and girls as resources permit.

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the financial year 2023/24, no trustees were paid.

#### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended  
**4 April 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)**

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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 03/02/2025 and signed on its behalf.

Date: 3rd February 2025

*Mabel Evans*

Name: Mabel Marie Evans

Trustee (Co-founder & Chair of the Board)

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Vavengers

I report to the charity trustees on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 4 April 2024 as set out on pages 8 to 17.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

### Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

*Shruti Soni*

**Shruti Soni ACCA**

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 03/02/2025

**The Vavengers**  
**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

	<u>Note</u>	2024			2023		
		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Grants and donations		132,998	40,000	172,998	124,531	52,052	176,583
Donation in Kind	2	162,535	-	162,535	146,738	-	146,738
Fundraising income		26,100	-	26,100	-	-	-
Investment income							
Interest income		205	-	205	55	-	55
<b>Total income:</b>		<b>321,838</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>361,838</b>	<b>271,324</b>	<b>52,052</b>	<b>323,376</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<b>Cost of raising funds</b>							
Fundraising costs and events		37,131	-	37,131	17,264	8,477	25,741
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Direct project cost		34,994	11,296	46,290	25,613	12,640	38,253
Consulting fees		-	232	232	4,119	1,015	5,134
Staff costs		89,689	29,361	119,050	56,358	6,755	63,113
<b>Support costs</b>							
Bank charges		153	-	153	4	-	4
IT software and consumables		5,700	3,881	9,581	3,281	2,889	6,170
Printing and postage		665	-	665	669	806	1,475
Legal and Professional fees		117,355	-	117,355	135,537	-	135,537
Sundry expenses		3,165	1,773	4,938	738	70	808
Depreciation		8,185	-	8,185	3,351	-	3,351
Travel and subsistence		6,388	-	6,388	3,912	-	3,912
Independent examination		1,440	-	1,440	1,974	-	1,974
Rent, insurance and utilities		4,777	-	4,777	1,637	-	1,637
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>309,642</b>	<b>46,543</b>	<b>356,185</b>	<b>254,457</b>	<b>32,652</b>	<b>287,109</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>12,196</b>	<b>(6,543)</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>36,267</b>
Transfer between fund		(1,169)	1,169	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>11,027</b>	<b>(5,374)</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>36,267</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward	11	20,209	39,275	59,484	3,342	19,875	23,217
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31,236</b>	<b>33,901</b>	<b>65,137</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>39,275</b>	<b>59,484</b>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements.

## The Vavengers

### Balance sheet

As at 4 April 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets			<b>13,020</b>		6,702
			<b>13,020</b>		6,702
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Debtors	8	<b>11,246</b>		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>47,108</b>		55,137	
		<b>58,354</b>		55,137	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one	9	<b>6,237</b>		2,355	
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>	10		<b>65,137</b>		59,484
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds			<b>33,901</b>		39,275
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds			<b>31,236</b>		20,209
<b>Total charity funds</b>	11		<b>65,137</b>		59,484

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

*Mabel Evans*

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Name: Mabel Marie Evans  
Trustee (Co-founder & Chair of the Board)

Date: 03/02/2025

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The 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 the 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 on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

**b) Public benefit entity**

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**c) Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern as described in the trustees report.

There are no key judgements that the charity has made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**d) Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**e) Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**f) Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

**g) Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Support costs include the cost of overall direction and administration of the charity's activities, comprising the overhead costs of the central function
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

**h) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**i) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

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**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**j) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**k) Tangible fixed assets**

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price is £250 or more. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Office & Computer Equipment 3 years

**2 Donation in kind**

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated services received during the year valued at £162,535 of which: £30,102 was for marketing and communications, £13,120 was furniture donation (assets of the charity), 3,409 was a rent-waiver for the safe space for the charity's beneficiaries and £115,904 was for legal pro bono work relating to advocacy and campaigning.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

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**3 Staff cost, Trustee remuneration and expenses**

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	112,149	61,964
Social security costs	4,739	-
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	2,162	1,149
	<b>119,050</b>	<b>63,113</b>
	<b>119,050</b>	<b>63,113</b>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023: nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel consisting of Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director were £52,520 (2023: £40,840).

**4 Staff numbers**

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	6.0	5.0
	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>

**5 Related party transactions**

No trustees at the time of their trusteeship were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity during the year (2023: nil). No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: nil).

During 2023, a reimbursement of travel to Kenya for Orchid Project was made to Hoda Ali, trustee. There was no payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs to any other trustees during the year (2023: nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023: nil).

No donations were received from trustees during the year (2023: £358).

**6 Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

**7 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Computer &amp; Office Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£
<b>Cost or valuation</b>		
At the start of the year	10,053	<b>10,053</b>
Additions in year	14,503	<b>14,503</b>
At the end of the year	24,556	<b>24,556</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At the start of the year	3,351	<b>3,351</b>
Charge for the year	8,185	<b>8,185</b>
At the end of the year	11,536	<b>11,536</b>
<b>Net book value</b>		
<b>At the end of the year</b>	13,020	<b>13,020</b>
At the start of the year	6,702	6,702

**8 Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Other debtors	<b>6,818</b>	-
Prepayments	<b>4,429</b>	-
	<b>11,246</b>	-

**9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Taxation and social security	<b>2,795</b>	667
Other creditors	<b>248</b>	248
Accruals	<b>3,194</b>	1,440
	<b>6,237</b>	2,355

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

**10 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2024			Total funds £
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	
Tangible fixed assets	13,020	-	-	13,020
Net current assets	18,216	-	33,901	52,117
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>31,236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,901</b>	<b>65,137</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2023			Total funds £
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	
Tangible fixed assets	6,702	-	-	6,702
Net current assets	13,507	-	39,275	52,782
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,275</b>	<b>59,484</b>

**11 Movements in funds**

	5-Apr-23 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-24 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Barclays ML	5	-	-	(5)	-
Heintz Check	3	-	-	(3)	-
Home Office	34	-	-	(34)	-
Anonymous Donor	153	-	-	(153)	-
Prism the Gift Fund	18,579	10,000	(14,825)	-	13,754
Two Magpies Fund	14,868	-	-	-	14,868
Happy Baby Community	250	-	-	(250)	-
Orchid Project	-	-	-	-	-
Anonymous Grant	104	-	-	(104)	-
The Clothworkers Foundation	5,279	-	-	-	5,279
London Community Foundation	-	30,000	(31,718)	1,718	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>39,275</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>(46,543)</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>33,901</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	20,209	321,838	(309,642)	(1,169)	31,236
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>321,838</b>	<b>(309,642)</b>	<b>(1,169)</b>	<b>31,236</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>59,484</b>	<b>361,838</b>	<b>(356,185)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,137</b>

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

**11 Movements in funds (continued)**

	5-Apr-22	Incoming resources & gains	Outgoing resources & losses	Transfers	5-Apr-23
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Barclays ML	63	-	(58)	-	5
Heintz Check	407	-	(404)	-	3
Home Office	1,019	-	(985)	-	34
Anonymous Donor	686	-	(533)	-	153
Prism the Gift Fund	2,450	25,000	(8,871)	-	18,579
Two Magpies Fund	15,000	15,000	(15,132)	-	14,868
Happy Baby Community	250	-	-	-	250
Orchid Project	-	3,052	(3,052)	-	-
Anonymous Grant	-	1,200	(1,096)	-	104
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	7,800	(2,521)	-	5,279
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>19,875</b>	<b>52,052</b>	<b>(32,652)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,275</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>271,324</b>	<b>(254,457)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,209</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>271,324</b>	<b>(254,457)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,209</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>23,217</b>	<b>323,376</b>	<b>(287,109)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,484</b>

**Transfers between funds**

Transfers from Barclays ML, Heintz Check, Home Office, Anonymous Donor, Happy Baby Community and Anonymous Grant to general funds represent underspend on these projects moved to general funds. Also, transfer from London Community Foundation to general funds represents overspend which is funded by general funds.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2024**

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**Purposes of restricted funds**

- Barclays ML - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.
- Heintz Check - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.
- Home Office - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.
- Anonymous Donor - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.
- Prism the Gift Fund - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue its front line programme support hubs by funding various project related costs including staff salaries.
- Two Magpies Fund - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.
- Happy Baby Community - Funds provided in return for educational session consultation to enable The Vavengers to fund staff salaries.
- Orchid Project - Funds provided for The Vavengers representative to be able to travel to Orchid Project partnership project based in Kenya, Africa.
- Anonymous Grant - Funds provided as an emergency response to cost-of-living crisis to be given out as a one off bonus to The Vavengers staff members.
- The Clothworkers Foundation - Funds provided to enable for The Vavengers to purchase tech spec to use for Charity's day to day operations.
- London Community Foundation - The purpose of the grant was for us to create support hubs and provide follow up support to our community. The funds could be used on any cost associated with the support hub programme and salaries of staff members.

**Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organizations (CIO) registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. Its members are its trustees. Currently there are 5 members.

**THE VAVENGERS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1184202

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# Accounts

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THE VAVENGERS<sup>©</sup>

Annual review and financial  
statements 2022/23



Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees:	Mabel Evans	<i>Serving since</i> November 2021
Founding Trustee:	Hodan Ali Warsame	November 2021
Trustees:	Milosz Mieszko Palej	August 2022
	Rose Violet Bonham Carter	June 2022
	Najmo Fiyasko	January 2022
	Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali	January 2022
	Cerys Shepherd	<i>Retired</i> February 2023
CEO:	Sema Gornall	October 2021
	The Vavengers is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in England and Wales	
Registration number:	1184202	
Registered address:	The Vavengers, 3rd Floor, 86-90 Paul Street, London EC2A 4NE United Kingdom	
Contact us at:	info@thevavengers.co.uk www.thevavengers.co.uk	

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# Welcomes and reflections

4

# Mabel Evans Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees

It is with great pleasure that I reflect on the last year at The Vavengers; aside from continued government instability resulting in a lack of funding for the whole VAWG sector, the team has shown true grit and determination to keep going and continue to support the very vulnerable women and girls in our care. Due to this aforementioned lack of funding, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage and call for cross-sector engagement and funding opportunities for women's rights. Women make up 50 percent of our planet, and when we look at global leadership positions, we see that men take up most positions. I can't help but wonder in this time of conflict, uncertainty, and violence, what the world might look like with a more balanced representation of women in positions of power. In order to actualise this, we must start with the most vulnerable women in our society, those who have endured unimaginable violence against their bodies and autonomy.

If we can start to encourage sectors not typically funding charitable work to open up their hearts and company wallets, we might start to see a more connected, supportive, and nurturing

society emerge. We at The Vavengers would take great pride in partnering with an unlikely supporter who could share our message with a sector or community that might be entirely unaware of FGM/C. This directly speaks to our origins and our three key objectives as a charity: Education, Campaigning, and Direct Support. Whilst we are a multi-sector charity, we aim to continue to expand this ecosystem. Our ambitions around expansion focus on using our direct support, education, and nationwide campaigning to deliver this very urgent care. This year, I am excited to say that we have doubled our financial income, allowing us to deepen our care and strengthen our networks. The year was topped off by The Vavengers winning the Stephen Lloyd Award for our Pop-Up Support and Wellness Hubs™, supporting women and girls. This year, as a result of our increased financial capacity, we were able to build our first free reserves account. We



also increased the team capacity and expanded our small team to respond to front-line and campaigning demands. As we continue to grow and expand, we will also work on increasing these funds until we reach our desired target - which is to have free reserves of six months' worth of running costs. Although we doubled our financial income, the efforts of our hardworking team and Trustees haven't been responded to by the funding sector. The ongoing concern of lack of resources and funding facing anti-Violence Against Women and Girls organisations looms heavy.

As ever, I am continually in awe of the strength and resilience of everyone who makes The Vavengers: the women and girls we support at our hubs, the board, our CEO and team who work with such passion and commitment towards our goals, and our wider network who continue to strive towards a better world for all women and girls.

*Mabel*

**Mabel Evans**

Co-founder and Founding Chair of The Vavengers, filmmaker, impact consultant and producer.

# Hoda Ali

## Founding Trustee

With all the global and domestic challenges of the year, women and girls have been the worst affected, as they always are. I'm proud that our support has remained consistent and reliable and that we have become a destination for hope and joy for all of our network. The overwhelmingly positive response to our work reflects our growth, and I couldn't be more proud of our CEO's leadership and the team's hard work. This year has certainly solidified our presence as a trusted and vital organisation, with the Stephen Lloyd Award recognition and our collaborations with the Mayor of London, the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police, and FCDO.

Our first large-scale campaign, the One Question Campaign was re-designed this year to be launched on a national level. It has been a long time coming, originating from my work as an NHS Sexual Health Nurse, implementing a questionnaire scheme that ensured FGM/C survivors were being identified and receiving better care. It only took five minutes to add the 'One Question' about FGM/C to patient forms,



which helped to neutralise and standardise the clinical approach to supporting survivors. With Aissa, we championed this life-changing question to be asked to every single woman who comes through our doors to seek medical support. Results showed us more women who would typically not mention FGM/C as a medical concern at their appointments were not only declaring it on the medical form, they were also asking because they have been asked the question for the first time in such healthcare centred mannerism, whether there was any form of support available to them.

That very process is at the core of our One Question Campaign. I can say that as a survivor, this campaign is the single most critical change that we can implement to better the lives of FGM/C survivors like myself living in the UK.

My dream is for The Vavengers to become an organisation that operates globally. I want to offer our safe spaces to women and girls from where I was born to all around the world. Women and girls everywhere deserve to have access to safe spaces and be given a chance to receive support to keep themselves and their children safe from acts of violence and abuse such as FGM/C. Women and girls across the world are still cut every day at all ages.

The risk of FGM/C never stops as both through my work as a former healthcare professional, current education & safeguarding specialist and our important work at The Vavengers, time and time we saw how the risk of FGM/C never ends and it can happen to a girl child or woman at any age. There is a vital need for the services of The Vavengers and our inclusive approach to safeguarding to be available globally, and this ambition is on its way to becoming a reality in the coming years.

Reflecting on our work makes me emotional in many ways because, with our partner organisations' support, we are opening doors for the women and girls nobody was opening doors for and reaching women and girls never before reached. Being able to see the women and girls we support change from feeling apprehensive or defeated to happy and relieved is exactly why we exist. If The Vavengers support hubs existed for me when I was growing up, my life would have been very different. I am incredibly hopeful for the future, and I cannot wait to see what we achieve in the next year.



**Hoda Ali**

Co-founder and Founding Trustee, safeguarding specialist, sexual health nurse and campaigner. [www.hodamali.com](http://www.hodamali.com)

# Milo Palej

## Legal Trustee

I am a commercial lawyer by trade, specialising in litigation, international arbitration, and public international law, practising in the London office of a leading international law firm. I have long been passionate about pro-bono legal work and the wide-ranging impact it can have on addressing injustice. At university, I volunteered as a field legal officer with a humanitarian legal aid charity in Greece, working with asylum seekers in the Vial Camp in Chios. After that, I have been able to represent and help several pro bono clients, including in proceedings before the Court of Appeal. I'm a recipient, as part of a team, of the International Pro Bono Excellence Award from the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice.

Joining The Vavengers was not a difficult decision. Despite international efforts over the past few decades, FGM/C continues to be committed worldwide at rates much higher than is commonly understood. It is a horrific abuse rooted in gender inequality. The Vavengers work tirelessly to eradicate it, and in my career, I have rarely, if ever, seen such a motivated and driven group of people. Through my role, I wanted to ensure the team benefited

from the incredible pro-bono support that I know to be out there. Over the past year, with our CEO's passion for justice and good governance, we have strengthened our ongoing relationship with the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Thanks to their brilliant partnership platform, TrustLaw, we have received world-class legal support in many fields, such as data protection policies, charity governance, employment contracts, and more. Through this support, we developed particularly strong relationships with Latham & Watkins LLP, JP Morgan, Simmons & Simmons, who continually supported us through complex legal work.

On another note, I would like to extend a special thanks to Claire Butler, our Legal Advisory Board Member, who facilitated our relationships with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and Clyde & Co., who re-designed our in-house legal documents and policies to reflect our organisational growth.

The Vavengers also helped raise the legal marriage age this year through the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022. The new legislation raised the minimum age of legal marriage from 16 to 18 in all circumstances in England and Wales, and in addition, expanded the offence of forced marriage such that it is now illegal to do anything to force a child to marry before they turn 18, even if the claim is that coercion is not used.



Our CEO, Sema Gornall, on behalf of The Vavengers, served the UK government on this legislation as well as many other key frameworks as an advisory board member to the Forced Marriage Unit; a force created by the Home Office and FCDO. We are proud to have contributed to bettering the legal rights of vulnerable people in one of the most influential and tangible ways possible. To be acknowledged by the government as a partner and support provider is a real honour and as a result of our contribution, The Vavengers took its well-deserved place on both the FGM/C and Forced Marriage resource packs on the GOV.UK as a trusted support organisation.

These new commitments come as part of the Home Office's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, of which The Vavengers is a contributing organisation through our advisory support to the government. We will continue collaborating with government agencies with all of our energy to be able to build a safer country for all women and girls living in the UK.



**Milo Palej**

Legal Trustee and Associate at WilmerHale legal practice

# Soraya Ali

## Founding member and Trustee

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As one of the founding members of The Vavengers, I started as the Chief Operating Officer in our early years before transitioning to my current role as a Trustee. This transition allowed me to continue supporting the team in a different capacity and contribute to the organisation's overall mission.

The Vavengers are not just facilitators; we're changemakers. What sets us apart is our intersectional and holistic approach to activism. To ensure that we enhance the sector, instead of doubling efforts, we partner with organisations like Bloody Good Period and Choose Love, who are already creating change in their respective focus areas. I am also proud that we continue to be a survivor-led organisation with revolutionary ideas.

This year, we had some significant wins, including our first official award. The Vavengers won the prestigious Stephen Lloyd Award, granting the Charity an unrestricted £25,000 to support our important work while acknowledging our innovative approach to ending Gender-Based Violence.



With this award, our CEO was acknowledged as the best Social Entrepreneur of the year (2022) in the Gender Equity area while also giving The Vavengers the recognition of best innovation. The Vavengers Support & Wellness Hubs are the UK's only holistic support and wellness pop-ups, built for all women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of, Gender-Based Violence (GBV). We launched this programme with no eligibility criteria to receive our services other than the gender criteria of being a female identifier and this flexible approach to providing extensive safeguarding support enabled us to reach communities who would not otherwise be able to seek the support of all the partner organisations and government agencies we work with. The model has attracted the attention of important stakeholders like the Home Office and Metropolitan Police, who now seek our advice through official capacities on tackling GBV.

Finally, I had the honour of being part of the Mayor of London's campaign against FGM/C, where I talked about The Vavengers' work and my journey as the first woman in my family not to be subjected to FGM/C. FGM Stops Here was launched on zero tolerance to FGM/C day in early 2023, with me as one of the Mayor of London's community role models.

Looking ahead, the future is bright for The Vavengers. We've got an incredible team of trustees, advisors, team and most importantly a very talented CEO. We are all equally committed to tackling FGM/C and ending overall Gender-Based Violence. With their support, we hope to expand our reach and continue making a huge impact in the wider activism and women's rights sector.



**Soraya Ali**

Founding member and Trustee of The Vavengers and international journalist.

# Rose Bonham Carter Trustee and Wellness Ambassador

As a Women's Sexuality and wellness practitioner (certified E.F.T / Reiki and Sexologist) when I heard about The Vavengers I felt such an activation within me. FGM/C and Violence Against Women and Girls is a global crisis and a crime against humanity. My work helps women reconnect with their bodies after trauma and societal shaming, restoring confidence in their sensuality and sexuality.

As a Trustee and Wellness Ambassador at The Vavengers, I have established a team of professional wellness practitioners to support our hubs, talks and workshops. Since joining, I have curated a group of some of the best wellness practitioners in their field. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I am thrilled that we have been able to bring wellness to communities that would otherwise not have access to this unfortunately exclusive service. Since joining the team we have introduced the community to: Breathwork, E.F.T, Sound healing, Somatic Sexology, Sexual Education and Sexual Healing Meditation.

Our work is trauma-informed and we take cautious safeguarding measures and are committed to providing

safe spaces without causing undue stress or triggers. We now have a team of five practitioners and continue growing alongside The Vavengers' wider growth.

My other mission has been to create space for The Vavengers team to feel well and supported. My hope is that the team always feel peace, rest and feel heard - which is paramount to the effectiveness of activism. We do not need an over-stressed and activated nervous system in order to create impact. We can instead nurture the nervous system so that we can respond from a place of strength and focus which is what we are championing with The Vavengers' work.

My hopes for the future; I hope that through this work we can start to make wellness more accessible to vulnerable women and girls. This will become a necessity and something available to all, not just a privilege for the few.

*Rose*

## **Rose Bonham-Carter**

Trustee and wellness ambassador for The Vavengers and sexual health and healing practitioner.



# Sema Gornall

## CEO

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In my second year of leading The Vavengers, I felt immensely proud throughout the entire year. This strong sense of pride came as a result of seeing the resilience of our Vavengers, standing strong against an ever-changing world full of inequalities. The current generations of people are facing highly complex social issues while also witnessing our planet getting sicker each year. An alarming percentage of women and girl children across the globe continue starving, being subjected to many forms of Gender-Based Violence, unable to access education and living in a warzone. Yet, there is still a major power imbalance and a lack of collective push to create equity in our world.

It was during such a challenging year I found myself feeling proud, not only as the leader of this brilliant organisation but also as the woman who was once the girl child who survived through all the inequalities thrown at her while living in a conflict zone. Growing up, I always thought to myself how unfair it was that children and vulnerable women were expected to survive

and continue serving when they were written off by society. Now through my work as a human rights defender and gender equality activist, I stand alongside unique and talented people in this movement and together we are working towards building a world where women and girl children can live safe, happy and equal lives. When we cannot see the change we need, we have to be that very change and campaign with whatever voice or power we have until we reach equality.

This year, having the solidarity and support of an enormous number of incredible partners, colleagues and our communities, The Vavengers continued growing at a very uniquely positive and fast pace despite the lack of funding interest in our area of work. We will continue to stand our ground to keep existing until we mobilise this level of support on a global scale. With an organisation taking so many different forms of action like The Vavengers, having an operations team, board



and volunteers with high skills, lived experience of issues we work to end, and the passion to create equality is a must and might just be why we have grown at such a great pace.

This year we doubled our financial income, although our impact isn't only measurable with this. We were also proud to receive an incredible amount of pro-bono human power donated to us. Generous partners such as Thomson Reuters Foundation TrustLaw donated six-figured legal pro-bono time to help us overcome complex social issues, Stirred Health gave us an entire team of talented PR consultants to support our One Question Campaign and our selfless advisors donated hundreds of their collective hours to help us navigate through global challenges facing our communities. Without pro-bono work, The Vavengers simply could not thrive and we are forever grateful to everyone who came along on our journey and became a Vavenger.

Our legacy will be creating an undoubtedly positive impact in this world. Led by those who lived through the issues we are working to end, and with the support and solidarity of all human rights defenders and gender equality activists.

Love and solidarity,



**Sema Gornall**

CEO of The Vavengers, Social Entrepreneur,  
Government Advisor and Creative | [www.semagornall.com](http://www.semagornall.com)



# Engagement report

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# Megan Barclay

## Art Director

As I move towards my 4th year with The Vavengers, I continue to be immensely proud of the impact we have and the route we take to make it. This past year has proven to me that while we grow as an organisation – in size, reputation and reach – we are still able to embody what makes The Vavengers unique: using art and creativity to connect with people, being a flexible workplace that prioritises the individual, and approaching every conversation (whether with a government official or a community-member) with openness and honesty.

In August I was honoured to be given the opportunity to recruit a Marketing Manager. We were looking for someone to bring expertise in the technical side of communications as well as creative copywriting skills to compliment my design ones – with Ellie we got this and so much more. My title was adjusted to Art Director and this reflected a new seniority as well as the wider creative outputs my role has – design, of course, but also strategy and creative communication as a whole. We



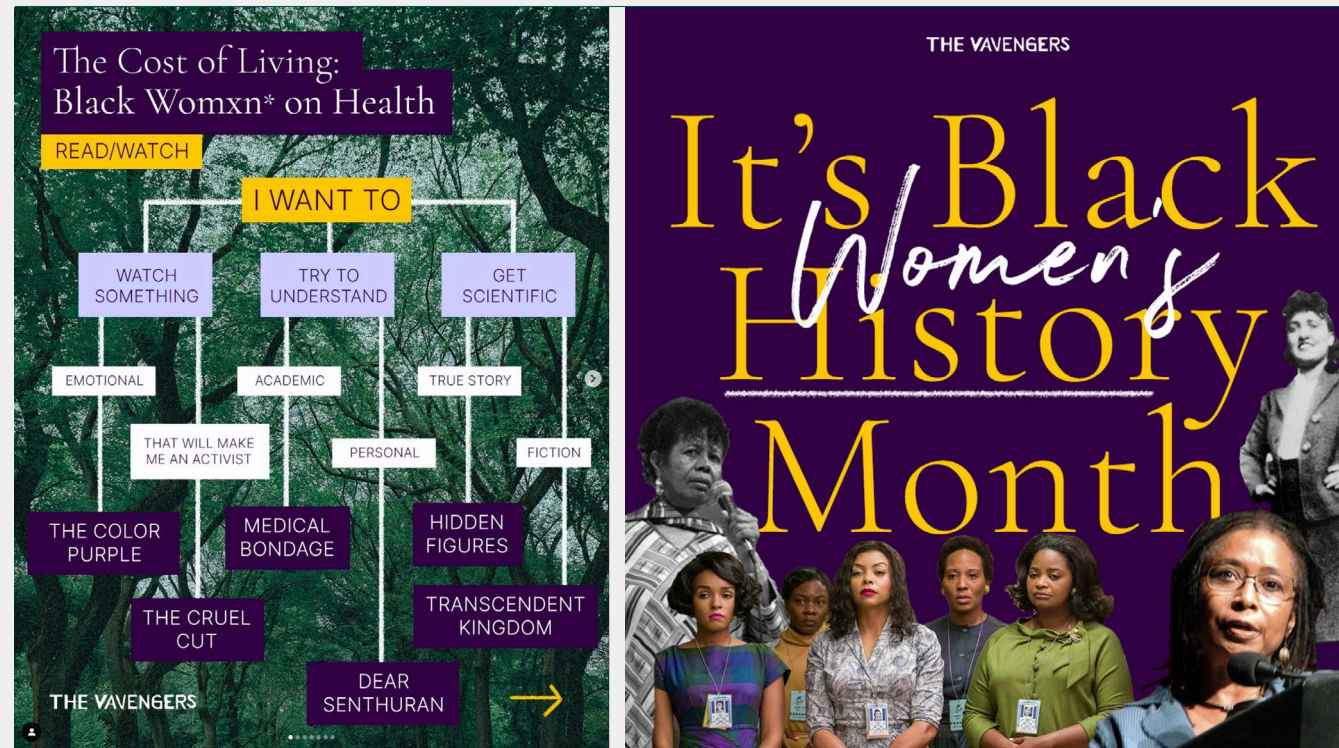
recognise it might feel unusual to have an Art Director in such a small team, but we see it as a natural progression for a charity that was rooted in the arts and still takes a creative approach in everything we do. Having 2 minds interrogating how we communicate has made The Vavengers voice louder, more accessible and better able to uplift the work of survivors.

The power of this teamwork was quickly proven in our content for Black History Month (BHM) in October 2022. Years of struggling to keep up with constant demands of the social media cycle and a lack of capacity had made for a reasonable but uninspired approach to our social channels. Ellie brought a breadth of new ideas and insight into how we could better approach different channels, then with her writing and researching posts and me visualising them we were able to build a quality package of assets. Our BHM content (following page) performed noticeably better than recent similar content, the most significant improvement being saves – a sure sign of providing value for our followers.

This approach has continued until today and our socials have never been better, truly becoming a place for people to learn, connect and even reach out directly for support.

Generally my role is to support other team members to articulate, visualise and show-off their activities and it was my pleasure to continue this for our support hubs with a regularly updated information booklet, and leaflets to be handed out in local communities. A less glamorous but vital part of my job is tweaking the team's presentations to ensure they are accessible and engaging – switching colours, enlarging type and making layouts as simple yet bold as possible. These tricks ensure everyone is armed with materials that engage potential funders, partners or workshop participants. It is a small yet mighty job I take pride in and a reminder of how creativity can be a tool for good in the most subtle of ways.

This report and my words represent a fraction of the work we undertook this year. The joy of what we do is that our best work is intangible, it's the conversations we have at our hubs or with a community ambassador, followed by deep thinking that then filters into our decision-making. Projects that didn't make it into this review are ready to burst into the world and, as always,



I will be honoured to have played a part in them as we continue the fight to end Violence Against Women and Girls for good.

*Megan*

**Megan Barclay**

Art Director at The Vavengers and graphic designer at Friends of the Earth | [meganjoybarclay.com](http://meganjoybarclay.com)

# Ellie Melvin

## Marketing and Communications Manager



I began working at The Vavengers at the end of August 2022 after completing my MSc at the University of Edinburgh – quite literally the day after submitting my dissertation. Many would assume that starting remotely, from the opposite of the country, and in a brand-new position might mean it takes a short while to get things moving, but that is never the case with The Vavengers. Sema and Megan had such definitive visions for this role and its potential that there was nothing left to do but get stuck in.

My first step was to find out from those who have been here much longer than myself how they thought our social media content could be improved. The resounding feedback was to consistently produce high-quality, unique and thoroughly researched content. Megan had already been making this sort of content, but it had become increasingly difficult to maintain as one person with many other responsibilities.

Trying to engage people in a social issue via social media can feel like shouting into the void. As Megan mentioned, contending with the rapid and unforgiving news cycle leaves little room for pause and creativity. It often feels like we must follow the popular formula of attention-grabbing numbers and tragic photography to get our message out there.

This year (and always) we've challenged the use of survivors' stories and image in charity marketing - especially when it comes to vulnerable girl children. We instead opt for stock images and illustrations in our design. We're also limited by the inaccuracy of FGM/C and VAWG statistics, so can't depend on this marketing device either. The women and girls we support are much more than statistics and stories, so our marketing should reflect that.

The Vavengers exists to improve the lives of survivors and those at risk, so I wanted to ensure that our digital content mirrors our direct support: informative, positive and a safe place for our community. So far, this has taken the form of a Black History Month reading list, Gender-Based Violence language guidance (right), and readable breakdowns of the latest news.

This is nothing new to The Vavengers, who have been shaking up the sector since the beginning with performance-based fundraising events, art exhibitions and YouTube campaigns. In prioritising these original values, I will continue to carve a unique approach, voice, and image for The Vavengers.

I hope our followers feel inspired, empowered, and informed because of our content. And through the power of social media, The Vavengers can continue to be a safe and positive space anywhere.

Here's to more understanding and growth in 2023/24.

*Ellie*

**Ellie Melvin**

Marketing and Communications  
Manager at The Vavengers

# HOW YOUR WORDS CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

In ending violence against women and girls

THE VAVENGERS

## ~~VICTIM~~ VS SURVIVOR

Although victim is a legal definition necessary within the criminal justice system, we use survivor as a term of empowerment. Survivor indicates that the individual is more than what happened to them and encourages a healing mentality.

Read more: SAKI and RTI International - Victim or Survivor: Terminology from Investigation Through Prosecution

# Year highlights

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# Support and wellness hubs

This year marked our first full year of offering pop-up support hubs. We hosted 10 hubs and over 750 women and their children across 5 London boroughs.



The Stephen Lloyd Award described our hub work as 'the recipe for ending Violence Against Women and Girls'.

And because we don't believe in secret recipes, here are the ingredients:

- A safe, private and non-judgmental space with no eligibility criteria (beyond being a woman or girl)
- Community ambassadors that share their stories of survival and hope
- Wellness ambassadors that facilitate workshops to centre bodies and relax minds
- Essential items to relieve pressure and meet needs
- Joyful childcare
- Meeting women where they are

Careful planning and a growing community has made it so that the hubs almost run themselves. Similar women return time and again but we nearly always have new faces too. We will continue to grow our network of community ambassadors, safe spaces and community-members into the following year...

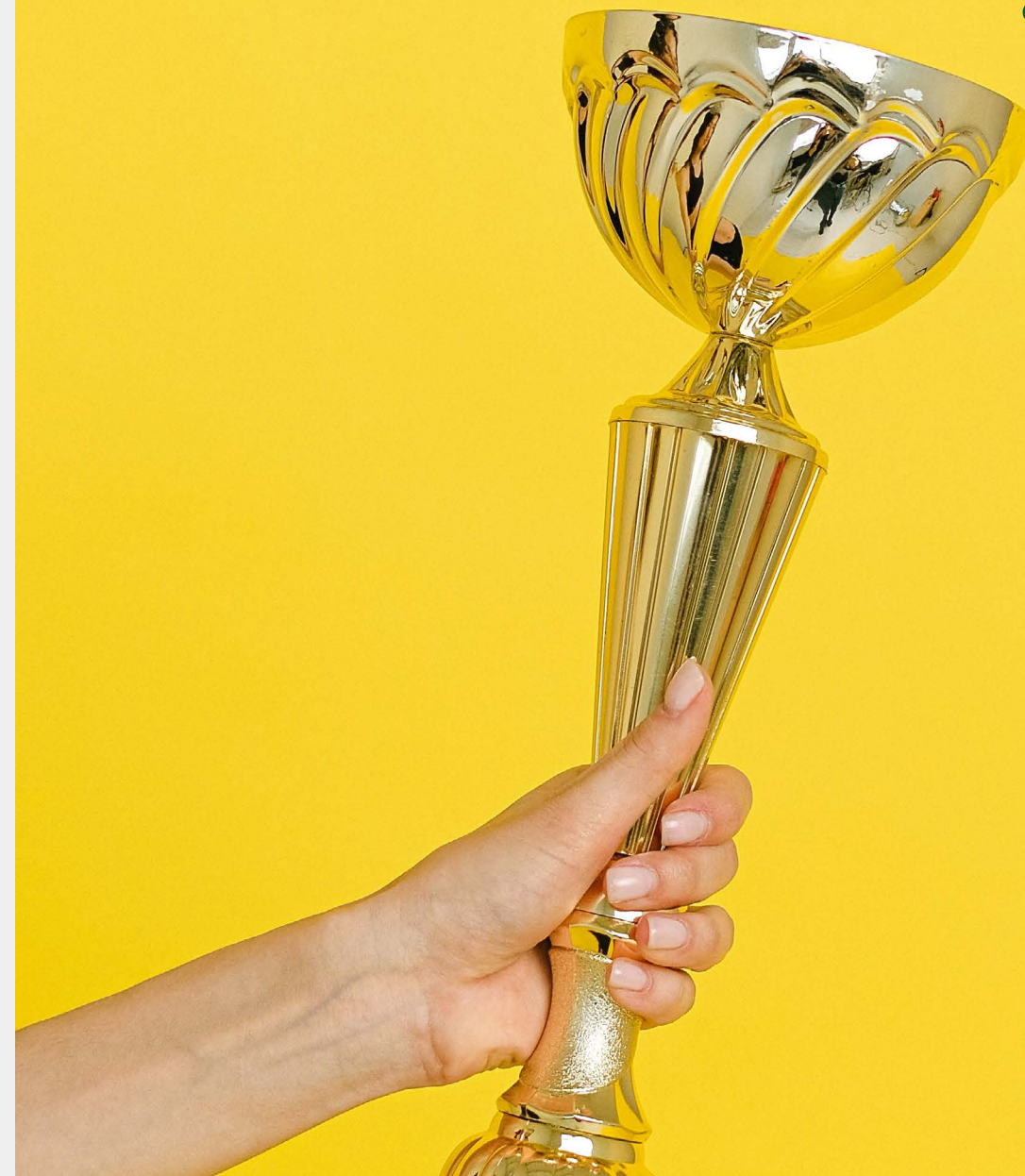


Community Ambassador Valerie at our July hub. She is a survivor of FGM/C and also has her own organisation that supports survivors. You can read her story in full at our blog.

We won the  
prestigious Stephen  
Lloyds award!

“The Stephen Lloyd Award has given us the recognition we deserve to build a just society. We will continue to focus on upscaling and building more long-term partnerships with wonderful organisations until this model is available globally.”

*- Sema Gornall*



This year we were winners of the prestigious Steven Lloyd Award, in recognition of change-making innovation. Sema went through rounds of scrutiny, ending with a dragons-den style pitch and our pop-up support hubs were eventually chosen as the winning project.

We are honoured to receive this incredible recognition within the first year of launching our pop-up model. It was only this time last year when Sema had the idea of creating holistic pop-up hubs; a sustainable model to end Gender-Based Violence for good.

The Stephen Lloyd Award gave us access to industry-leading pro-bono partners to help us deliver our strategic plan, and £25,000 to upscale our proven model. Our report on the previous page prove some of what was possible with this award.



From top: our announcement blog cover image, a photo of our hub space from July, the cover of the support booklet we hand out at our hubs, and our team posing on the awards night alongside the 2 other winning organisations.

# Events

- International Day of the Girl Conference
- FGM/C workshop at Christ Church University
- Feminism and FGM/C: How can the past shape Activism today?
- Running to end Violence Against Women and Girls





The Vavengers were invited to speak at the National FGM Centre's conference celebrating International Day of the Girl. We spoke to decision-makers about what we do, the reality of the experience of survivors and how they can take a trauma-informed approach in their work. We connected with organisations and activists during and after the event and felt a genuinely engaged response that we hope is reflected in their decision-making and community engagement.

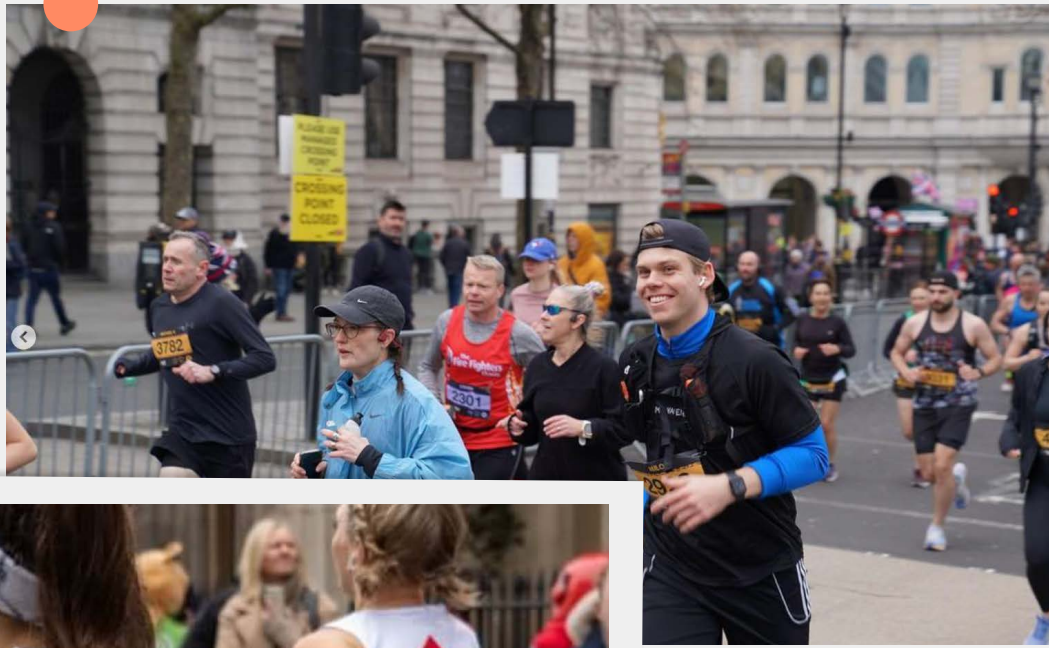


As part of the Being Human (humanities) festival, our volunteer Julia co-organised a panel under the title 'Feminism and FGM/C: How can the past shape Activism today?'. Hosted at The Vagina Museum, the room was literally bursting with participants and future Vavengers.



Another volunteer, Sarraah, hosted a workshop at Christ Church University to raise awareness about FGM/C and demonstrate collegial solidarity against this harmful practice.

It was a day rich in learning, discussion and creativity. Feminist activists, scholars and students gathered together and one of the outcomes was a collaborative artwork titled The Four College Rose.



This year we secured running spots for the Landmarks Half Marathon and had 5 passionate runners fundraising for our work! This was an exciting new avenue for our fundraising efforts and we were honoured to find runners choose our cause out of the list on the landmarks page.

Our runners raised thousands of pounds and all completed with smiles on their faces.

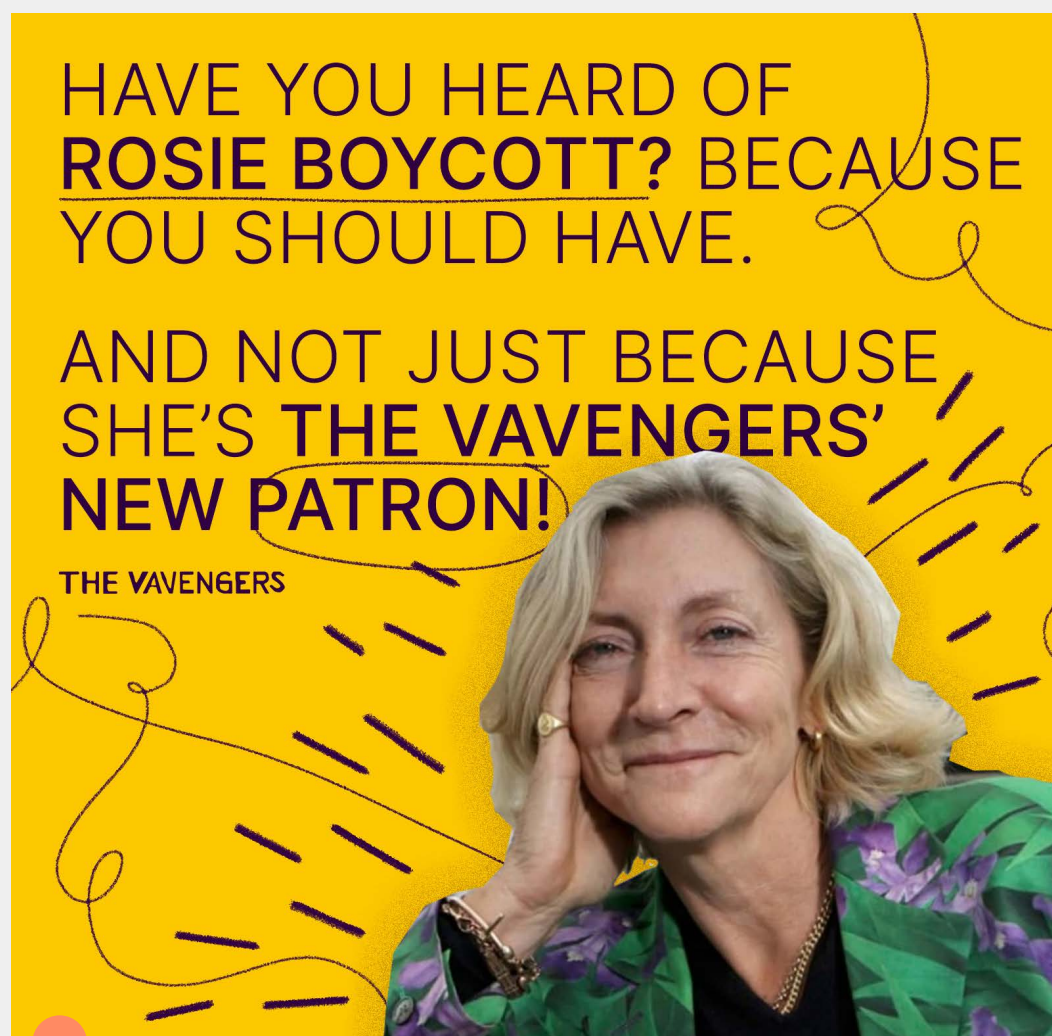
## EVENTS | YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



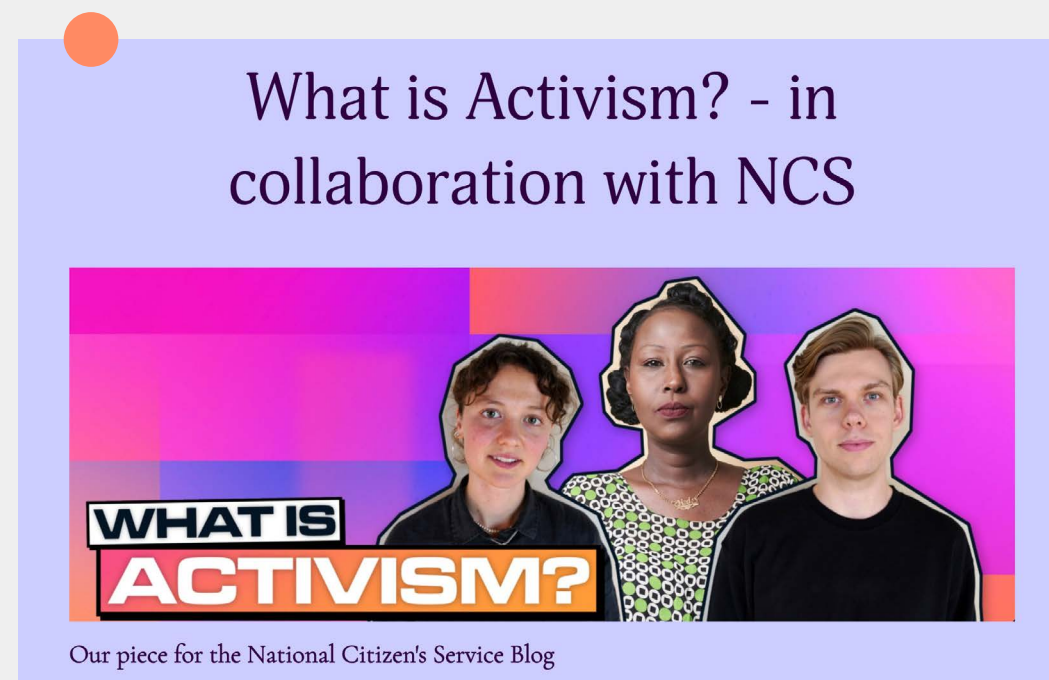
# Building connections

- Baroness Rosie Boycott
- NCS
- The Desert Flower Foundation
- Thomson Reuters foundation
- TrustLaw
- Stirred health
- Bloody Good Period





In June, Mabel and Sema connected with Baroness Rosie Boycott, long-time feminist campaigner and co-founder of the iconic women's liberation magazine Spare Rib. Rich conversations and shared motivations and goals then resulted in her becoming a valued Trustee – what an honour.



As part of 16 days of activism, we got invited to be guest writers for NCS's blog. Ellie wrote a piece titled 'What is Activism?' and explored the many forms activism can take, using Vavenger's jobs as tangible examples.

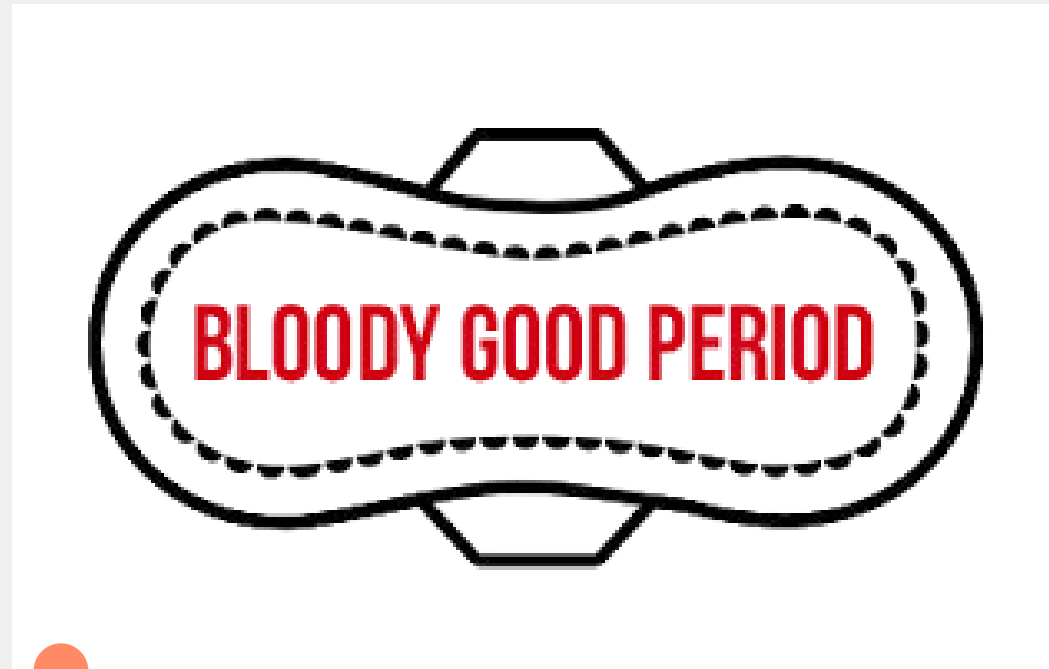


Hoda, Sema, Soraya and Mabel met with representatives from The Desert Flower Foundation (DFF) to begin collaborating on our shared mission of eradicating FGM/C. DFF was founded by prominent FGM/C survivor Waris Dirie and currently don't have activities in the UK.



Thomson Reuters foundation TrustLaw donated six-figured pro-bono legal time.

“We are delighted to support The Vavengers, a prominent charity dedicated to advancing and safeguarding women’s rights—a mission that aligns seamlessly with our core values. TrustLaw provides legal assistance and research to bolster frontline human rights organizations like The Vavengers globally. By connecting The Vavengers with leading law firms, we can not only strengthen their capabilities but also create a network of support that can have a lasting impact. Together, we want to build a future where every woman and girl child can thrive.” – TrustLaw



Bloody Good Period are a great force against period poverty, advocating for safe and comfortable menstruation. They have been a long-term partner to our Support Hubs, providing free period products for survivors



Stirred Health is a B-Corp certified health communications agency mixing things up” in the health sector. For the last six months, Stirred has helped us to raise the profile of our message and boost our engagement with healthcare professionals.

“Our goal is focused on elevating awareness of the impact of FGM/C on women and girls among a wide variety of stakeholders, and critically to also drive behaviour change amongst those stakeholders that genuinely makes a difference to health outcomes. Our collaborative work with the inspiring Vavengers team has started to gain real traction in 2022/23, and we are excited to be building further momentum and continuing our partnership, with lots of ideas and buckets of bold ambition”.

# Changing the law for women and girls

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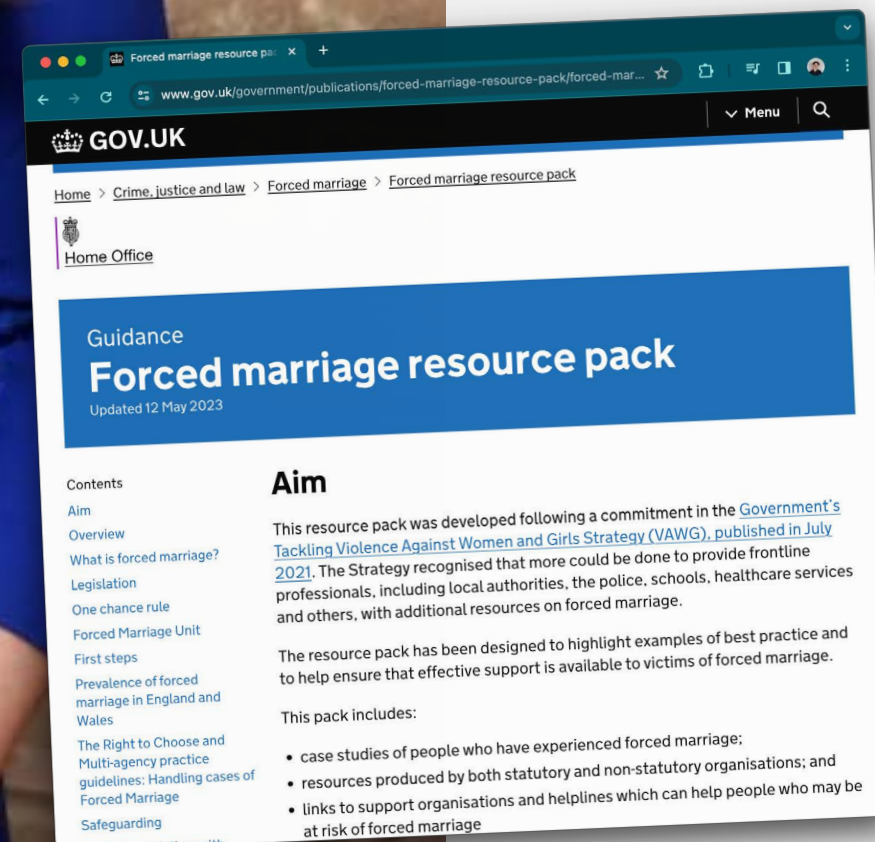
YEAR HIGHLIGHTS





Sema holds an Advisory and Key Stakeholder role at the Forced Marriage Partnership Unit. Through this position she represents the voices of survivors and uses our organisational insights to inform policies and decision-makers. This year she supported the UK Government with the rollout of The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 - increasing the legal age to marry or enter into civil partnership from 16 to 18 in England and Wales.

This also resulted in The Vavengers being listed as a trusted support provider in the GOV.UK [Forced Marriage Resource Pack](#) alongside other brilliant organisations.





# Financial report

32

# Bid Das

## CFO

Wow what a year it's been at the Vavengers. Total revenue (excluding donations in kind) for FY23 has more than doubled (112%) compared to previous year (£176k v £83k). Much of this growth has been due to improvements in our website which has increased public donations allowing us to improve our services from everything to our pop-up hubs and educational workshops to our campaigning so a huge thank you to those who have donated.

This increase in revenue and as a direct result increase in cash has indirectly allowed us to become more established in areas we were light on in the previous financial year. For example, this year we have put together a solid board of directors committed to the mission of the vavengers and assisting the team when needed and we have made huge strides in executing our strategic mission and compliance reporting.

As we have grown, our cost base has also increased in line as expected. Administrative costs (excluding pro bono legal work) rose 5 fold compared to prior year (£152k v £31k). Expansion in our programs and services have allowed us

to reach a wider group and address their additional needs. With extra demand in this area comes an increase in workload and our team has grown now to 6 employees plus many more volunteers providing invaluable support.

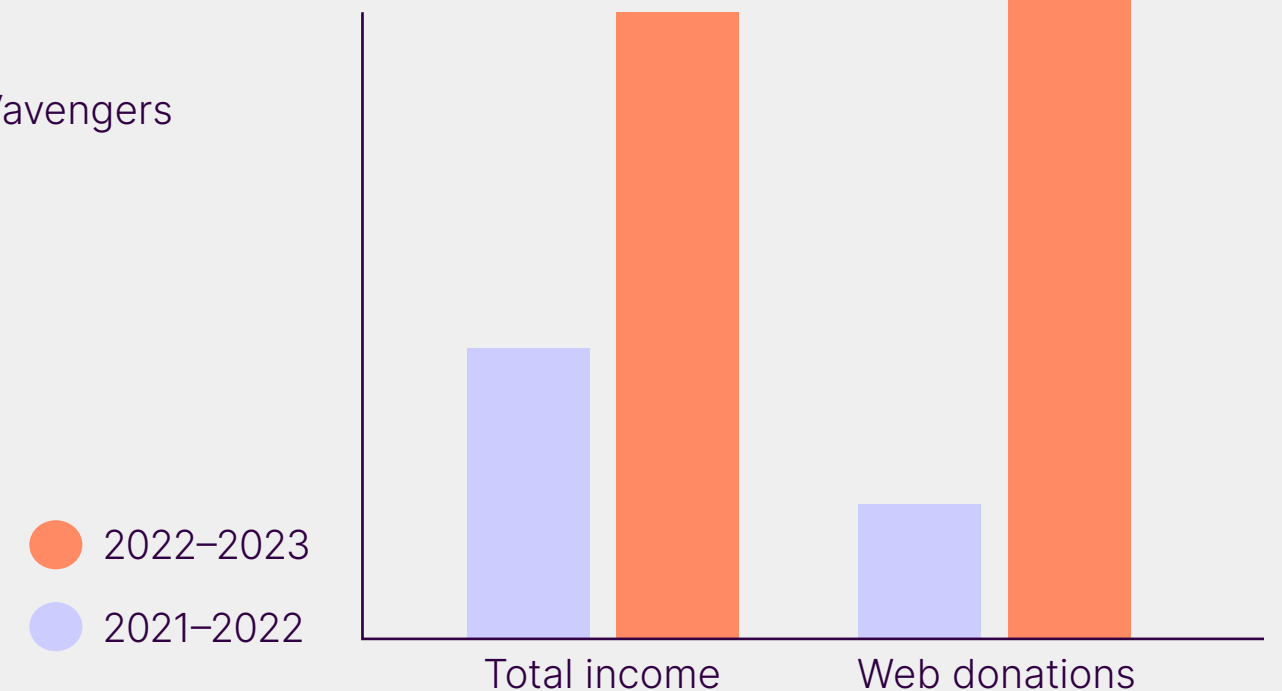
To our donors, thank you for believing in our vision and investing in the betterment of people's lives. To our volunteers, your time and energy are the heartbeat of The Vavengers. To our beneficiaries, your stories inspire us every day to strive for a brighter tomorrow.

*Bid*

**Bid Das**  
Chief Financial Officer at The Vavengers



Total income  
**+112%**





[WWW.THEVAVENGERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEVAVENGERS.CO.UK)

WHEN WOMEN RISE, WE ALL RISE.

# **The Vavengers**

Charity Registration No.1184202

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
Year ended 4 April 2023

Shruti Soni Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

## The Vavengers

### Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Status:</b>	Charity Registration No.1184202 The charity's governing document is its constitution dated 1 July 2019	
<b>Registered Office:</b>	3rd Floor 86-90 Paul Street London EC2A 4NE	
<b>Chief Executive:</b>	Sema Gornall	
<b>Trustees:</b>	Mabel Evans Najmo Fiyasko Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali Hodan Ali Warsame Fredrick Thomas Ingham Clark Cerys Shepherd Milosz Mieszko Palej Rose Violet Bonham Carter	Chair    Appointed on 14 July 2023 Retired on 25 February 2023 Appointed 25 August 2022 Appointed 16 June 2022
<b>Independent examiner:</b>	Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE Shruti Soni Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE	
<b>Bankers</b>	Metro Bank 1 Southampton Row London WC1B 5HA WC1B 5HA	

# The Vavengers

## Trustees' Report

### for the year ended

### 4 April 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 4 April 2023. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Constitution. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Background and Scope**

The Trust was created by a deed dated 1 July 2019 as a Trust, exclusively for ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and to create awareness of the issue with aims of ending both FGM/C and other forms of Gender-Based Violence. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202.

##### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Aims and Objectives for the Public Benefit**

The objectives of the charity are:

1. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by using the arts as a vehicle to advance education and raise awareness of gender base violence.
2. In particular female genital mutilation; creating public art and art activities as a means to cultivate a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

The Vavengers has now evolved to also offer skills and capacity building to survivors and organisations working on the front line. To reflect the growth of the organisation, trustees are in a period of considering the objectives and they are currently under review.

The activities of the charity are:

1. Community outreach hubs in the UK that support vulnerable women and girls' physical, psychological, and legal needs with a focus on FGM/C and all other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
2. Educational workshops about FGM/C and other forms of VAWG for organisations, including healthcare professionals and government agencies
3. National and international campaigns to ensure FGM/C and other forms of VAWG is on the political and social agenda

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Charity held community projects, advocacy work and campaigning to empower our communities and to build an understanding about legal rights and services available to women and girls, whilst also creating high level awareness and understanding of the gaps in healthcare and education for the most marginalised groups living in the United Kingdom. The charity secured important partnerships in this financial year which ensured the strong growth of the organisation.

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2011

##### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income during the year under review was £323,376 (2022: £83,642) of which £52,052 (2022: £39,670) was restricted and £271,324 (2022: £43,972) was unrestricted. Expenditure during the year was £287,109 (202: £88,207). Of the total expenditure £32,652 (2022: £47,625) was from restricted grants. The charity had net income during the year of £36,267 (2022: net expenditure £4,565). General reserves held at the year end were £20,209 (2022: £3,342) and restricted funds were £39,275 (2022: £19,875). Based on these figures, the trustees consider an amount between £30,000 and £60,000 to cover between 3 to 6 months of running expenditure to be sufficient level of reserve.

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated services received during the year valued at £146,738 of which £11,500 was for marketing and £135,238 was for legal advice for policy work. Due to creation of a large amount of resources through campaigning work the charity received significant pro-bono services from law firms through its Thomson Reuters Foundation membership. The trustees realise that the valuation of pro-bono services included in the accounts is high for a charity of this size but it explains why the charity's impact was much bigger than its annual financial income, as a direct result of the generous pro-bono work received. The trustees have decided to reflect the full true amount as it showcases the true impact of the charity's Thomson Reuters Foundation membership.

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended  
**4 April 2023**

**RESERVE POLICY**

The Vavengers will continue to build its reserves until the charity reaches six months of ongoing operational costs secured in reserves

**MANAGING RISK OF HARM**

In carrying out the charity's purpose to achieve public benefit the trustees have managed risk of detriment or harm to the charity's beneficiaries or to the public in general (which they feel is minimal). This has been achieved by identifying such risks where possible, minimising them and making sure any harm that might arise is of a minor consequence to the carrying out of such purpose.

**GOING CONCERN**

The Charity has secured multi-year funding this financial year and built free reserves of £13,507. While the lack of funding and interest continues to face our area of anti-Violence Against Women and Girls, The Vavengers works hard to continue financial stability. This financial year, we have more than doubled our financial income reflecting our outreach to more women and girls as well as our growth in campaigning and education. The Charity works with a multi-month approach to all projects now to improve our stability and to be able to provide clarity for the operational team. With multi-year grant agreements and access to new corporate fundraising avenues, the Charity plans to continue growing annual income while growing our outreach. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements despite the low general reserves at the end of the financial year. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees intend to continue to support as many women and girls as resources permit.

**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During previous financial year ended 4 April 2022, Mabel Evans received £6,994 as remuneration for providing adhoc professional services while she was still serving as the CEO before she became a Trustee. Soraya Ali, trustee, also received remuneration of £250 in 2022 for providing adhoc services before she became a trustee. No trustees from the time of their trusteeship were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity during the financial year ended 4 April 2023. No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: nil).

Reimbursement of travel to Kenya for Orchid project during the year was made to Hoda Ali, trustee, £1,088 (2022: nil). There was no payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs to any other trustees during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2022: nil).

Of the total donations, £358 (2022: £700) was received from trustees during the year. There is no restriction on the use of these donations.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended  
**4 April 2023**

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (continued)**

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, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 2nd February 2024 and signed on its behalf.

*Mabel Evans*

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Name: Mabel Evans  
(Trustee & Chair)

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Vavengers

I report to the charity trustees on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 4 April 2023 as set out on pages 7 to 16.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.



**Shruti Soni ACCA**

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 02/02/2024

**The Vavengers**  
**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)**

For the year ended 4 April 2023

	<u>Note</u>	2023			2022		
		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Grants and donations		124,531	52,052	176,583	43,307	39,670	82,977
Donation in Kind	2	146,738	-	146,738	-	-	-
Fundraising income from events			-	-	665	-	665
Investment income							
Interest income		55		55	-	-	-
<b>Total income:</b>		<u>271,324</u>	<u>52,052</u>	<u>323,376</u>	<u>43,972</u>	<u>39,670</u>	<u>83,642</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<b>Cost of raising funds</b>							
Fundraising costs and events		17,264	8,477	25,741	792	1,559	2,351
<b>Charitable activities</b>							
Direct project cost		25,613	12,640	38,253	25,800	30,200	56,000
Consulting fees		4,119	1,015	5,134	-	7,444	7,444
Staff costs		56,358	6,755	63,113	8,414	6,870	15,284
<b>Support costs</b>							
Bank charges		4	-	4	44	-	44
IT software and consumables		3,281	2,889	6,170	1,298	-	1,298
Printing and postage		669	806	1,475	-	50	50
Legal and Professional fees		135,537	-	135,537	-	-	-
Sundry expenses		738	70	808	174	635	809
Depreciation		3,351	-	3,351	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence		3,912	-	3,912	10	32	42
Independent examination		1,974	-	1,974	540	414	954
Rent, insurance and utilities		1,637	-	1,637	3,510	421	3,931
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<u>254,457</u>	<u>32,652</u>	<u>287,109</u>	<u>40,582</u>	<u>47,625</u>	<u>88,207</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<u>16,867</u>	<u>19,400</u>	<u>36,267</u>	<u>3,390</u>	<u>(7,955)</u>	<u>(4,565)</u>
Transfer between fund		-	-	-	(136)	136	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>16,867</u>	<u>19,400</u>	<u>36,267</u>	<u>3,254</u>	<u>(7,819)</u>	<u>(4,565)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward	10	3,342	19,875	23,217	88	27,694	27,782
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	10	<u>20,209</u>	<u>39,275</u>	<u>59,484</u>	<u>3,342</u>	<u>19,875</u>	<u>23,217</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements.

## The Vavengers

### Balance sheet

As at 4 April 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets			<u>6,702</u>		-
			<u>6,702</u>		-
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>55,137</u>		<u>27,587</u>	
		<u>55,137</u>		<u>27,587</u>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>2,355</u>		<u>4,370</u>	
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>	9		<u><u>59,484</u></u>		<u><u>23,217</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds			<u>39,275</u>		19,875
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds			<u>20,209</u>		3,342
<b>Total charity funds</b>	10		<u><u>59,484</u></u>		<u><u>23,217</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on  
and signed on its behalf by:

*Mabel Evans*

---

Trustee & Chair

Name: Mabel Evans

Date: 02/02/2024

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 4 April 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The 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 the 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 on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

#### b) Public benefit entity

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern as described in the trustees report.

There are no key judgements that the charity has made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

#### d) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

#### f) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

#### g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Support costs include the cost of overall direction and administration of the charity's activities, comprising the overhead costs of the central function
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

#### h) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 4 April 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### k) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Office & Computer Equipment 3 years

### 2 Donation in kind

Donated services received during the year were valued at £146,738 of which £11,500 was for marketing and £135,238 was for legal advice for policy work. Due to creation of a large amount of resources through campaigning work the charity received significant pro-bono services from law firms through its Thomson Reuters Foundation membership. The trustees realise that the valuation of probono services included in the accounts is high for a charity of this size but it explains why the charity's impact was much bigger than its annual financial income, as a direct result of the generous pro-bono work received. The trustees have decided to reflect the full true amount as it showcases the true impact of the charity's Thomson Reuters Foundation membership.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2023

### 3 Staff cost, Trustee remuneration and expenses

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	61,964	15,137
Social security costs	-	-
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	1,149	147
	<u>63,113</u>	<u>15,284</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2022: nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £40,840 (2022: £11,214).

### 4 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	5.0	4.0
	<u>5.0</u>	<u>4.0</u>

### 5 Related party transactions

During previous financial year ended 4 April 2022, Mabel Evans received £6,994 as remuneration for providing adhoc professional services while she was still serving as the CEO before she became a Trustee. Soraya Ali, trustee, also received remuneration of £250 in 2022 for providing adhoc services before she became a trustee. No trustees at the time of their trusteeship were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity during the financial year ended 4 April 2023. No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

Reimbursement of travel to Kenya for Orchid project during the year was made to Hoda Ali, trustee, £1,088 (2022: nil). There was no payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs to any other trustees during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2022: nil).

Of the total donations, £358 (2022: £700) was received from trustees during the year. There is no restriction on the use of these donations.

### 6 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2023

### 7 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer & Office Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>		
At the start of the year	-	-
Additions in year	10,053	<b>10,053</b>
At the end of the year	<u>10,053</u>	<u><b>10,053</b></u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At the start of the year	-	-
Charge for the year	3,351	<b>3,351</b>
At the end of the year	<u>3,351</u>	<u><b>3,351</b></u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
<b>At the end of the year</b>	<u>6,702</u>	<u><b>6,702</b></u>
At the start of the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

### 8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Taxation and social security	667	2,027
Other creditors	248	423
Accruals	1,440	1,920
	<u><b>2,355</b></u>	<u>4,370</u>

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2023

### 9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	2023			Total funds £
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	
Tangible fixed assets	6,702	-	-	6,702
Net current assets	13,507	-	39,275	52,782
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>20,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,275</b>	<b>59,484</b>

### Analysis of net assets between funds

	2022			Total funds £
	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	3,342	-	19,875	23,217
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,875</b>	<b>23,217</b>

### 10 Movements in funds

	5-Apr-22 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-23 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Barclays ML	63	-	(58)	-	5
Heintz Check	407	-	(404)	-	3
Home office	1,019	-	(985)	-	34
Anonymous donor	686	-	(533)	-	153
Prism the grant fund	2,450	25,000	(8,871)	-	18,579
Two magpies Fund	15,000	15,000	(15,132)	-	14,868
Happy Baby Community	250	-	-	-	250
Orchid Project	-	3,052	(3,052)	-	-
Anonymous grant	-	1,200	(1,096)	-	104
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	7,800	(2,521)	-	5,279
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>19,875</b>	<b>52,052</b>	<b>(32,652)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,275</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>271,324</b>	<b>(254,457)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,209</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>3,342</b>	<b>271,324</b>	<b>(254,457)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,209</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>23,217</b>	<b>323,376</b>	<b>(287,109)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,484</b>

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2023

### 10 Movements in funds (continued)

	5-Apr-21	Incoming resources & gains	Outgoing resources & losses	Transfers	4-Apr-22
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
The Rothschild Foundation	1,376	-	(1,382)	6	-
Barclays ML	63	-	-	-	<b>63</b>
Heintz Check	407	-	-	-	<b>407</b>
Home office	10,848	-	(9,829)	-	<b>1,019</b>
Anonymous donor	5,000	10,000	(14,314)	-	<b>686</b>
Prism the grant fund	10,000	10,000	(17,550)	-	<b>2,450</b>
Two magpies Fund	-	15,000	-	-	<b>15,000</b>
Happy Baby Community	-	750	(500)	-	<b>250</b>
The Big Give	-	2,420	(2,550)	130	-
London Catalyst	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,694</b>	<b>39,670</b>	<b>(47,625)</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>19,875</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>43,972</b>	<b>(40,582)</b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>3,342</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>43,972</b>	<b>(40,582)</b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>3,342</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>27,782</b>	<b>83,642</b>	<b>(88,207)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,217</b>

### Purposes of restricted funds

Barclays ML - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.

Heintz Check - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.

Home office - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.

Anonymous donor - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries

Prism the grant fund - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue its front line programme support hubs by funding various project related costs including staff salaries.

Two magpies Fund - Funds provided to enable The Vavengers to continue running its front line programme support hubs by funding any expenditure item related to support hub costs including staff salaries.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2023

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Happy Bday Community - Funds provided in return for educational session consultation to enable The Vavengers to fund staff salaries.

Orchid Project - Funds provided for The Vavengers representative to be able to travel to Orchid Project partnership project based in Kenya, Africa.

Anonymous grant - Funds provided as an emergency response to cost-of-living crisis to be given out as a one off bonus to The Vavengers staff members.

The Clothworkers Foundation - Funds provided to enable for The Vavengers to purchase tech spec to use for Charity's day to day operations.

### **11 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organizations (CIO) registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. It's members are it's trustees. Currently there are 7 members.

**THE VAVENGERS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1184202

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# Accounts

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# THE VAVENGERS

## Annual review and financial statements 2021/22



		Date of appointment
Founding Chair	Mabel Evans	November 2021
Founding Trustee	Hoda Ali	November 2021
Trustees	Milosz Mieszko Palej	August 2022
	Rose Violet Bonham Carter	June 2022
	Najmo Fiyasko	January 2022
	Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali	January 2022
	Cerys Shepherd	August 2021
CEO	Sema Gornall	

The Vavengers is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in England and Wales.

Registration number

1184202

Registered address:

The Vavengers, 3rd Floor, 86-90 Paul Street,  
London EC2A 4NE United Kingdom

Contact us at

info@thevavengers.co.uk  
www.thevavengers.co.uk

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# Welcomes & reflections

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# Mabel Evans Founding Chair

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The last year has been one of growth and expansion for The Vavengers. We received our first multi-year grant which has allowed us to hire our first staff members. Vavengers co-founders, Hoda Ali and I have made a smooth transition to the board, and the team is expanding under the brilliant leadership of our CEO, Sema Gornall.

Alongside the move to the board, Hoda and I have been focused on building our governance, inclusion and campaigning committees to ensure all work we are doing is charity commission compliant and up to a high standard for our donors and beneficiaries. As our work reaches new areas in London and our team begins to grow it has been a priority to ensure that Sema and the team are supported by a strong and competent board. Recently, team member and a loyal employee of The Vavengers, Soraya Ali joined the board. Having worked at Reuters, Soraya is an experienced journalist, now employed by BBC Africa; Soraya's knowledge in PR and Journalism is a welcome addition to

the board. Alongside Soraya, we have welcomed anti-FGM and anti-Child marriage activist Najmo Fiyakso to the board. Najmo has been a prominent figure of women's rights in her home country; Iceland. Much of Najmo's work is seen by thousands online as she courageously demands for the rights of women globally. Her expertise in women's rights, her knowledge of mobilising an online community, and her lived experience as a survivor of Gender Based Violence means she will guide our board to ensure we are supporting our beneficiaries to the very best of our ability.

As the year progressed, we appointed two new Board members to join us. Rose Bonham Carter and Milosz Palej. Rose is a certified sexological bodyworker, somatic sex coach, EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) facilitator and energy worker. She supports women in every form, and at every stage. She has been practicing for over 9 years and brings her expertise and knowledge to the board room, and also to our beneficiaries to aid in their journey to healing. Milosz is an

associate at law firm WilmerHale and a poet. He has volunteered in refugee camps in Greece and France and creates poetry around the experiences of being human. His knowledge as a lawyer will be a welcome addition to the board as well as his passion for poetry.

It has always been core to Hoda and I to ensure that the Values of The Vavengers is weaved throughout the charity and especially present in the boardroom. Our diverse board of survivors, artists, experts and specialists allow us to reflect on and guide our work with a varied and also focused perspective. We are constantly striving to learn and be the best we can be for all those that encounter our organisation, from donors to beneficiaries. We have always pledged to work in a non-hierarchical way, ensuring as a board we are leaders but we are also accessible to all of the team and open in our navigation of a constantly changing landscape.

We have of course faced challenges this year: funders themselves are still unaware of the

devastating effects of FGM, and funding to the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector is still sparse. Whilst VAWG is not decreasing, we are witnessing ebbs and flows in the funder's interest in the subject matter. Day to day, The Vavengers team are working well under the supportive and inspiring leadership of our CEO Sema. The team has enhanced our long-term partnership with KDLK, our community partners. By reducing overheads KDLK has been given independence from The Vavengers with the partnerships secured. These include; the Felix Project, Bloody Good Period and Choose Love partnerships. This sets the tone for our long-term strategic plan, in which we hope to support all community interest groups and community ambassadors we work with, to strengthen their independence through brokering partnerships and supporting them in building funder relationships.

Our strategic plan involves expanding our support hubs across London, and ensuring all activist and grassroots organisations we partner with have a long-lasting partner and funder relationships beyond our work together. It will always be core to The Vavengers to ensure we

create a supportive and collaborative working environment internally and externally.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our stakeholders and funders, we simply would not be able to continue to do our work if it wasn't for the support and encouragement from our colleagues and funders. I am incredibly proud of The Vavengers team and would like to personally thank Sema Gornall, our CEO, for her outstanding work in taking our charity to its next chapter. I make sure to introduce myself to all new team members, and the bright and passionate teammates we have recruited this year are undoubtedly driven and passionate about our work, this is the greatest joy to witness. I very much look forward to working with our new and future board members and team members to support women suffering unimaginable pain, inflicted upon them because of their gender.

As we look to the future, we are securing more pro-bono partners who are supporting our organisation in every phase of our work, from campaigning to PR and Marketing. The support and strength of the team is fundamental as we enter this next stage of exciting partnerships

and campaigns to be released next year. The Vavengers will continue to stand with and for every woman affected by Gender-Based Violence.

*Mabel*



**Mabel Evans**

Founding Chair of The Vavengers

*Also* Filmmaker and Impact Consultant

[www.mabelevans.com](http://www.mabelevans.com)

# Hoda Ali Founding Trustee

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What a year we've had at The Vavengers - from welcoming our new CEO Sema Gornall, launching safe spaces for women and girls in London to building one of the most impressive boards of the sector. When I started The Vavengers with Mabel years ago, we never dreamed of a day our organisation would turn into something this big. We wanted to get together with activists and survivors to speak up and connect people to amplify the voices of survivors of FGM/C like me and Gender-Based Violence in general.

It was only over a decade ago I started speaking up for myself to make sure what happened to me as a child wouldn't happen to any other girl child. I continued speaking up on platforms I never thought I would occupy and somebody with a big heart and passion was listening to me - it was Mabel and together we built something beautiful, continuing to thrive with a powerhouse of people who came together to take our vision to the next level.

As a child, I was really happy and thriving until FGM/C happened to me and FGM/C defined so many things in my life; my physical and mental health, opportunities taken away from me and my time spent in hospitals. As a child who was subjected to FGM/C, I faced so many other disadvantages - like many girls who are cut. I quickly went from climbing trees, playing with my siblings and friends, going to school and just being a child, to a girl who was cut and had to run away from a war - something my eight year old brain didn't understand. All the things that happened to me took away so much from me and my life and I am standing strong alongside a brilliant team as the Co-founder and Trustee of The Vavengers to ensure everyone in the society puts the rights and safety of girl children first.

This year, The Vavengers team with our CEO's wonderful leadership and vision, built one of the safest spaces I have ever been to as a survivor of FGM/C and a refugee; a space I would have benefited so much from when I first arrived to

the UK in the 90s from years of being in refugee camps as a child. I hope our led by and for approach sets an example in the sector and more funders place their attention to funding causes that work to end Violence Against Women and Girls.

*Hoda*



**Hoda Ali**  
Founding Trustee of The Vavengers  
*Also* Safeguarding Consultant and Public Speaker  
[www.hodamali.com](http://www.hodamali.com)

# Sema Gornall CEO

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It's been exactly a year since my appointment as the CEO of The Vavengers as I am writing this report for the financial year 2021/22. It has been the most inspiring year of my career (so far). I've been thriving in my position alongside a multi-skilled and passionate board and an incredibly talented team. We are redefining the non-profit sector and we want to inform and inspire those funding us, collaborating with us, being supported by us or working for similar organisations, to create solutions using their areas of expertise. In a sector (non-profit) where casual racism, hate towards minoritised people, exploitation, long-hours with low rewards and high emotional tax has been normalised for so many activists, we created a work culture that we believe will change the sector one day - with more organisations joining our way of working. We recognise that the wellbeing of our team members, board, funders, supporters and beneficiaries are all equally important and should be considered when producing programmes and campaigns.

This year, we built a multi-skilled Community Ambassadorship programme where we collaborate with grassroot organisation Founders and independent activists working to end Violence Against Women and Girls. Our programme gives access to our Ambassadors to be a part of our frontline programmes, campaigns and educational sessions while developing their own organisations and increasing visibility of their important work. This programme meant that some survivors who were working in the sector for so many years without a single paycheck got their first payments through our programmes for the valuable work they do. We understand that the non-profit sector shouldn't only be for those who can afford it and also that many activists have been working for free at the expense of their financial wellbeing and future - in the knowledge that they are in a sector that is mostly made up of privileged people. I know from my own experience as a first-generation immigrant, especially without any generational wealth, how hard it is to even break into the

non-profit sector - never mind thrive. I always questioned why minoritised people made up (what boards usually refer to as) the "ground-floor staff" which always sounded problematic to me, while the boards and executive teams are mostly made up of those who don't represent the cause or the people they are supporting. Let's just say, The Vavengers have never been that. We were founded by a group of young women - activists and survivors who wanted to create a better world for themselves and the future generations.

With the help of our existing funders, we are hoping to change the mindset of many funders who don't believe in funding core costs or funding anti-VAWG organisations in general. Treebeard Trust joined us this year as a multi-year unrestricted funder following the Sam and Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation. Both recognise that funding anti-VAWG organisations also resolves many other issues such as poverty, healthcare inequality, social injustice and the list goes on. We believe this year, we have shown

that increasing financial and organisational capacity/development of those already working in the frontline with education, expertise and lived-experience is the most impactful way to end a problem that has existed systematically for centuries. We wasted no pennies...

Our board carefully assessed their skills and we welcomed new members both advisory roles and Trustees to increase the governance, safeguarding and creative capacity of our organisation. The industry leading members added to our board since our growth journey began in October 2021 include; Dr Leyla Hussein OBE as Advisory Board Member, Rose Bonham Carter as Trustee and Wellness Ambassador, Najmo Fiyasko as Trustee & Campaign Ambassador, Milosz Palej as Legal Trustee, Soraya Ali as Trustee & Media Ambassador, Harriet Holder as Advisory Board Member, Joy Clarke as Education Ambassador and Baroness Rosie Boycott as our first Patron. Having both Co-founders on board as Trustees ensures our expansion and growth is done without losing our vision and character of the organisation.

Our Head of Programming and Development, Dominica, has worked with passion and an ocean of empathy and became the woman that most

vulnerable women and girls have trusted to seek support, with The Vavengers becoming the first organisation that they would reach out to or receive support from. We were proudly able to support hundreds of women and girls this year thanks to us creating the UK's first holistic pop-up support and wellness hubs for women and girls.

Our Art Director Megan led our rebranding project to reflect the growth of our organisation. This resulted in a carefully curated website that considers all users who visit our website and social media, from funders to beneficiaries. An artistic face has resulted in us securing larger grants later and many women and girls coming forward to seek support.

I cannot thank our CFO, Bid, enough for digitising and automating the financial processes of our organisation within a few months, helping the board and team to understand financial data trends. We made our reporting accessible to funders and can pinpoint the percentage of impact areas and funding themes within minutes.

I have been honoured to work alongside my colleagues who share the same vision with me

and delivered the first year of our five-year strategic plan with overachieving results thanks to our collective understanding of our cause, our passion and our transferable skills. Just within the board and the team, we are; filmmakers, writers, actors, wellness professionals, activists, survivors of GBV, lawyers, creatives and artists. A team like no other. We have shown that with the right team, the most ambitious plans (and ambitious is a word we like) are achievable without the cost of crossing any personal boundaries, neither financial nor emotional. We are, however, still struggling to garner the attention our important work deserves. Ending FGM/C and other forms of Gender-Based Violence requires everyone's input and we will continue to work until the day GBV ends. As we continue to make noise, we are hoping everyone joins us in our mission of creating a just world.

*Sema*

**Sema Gornall**  
CEO of The Vavengers  
*Also* Founder and CEO  
of PowerSuit and The Un-told,  
Artist and Writer  
[www.semagornall.com](http://www.semagornall.com)



# Dominica Debczak-Debski

## Head of Programming and Development

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Since joining The Vavengers team in January, I learnt that with the right support, leadership and vision, an ambitious goal is just that: a goal. Ambition seems to have a negative connotation: a goal that may be unachievable. In the past year, The Vavengers have proven time and time again that ‘ambition’ simply reflects our strong desire and determination to reach our goals and strategic plans. Working alongside such an inspiring and committed team makes the emotionally taxing work we do all the more manageable.

Our CEO Sema’s commitment to leading change is second to none, and the ideas and visions that flow as a result, are incredibly creative and inspiring. Driven by our clear passion to fight FGM/C and VAWG, The Vavengers are redefining what it means to be working in the third sector. Empowerment and wellbeing are core components within the Vavengers community where activists, survivors and specialists unite to fight for all women. In the current global climate these tenets

are more important than ever; no woman is free until every woman is free, and there is so much work still to do.

The Vavengers support hubs have allowed many brave voices to be heard, powerful stories shared, and women empowered, all of which stem from violent crimes against women and girls that have no place in an equal society. The facts are indisputable: FGM/C is a gateway to a myriad of complications. Social, psychological and medical issues are the consequences that follow the shattering change that affect the female body once a woman and girl is cut. The Vavengers exist to support these women through a proven effective approach of: engaging with communities, being survivor led and research driven. This has been the focus for The Vavengers’ development department for the past six months: supporting communities in London and understanding their most pressing needs.

The Vavengers were founded on the concept

of collaboration combined with a specialist knowledge of GBV and FGM/C. Bringing these two threads together by creating safe spaces for women and offering guidance, is at the core of the organisation and something we hope to further expand upon and develop in the future. To equip ourselves for this work, safeguarding is an obvious priority, ensuring the wellbeing and emotional preparation of our team to better support our communities. Rigorous partner screening has also ensured that we have only partnered with charities and organisations that are specialists in their field. We are ever grateful for their support and knowledge and proud to work with such fantastic organisations. We know that we can only impact the greatest change, together.

Impact reports filed to our funders have shown positive results of helping to relieve the pressure of the current living crisis, with our hubs providing essential items and food to all women and children in attendance, who will be the most affected

during this time. Booklets have been created by our team (the first of their kind) and have already been translated to Arabic and French, providing tangible support for women who have been effected by FGM/C and VAWG. Our Design and Marketing team, Megan and Ellie, have made these booklets into most accessible and readable, digestible content: key in supporting and communicating change.

Our ambitious goals and bold plans are a result of the need we have seen and the distance we still have to go: we're excited and ready to impact further in 2023.

*Dominica*



**Dominica Debczak-Debski**  
Head of Programming and Development  
at The Vavengers

*Also Humanitarian and activist*

# Engagement report

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# Megan Barclay

## Head of Design and Marketing

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During last year's review I had been a paid employee for just a few months (following 2 years of being a volunteer) and wrote about the year before having set us up for a strong one – and I wasn't wrong. Sema launched our year with a new strategy that helped me rebuild the foundations of our marketing approach. A quick look at our marketing output might suggest a quieter year than 2020/2021, but behind it is a stronger definition of what we do as an organisation, who we want to reach and how we do it, and excitement for a new content strategy that ensures we stick to our values and don't get lost in the noise of the 24hr media cycle.

Our creative highlights from this year have been: launching a brand refresh with a focus on accessible design, building a new website in line with the new look and feel (built in-house by our CEO Sema and me) and successfully using a range of media (online and off) to invite women to our support hubs. All

these things are part of the strong foundations that will ensure the Vavengers has a succinct voice, an informed strategy to reach a range of women and the capacity and knowledge to engage more people than ever before.

This year I have begun to understand the breadth of what marketing can be, and thankfully it isn't all about social media. Reflecting on our paid media from 2020/2021, revisiting our long-neglected email subscribers and tailoring content to each platform with an informed insight are just some of the developments I have been making behind the scenes. We have a beautifully diverse audience – from Refugees to corporate funders – and beginning to tailor our communication streams to each and following their user-journey is a goal for the upcoming year.

Welcoming Dominica to the team and watching Sema continually grow our impact has given

me a new perspective on what we can do as an organisation. The Vavengers, Volunteer-led for so long, has always been powered by personal passion for and commitment to the job at hand. But this inevitably created inconsistent capacity and having paid positions, including my own, has taken our work to a higher level than I thought possible. As I know is Sema's plan, I look forward to continually growing our team of skilled individuals with new and challenging perspectives on how we can end Violence Against Women and Girls.

*Megan*

**Megan Joy Barclay**  
Head of Design and Marketing  
at The Vavengers

*Also* Graphic Designer at Friends of the Earth  
[www.meganjoybarclay.com](http://www.meganjoybarclay.com)



# Mini Engagement report

## Jan 22 – Jan 23

Media is always a challenging space to work in, but this year felt louder than ever. Our strongest platforms (Instagram) decision to prioritise film content was a major bump in the road but we have still come away with numbers stronger than last year. Owed in a big part to our growing team of experts and strategic creativity.



Total followers  
+1.6K since 2021

82,000

297

Posts  
+230 from 2021

37,000

Post reach\*  
+25K from 2021  
\*The number of people who saw our posts

124,000

Post impressions\*  
+66K from 2021

\*The number of times our posts appeared on someones screen.

Page and profile reach  
+108K from 2021

\*The number of people who have seen any content in any form

# Project highlights

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# Support Hubs

Following on from the success of our project in Peckham (Reaching out to Your Community), where we supported a community ambassador in running a hub for refugees and asylum seekers, we launched a new model so we could reach more women and girls.

The Vavengers support hubs are free pop-up events across London that centre around women's mental and physical health. Each hub includes; a wellness session with one of our practitioners, a woman shares her story and

experience of Gender Based Violence, an educational workshop about health topics (contraception for example), and a selection of free essential items for attendees to take away. The space also exists as an open opportunity for women and girls to meet, learn about the support on offer to them and disclose any needs for support they might have.

When disclosures are made we do our best to refer women to relevant services and follow their progress with regular check-ups.



# Support Hubs

Through 6 hubs so far, and many more planned, we have directly supported over 500 women and children. We have discussed everything from a personal experience of human trafficking to how beneficial lube can be to FGM/C survivors mental and physical health – nothing is off limits.

The lively photos on the previous and current pages and the numbers on the following attempt to paint a picture of the amazing spaces our hubs are. And if that doesn't convince you, come and see for yourself.

Social media



Local leafleting



Free essential items



Walthamstow location



Over 95% of the women and girls we support are from minoritised communities


70% of women were aged between 24-44

41% of survivors hadn't been informed about FGM/C when they visited a healthcare professional


The majority of the women have at least two children

The majority reported facing 3 or 6 forms of Gender-Based Violence at the same time

25% of visitors are aged 0-24

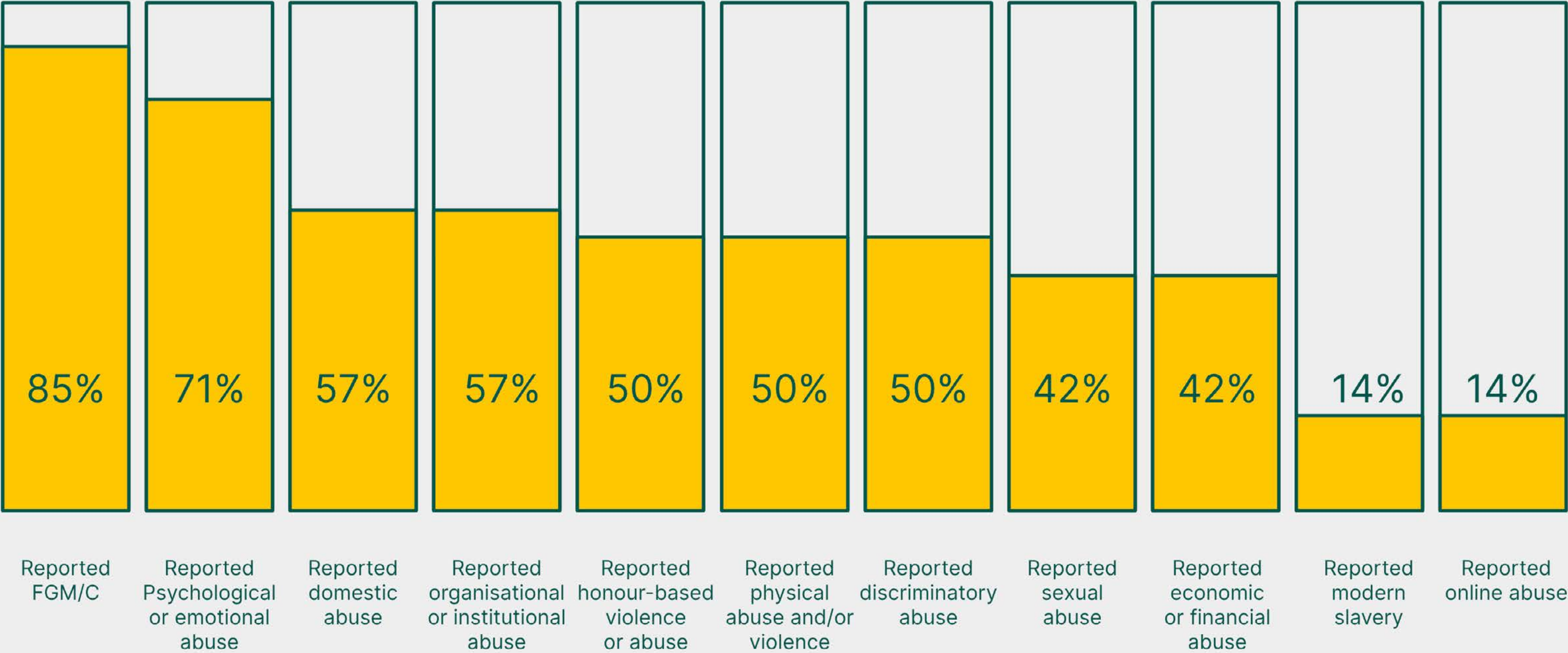


The majority of visitors reported fear of government and lack of trust in their needs being addressed by the authorities



96% instantly felt more confident to talk about problems they were facing after only one workshop

Of those that came to a hub and completed a survey:



For attendees of at our Support Hubs we created a printed booklet that outlines different types of abuse, how to spot the signs, and how to get support in the UK. It also includes a comprehensive contraception guide to further empower women with the knowledge they need to have control over their bodies. We've developed these booklets to work outside the context of our hubs and regularly distribute them at our and others' events. They are open to all.



### Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Gender-Based Violence can happen to anyone.

GBV refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender (U.N.). It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful norms. VAWG is an act of GBV against women and girls.

GBV can include: sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion and manipulation. This can take many forms such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called 'honour crimes'.

Women, mothers, daughters, visionaries, queens, rulers, women.

### Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) as: "All procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons" (2014).

FGM/C is a violation of the child and woman. It is child abuse and illegal in the United Kingdom (UK). It is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities such as attending childbirths.

Increasingly, however, FGM/C is being performed by health providers in many countries. Around 1 in 4 women and girls who were subjected to FGM/C, had it performed by a health personnel.

#### Terminology

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** is an advocacy term, used in legal documents including laws e.g. The UK has 'The FGM Act 2003', some survivors view FGM as a negative term.

**Female Genital Cutting (FGC)** is viewed as an alternative option (used primarily by US agencies).

**Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)** is the inclusive compromise that many organisations, like The Vavengers, choose to use.

**Female Circumcision** is an inappropriate term widely used.

**Sunna** is another term widely used by communities however, should not be encouraged.

**TRIGGER WARNING**  
The following page contains images that may be disturbing to viewers

For support with anything you find difficult here, visit our website for free wellness techniques [www.thevavengers.co.uk/wellness](http://www.thevavengers.co.uk/wellness)

### Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

FGM/C is global. It is present in at least 92 countries around the world. However, data on FGM/C is underrepresentative of the scale of the issue.

- Yellow: Countries with small-scale studies on FGM/C
- Light Purple: Countries where media reports and anecdotal evidence refer to occurrence of FGM/C
- Dark Purple: Countries with nationally representative surveys on FGM/C
- Green: Countries with indirect estimates on FGM/C
- Grey: Countries without enough data

### Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

If you or someone you know is at risk of FGM/C, please call 999 in urgent and 101 in non-urgent situations.

Alternatively, if you or someone you know is being pressured to perform FGM on a girl or woman, get in touch with us at [info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk). We will inform you on support systems, reporting lines and services available.

The 4 main types of FGM/C are below:

- Type 1 (or Clitoridectomy)**: Clitoris or clitoral hood is cut off.
- Type 2 (or Intermediate)**: Clitoris and inner lips are removed.
- Type 3 (or Infibulation)**: Clitoris, inner and outer lips are removed. The remaining skin is stitched or sealed leaving a small opening.
- Type 4 (or other harmful procedures)**: Including: piercing, pricking, stretching, scraping, burning, cutting and introducing corrosives/herbs.

### Contraception options

Speak to your doctor, midwife or sexual health nurse about finding an option that suits you. Source: [www.sexwise.org.uk](http://www.sexwise.org.uk)

<b>CONDOMS</b> External and internal Reasonably effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Remember before sex • Periods won't change • No protection from STIs	<b>INJECTION</b> Effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Pills and forget • Periods may be lighter or stop • No protection from STIs	<b>FERTILITY AWARENESS</b> Reasonably effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Remember regularly • Periods won't change • No protection from STIs	<b>IMPLANT</b> Very effective No need to remember it • No hormones • Pills and forget • Periods may be lighter or stop • No protection from STIs
<b>PILLS</b> Combined oral (COCP) Effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Remember regularly • Pills and forget • Periods won't change • No protection from STIs	<b>COILS</b> IUD: Intrauterine device Very effective No need to remember it • No hormones • Pills and forget • Periods sometimes get heavier • No protection from STIs	<b>STERILISATION</b> Very effective No need to remember it • No hormones • Pills and forget • Periods won't change • No protection from STIs	<b>VAGINAL RING</b> Effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Remember regularly • Periods regular and lighter • No protection from STIs
<b>PROSTESTONES AND ALL (DOP)</b> Effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Remember regularly • Pills and forget • Periods may be lighter or stop • No protection from STIs	<b>IUS: Intrauterine system</b> Very effective No need to remember it • No hormones • Pills and forget • Periods may be lighter or stop • No protection from STIs	<b>PATCH</b> Effective Best when used perfectly • No hormones • Remember before sex • Periods won't change • No protection from STIs	<b>DIAPHRAGMS AND CAPS</b> Reasonably effective Best when used correctly • No hormones • Remember before sex • Periods won't change • No protection from STIs

### Mental health

Support services and helplines:

- www.samartans.org
- 24hr helpline: 116123
- jo@womenfirst.org
- Support Services: Charities working to end domestic abuse and violence against women and children. Contact the police on 999 if you think that a girl or woman is in immediate danger of FGM.
- Refuge and Women's Aid: [refuge.org.uk](http://refuge.org.uk), [womensaid.org.uk](http://womensaid.org.uk)
- 24hr helpline: 0808 2000 247, [helpline@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:helpline@womensaid.org.uk)
- Solece: [solecewomensaid.org](http://solecewomensaid.org)
- Open: Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm, Tues 8am - 5pm, 0800 802 5365, [advice@solecewomensaid.org](mailto:advice@solecewomensaid.org)
- Women and Girls Network: [wgn.org.uk](http://wgn.org.uk)
- Open: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and late evening, Wednesday 6pm-9pm

### FGM/C

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office if the girl or woman at risk has already been taken abroad.

020 7008 1500, [fgccorrespondence@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fgccorrespondence@fco.gov.uk)

FGM Helpline (NSPCC) Project Azure: 0800 028 3550, [fgm\\_help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgm_help@nspcc.org.uk)

Home Office FGM Unit: The Home Office co-ordinates efforts across government and offers outreach support to local areas.

gov.uk/government/collections/female-genital-mutilation, [fgmenquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:fgmenquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk)

### FORWARD

Tackling FGM/C, child marriage, domestic and sexual violence, and discrimination.

[forwarduk.org.uk](http://forwarduk.org.uk)

Open: Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 5:30pm, 07634 388141, [support@forwarduk.org.uk](mailto:support@forwarduk.org.uk)

# The Big Give



This year was the first time we took part in The Big Give – a fundraising campaign whereby if you reach your goal, anything you raise will be matched by The Big Give.

We took to social media (top left and right) as well as hosting 2 events, one public and one for our network and major donors (photos right). We successfully completed the Big Give with £5,000 and this gave us the means to bring to life our first motion graphic film: written, art directed, and produced by The Vavengers –coming 2023.

This campaign was significant in testing our marketing and fundraising strategies. It was challenging but we came away with some learnings and ultimately a successful campaign we are incredibly proud of.



# Financial report

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# Bid Das CFO

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many, Financial Year 2022 was our most impactful year yet. We were able to raise more money via private donations that allowed us to spend more money on support hubs that have changed more lives than ever before.

Total income has stayed the same in comparison to last year however we have seen a huge increase (366%) in donations via our website and through private donations. This has allowed us to expand the team and deliver and support more hubs across London.

There was a still a hangover from the pandemic that meant we couldn't hold as many events as we would have liked. We are aiming to further increase our revenue from donations by going back to our roots and hosting more events this year, whether that be with art, music or something entirely new.

Operationally our costs were largely funded by "The Sam and Bella Foundation" who have been hugely important to us as they have allowed us to expand the team to five part time staff which has helped deliver high quality support and resources to vulnerable people.

Staff costs are our biggest operational outgoing making up 21% of total cost. The breakup of other costs is shown right.

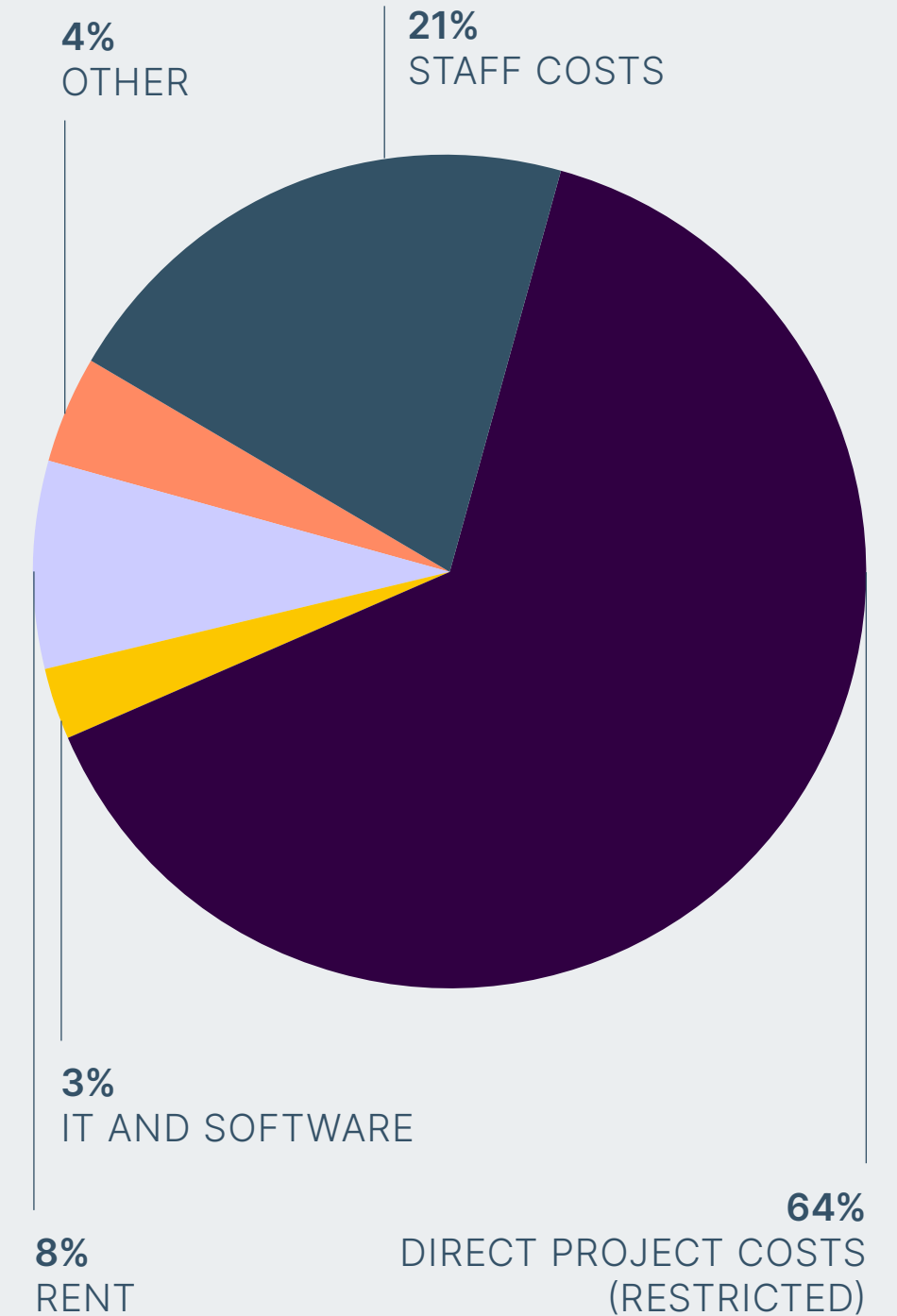
The Vavengers continue to grow year on year and at the time of writing, we are well on target to increase our income by more than 50% for FY23, which can only be translated to being able to help more people.

*Bid*

**Bid Das**  
Chief Financial Officer  
at The Vavengers  
*Also* Senior Management Consultant  
at Gentrack Ltd



## TOTAL COST BREAKDOWN





# **The Vavengers**

Charity Registration No.1184202

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
Year ended 4 April 2022

Shruti Soni Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

## The Vavengers

### Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Status:</b>	Charity Registration No.1184202 The charity's governing document is its constitution dated 1 July 2019		
<b>Registered Office:</b>	3rd Floor 86-90 paul Street London EC2A 4NE		
<b>Chief Executive:</b>	Sema Gornall		
<b>Trustees:</b>	Mabel Evans	Chair	Appointed on 09 November 2021
	Najmo Fiyasko		Appointed on 18 January 2022
	Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali		Appointed on 05 January 2022
	Hodan Ali Warsame		Appointed on 19 November 2021
	Cerys Shepherd		Appointed on 10 August 2021
	Laura Amaya		Retired 21 September 2022
	Milosz Mieszko Palej		Appointed 25 August 2022
	Rose Violet Bonham Carter		Appointed 16 June 2022
<b>Independent examiner:</b>	Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE Shruti Soni Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE		
<b>Bankers</b>	Tide 5th Floor 1 Appold Street London EC2A 2UT		

# The Vavengers

## Trustees' Report

### for the year ended

#### 4 April 2022

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 4 April 2022. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Constitution. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Background and Scope**

The Trust was created by a deed dated 1 July 2019 as a Trust, exclusively for ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and to create awareness of the issue with aims of ending both FGM and other forms of Gender-Based Violence. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Aims and Objectives for the Public Benefit**

The objectives of the charity are:

1. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by using the arts as a vehicle to advance education and raise awareness of gender base violence.
2. In particular female genital mutilation; creating public art and art activities as a means to cultivate a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

The Vavengers has now evolved to also offer skills and capacity building to survivors and organisations working on the front line.

The activities of the charity are:

1. Community outreach hubs in the UK that support vulnerable women and girls' physical, psychological, and legal needs with a focus on FGM and all other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
2. Educational workshops about FGM and other forms of VAWG with businesses and organisations, including healthcare professionals
3. National and international campaigns to ensure FGM and other forms of VAWG is on the political and social agenda

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Trust held community projects, advocacy work and campaigning aim to empower our beneficiaries to understand their rights and services available to them, whilst also creating high level awareness and understanding of the gaps in healthcare and education for the most marginalised groups living in the United Kingdom. The charity secured important partnerships in this financial year which ensured the strong growth of the organisation.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2011

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income during the year under review was £83,642 (2021: £81,488) of which £39,670 (2021: £71,669) was restricted and £43,972 (2021: £9,819) was unrestricted. Expenditure during the year was £88,207 (2021: £63,338). Of the total expenditure £47,625 (2021: £52,477) was from restricted grants. The charity had net expenditure during the year of £4,565 (2021: net income £18,150). General reserves held at the year end were £3,342 (2021: £88) and restricted funds were £19,875 (2021: £27,694). Based on these figures, the trustees consider an amount between £15,000 and £30,000 to cover between 3 to 6 months of running expenditure to be sufficient level of reserve.

#### **RESERVE POLICY**

As a small charity, it is eligible to receive mostly grants with project or purpose-based. As at the year ended, it does not yet have reserves that are allocated for reserves purposes only. However, there has been many grant applications made, pending results where funders haven't limited a purpose and the charity is working on securing one or two of those big unrestricted grants to use it for reserves purposes.

#### **MANAGING RISK OF HARM**

In carrying out the charity's purpose to achieve public benefit the trustees have managed risk of detriment or harm to the charity's beneficiaries or to the public in general (which they feel is minimal). This has been achieved by identifying such risks where possible, minimising them and making sure any harm that might arise is of a minor consequence to the carrying out of such purpose.

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended  
**4 April 2022**

**GOING CONCERN**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements despite the low general reserves at the end of the financial year. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees intend to continue to support as many women and girls as resources permit.

**RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During previous financial year ended 4 April 2021, Mable Evans who was the charity's CEO at the time (current Chair and trustee since November 2021; and daughter of Caroline Evans, trustee at the time) received remuneration totaling to £4,628 for providing ad hoc services. In financial year ended 4 April 2022, Mabel Evans received £6,994 as remuneration for providing ad hoc professional services while she was still serving as the CEO before she became a Trustee. Soraya Ali, trustee, also received remuneration of £250 (2021: £426) for providing ad hoc services before she became a trustee. No other charity trustees at the time of their trusteeship were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil). No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £nil).

There was no payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs to a trustees during the year (2021: nil). No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2021: nil).

Of the total donations, £700 (2021: nil) was received from one trustee during the year. There is no restriction on the use of these

During the previous financial year ended 4 April 2021 Caroline Evans, trustee, gave a loan to the charity of £10,000 when charity was running low on cash to ensure beneficiaries were supported if a grant wasn't secured on time. The loan with zero finance (no interest rate) was to be paid back if there was any grant made and if not, no payment back was expected by the trustee. The loan was never needed as a grant came in before cash ran out and the loan of £10k was given back in a few days to the Trustee. Mabel Evans is the daughter of Caroline Evans. The family relation was declared to the charity commission at the time and at the moment Caroline is no longer a Trustee as Trustees wanted to avoid family relationships as soon as new skilled Trustees were attracted and recruited. There is a paperwork drafted by a lawyer to layout the loan and bank statements to prove the Trustee didn't make any profit. There was no outstanding balance as at the

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the 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 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 Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on ~~26/01/2023~~ and signed on its behalf.

*Mabel Evans*

Name: Mabel Evans  
(Trustee)

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Vavengers

I report to the charity trustees on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 4 April 2022 as set out on pages 6 to 13.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

*Shruti Soni*

**Shruti Soni ACCA**

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 27/01/2023

**The Vavengers**  
**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)**

For the year ended 4 April 2022

		<b>2022</b>			<b>2021</b>		
	<b>Note</b>	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £
<b>Income from:</b>	2						
Donations and gifts		43,307	-	43,307	9,819	-	9,819
Grants		-	39,670	39,670	-	71,669	71,669
Funraising income from events		665	-	665	-	-	-
<b>Total income:</b>		<u>43,972</u>	<u>39,670</u>	<u>83,642</u>	<u>9,819</u>	<u>71,669</u>	<u>81,488</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<b>Cost of raising funds</b>							
Funraising costs and events		792	1,559	2,351	217	-	217
<b>Charitable activities</b>				-			
Direct project cost		25,800	30,200	56,000	-	46,149	46,149
Consulting fees		-	7,444	7,444	7,882	6,328	14,210
Staff costs		8,414	6,870	15,284	-	-	-
				-			-
<b>Support costs</b>							
Bank charges		44	-	44	15	-	15
IT software and consumables		1,298	-	1,298	811	-	811
Printing and postage		-	50	50	106	-	106
Sundry expenses		174	635	809	489	-	489
Travel and subsistence		10	32	42	111	-	111
Independent examination		540	414	954	1,230	-	1,230
Rent and utilities		3,510	421	3,931	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<u>40,582</u>	<u>47,625</u>	<u>88,207</u>	<u>10,861</u>	<u>52,477</u>	<u>63,338</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		3,390	(7,955)	(4,565)	(1,042)	19,192	18,150
Transfer between fund		(136)	136	-		-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		3,254	(7,819)	(4,565)	(1,042)	19,192	18,150
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward	7	88	27,694	27,782	1,130	8,502	9,632
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	7	<u>3,342</u>	<u>19,875</u>	<u>23,217</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>27,694</u>	<u>27,782</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements.

## The Vavengers

### Balance sheet

As at 4 April 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>27,587</u>		<u>29,162</u>	
		<b>27,587</b>		<b>29,162</b>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>4,370</u>		<u>1,380</u>	
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>	6		<b><u>23,217</u></b>		<b><u>27,782</u></b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds			<b>19,875</b>		<b>27,694</b>
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds			<b>3,342</b>		<b>88</b>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	7		<b><u>23,217</u></b>		<b><u>27,782</u></b>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on  
and signed on its behalf by:

*Mabel Evans*

---

Trustee

Name: Mabel Evans

Date: 26/01/2023

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2022**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The 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 the 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 on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

**b) Public benefit entity**

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**c) Going concern**

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The charity has been successful in securing two multi-year grants since August 2021 and also received annual funding for 12 months overall project costs in April 22 in addition to a free food supply with an open-ended partnership in January 22. The trustees believe that this is sufficient to cover our overheads, project and campaigning costs in a more sustainable way. The charity also launched its first post-pandemic event in March 22 to raise funds and raised £5k unrestricted funds to use for campaigning.

There are no key judgements that the charity has made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**d) Income**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2022**

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**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**e) Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**f) Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

**g) Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Support costs include the cost of overall direction and administration of the charity's activities, comprising the overhead costs of the central function
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

**h) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**i) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2022**

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**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**j) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	<b>2022</b>	2021
	£	£	<b>Total</b>	Total
			<b>£</b>	£
Donations from Individuals	8,307	1,500	<b>9,807</b>	9,819
Grants and Donations from Trusts and Foundations	35,000	38,170	<b>73,170</b>	71,669
	<u>43,307</u>	<u>39,670</u>	<b><u>82,977</u></b>	<u>81,488</u>

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2022**

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**3 Related party transactions**

During previous financial year ended 4 April 2021, Mable Evans who was the charity's CEO at the time (current Chair and trustee since November 2021; and daughter of Caroline Evans, trustee at the time) received remuneration totaling to £4,628 for providing ad hoc services. In financial year ended 4 April 2022, Mabel Evans received £6,994 as remuneration for providing ad hoc professional services while she was still serving as the CEO before she became a Trustee. Soraya Ali, trustee, also received remuneration of £250 (2021: £426) for providing ad hoc services before she became a trustee. No other charity trustees at the time of their trusteeship were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil). No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £nil).

There was no payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs to a trustees during the year (2021: nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2021: nil).

Of the total donations, £700 (2021: nil) was received from one trustee during the year. There is no restriction on the use of these donations.

During the previous financial year ended 4 April 2021 Caroline Evans, trustee, gave a loan to the charity of £10,000 when charity was running low on cash to ensure beneficiaries were supported if a grant wasn't secured on time. The loan with zero finance (no interest rate) was to be paid back if there was any grant made and if not, no payment back was expected by the trustee. The loan was never needed as a grant came in before cash ran out and the loan of £10k was given back in a few days to the Trustee. Mabel Evans is the daughter of Caroline Evans. The family relation was declared to the Charity Commission at the time and at the moment Caroline is no longer a Trustee as Trustees wanted to avoid family relationships as soon as new skilled Trustees were attracted and recruited. There is a paperwork drafted by a lawyer to layout the loan and bank statements to prove the Trustee didn't make any profit. There was no outstanding balance as at the year end.

**4 Taxation**

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**5 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Taxation and social security	<b>2,027</b>	-
Other creditors	<b>423</b>	-
Accruals	<b>1,920</b>	1,380
	<b>4,370</b>	1,380
	<b>4,370</b>	1,380

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2022**

**6 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	2022		2021	
	Unrestricted fund £	Total funds £	Unrestricted fund £	Total funds £
Net current assets	23,217	<b>23,217</b>	27,782	<b>27,782</b>
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>23,217</b>	<b>23,217</b>	<b>27,782</b>	<b>27,782</b>

**7 Movements in funds**

	5-Apr-21 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-22 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
The Rothschild	1,376	-	(1,382)	6	-
Barclays ML	63	-	-	-	<b>63</b>
Heintz Check	407	-	-	-	<b>407</b>
Home office	10,848	-	(9,829)	-	<b>1,019</b>
Anonymous	5,000	10,000	(14,314)	-	<b>686</b>
Prism the grant fund	10,000	10,000	(17,550)	-	<b>2,450</b>
Two magpies Fund	-	15,000	-	-	<b>15,000</b>
Happy Bday Community	-	750	(500)	-	<b>250</b>
The Big Give	-	2,420	(2,550)	130	-
London Catalyst	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,694</b>	<b>39,670</b>	<b>(47,625)</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>19,875</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>43,972</b>	<b>(40,582)</b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>3,342</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>43,972</b>	<b>(40,582)</b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>3,342</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>27,782</b>	<b>83,642</b>	<b>(88,207)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,217</b>

**The Vavengers**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 4 April 2022**

**7 Movements in funds (continued)**

	5-Apr-20 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-21 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
The Rothschild	8,032	1,000	(7,656)	-	<b>1,376</b>
Barclays ML	63	-	-	-	<b>63</b>
Heintz Check	407	-	-	-	<b>407</b>
Groundwork	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Safe lives	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Home office	-	29,952	(19,104)	-	<b>10,848</b>
Home office	-	12,317	(12,317)	-	-
Anonymous	-	5,000	-	-	<b>5,000</b>
Prism the grant fund	-	19,900	(9,900)	-	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>8,502</b>	<b>71,669</b>	<b>(52,477)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,694</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>9,819</b>	<b>(10,861)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>9,819</b>	<b>(10,861)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>9,632</b>	<b>81,488</b>	<b>(63,338)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,782</b>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

The purpose of all restricted funds during this financial year was to support the project "Reaching Out To Your Community". The project supported refugees, asylum seekers, FGM and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors as well as women and girls who are at risk of GBV in Southwark, London.

**8 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organizations (CIO) registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. It's members are it's trustees. Currently there are 7 members.

**THE VAVENGERS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1184202

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# Accounts

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# THE VAVENGERS

A charity committed to ending  
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

**ANNUAL REVIEW +  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
2020/21**



When Women Rise We All Rise

[thevavengers.co.uk](http://thevavengers.co.uk)

**FOUNDING CHAIR:** Mabel Evans

**FOUNDING TRUSTEE:** Hoda Ali

**TRUSTEE:** Soraya Ali

**TRUSTEE:** Laura Amaya

**TRUSTEE:** Cerys Shepherd

**TRUSTEE:** Najmo Fiyasko

**CEO:** Sema Gornall

The Vavengers is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)  
in England and Wales

**REGISTRATION NUMBER:** 1184202

**REGISTERED ADDRESS:** The Vavengers, 3rd Floor, 86-90 Paul Street,  
London EC2A 4NE United Kingdom

**CONTACT US AT:**

[info@thevavengers.co.uk](mailto:info@thevavengers.co.uk)

[www.thevavengers.co.uk](http://www.thevavengers.co.uk)



When Women Rise We All Rise

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**WHAT IF YOU KNEW CAMPAIGN**

**REACHING OUT TO YOUR COMMUNITY (ROTYC) PROJECT**

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2020/21**



# WELCOME: MABEL EVANS

In the final weeks of 2021, the UK is facing potentially another lockdown. We reflect on the last two years as an organisation and look back at what has been a challenging couple of years for many. The needs of those we support became acutely apparent as the UK went into lockdown in 2020. The Vavengers team has worked tirelessly to provide emergency support through our Community Ambassador partnership with our identified community leaders. We have run online public awareness campaigns reaching over 30,000 people. I am incredibly proud of The Vavengers team and all that has been accomplished.

Early in 2020 The Vavengers launched our COVID-19 response program, in partnership with community interest group 'Keep The Drum, Lose the Knife' (KDLK). The program, named 'Reaching Out to Your Community' was conceptualized by KDLK founder Sarian Kamara. When the pandemic struck Sarian saw the most vulnerable members of her community in Southwark Council facing dire consequences due to the lockdown restrictions.

When everyone began winding down and on furlough The Vavengers and KDLK team were working harder than ever. As a registered charity The Vavengers were able to fundraise for Sarian's idea and support her in the formulation of it, as well as support with monitoring and evaluation and partnership and outreach opportunities.

The program now provides food vouchers, 1:1 counseling, sexual and mental health workshops, FGM/C awareness and safeguarding sessions, distribution of essential household items and legal council to our beneficiaries. Many of whom have never come into contact with any government body, or support network.

Held at The Peckham Palms in Sarian's office and workshop space, the program has become a community hub for some of the most marginalised individuals in the Southwark area. When the Vavengers team visited the program we were blown away by the sense of community and support Sarian and her team have created.

Through this partnership The Vavengers have learnt and evolved through working closely with the KDLK team, Reaching out To Your Community has been funded by our wonderful partners at Choose Love, The Rothschild Foundation, The National Lottery Fund and more.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of our partners in the KDLK team, they have been a rock, a safe space and an inspiration to all of those they support and also for us in The Vavengers team. We have closely listened and learned through their extraordinary expertise. Our work will continue to be guided by those with lived experience, on the front line. The Vavengers seeks to ensure that individuals working tirelessly within their communities to create lasting change are supported and acknowledged for the work that they do.

The Vavengers team, as well as our partners, fundraisers and supporters are more driven and resilient than ever. The future looks unknown, however through The Vavengers unwavering commitment to our work, we will continue to grow stronger and learn how to better support our communities and our community ambassadors.

Best wishes,

*Mabel Evans*

Founding Chair



Welcome

The Vavengers

Annual review

# WELCOME: HODA ALI

The last year has been difficult for the world as a whole, and the women's rights sector has been no exception. Alongside the devastating effects of COVID-19, Gender Based Violence (GBV) has been referred to as 'the shadow pandemic.' Abuses against young women and girls throughout the world have continued and even increased.

But through the darkness has come immense moments of light. I've seen women from different sectors come together. People from different backgrounds join one another to help in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). My name is Hoda Ali and I'm an FGM survivor, campaigner and proud co-founder of The Vavengers alongside Mabel Evans. This year I've taken my work outside of charity boardrooms and into the classroom.

I've been leading a project at Perivale Primary School funded by John Lyon's Charity, where I host safeguarding sessions put on by the Ealing Health Improvement team and Perivale Primary School. These sessions are completely collaborative and involve work with children,

parents and school staff. I draw on my own personal experiences as an FGM survivor, my professional knowledge as a qualified nurse as well as the legal and statistical information surrounding FGM.

The importance of this project has been recognised by the John Lyon's charity. They have agreed to provide another 3 years of funding to put on the sessions in another 25 schools across Ealing, Brent and Harrow boroughs. With the help of The Vavengers I hope to keep educating, informing and connecting with people from all walks of life about what FGM is and how we can all work to protect young women and girls. This year has been massively transformative and transitional for our small but powerful charity. After several years at the helm our wonderful Mabel Evans has stepped down as CEO and will move into her new position, leading the Board of Trustees.

I met Mabel when she was just 17 years old and a bright-eyed young student. I gave a talk at her school about FGM. Ever since that day Mabel has been working tirelessly to help put an end to Gender-Based Violence. I am immensely proud of her but also very pleased to welcome our new CEO Sema Gornall. Sema is an exceptional young woman who has already accomplished so much in the sector. She is

making strides in transforming our charity and I am excited to see where she takes us.

Now, as I continue to teach the next generation about my personal journey and female empowerment as a whole, I am hopeful that my words may inspire others. I am confident that 2022 will be all about new beginnings and I thank you all for continuing to support myself, The Vavengers, and our ever-important work.

Best wishes,

*Hoda Ali*

Founding Trustee



Welcome

The Vavengers

Annual review

# WELCOME: SEMA GORNALL

The Vavengers is an incredibly inspiring organisation built by women for women. Co-founders Mabel and Hoda built a special foundation and volunteers, funders and supporters have made it possible for The Vavengers to find success in the sector in such a short amount of time even though the last few years have been extremely challenging.

I joined The Vavengers team in the last quarter of 2021 as the CEO when it was time for The Vavengers to grow following a high demand for the services provided. As soon as I joined The Vavengers, I felt like it was home. The team has been extremely supportive during my onboarding process and we are continuing to grow with new volunteers, staff and community ambassadors to achieve our goals.

In December 2021, we have completed our very first long-term strategic plan and 2022 is an exciting year ahead for our organisation. Our plan was created in line with the United Nation's goal of ending FGM/C in 2030. Moving forward, our work will continue to develop under three pillars: awareness & call to action campaigns,

educational programmes & outreach and direct response projects. The Vavengers will continue to work to achieve a reality where having choices is no longer considered a luxury for women and girls. As a woman who grew up in a patriarchal society that did not present many choices for women and girls, I am proud to be working with a powerhouse team in an organisation that exists to create a world where everyone is valued and equal.

I invite everyone to join us in our goal of ending FGM/C and Gender Based Violence so please get in touch with us to request a copy of our strategic plan and ways of getting involved.

Best wishes,



CEO



# ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2021 marked a turning point in our marketing approach. It was the launch of our biggest digital campaign yet (What If You Knew), the first time we used paid advertising on social platforms, and we expanded the marketing team to include 3 new volunteers. The impact of these changes are replicated in the numbers shown on the following page and has set us up for a 2022 to be filled with even bigger ones!

Best wishes,

*Megan Barclay*

Head of Design & Marketing



# Mini ENGAGEMENT REPORT

180+

Refugees & Asylum seekers supported with legal advice, essential items and pastoral care. The work of the project leader, Sarian, was continually celebrated on our socials.

3

New marketing & design volunteers

139,958

Instagram & Facebook reach

200+

Informative posts on social media

30,657

Online public awareness campaigns reaching over 160,000 people

Views of our WIYK film campaign (IGTV)



Calls, meetings, & inspiring chats

\*Infinite

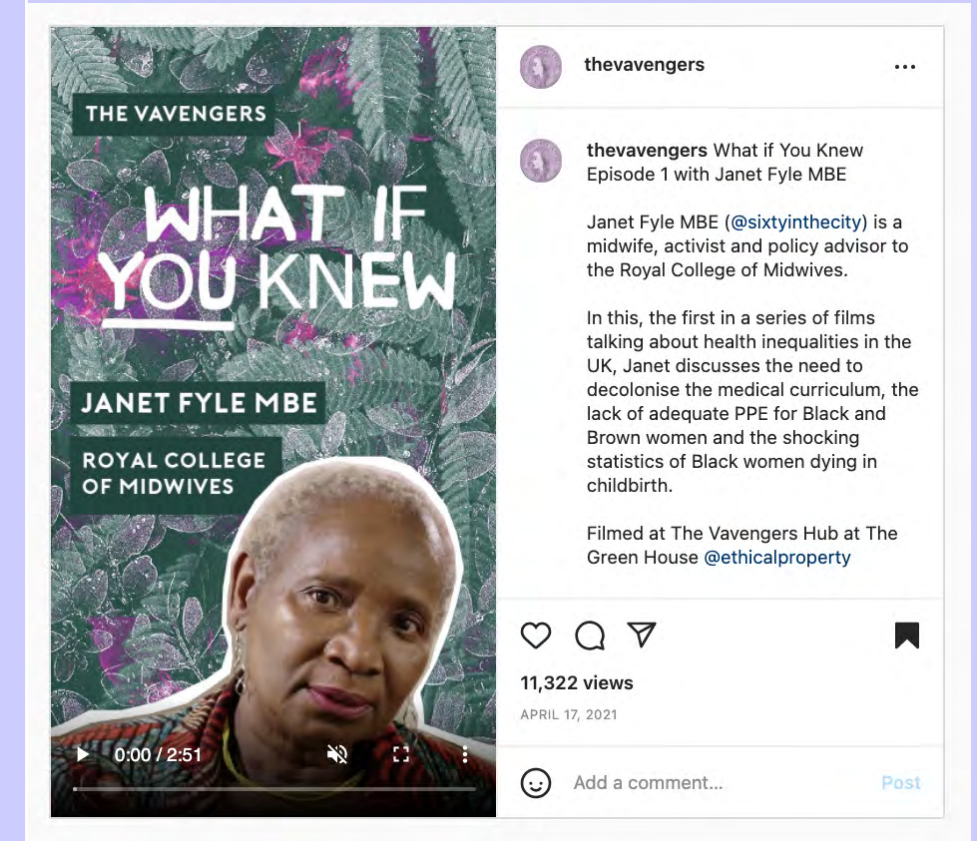


# WHAT IF YOU KNEW CAMPAIGN

Our in-house campaign ‘What if You Knew’, was directed by our Founding Chair Mabel Evans, produced by our Trustee Soraya Ali, and designed by our Head of Design & Marketing Megan Barclay. and released by our marketing team made up of volunteers – it was seen by over 30,000 people.

The campaign focused on the health inequalities affecting minoritised women in the UK as well as challenging the knowledge gap. In the digital series, we hosted our Community Ambassadors and long-time campaigners in the field: Leyla Hussein OBE, a Somali-British Psychotherapist, award-winning activist and Founder of the Dahlia Project, Magool and Co-founder of Safe Spaces for Black Women. Aissa Edon, a Midwife and activist, and Janet Fyle MBE, a Professional Policy Advisor to Royal College of Midwives.

Watch the ‘What if You Knew’ series on our [YouTube](#) or [IGTV](#).



# REACHING OUT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Reaching Out to Your Community (ROTYC) is our community-outreach project in Peckham, London in collaboration with Keep the Drum Lose the Knife (KDLK).

A huge thank you to our community project partner KDLK and our Community Ambassador, Sarian Karim-Kamara (right), the Founder of KDLK. Sarian and many volunteers have been running the support hub tirelessly and allocating the funds raised where necessary to support FGM/C survivors and family members.

In 2020/21, the support lines to nearly 200 people included: essential items, food & travel vouchers, mental & sexual health sessions, workshops on the harms of FGM/C, one to one or couple well-being sessions, homelessness referral. We are incredibly proud of our partnership with KDLK and work to continue raising funds from our generous donors to support the hub.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

The Vavengers have had a strong financial year despite dealing with the challenges of the pandemic in which our main stream of revenue (public events) was effectively stopped. Despite these hurdles, donations via funding bodies have increased eightfold which means we can reach and support more people now and in the future. Our total Income for the year ending April'21 was £81,669 which was nearly an eightfold increase on prior year. We were fortunate to receive £42k from the UK Home Office which accounted for more than 50% of our funding. The remaining donations came from organisations such as “The Prism Gift Fund” and “Groundwork UK”. With their help we have continued to provide workshops and amenities to some of the most vulnerable and forgotten people in society.

On the other hand, our administrative costs increased by nearly 100%. A large portion of this was paying for rent and office staff to deal with the increased workload that came with significant demand. Some of our staff had previously been long-time volunteers and they became part-time paid staff when we released our first paid jobs.

We continue to rely heavily on donations from the public. Despite our growth in income nearly 100% of this is restricted income and allocated to project work and supporting the community. We have to continue to work hard to raise additional funds to meet the minimum operating cost requirements so that we can make our services available in more regions. Increasing our funding from unrestricted sources is crucial to continuing the growth of The Vavengers and our strategic plan.

Restricted funds are only available for expenditure as directed by the donor. This money is expected to be used over the next two to three financial years. The trustees have assessed the charity's work and our year end accounts will be submitted and reviewed by the accountants KBC. Please continue supporting us whether you have funds available for our projects, volunteering time or pro-bono services that you can offer. In the last year, our work received an overwhelming demand and we can only continue to support our beneficiaries with your support.

Best wishes,



Chief Financial Officer



Welcome

The Vavengers

Annual review

# FINANCIAL REPORT

A breakdown of where funds for the year were received:

FUNDER	£
Home office	42,269.00
Choose Love	19,900.00
Comic Relief	1,000.00
The Rothschild	1,000.00
The Blue Thread	5,000.00
Private donations	9,819.00
Safe Lives Fund	2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81,488.00</b>


**ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION**  

**Home Office**  

**COMIC RELIEF**  

**CHOOSE LOVE**  


**Safe Lives**  
**Ending domestic abuse**





*Thank you to everyone  
who has supported us!*

[thevavengers.co.uk](http://thevavengers.co.uk)

# **The Vavengers**

Charity Registration No.1184202

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
Year ended 4 April 2021

Shruti Soni Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
117A St Johns Hill  
Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

## The Vavengers

### Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Status:</b>	Charity Registration No.1184202 The charity's governing document is its constitution dated 1 July 2019		
<b>Registered Office:</b>	3rd Floor 86-90 paul Street London EC2A 4NE		
<b>Chief Executive:</b>	Sema Gornall		
<b>Trustees:</b>	Mabel Evans	Chair	Appointed on 09 November 2021
	Najmo Fiyasko		Appointed on 18 January 2022
	Soraya Abdulkadir Mohamed Ali		Appointed on 05 January 2022
	Hodan Ali Warsame		Appointed on 19 November 2021
	Cerys Shepherd		Appointed on 10 August 2021
	Laura Amaya		Appointed on 07 July 2020
	Caroline Evans		Resigned September 2021
	Matthew Maude		Resigned November 2021
	Bid Das		Resigned August 2021
<b>Independent examiner:</b>	Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE Shruti Soni Ltd Chartered Certified Accountants 117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE		
<b>Bankers</b>	Tide 5th Floor 1 Appold Street London EC2A 2UT		

# **The Vavengers**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **for the year ended**

**4 April 2021**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 4 April 2021. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Constitution. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Background and Scope**

The Trust was created by a deed dated 1 July 2019 as a Trust, exclusively for ending female genital mutilation and to create awareness of the subject. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Aims and Objectives for the Public Benefit**

The objectives of the charity are:

1. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by using the arts as a vehicle to advance education and raise awareness of gender base violence.
2. In particular female genital mutilation; creating public art and art activities as a means to cultivate a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

The Vavengers has now evolved to also offer skills and capacity building to survivors and organisations working on the front line.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Trust held community projects, advocacy work and campaigning aim to empower our beneficiaries to understand their rights and services available to them, whilst also creating high level awareness and understanding of the gaps in healthcare and education for the most marginalised groups living in the United Kingdom.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2011

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income during the year under review was £81,488 (2020: £12,139) of which £9,819 (2020: £1,353) was restricted and £71,669 (2020: £10,786) was unrestricted. Expenditure during the year was £63,338 (2020: £2,507). Of the total expenditure £52,477 (2020: £2,284) was from restricted grants. The charity had net income during the year of £18,150 (2020: £9,632). This led to a decrease in the general reserves held at the year end to £88 (2020: £1,130) and increase in restricted funds of £27,694 (2020: £8,502). Based on these figures, the trustees consider an amount between £15,000 and £30,000 to cover between 3 to 6 months of running expenditure to be sufficient level of reserve.

# The Vavengers

## Trustees' Report

### for the year ended

**4 April 2021**

#### **RESERVE POLICY**

As a small charity, it is eligible to receive mostly grants with project or purpose-based. As at the year ended, it does not yet have reserves that are allocated for reserves purposes only. However, the charity secured a few small grants in the 2021 and 2022 which are not restricted for any specific purposes and can be used to cover any costs throughout the year. Additionally, it also secured £1.9k from a corporation's social responsibility fund to use for unrestricted purposes. With increased fundraising effort for similar grants and donations for general use, the trustees are trying to address low reserves. The trustees will regularly review the reserves level and hope to build reserves sufficient to cover costs for at least 3-6 months.

#### **MANAGING RISK OF HARM**

In carrying out the charity's purpose to achieve public benefit the trustees have managed risk of detriment or harm to the charity's beneficiaries or to the public in general (which they feel is minimal). This has been achieved by identifying such risks where possible, minimising them and making sure any harm that might arise is of a minor consequence to the carrying out of such purpose.

#### **GOING CONCERN**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements despite the low general reserves at the end of the financial year. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

The Trustees intend to continue to support as many women and girls as resources permit.

#### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the year A Trustee (Caroline Evans) has given £10,000 loan to the charity when charity was running low on cash to ensure beneficiaries were supported if a grant wasn't secured on time. The loan with zero finance (no interest rate) was to be paid back if there was any grant made and if not, no payment back was expected by the trustee. The loan was never needed as a grant came in before cash ran out and the loan of £10k was given back in a few days to the Trustee. Mabel Evans is the daughter of Caroline Evans. The family relation was declared to the charity commission at the time and at the moment Caroline is no longer a Trustee. There is a paperwork drafted by a lawyer to layout the loan and bank statements to prove the Trustee didn't make any profit. There was no outstanding balance as at the year end.

Mabel Evans is now the Chair of the Board of Trustees however she was appointed in November 2021 to be a Trustee months after Caroline Evans (mother of Mabel Evans) resigned from the board of trustees. During the year, Mable Evans received remuneration totaling to £4,628 for providing ad hoc services. Soraya Ali, trustee, also received remuneration during the year of £426 for providing ad hoc services. No other charity trustees were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

#### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial 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:

**The Vavengers**  
Trustees' Report  
for the year ended

**4 April 2021**

- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the 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 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 Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 17th June 2022 and signed on its behalf.

**Name:** Mabel Evans  
(Trustee)

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Vavengers**

I report to the charity trustees on the financial statements of the company for the year ended 4 April 2021 as set out on pages 7 to 14.

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

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

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

### **Shruti Soni ACCA**

Shruti Soni Ltd • Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 21st June 2022

## The Vavengers

### Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 4 April 2021

	<u>Note</u>	05/04/2020 to 04/04/2021			01/07/2019 to 04/04/2020		
		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total fund £
<b>Income from:</b>	2						
Donations and gifts		9,819	-	9,819	1,353	-	1,353
Grants		-	71,669	71,669	-	10,786	10,786
<b>Total income:</b>		<u>9,819</u>	<u>71,669</u>	<u>81,488</u>	<u>1,353</u>	<u>10,786</u>	<u>12,139</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<b>Cost of raising funds</b>							
Fundraising costs		217	-	217	69	2,284	2,353
<b>Charitable activities</b>				-			
Direct project cost		-	46,149	46,149	-	-	-
Consulting fees		7,882	6,328	14,210	-	-	-
<b>Support costs</b>							
Bank charges		15	-	15	4	-	4
IT software and consumables		811	-	811	-	-	-
Printing and postage		106	-	106	-	-	-
Sundry expenses		489	-	489	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence		111	-	111	-	-	-
Independent examination		1,230	-	1,230	150	-	150
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<u>10,861</u>	<u>52,477</u>	<u>63,338</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>2,284</u>	<u>2,507</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<u>(1,042)</u>	<u>19,192</u>	<u>18,150</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>8,502</u>	<u>9,632</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses</b>		<u>(1,042)</u>	<u>19,192</u>	<u>18,150</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>8,502</u>	<u>9,632</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(1,042)</u>	<u>19,192</u>	<u>18,150</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>8,502</u>	<u>9,632</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Total funds brought forward	7	1,130	8,502	9,632	-	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	7	<u>88</u>	<u>27,694</u>	<u>27,782</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>8,502</u>	<u>9,632</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 7 to the financial statements.

## The Vavengers

### Balance sheet

As at 4 April 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Cash at bank and in hand		29,162		9,782	
		<u>29,162</u>		<u>9,782</u>	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	1,380		150	
		<u>1,380</u>		<u>150</u>	
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>	6		<u><b>27,782</b></u>		<u>9,632</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds			27,694		8,502
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds			88		1,130
			<u>88</u>		<u>1,130</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	7		<u><b>27,782</b></u>		<u>9,632</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on  
and signed on its behalf by:

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Trustee

Name: Mabel Evans  
Date: 21st June 2022

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

The 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 the 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 on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

#### b) Public benefit entity

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The charity has been successful in securing two multi-year grants since August 2021 and also received annual funding for 12 months overall project costs in April 22 in addition to a free food supply with an open-ended partnership in January 22. The trustees believe that this is sufficient to cover our overheads, project and campaigning costs in a more sustainable way. The charity also launched its first post-pandemic event in March 22 to raise funds and raised £5k unrestricted funds to use for campaigning.

There are no key judgements that the charity has made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

#### d) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

#### f) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

#### g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charity in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Support costs include the cost of overall direction and administration of the charity's activities, comprising the overhead costs of the central function
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

#### h) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

#### i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2021

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### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2 Income from donations and legacies

			<b>05/04/20- 04/04/21</b>	<b>01/07/19- 04/05/20</b>
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	<b>Total £</b>	Total £
Donations from Individuals	9,819	-	<b>9,819</b>	1,353
Grants and Donations from Trusts and Foundations	-	71,669	<b>71,669</b>	10,786
	<u>9,819</u>	<u>71,669</u>	<u><b>81,488</b></u>	<u>12,139</u>

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2021

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### 3 Related party transactions

During the year, Mable Evans (current Chair and trustee since November 2021; and daughter of Caroline Evans, trustee at the time) received remuneration totaling to £4,628 for providing ad hoc services. Soraya Ali, trustee, also received remuneration during the year of £426 for providing ad hoc services. No other charity trustees were paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

There was no payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs to a trustees during the year (2020: nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contractor transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2020: nil).

During the year Caroline Evans, trustee, gave a loan to the charity of £10,000 when charity was running low on cash to ensure beneficiaries were supported if a grant wasn't secured on time. The loan with zero finance (no interest rate) was to be paid back if there was any grant made and if not, no payment back was expected by the trustee. The loan was never needed as a grant came in before cash ran out and the loan of £10k was given back in a few days to the Trustee. Mabel Evans is the daughter of Caroline Evans. The family relation was declared to the charity commission at the time and at the moment Caroline is no longer a Trustee. There is a paperwork drafted by a lawyer to layout the loan and bank statements to prove the Trustee didn't make any profit. There was no outstanding balance as at the year end.

During the year, the charity did not employ any staff on payroll. The trustees were responsible for the day to day running and management of the charity.

### 4 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

### 5 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	05/04/20- 04/04/21	01/07/19- 04/05/20
	£	£
Accruals	1,380	150
	<u>1,380</u>	<u>150</u>

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2021

### 6 Analysis of net assets between funds

	05/04/20-04/04/21		01/07/19-04/05/20	
	Unrestricted fund £	Total funds £	Unrestricted fund £	Total funds £
Net current assets	27,782	<b>27,782</b>	9,632	<b>9,632</b>
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>27,782</b>	<b>27,782</b>	<b>9,632</b>	<b>9,632</b>

### 7 Movements in funds

	5-Apr-20 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-21 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
The Rothschild	8,032	1,000	(7,656)	-	<b>1,376</b>
Barclays ML	63	-	-	-	<b>63</b>
Heintz Check	407	-	-	-	<b>407</b>
Groundwork	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Safe lives	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Home office	-	29,952	(19,104)	-	<b>10,848</b>
Home office	-	12,317	(12,317)	-	-
Blue Thread	-	5,000	-	-	<b>5,000</b>
Prism the grant fund	-	19,900	(9,900)	-	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>8,502</b>	<b>71,669</b>	<b>(52,477)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,694</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>9,819</b>	<b>(10,861)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>9,819</b>	<b>(10,861)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>9,632</b>	<b>81,488</b>	<b>(63,338)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,782</b>

# The Vavengers

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 4 April 2021

### 7 Movements in funds (continued)

	1-Jul-19 £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	4-Apr-20 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
The Rothschild	-	9,000	(968)	-	<b>8,032</b>
Barclays ML	-	1,036	(973)	-	<b>63</b>
Heintz Check	-	750	(343)	-	<b>407</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	-	<b>10,786</b>	<b>(2,284)</b>	-	<b>8,502</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	-	1,353	(223)	-	<b>1,130</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	-	<b>1,353</b>	<b>(223)</b>	-	<b>1,130</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	-	<b>12,139</b>	<b>(2,507)</b>	-	<b>9,632</b>

#### Purposes of restricted funds

The purpose of all restricted funds during this financial year was to support the project "Reaching Out To Your Community". The project supported refugees, asylum seekers, FGM and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors as well as women and girls who are at risk of GBV in Southwark, London.

### 8 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organizations (CIO) registered with the Charity Commissioners on 1 July 2019, charity registration number 1184202. It's members are it's trustees. Currently there are 6 members.