

WE BELONG

England & Wales · Charity number 1184348

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-07-10

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

Contact

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London
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Activities

Objects: 1)TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE ADVANCE IN LIFE THROUGH PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS. 2)TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE ‘SOCIALLY EXCLUDED’ MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER RE-ASSIGNMENT; POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT; RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS; CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY).”

Activities: We Belong is an innovative new organisation led by young people who migrated to the UK. We work with and for young migrants like ourselves, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribution to British society.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£628,226	£731,901	£347,231	11
2024-03-31	£641,570	£596,536	£450,906	7
2023-03-31	£470,585	£452,177	-	-
2022-03-31	£372,646	£317,120	-	-
2021-03-31	£417,589	£232,927	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Madhu Jagdish Malhotra	Chair	2025-12-10
Edobhiye Aigbe Oaikhinan		2025-12-10
Jamilla Hinds-Brough		2021-01-07
KESHON DEVONTE SMITH		2023-03-02
Maheraj Ahmed Lian		2022-06-30
Marakandage Buddika Upendra Perera		2023-03-22
Ruqia Salah Osman		2025-12-10
Stewart Bryce MacLachlan		2022-09-22
Sufina Ahmad		2020-01-09

WE BELONG

England & Wales - Charity number 1184348

Accounts

CIO registration number: CE018159
Charity registration number: 1184348

WE BELONG

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

WE BELONG

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Colin Falconer - Chair until resignation 1 April 2024
Maheraj Ahmed Lian - Interim Chair from April 2024 to January 2025, resumed his role as Vice-Chair December 2024
Joel Carter – Interim Chair from January 2025
Sufina Ahmad
Jamila Hinds-Brough
Buddika Perera - Treasurer
Stewart MacLachlan
Keshon Devonte Smith

Chief Executive Chrisann Jarrett MBE

Interim CEO Raewyn Jones – to 4 July 2024

Charity Number 1184348
Banker Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London, WC1B 5HA

Independent Examiner Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
55 Canberra Road
London, SE7 8PF

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) – updated 2019.

We Belong registered with the Charity Commission on 10 July 2019, becoming a new stand-alone organisation. We Belong builds on a project called Let Us Learn, which was previously hosted by Just for Kids Law. The project expanded beyond its initial remit of campaigning for equal access to higher education to fighting for the rights of young migrants in the UK, including higher education and tackling systemic barriers that prevent young migrants from living a fulfilled life.

We Belong works for the fair treatment of young migrants in the UK and for the removal of barriers preventing their full integration. Our three key objectives are to foster relationships with decision-makers and advocate for young migrants; to raise awareness of the hostile environment and issues around access to higher education; and to empower young migrants to become change agents.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019, updated in September 2021.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the charity trustees and are recruited with regard to their knowledge skills and experience. Trustees are appointed to a fixed 2-year term. Trustees may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There is a comprehensive pre-appointment briefing and a trustee induction process for new Trustees. Training is made available to Trustees as required.

Management and administration

We Belong is administered by the Chief Executive based on the strategic direction set by the trustees. The board of trustees meets four times a year and has four sub-committees and working groups including the Risk sub-committee, the Programmes and Safeguarding sub-committee, the HR working group and the Finance committee. The committees each have Terms of Reference approved by the board of trustees and meet quarterly or as required to support the CEO. The board Chair also meets regularly with the CEO to support delivery of the charity strategy and outcomes.

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The Trustees consider that the Board of Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year, Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 6 and 8 to the accounts. Remuneration of Management personnel was agreed and decided by the Board of Trustees and based on current market rates for charities.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives set out in the governing document

- ❑ to help young people advance in life through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- ❑ to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Charity activities

We Belong works with and for young migrants, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribute to British society.

EXTERNAL CONTEXT

We Belong remains the only organisation in the migration sector dedicated solely to long-term young migrants, a group often overlooked due to misconceptions about their status and citizenship; despite the many years they have spent in the UK. We continue to champion the messages of belonging and social integration; however, these narratives have become increasingly difficult to uphold in a UK where migration has been deeply polarised, often at the expense of recognising the individual behind the status.

During the height of the general election, our community witnessed a wave of misinformation about migration, alongside the demonisation of migrant communities and proposals to prolong the routes to settlement. We saw a surge in far-right rhetoric and the notion that settlement is a privilege rather than a right, completely disregarding the countless young people and their families who have navigated complex legal processes and paid thousands of pounds to secure their status.

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The election results signal a demand for a politics that treads carefully on people's lives. To navigate the fragmentation and disillusionment in today's political landscape, the new Government must engage meaningfully with the electorate and deliver on its promises. The diversity of voters indicates a preference for incremental rather than dramatic shifts. Since politics shapes the very fabric of people's lives, the government must offer an alternative vision of belonging and national identity, one that prioritises inclusion and humanity.

The August 2024 riots had a profound impact on communities across the UK, including London. For the first time since the pandemic, we had to pause in person activity and prioritise the safety of our young migrant community. It also highlighted the ongoing connection between migration justice and immigration justice.

OUR ISSUES AND APPROACHES

The Challenge:

There is an ongoing demand for our services and the safe spaces we provide for young migrants. We continue to rely on the GLA Numbers research who states that there are over 332,000 children and young people growing up in the UK without any formal immigration status. As this research was conducted in 2019, we suspect that the numbers will be higher due to the increase in immigration fees and absence of legal aid, forcing people out of status and imposing a high burden on them to navigate a complex legalistic system.

Since 2022, we welcomed the changes to primary legislation enabling children and young people to gain settlement five years sooner as a result of our shorter more affordable route to settlement campaign (est. 2018-2022). We have focussed on implementing this rule change via our dedicated outreach services across London and Manchester, our Immigration Toolkit Trainings and through the hybrid legal advice clinics through our partnership with Coram.

Through building relationships and analysing the impact of this rule change, we have identified two main barriers to young people achieving their status rights and entitlements:

1. **Application Fee for Indefinite Leave to Remain (Settlement):** there is no fee waiver for settlement applications, the current cost is £2,885 (2024), without a fee waiver, young people and their families will not be able to apply for this status and be free from immigration control. Instead, they will be locked into the system and be forced to be on a continuous loop of leave to remain as they would be able to access a fee waiver.

Our response: 'Out of the Loop' Campaign has been launched to call for a fee waiver for settlement applications so that young people are not priced out.

2. **Absence of Early Intervention:** young people continue to come to our organisation post age 18 when their legal rights and entitlements change or become more complex

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to navigate. We continue to see young people who were completely unaware of their status and its implications up until they want to advance to Higher Education or gain Employment. The sooner they start the process for regularisation, the less barriers they will face.

Our Response: in September 2024 we launched our Hyperlocal Strategy. This focusses on a local partnership approach which will enable us to sustain and build upon our core activities and reach, engage and empower young people prior to age 18 through early intervention, working with multiple service providers that engage with young people.

WHAT WE OFFER

Our organisation advances three outcomes:

1. **WE ENGAGE:** Young people feel connected, informed, and supported; wellbeing is improved.
2. **WE EMPOWER:** Young people are empowered to take action for better outcomes for themselves as individuals, and to take action for systems change.
3. **WE BUILD:** Policy makers are influenced to remove barriers to equal and fair treatment.

These outcome pillars interact with our organisational goals:

1. **To ensure better opportunities and outcomes for individuals by directly engaging young migrants.**
2. **To remove barriers to equal and fair treatment through systemic change.**

Activities undertaken to help achieve our three outcomes:

We Engage:

- One-to-one meetings with young people: We build relationships with young people to understand their needs and ambitions.
- A safe space and community: We host monthly gatherings where young people come together through storytelling, food, and engaging activities.

We Empower:

- University Support: We support with university and scholarship applications, student finance cases, as well as workshops on personal statements and career guidance.
- Legal Advice Clinic: We provide support to young people with precarious status and help them understand their immigration situation.
- Trainings and Outreach: We provide interactive training for organisations that work with young migrants (schools, colleges and universities, community centres), as well as information and resources to better support young people with their immigration status. Our outreach model means that we embed ourselves into existing systems of support to ensure equal access.

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- **Emerging Young Leaders Programme:** This six-week CPD-accredited course matches participants with experienced mentors based on their interests, motivations, and aspirations. Through weekly guided sessions, young people develop their leadership style, achieve their goals, and build confidence and resilience.
- **Co-Producers, Core Group Members, Policy and Parliamentary Working Group, and Volunteers:** We provide opportunities for young people to become advocates for young migrants in their community and gain hands-on work experience by assisting our Outreach and Community Engagement Team. We value their time and can accommodate their schedule.
- **DofE License:** We offer Bronze Award to 12 young people annually as a Duke of Edinburgh Licensee, young people can engage through, skills, volunteering and physical activity as well as a collective expedition.

We Build:

- We develop campaigns to respond to the needs of our community of young migrants, encouraging an open dialogue with key stakeholders and policy makers to ensure barriers to integration are removed.

OUR ANNUAL PLAN AND DATA COLLECTION TO TRACK PROGRESS

We Belong has an Annual Plan which is developed by leadership at the organisation in conjunction with staff members and approved by the board annually. The Annual Plan is a comprehensive roadmap articulating our strategic vision and delineating the course of action for the upcoming financial year. It highlights our Theory of Change which has a key focus on lived experience engagement, KPI's and a clear monitoring and evaluation framework to access our activities so that the organisation can create lasting impact. We have three key outcomes:

We monitor and evaluate our impact using the following tools for Data Collection:

- **Raw Data** from our CRM System Lamplight which tracks participation, case notes and records of activities. In addition, to Monday.com project management tracker, Eventbrite records of events and activities, media coverage, social media interactions as well as through interviews and creative methods.
- **Judgement:** Qualitative review of casework with our immigration caseworker and research reports.
- **Opinion:** The development of surveys, interviews, observations, feedback forms completed at our events, podcasts, blog posts and video.

OUR IMPACT: YOUNG PEOPLE AS LEADERS

We Belong's work has empowered young migrants to understand their rights and effectively engage with communities, schools, universities, government, and parliament to influence

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decisions. We provide a holistic support package for our young people. Campaigning is just one aspect of our work; we also support the educational aspirations of young people with the majority facing barriers to Higher Education.

We work with all our young changemakers on a long-term basis, developing relationships, identifying skills and gaps in knowledge. We then develop a curriculum of support to ensure young people have access to relevant resource and connections, empowering them to regain the ability to plan their lives regardless of their immigration status.

Our values and lived experiences are deeply woven into every aspect of our work. From strategy to community engagement, they guide all that we do. Many of our original 'Let Us Learn' campaigners continue to lead alongside our committed board of trustees, shaping our goals and ensuring that We Belong remains both strategic and rooted in the communities we serve.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL 1: To ensure better opportunities and outcomes for individuals by directly engaging young migrants.

Our Services: Empowering Young People to Reach Their Full Potential

We Belong has built its services to support and empower young migrants to pursue opportunities and move on with their lives whilst we also assist them with their immigration status. We provide a safe environment for young people to build a community, receive leadership training, university and career support, work placements, and opportunities to engage with other young migrants.

New Client Enquiries

Between Q1 and Q4 of 2024-2025, We Belong supported a total of 193 new case engagements (NCEs), reflecting a broad and balanced impact across our core areas of work. Education remained the largest area of engagement, making up 31.6% of all NCEs, as we continued to provide critical support to young people navigating access to higher education and educational rights. Immigration followed closely, accounting for 27.5% of NCEs, underscoring our continued role in offering guidance and advocacy around complex immigration issues. Opportunities represented 24.9% of the total, with a notable spike in Q4 as young people increasingly accessed personal and professional development pathways. Participation, while smaller at 16.1%, still reflects a strong commitment to youth-led advocacy and civic engagement.

Together, these figures demonstrate the wide-ranging and responsive nature of our support, ensuring young people with precarious status are equipped, informed, and empowered throughout the year.

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1:1 Support

We engage in 1-1's to build trusting relationships with young people, this enables us to understand their needs, goals and support they need from us.

In the past year, We Belong has made significant strides in empowering young migrants, our Outreach team is now complete with four members who work alongside our Policy and Public Affairs Lead to ensure that young people young people are holistically cared for when onboarded as clients of We Belong.

During this reporting period, there were 510 sessions attended by 262 individual young people. The sessions range from one-to-one meetings, case work, advice sessions, personal statement development, student finance discussions, to mental health and wellbeing support across both the London and Manchester chapters.

In the last year we have increased our 1-1's related to the development of immigration enquiries, **during this period 83 individual 1-1 sessions were held with young people** who also went on to receiving specialised immigration advice and information through our legal advice clinics.

Educational Support

14 young people individually supported through educational casework to apply for scholarships, student finance. Some of these young people also required We Belong to intervene after they were wrongfully classified as international students due to the evidential burden from the Student Loans Company.

Case Study: SR

SR was initially awarded a scholarship to study at Birkbeck, University of London, with support from We Belong. However, just 24 hours after the offer was made, the university rescinded it due to a sudden change in their interpretation of the term "forced migration." In response, We Belong contacted Birkbeck's Widening Participation team to express our deep concern and disappointment. We highlighted precedents from similar cases at other universities and demonstrated how Birkbeck had misapplied their own guidance. Within less than 24 hours, following our advocacy, the university fully reinstated SR's scholarship offer. As a result, he was able to begin his studies and is now in his first year of a Law degree at Birkbeck.

Case Study: AN

AN first connected with We Belong through her tutor at Bolton Sixth Form College. She had achieved outstanding A-Level results and was excited to begin university in September 2023 to study Mathematics. However, due to her immigration status, she was ineligible for Student Finance England (SFE), and by the time she reached out, most scholarship deadlines had already passed.

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Over the following year, we supported AN through a range of opportunities. We helped her enrol in a Language Interpreting course, involved her in the EYL (Emerging Young Leaders) programme, and provided regular wellbeing check-ins. We also guided her through the process of applying for scholarships for the following academic year.

This included helping her draft and refine a strong personal statement, as well as preparing her for interviews through multiple mock sessions. Thanks to her hard work and determination, and with our continued support, AN was awarded an Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship to study Mathematics at the University of Salford, starting in September 2024.

Work Experience Students and Volunteers

We welcomed **5 volunteers and 6 students completed work experience** within our London Office through our relationships with Aspire who facilitate placements between schools and organisations.

Feedback

July 2024 Work Experience Student

"The staff members were also very welcoming and kind. This was very positive because it created a positive work environment, boosted morale, and enhanced team dynamics. The staff members being respectful also led to an increase in my productivity and satisfaction with the work placement. A nice atmosphere was created, as it made me feel valued and motivated to perform."

February 2025 Work Experience Student

"Before I had my work experience at We Belong, my confidence when it came to presenting my ideas wasn't that great. But the members of staff helped me build my confidence, and I was able to create a presentation on topics that I am passionate about. All of the staff members were really nice, but I especially enjoyed talking to Gio, Lizzie, and Andrew. These are the staff members who were sat close to me, and they taught me a lot of things that I didn't know beforehand."

Gatherings

Every month an average of 10 to 15 young people attend our social group to meet others with similar experiences. This year we delivered **20 gatherings engaging 138** young people through interactive, educational and community building sessions across London and Manchester. We also engaged with partners to deliver joint sessions.

Key highlights:

May London Gathering - 9 young people took part in a financial literacy workshop entitled 'Let's Talk About Money' facilitated by an external facilitator, Find My Gold. Young people had the opportunity to have an open discussion about finances and how it impacts their lives. All attendees gained valuable insights on financial management and budgeting.

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June Manchester Gathering - 10 young people went to the Safar Film Festival. The Safar Film Festival is the largest festival in the UK dedicated to cinema from the Arab world. The experience offered our Manchester-based young people a unique opportunity to explore and celebrate the diversity of Arab cinema past, present and future.

Legal Advice Clinic

The legal advice clinics were launched two years ago and are delivered in person at our London premises or hybrid to ensure that young people can access legal advice, information and support regardless of geography. In October 2024, we expanded our legal advice clinics from one to two days a week offering an additional 4 sessions to young people and their families. **Between April 2024 to March 2025, 85 clinics were held supporting 67 individual young people.**

We continue to improve our feedback collation from the clinics which continues to see **5-star ratings**. 100% of those receiving advice stated they felt empowered after receiving information with 80% stating the information was extremely clear making them better informed of their next steps, rights and entitlements.

Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) Programme

We delivered four EYL programmes across London and Manchester with **20 young people** receiving their CPD Accreditation after completing the 6-week course. Throughout this time we **engaged with 20 mentors** (11 in LDN and 9 in MCR) with from a variety of industries which included Economics, Engineering, Social Media, Law, Policy and Public Affairs, Fashion and Branding.

Feedback:

100% of participants stated that they would recommend the programme and 67% noting an increase in their confidence and ability to plan and work towards their goals.

"I can't recommend this programme enough for anyone looking to boost their leadership skills and figure out their next steps, both personally and professionally. It's been a game-changer for me. I've gained so much confidence and learned a lot about myself and what I'm capable of. The skills I've picked up have already made a huge difference in my growth and I've learnt things I can use to my advantage when I graduate and apply for jobs."

Educational Outreach

As part of our outreach and awareness-raising work, **we conducted six school and college visits over the year, engaging a total of 281 young people.** These sessions provided vital information on immigration status, access to higher education, and young people's rights in the UK. Notable visits included Ark All Saints Academy in March 2024 (86 students), Burnage Academy in February 2025 (40 students), and Mulberry School for Girls in March 2025 (100 students). We also delivered sessions at Woodhouse College (12 students), City & Islington College (15 students), and Christ The King Emmanuel (28 students).

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Through these visits, we created safe spaces for students to ask questions, share concerns, and connect with support and advocacy opportunities. Feedback from students and staff highlighted the importance of this work in raising awareness and building confidence among young people navigating complex immigration systems.

University Staff Training

We deliver staff training to Widening Participation Officers at universities across the UK so that admission staff are better equipped to develop or expand Sanctuary Scholarships and understand and apply student finance rules as it pertains to migrant students with limited or precarious immigration statuses. **This year we empowered 122 staff across three universities which includes the University of Reading, University of Gloucester, University of York and University of Reading and one Museum, the Museum of Rural Life.** This year we were able to deepen our engagement with staff teams recommending the training to department across the university which led to increase demand for training.

Feedback

We received 9.1 out of 10 rating

"The term "sanctuary" was new to some, indicating the importance and relevance of continued awareness work in this area. There was strong appreciation for how the training brought both emotional depth and practical knowledge together."

"You put us in the shoes of a sanctuary seeker - that was very beneficial for the team."

"The training was comprehensive and gave me a lot to reflect on."

"It was very informative about the legal side and the emphasis on lived experience."

Toolkit Trainings

5 Toolkit training sessions delivered with **164** attendees

- **Empowering 63 stakeholder** across 4 Organisations working in the corporate field to civil society organisations working with vulnerable young people.
- **Empowering 101 stakeholders** via an adapted toolkit training to a range of migrant led organisations.

Migrant Mood Project

Migrant Moods is a podcast produced by We Belong's Core Group, a team made up of lived experience young migrants who assist our outreach efforts and lead our organisation.

Since April 2024, **4 episodes were produced with 446 listeners across our social media accounts** with special guests such as Samuel Remi-Akinwale CEO of Young Manchester and We Belong Trustee and law student Keshon Smith. Key topics included:

- Navigating Challenging Conversations
- A Place for Us: Conversations on Belonging following the riots
- Navigating the Barrister Profession

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Feedback

From Milana, former Co-Producer and current Podcast Host of Migrant Moods:

“Martin has elevated our comms work, ensuring young voices are authentically represented while making our projects more efficient. Since the beginning of his work at We Belong, the comms and all the media work has been organised professionally, and all the projects have become more efficient thanks to his hard work and expertise. As a clear example of this, the Migrant Moods podcast has been able to grow professionally, building a partnership with Transmission Roundhouse to record the episodes in a real studio space. Along with equipping the young people with the essential skills to create interesting scripts and enhance the process of production.”

Annual Youth Summit:

Our Annual Youth Summit, *Shaping Our Future*, marked a powerful moment of reflection, celebration, and youth-led visioning as we celebrated **We Belong's fifth anniversary** and **three years of our Manchester Chapter**. More than just an event, the summit was a bold expression of young migrant leadership in action, **bringing together 65 young people (from 108 sign-ups)** to shape conversations about their futures, their rights, and the kind of society they want to help build.

Designed by and for young people, the summit centred youth voice at every stage, from planning and facilitation to performances and policy workshops. It provided a space for young migrants to speak with power, connect with peers, and co-create solutions with allies and stakeholders.

Feedback

Summary (based on 32 responses):

- **94%** said they would recommend the event to others.
- **93.8%** rated the workshops very highly.
- **93.8%** were very satisfied with the materials provided.
- **96.9%** gave top marks for the youth-led performances.

GOAL 2: To remove barriers to equal and fair treatment through systemic change

We Belong's Mandate and Approach - Created in partnership with our young changemakers August 2024

We Belong advocates for reform to the immigration system, to create material change to the lives of young migrants who have grown up in the UK and have a strong case for belonging which is undermined by home office bureaucracy. We are engaging and building power amongst young people who face incredible barriers to their social integration. We want young people to be able to develop their hopes, dreams and careers away from the gaze and hold of immigration control. We will centre lived experiences and identify trends in data, tracking where immigration policies depart from their original intention or are badly implemented.

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We want to close the distance between decision-makers and young people. We need politics which respects and responds to the ordinary experiences of people in society and through our constituent-led model of advocacy we connect young people through the local and national political frameworks. We work with MP's and provide impact stories and parliamentary briefings so that coalitions of MP's can confidently raise the concerns of their young constituents in parliament and campaign for changes to the immigration system.

We need immigration rules to be fair and accessible; application costs must be reasonable and that delays in application decision-making must be reduced. We will work with the government and the Home Office to inform policies, improve culture, practices and enhance administrative efficiency. Our young people need their representatives to be accountable to them and so we will be bold in our approach and speak truth to power.

“Out of the Loop” Campaign

The development of our Campaigns:

In 2017, We Belong launched the **“Chasing Status”** campaign to advocate for a shorter and more equitable path to settlement.

This led to significant a win in 2022 halving the 10-year route to settlement for young migrants who have spent most of their lives in the UK. This concession means this cohort of young migrants can apply for settlement and it removes the barriers to education and employment, allowing them to move on with their lives much sooner. However, We Belong soon noticed that young people were often caught in a loop of high fees and precarious status. On Wednesday, 19th of April 2023, We Belong publicly launched its campaign called **“Out of the Loop”** calling on the immigration minister to take urgent action to ensure all young migrants can secure their permanent status in the UK. We Belong's primary ask is for the Home Office to introduce a fee waiver scheme for indefinite leave to remain (ILR).

The landscape shifted on 13th July 2023 with the Government's announcement of plans to increase the immigration health surcharge by a staggering 66% and raise visa application costs by at least 20%. Limited Leave to Remain (LLR) application will surge by an alarming 540% since 2014. Young migrants applying for limited leave to remain will bear the weight of a hefty £3,845 per applicant. Furthermore, the cost of applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain skyrocketed to £3,085, a 20% increase from the previous £2,404. Given the current cost-of-living crisis, these spikes could force many young individuals and families into financial difficulties, potentially being pushed out their lawful status due to unaffordability. In response, in addition to the ILR fee waiver, We Belong expanded the campaign ask to include a comprehensive review of the current Home Office fees, including the impact on the lives of young migrants who have grown up in the UK, to inform a new, fairer route to settlement.

Why our advocacy is needed: IMPACT STORY

Amber's Story: The complexity of the immigration system still holds young people in a legal limbo.

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Amber, now 24, arrived in the UK at the age of 2 and has lived here ever since. She only became aware of her immigration status at 17. After being granted Limited Leave to Remain (LLR), she successfully renewed it once. But when her next renewal approached in August 2023, financial hardship meant she couldn't afford the application fees.

A solicitor advised her to apply for a fee waiver, which had to be submitted separately from her LLR renewal. Estranged from her family and without support, Amber struggled to manage the process on her own. Many essential documents were withheld by her parents, and the Home Office requested further information. Feeling overwhelmed and under pressure, she missed the response deadline, and her fee waiver was rejected.

As a result, Amber missed her LLR renewal deadline, and her time on the 10-year route to settlement was reset. A year later, still without status but determined to resolve her situation, she reached out to We Belong. In our initial conversations with Mariam (Policy and Public Affairs Lead), Amber learned she might be eligible to apply for LLR under the private life route, a recent change she hadn't known about.

Amber was referred to our legal advice clinic, where she received expert guidance on her options. Given the complexity of her case and her lack of financial support, our Senior Outreach Solicitor took on her case to help with both the fee waiver and renewal.

Though Amber had saved some money, it wasn't enough. A discretionary request to the We Belong Support Fund was approved, enabling her to submit her application. While she awaits the outcome, she continues to receive support for essentials through our fund.

Amber's story shows how vital access to legal and financial support is for young people navigating complex, life-altering immigration processes.

Key highlights

Young Engagement in Campaigning and Advocacy

Our **Policy and Parliamentary Working Group** has grown to **10 members**, all young people with lived experience of the UK immigration system. Created to centre youth voice in policymaking, the group meets monthly to shape our advocacy, contribute to campaign strategy, and build leadership skills in a supportive environment.

Members played a key role in developing the focus and messaging of our Out of the Loop campaign through regular meetings with our CEO and policy team. Their insights ensured our work stayed grounded in real-life experiences.

A major milestone was the creation of **We Belong's first-ever Manifesto for Change**, a youth-led policy platform calling for urgent reforms to support young migrants in the UK. Launched in Parliament in May, the manifesto has become a cornerstone of our advocacy with MPs, civil servants, and sector partners.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

40 changemakers signed up to our Action Network online campaigning platform which includes toolkits of how to engage with MP's and specific actions our online community can engage in.

IMPACT

Reflections from SG a member of the Working Group

"As we continue going through an enormously complicated time for the migrant community within the UK, especially young people like me that have grown up in the UK - the parliamentary and policy working group had been a space where we have been able to take ownership of migrant justice and activism directly translating lived experience into what we believe must be done to allow us to reach our potential and access our rights.

The group has allowed us to focus on ambitious tasks to try and change national policy to change the lives of all young people within these circumstances, not just us. The only real challenge has been trying to stay hopeful within a sector where things constantly feel like they are getting worse, though the We Belong team is always there to be a friend when needed"

Annual Parliamentary Event

We engaged 8 cross-party MP's and 120 young changemakers through our 'Our Democracy, Our Say' parliamentary event which was co-hosted by Tim Loughton, Meg Hillier and Tim Farron in May 2024. 120 young people signed pledged committing to social change to advance a fairer and more just immigration system.

Meetings with MPs' and Policy Makers:

1. **MP Meetings:** In this reporting period **8 young people have engaged with their MPs** to raise awareness of the barriers they face and our **We Belong have had 6 meetings with cross-party MPs.**
2. **Policy Makers:** The final quarter of this reporting period saw an increase in Home Officer reengagement with Civil Servants and Policy Leads.

We Belong was invited by the Home Office to present at its annual Away Day on 3rd December, reflecting on the relationship between civil society and government. The presentation drew on our 2022 *Lessons Learned* paper and campaign evaluation and engaged around 20 civil servants working on immigration policy areas such as Appendix FM, eVisas, and leave outside the rules. Key issues raised included high immigration fees, limited access to fee waivers, and proposals from our *Out of the Loop* campaign and manifesto.

Following this, We Belong was invited to join a formal meeting to explore potential reforms to the private life route and fee structures. A new multi-disciplinary Home Office team has been set up to consider options, including five-year grants of leave, expanded fee waivers, and payment instalments. While this signals a shift in approach, we remain aware of budget constraints and will keep the Board updated.

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Engagement with the Immigration Dialogue:

We submitted evidence to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) enquiry into the effectiveness, and consistency of Home Office's management of fee waivers utilizing 33 impact stories on fees as well as trends identified from the 81 cases brought through our legal advice clinic.

Community Engagement and Partnerships: Hyperlocal Approach

In September 2024, we launched our Hyperlocal Strategy with the view to engage with the following borough/wards:

- London: Islington, Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, Southwark and Newham.
- Manchester: Greater Manchester, Rochdale, Oldham, Salford, Bolton.

Most of the young people we support approach us around age 18, having already spent most of their lives in the UK. By this time, they want to enter university or employment, but their lack of permanent status becomes a barrier. We believe this challenge could be mitigated earlier, if key figures in their lives were more aware of the issues. Our Community Engagement Officers have been focussing on establishing and deepening relationships with key stakeholders and adults who engage with young migrants at critical points.

By collaborating with existing services, we hope to develop trust between providers, upskilling them with the necessary information and training to improve support and outcomes for young migrants accessing services. We also hope to develop support for our ongoing campaigns with the help of local allies and building a case for broader national reforms to policies which create further barriers to integration.

In this reporting period we have recorded engagements with **44 professionals, 16 of which were Local Councillors**. This led to 15 meetings to explore partnerships, collaborations and to share the work of We Belong and to understand how to connect young people from the locality with our support services. We have managed to develop strong relationships with Manchester City Council and Hackney Council which we will build upon in 2025/26.

Coram Partnerships Learning

Our partnership with Coram to provide Immigration Advice entered its third year. The success of this partnership has led to conversations for renewal to ensure that we sustain this valuable resource for young people as they navigate a complex immigration system.

For this final quarter of this reporting year we started to collate location-based evidence to see where there is the most need. Of the 21 locations shared, **7 unique London boroughs were** represented, including Waltham Forest, Southwark, Croydon, and Greenwich - it's clear that the clinic has deep penetration across diverse areas of Greater London.

The presence of **10 unique locations outside of London** - including **Manchester, Liverpool, Milton Keynes, Kent, Essex, Hull, and Darlington** - shows that We Belong's legal advice clinic has extended its reach well beyond the capital, supporting young people across

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

multiple regions in England, including the North West, North East, East of England, and South East.

This highlights the growing national demand for specialist legal support among young migrants and the trust that We Belong has built across the country through its hybrid delivery model.

Key themes identified through the clinics:

1. Anticipated Barriers with the eVisa Rollout

As the Home Office moves to a digital-only immigration system, we foresee serious access issues for young people, particularly those with complex immigration statuses:

- **Young People on 3C Leave:** Individuals with pending applications may struggle to register for eVisas, leaving them unable to prove their right to work, rent, or study, despite being legally protected under 3C leave.
- **Delays in Document Return:** Young people newly granted Limited Leave to Remain are often unable to register for an eVisa because their passports are still with the Home Office, a key requirement for account creation.
- **Limited Access to the Resolution Centre:** Long queues and minimal support from the Home Office have hindered young people from resolving eVisa issues. One case involved a wait behind 134 callers. As the eVisa deadline approaches, these delays are likely to worsen.

In response, We Belong is actively supporting members to create their eVisa accounts early and flagging systemic barriers to policymakers.

2. Fee Waiver Processing Times Improving

We have seen a positive development in the faster turnaround of fee waiver applications, now typically processed within 2–3 months, easing some of the financial strain on applicants.

3. Identifying Eligibility for British Citizenship

Our legal clinics have uncovered cases where young people—initially seeking to regularise their status—were actually eligible for British citizenship. We are currently supporting two such applications. This highlights the value of comprehensive legal assessments, ensuring that young people are fully aware of their entitlements.

Feedback from young people and supporting adults who have attended a clinic:

AT aged 27, holds British citizenship.

She was initially supported with guidance on the ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain) application process, which she successfully obtained. A year later, AT sought further advice regarding the British citizenship application. With support from a legal advice clinic, she submitted her application, which was subsequently approved.

"I just wanted to share an update with you both that I am now officially a British Citizen! My application was recently approved, and my passport came through the post."

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I just wanted to say a massive thank you for all your help and support during this process- this has been a massive help. The updates and the free advice clinics were very informative and definitely provided much needed clarity in this process.

I also want to thank We Belong and the incredible work carried out by everyone in supporting young people like myself who are in this situation.” - AT

Advocacy and Empowerment Officer - *“I must say that the clinic really helped one of our service users. She was an asylum seeker who was trying to get residency status for her daughter who had been here for seven years. Through the clinic, Coram helped her child gain citizenship and helped the woman apply for Leave to Remain in the country. Her life changed for the better!! In fact, it was a complete turnaround.”*

Anonymised feedback from our survey- *“I am grateful to Mariam and the team for arranging this. The clinic was helpful, and it helped in understanding the different options that are available and which I can take.”*

GOAL 3: To build a strong and resilient team and organisation

During the period We Belong has focussed on streamlining processes, integrating Wellbeing and Mental Health provision and improving HR processes to respond to a growing team. Key developments included:

- Delivery of a team wide Wholesome Week focussing on developing the vision and mission and strong values of lived experience and refining the strategy of the organisation.
- Consultation on the organisational Annual Plan and KPI's to ensure core objectives are identified and agreed by the team.
- Conducting a review of the Manchester Chapter and key learning and future plans.
- Extensive development of the organisational fundraising pipeline to ensure sustainability.
- Building internal systems for project management, tracking and evaluation of projects.
- Return of the CEO Chrisann Jarrett from Maternity Leave in June 2024.

FUNDING PROCESS

We Belong submits funding applications either by open grant processes or by invitation from Grantmakers. The executive team undertakes a scoping exercise to identify and assess prospective funders ensuring alignment with our work before adding them to our fundraising pipeline. Once a prospective grant is on the fundraising pipeline it is then tracked from submission to assessment and finally through to decision. We Belong has been implementing an 18-month Fundraising Strategy which further documents grants on the organisational radar, potential revenue, expenditure and approximate reserves.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FUNDRAISING

The 2024/25 financial year saw a renewal of some of our multi-year grants from trusts and foundations as well as core unrestricted grants enabling the organisation to focus on sustaining projects and staff roles. We raised £628,226 (2024: £641,570) in total income. This year we saw income from workshops and conferences amounting to £1,539 (2024: £3,770).

We have seen an increased demand for basic and essential needs due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, as well as a growing need for immigration application support following the 20% rise in Home Office immigration fees and a 60% increase in the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). In response, our **Support Fund** was crucial in addressing the urgent needs of young migrants who are navigating both financial hardship and the escalating costs of securing their immigration status.

Throughout 2024/25, we delivered **60 grants to 22 individuals**, totalling **£13,986** (2024: **35 grants to 18 individuals**, totalling **£6,930**). We are deeply grateful to all our supporters, without their generosity and commitment, this purpose-driven work would not be possible.

Key Challenges and Learning:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation

One of the key challenges We Belong has faced this year is around monitoring and evaluation. As an organisation that works with a large and diverse group of young people, many of whom have precarious immigration statuses, we engage through multiple streams, including advocacy, peer support, outreach, and direct services. This makes it difficult to capture consistent and meaningful data across programmes, while also remaining sensitive to the varying levels of trust and disclosure comfort among those we support.

Additionally, our team is geographically split between London and Manchester, which, while helping us increase our reach and presence, presents coordination challenges in streamlining systems, standardising data collection, and sharing learnings in real time. Ensuring coherence in our approach and consistency in how we measure outcomes across locations remains a work in progress.

We have recognised that embedding reflection and learning into our culture is essential for both impact and team cohesion, but it must be done in ways that are conducive to our ways of working, without relying on excessive meetings or rigid structures. To address this, we are exploring integrated approaches to learning, such as short reflective prompts in team communications, peer learning and casework sessions, and integrating a team wide bi-weekly data entry session across our CRM system and project plans on Monday.com including the development of a KPI tracker.

These improvements will help us deepen our understanding of what's working, identify gaps, celebrate individual and collective wins and ensure we remain accountable to the communities we serve.

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2. Navigating Data Requests Amidst a Changing Political Landscape

With the recent change of government, We Belong has experienced an increasing demand for detailed evidence to demonstrate the impact of the hostile environment on young people who arrived in the UK as children. While we understand the importance of providing robust data to inform policy, the constant and escalating requests for information place significant pressure on our team and resources.

This ongoing demand creates a dual challenge: not only must we ensure that the data we provide is accurate and reflective of lived experiences, but we also remain mindful that repeated calls for evidence should not become a substitute for urgent policy and administrative reforms. There is a risk that government may rely on data collection as a delaying tactic rather than a prompt for meaningful change.

From this, we have learned the importance of balancing responsiveness to evidence requests with strategic advocacy, using data not only to highlight challenges but also to push for concrete improvements in the system. We continue to seek ways to streamline our data collection processes, protect our limited resources, and amplify the voices of young migrants, ensuring their stories lead to real-world impact beyond the numbers.

GOVERNANCE

Following the departure of our former Chair in April 2024, Maheraj Lian, Vice Chair, stepped in as Interim Chair. In January 2025, Joel Carter assumed the Interim Chair role due to ongoing recruitment challenges. Together, Joel and Maheraj have provided strong support to the CEO, maintained representation across board committees, and ensured the continuity of governance responsibilities. To secure a permanent Chair, the Nominations Committee has engaged a professional recruitment firm.

The Board has made meaningful progress in strengthening governance, adopting updated finance, HR, safeguarding, and programme policies. The risk register has been expanded and is reviewed quarterly.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

Last year, we committed to a hyperlocal engagement strategy, aimed at deepening our work with MPs while also expanding our networks to include local councils and grassroots organisations. This approach focuses on early intervention and improved access to rights by working closely with local groups to engage young people at an earlier stage in their journeys. We will continue to operationalise this strategy through deeper partnerships and targeted outreach. A key part of this will be the development of bespoke training for partners, equipping them to better identify immigration status issues among young people. We also plan to introduce regular check-ins with partners to monitor service improvements and ensure systems are accessible and responsive to young migrants' needs. Additionally,

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we are working to strengthen referral pathways, enabling quicker identification of unresolved status issues and helping prevent unnecessary disruptions to the lives and future plans of young people across the UK.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees reported net expenditure of £103,675, (2024: £45,034 net income) on all operations for the period under review. The income for the year was £628,226 (2024: £641,570) and expenditure was £731,901 (2024: £596,536). The fund balance at the end of the period of £347,231 (2024: £450,906) comprised unrestricted funds of £320,216 (2024: £449,028) and restricted funds of £27,015 (2024: £1,878).

Further details of grant income can be found within notes 2 and 3 to the accounts. All expenditure supports the key objectives of the charity as described above. As stated within the Reserves Policy below, the nature and quantity of reserves will be reviewed on a regular basis and adjusted to reflect any changes in the Charity's financial position. The trustees and senior staff consider it a priority to secure sufficient income to ensure the long-term future of the Charity.

During the year, the charity navigated a challenging external environment that has impacted its financial position. The ongoing economic pressures in the UK have made securing new funding increasingly difficult, as many funders face competing demands and tighter budgets. Despite these challenges, the charity has maintained prudent financial oversight, ensuring continued delivery of its programmes. Careful planning and risk management remain essential to sustaining operations and supporting long-term financial resilience. No significant unforeseen financial risks materialised during the period, but the outlook remains cautious in light of external uncertainties.

RESERVES POLICY

A reserves policy has been established to provide guidelines and principles for maintaining an appropriate level of reserves to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of We Belong. The reserves policy is reviewed annually or as required, and compliance with the policy is reviewed on a quarterly basis with the board and finance subcommittee considering the fundraising strategy, risks, and any operational adjustments needed.

Our reserves policy requires We Belong:

- To have sufficient free reserves to cover the budgeted operating costs for a minimum of 4 (minimum) to 6 (maximum) months, as a measure of financial preparedness for unforeseen circumstances and short-term operational challenges.
- To align with the expectations and requirements of potential funders, including grantors and donors, while considering the impact of reserve levels on grant applications.
- To enable and accelerate the delivery of We Belong's three-year strategic plan.

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Reserve Calculation Method

Our reserves policy requires that we retain free reserves in unrestricted funds sufficient to cover six months of normal expenditure. The following items should be excluded from reserves:

- Tangible fixed assets used to carry out the charity's activities.
- Programme-related investments, held solely to further the charity's purpose.
- Designated funds set aside to meet essential future spending, such as funding a project that could not be met from future income.
- Commitments that have not been provided for as a liability in the accounts.

The total reserves of the charity at 31 March 2025 were £347,231 (2024: £450,906), of which £27,015 (2024: £1,878) were held in restricted funds. The unrestricted funds totalled £320,216 (2024 £449,028). In the previous financial year, the Board approved a designated fund of £150,000 (current year balance £136,014) to support the continuation of the critical Support Fund provided by We Belong. This fund supports young migrants and staff navigating the complexities of the immigration system. The remaining general free reserves are £184,202 (2024: £299,028). To ensure financial preparedness for unforeseen circumstances and short-term operational challenges, the charity aims to maintain sufficient free reserves to cover budgeted operating costs for the following financial year between a period of 4 (minimum £251,000) to 6 (maximum £377,000) months. Level of reserves held by the Charity is below the desired range with plans to increase the level of reserves through fundraising.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity on a regular basis, with a risk assessment report available online and highlighted at every Trustee meeting. Financially the Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at adequate levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that the systems in place to mitigate significant risks offers the charity adequate protection.

Risks identified and action taken to mitigate the risk:

1. **Governance risk:** related to loss of a key board post holder; Immediate action is being taken. Interim Chair and support person are in place and Inclusive Boards are conducting Candidate Search only for prospective candidates.
2. **HR risk:** risk mitigations in place, new staff have been trained, and an enhanced wellbeing package proposed in the Annual Plan as well as series of group trainings to foster trauma-informed approaches and collective care.
3. **HR loss of lived experience:** the organisation is conducting a review of this area for consideration by the Board.
4. **Finance and Fundraising Risk:** as we enter a new budget and planning period. Appointment of Finance Lead to help reduce the risk. Board and senior staff consider long term strategic direction for WB growth, including implications for the reserves policy.

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5. **Reputational damage, negative media risk:** we are mitigating risk by reviewing communication channels when campaigning materials are developed. Trustees and Contractors Code of Conduct have been approved and signed by the relevant parties.

GOING CONCERN:

The Trustees have examined the operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that confirmed income for the next 12 months together with the reserves in place offer the charity adequate protection to ensure its continuance as a going concern. The Charity has in place a three-year budget to ensure future planning is secure.

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are clear that there are identifiable benefits to the work that we do - some of these are identified below;

- Trustees are clear that these benefits are for a wide cross-section of the public;
- Trustees are clear that those benefits relate to our aims.
- Trustees are clear that those benefits outweigh any potential risks.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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 CIO's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge there is no information relevant to the Independent Examination of which the Examiner is unaware.

The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant financial information and that this information has been communicated to the Examiner.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 October 25 and signed on their behalf by:

Joel Carter Trustee and Interim Chair

WE BELONG

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of We Belong for the period ended 31 March 2025.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 the ICAEW, 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 CIO 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 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 considered part of an independent examination.
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
London SE7 8PF

Date: 6 October 2025

We Belong

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

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	346,854	-	346,854	383,713	-	383,713
Charitable activities							
We Engage	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
We Empower	3	-	201,546	201,546	-	190,287	190,287
We Build	3	1,539	77,580	79,119	3,770	63,800	67,570
Bank interest		707	-	707	-	-	-
Total income		349,100	279,126	628,226	387,483	254,087	641,570
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	60,413	-	60,413	27,430	-	27,430
Charitable activities							
We Engage	4	122,185	-	122,185	109,412	-	109,412
We Empower	4	208,017	179,051	387,068	113,455	234,865	348,320
We Build	4	87,297	74,938	162,235	32,694	78,681	111,375
Total expenditure		477,912	253,989	731,901	282,990	313,546	596,536
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	5	(128,812)	25,137	(103,675)	104,493	(59,459)	45,034
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(128,812)	25,137	(103,675)	104,493	(59,459)	45,034
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought		449,028	1,878	450,906	344,535	61,337	405,872
Total funds carried		320,216	27,015	347,231	449,028	1,878	450,906

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 14a to the financial statements.

We Belong

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2025

			2025	2024
	Note	£	£	£
Current assets:				
Debtors				
Cash at bank and in hand	10	89,580	53,952	
		307,669	427,063	
			<hr/>	
		397,249	481,015	
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(50,018)	(30,109)	
			<hr/>	
Net current assets			347,231	450,906
			<hr/>	
Total assets less current liabilities			347,231	450,906
			<hr/>	
Total net assets			347,231	450,906
			<hr/> <hr/>	
The funds of the charity:	14a			
Restricted income funds			27,015	1,878
Unrestricted Income funds				
Designated funds		136,014	150,000	
General funds		184,202	299,028	
			<hr/>	
Total unrestricted funds			320,216	449,028
			<hr/>	
Total charity funds			347,231	450,906
			<hr/> <hr/>	

Approved by the trustees on 2 October 25 and signed on their behalf by

Joel Carter Trustee and Interim Chair

We Belong

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(103,675)		45,034	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(35,628)		520	
Increase in creditors	19,909		18,293	
Net cash provided by operating activities	(119,394)		63,847	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(119,394)		63,847	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	427,063		363,216	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	307,669		427,063	

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents and of net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	Other non- cash changes £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	427,063	(119,394)	-	307,669
Total cash and cash equivalents	427,063	(119,394)	-	307,669

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

We Belong is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The registered office and operational address is EC1 Offices, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PY.

b) 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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

c) Public benefit entity

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

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) Going concern

The Trustees have assessed the charity's financial position and are satisfied that it has sufficient income, committed funding, and reserves to continue operating for at least the next 12 months. A three-year financial plan is in place to support long-term sustainability, and no material uncertainties have been identified. The Trustees therefore consider the charity to be a going concern.

e) 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.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) 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.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. 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.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

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 activity 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 direct delivery of programmatic work and initiatives as well as undertaken to further the charity's purposes. These costs include both direct expenses and associated support costs necessary to enable the effective delivery and management of these activities.

Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Governance costs include the management of the charity's assets, organisational management and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

j) Allocation of expenditure and support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, support costs which are the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, are apportioned to each activity on the basis detailed below.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of area of literature occupied by each activity.

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

j) Allocation of expenditure and support costs (continued)

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time and direct costs, of the amount attributable to each activity

Raising	10%
We Engage	20%
We Empower	50%
We Build	20%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. No leases of more than 12 months are held.

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. 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

m) 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.

n) 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.

o) 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.

p) Average number of employees

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 11 (2024: 8.9).

q) Pensions

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme available to all employees. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2025		2024	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
General donations from individual	25,854	-	14,713	-
Grants from Trusts and Foundations				
Sigrid Rausing Trust	75,000	-	75,000	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	66,000	-	66,000	-
Esmée Fairbairn	65,000	-	65,000	-
* Anonymous	50,000	-	90,000	-
AB Charitable Trust	30,000	-	-	-
Garfield Weston	25,000	-	-	-
Civic Power Fund	10,000	-	10,000	-
Tudor Trust	-	-	63,000	-
	346,854	-	383,713	-

* Donations were received from two (2024: three) funders who are known to We Belong but wish to remain anonymous.

3 Income from charitable activities

	2025		2024	
	We Empower £	We Build £	We Empower £	We Build £
Restricted grants				
National Lottery Community	75,407	-	75,587	-
Unbound Philanthropy	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Blagrave Trust	-	31,000	-	33,000
Trust for London	30,000	-	30,000	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	25,000	-	23,500	-
The Oglesby Charitable Trust	11,500	11,500	-	-
City Bridge	6,000	4,000	-	-
Allen & Overy Shearman Foundat	10,000	-	-	-
Duke of Edinburgh Award	6,640	-	-	-
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	5,000	-	-	-
Civic Power Fund	1,000	1,000	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	-	1,200	800
John Ellerman Foundation	1,000	-	30,000	-
Other small grants and	-	80	-	-
Total Restricted	201,547	77,580	190,287	63,800
Unrestricted				
Workshops and conferences	-	1,539	-	3,770
Total income from charitable activities	201,547	79,119	190,287	67,570

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities			Governance costs £	Support costs £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
		We Engage £	We Empower £	We Build £				
Staff costs (Note 6 ,7)	44,645	68,987	213,827	85,595	-	42,359	455,413	342,986
Training, recruitment and other staff costs	-	2,299	7,495	2,642	-	7,249	19,685	24,529
Legal supervision for immigration caseworker	-	-	47,861	-	-	-	47,861	37,190
Other programme costs	-	7,061	26,743	20,925	-	-	54,729	32,930
Communications	-	9,499	9,498	4,749	-	-	23,746	30,799
Support Fund/Emergency grants (see below)	-	-	-	13,986	-	-	13,986	6,930
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	-	2,804	2,804	2,804	-	506	8,918	15,193
Trustee travel and meeting expenses	-	-	-	-	434	-	434	667
Trustee recruitment	-	-	-	-	633	-	633	-
Printing, post and stationery	-	-	-	-	-	1,231	1,231	1,571
Telephone and internet	-	-	-	-	-	1,831	1,831	2,463
Office rent and rates	-	-	-	-	-	91,835	91,835	69,253
Equipment costs	-	-	-	-	-	901	901	4,562
IT support and software	-	-	-	-	-	1,632	1,632	1,789
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	1,232	1,232	1,102
Accountancy and independent examination	-	-	-	-	1,875	4,804	6,679	12,294
Bank and merchant charges	-	-	-	-	-	725	725	-
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	430	430	12,278
	44,645	90,650	308,228	130,701	2,942	154,735	731,901	596,536
Support costs	15,474	30,947	77,368	30,946	-	(154,735)	-	-
Governance costs	294	588	1,472	588	(2,942)	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2025	60,413	122,185	387,068	162,235	-	-	731,901	

60 Support grants were made to 22 individuals totalling £13,986 (2024: 35 grants to 18 individuals totalling £6,930).

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4b Analysis of expenditure (previous year)

	Charitable activities						2024 Total £
	Raising funds £	We Engage £	We Empower £	We Build £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	
Staff costs (Note 6)	19,449	58,328	192,532	57,929	-	14,747	342,986
Training, recruitment and other staff costs	-	5,320	13,105	2,660	-	3,444	24,529
Legal supervision for immigration caseworker	-	-	37,190	-	-	-	37,190
Other programme costs	-	8,536	11,946	12,448	-	-	32,930
Communications	770	12,012	12,011	6,006	-	-	30,799
Support Fund/Emergency grants (see below)	-	-	-	6,930	-	-	6,930
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	-	-	-	-	-	15,193	15,193
Trustee travel and meeting expenses	-	-	-	-	667	-	667
Printing, post and stationery	-	-	-	-	-	1,571	1,571
Telephone and internet	-	-	-	-	-	2,463	2,463
Office rent and rates	-	-	-	-	-	69,253	69,253
Equipment costs	-	-	-	-	-	4,562	4,562
IT support and software	-	-	-	-	-	1,789	1,789
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	1,102	1,102
Accountancy and independent examination	-	-	-	-	954	11,340	12,294
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-	12,278	12,278
	20,219	84,196	266,784	85,973	1,621	137,742	596,536
Support costs	7,127	24,922	80,587	25,106	-	(137,742)	-
Governance costs	84	293	948	295	(1,621)	-	-
Total expenditure 2024	27,430	109,412	348,320	111,375	-	-	596,536

35 Support grants were made to 18 individuals totalling £6,930 (2023: 22 grants totalling £6,754).

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Net (expenditure) / income for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating lease rentals payable:		
Property	-	-
Other	-	-
Independent examiner's fee (excluding VAT):	1,875	954
	1,875	954

6 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	404,106	306,453
Social security costs	37,071	27,237
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	11,236	9,296
Other staff costs	3,000	-
	455,413	342,986

No employee earned over £60,000 (excluding employer pension costs and employer's national insurance) in either year.

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel was £184,988 (2024: £177,469).

The charity trustees were neither paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: Nil).

Trustees' expenses represents the payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs relating to attendance at meetings of the Board of trustees. One trustee was reimbursed £418 for travel expenses related to attendance at Board meetings in 2025 (2024: One trustee received £245).

7 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 11 (2024: 8.9).

Staff are split across the activities of the charity as follows:

	Headcount		Full-time equivalent	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Raising funds	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.4
We Engage	2.3	1.7	2.3	1.6
We Empower	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9
We Build	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.6
Support and Governance	1.3	0.3	0.9	0.3
	11.0	8.9	10.6	8.8

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Related party transactions

Other than trustee expenses as disclosed in note 6 no payments were made to related parties.

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

9 Taxation

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

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	720	2,431
Prepayments	23,334	13,728
Accrued income	65,526	37,793
	<u>89,580</u>	<u>53,952</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	21,027	22
Taxation and social security	9,867	9,764
Other creditors	2,124	2,463
Accruals	5,000	4,860
Deferred income (note 12)	12,000	13,000
	<u>50,018</u>	<u>30,109</u>

12 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grants received in advance specifically for use in the next financial year.

	2025 £	2024 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	13,000	-
Amount released to income in the year	(13,000)	-
Amount deferred in the year	12,000	13,000
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

13a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	222,220	136,014	39,015	397,249
Current liabilities	(38,018)	-	(12,000)	(50,018)
Net assets at 31 March 2025	184,202	136,014	27,015	347,231

13b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current assets	316,137	150,000	14,878	481,015
Current liabilities	(17,109)	-	(13,000)	(30,109)
Net assets at 31 March 2024	299,028	150,000	1,878	450,906

14a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds:					
National Lottery Community Fund	-	75,407	(75,407)	-	-
Unbound Philanthropy	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Blagrave Trust	1,878	31,000	(32,878)	-	-
Trust for London	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
The Oglesby Charitable Trust	-	23,000	(23,000)	-	-
Allen & Overy Shearman Foundation	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
City Bridge	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Duke of Edinburgh Award	-	6,640	(145)	-	6,495
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Civic Power Fund	-	2,000	(1,480)	-	520
John Ellerman Foundation	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Other small grants and donations	-	80	(80)	-	-
Total restricted funds	1,878	279,127	(253,990)	-	27,015
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Support fund	150,000	-	(13,986)	-	136,014
Total designated funds	150,000	-	(13,986)	-	136,014
General funds	299,028	349,100	(463,926)	-	184,202
Total unrestricted funds	449,028	349,100	(477,912)	-	320,216
Total funds	450,906	628,227	(731,902)	-	347,231

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Purposes of restricted funds

National Lottery Community Fund – Supports the We Belong Youth Voice Partnerships, specifically covering the development and activities of the Manchester Chapter.

Unbound Philanthropy – Funds the Organising and Mobilising Immigrant Youth initiative, focusing on leadership and empowerment.

Blagrove Trust – Supports the implementation of the policy win from the Chasing Status campaign and funds the Policy and Public Affairs Officer role.

Trust for London – Funds the We Belong Chasing Status Project – Pathways to Settlement, focusing on advocacy and systemic change for young people with insecure immigration status.

Barrow Cadbury Trust – Supports campaigning efforts on key issues including immigration, citizenship, and access to higher education, as well as youth leadership and development.

The Oglesby Charitable Trust - Supports We Belong towards core costs of delivering Chasing Status for the benefit of young people in Greater Manchester.

Allen & Overy Shearman Foundation- Supports We belong with Let us Learn projects educational outreach for London.

City Bridge Foundation - Supports We Belong to empower young people with precarious immigration status in London through a targeted programme of advocacy, campaigning and youth development.

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Supports We Belong to deliver the Bronze Award to 12 young people.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Amount granted to support We Belong with wellbeing cost.

Civic Power Fund – Supports the development and training of We Belong's governance structures and promotes the wellbeing of both staff and young people.

John Ellerman Foundation – A responsive grant awarded in the context of the recent riots to support organisational resilience and capacity.

Purpose of designated fund

The board have approved the creation of an Support Fund (Designated) allocating £150,000 from the current free reserves to a fixed term designated fund. This strategic move will sustain the critical support provided by We Belong to young migrants and staff navigating the complexities of the immigration system and enhance our fundraising efforts by demonstrating efficient use of surplus funds.

We Belong

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

14b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds:					
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	23,500	(23,500)	-	-
Tudor Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Unbound Philanthropy Trust for London	25,000 2,837	60,000 30,000	(85,000) (32,837)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	18,077	75,587	(93,664)	-	-
John Ellerman Foundation	11,164	30,000	(41,164)	-	-
Blagrave Trust	4,259	33,000	(35,381)	-	1,878
Total restricted funds	61,337	254,087	(313,546)	-	1,878
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Support fund	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
Total designated funds	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
General funds	344,535	387,483	(282,990)	(150,000)	299,028
Total unrestricted funds	344,535	387,483	(282,990)	-	449,028
Total funds	405,872	641,570	(596,536)	-	450,906

15 Legal status of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019, updated in September 2021.

WE BELONG

England & Wales - Charity number 1184348

Accounts

Company number: CE018159
Charity registration number: 1184348

WE BELONG

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

WE BELONG

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WE BELONG

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Colin Falconer - Chair until resignation 01 April 2024 Omolade Adedapo - resigned 23 October 2023 Sufina Ahmad Jamila Hinds-Brough Joel Carter Maheraj Ahmed Lian - Interim Chair from 01 April 2024 Buddika Perera - Treasurer Stewart MacLachlan Keshon Devonte Smith
Chief Executive	Chrisann Jarrett MBE
Interim CEO	Raewyn Jones - 04 September 2023 – 04 July 2024
Charity Number	1184348
Banker	Metro Bank One Southampton Row London, W1B 5HA
Accountants	Charity Accounting Services (CAS) Ltd 6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton London, SM1 4FS
Independent Examiner	Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA 55 Canberra Road London, SE7 8PF

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We Belong registered with the Charity Commission on 10 July 2019, becoming a new stand-alone organisation. We Belong builds on a project called Let Us Learn, which was previously hosted by Just for Kids Law. The project expanded beyond its initial remit of campaigning for equal access to higher education to fighting for the rights of young migrants in the UK, including higher education and tackling systemic barriers that prevent young migrants from living a fulfilled life.

We Belong works for the fair treatment of young migrants in the UK and for the removal of barriers preventing their full integration. Our three key objectives are to foster relationships with decision-makers and advocate for young migrants; to raise awareness of the hostile environment and issues around access to higher education; and to empower young migrants to become change agents.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019, updated in September 2021.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the charity trustees and are recruited with regard to their knowledge skills and experience. Trustees are appointed to a fixed 2-year term. Trustees may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There is a comprehensive pre-appointment briefing and a trustee induction process for new Trustees. Training is made available to Trustees as required.

Management and administration

We Belong is administered by the Chief Executive based on the strategic direction set by the trustees. The board of trustees meets four times a year and has four sub-committees and working groups including the Risk sub-committee, the Programmes and Safeguarding sub-committee, the HR working group and the Finance committee. The committees each have Terms of Reference approved by the board of trustees and meet quarterly or as required to support the CEO. The board Chair also meets regularly with the CEO to support delivery of the charity strategy and outcomes. During the 2023/24 fiscal year, Charity Accounting Services provide book-keeping and accounting services to the charity.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees consider that the Board of Trustees and the Senior Management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year, Details of Trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 6 to the accounts. Remuneration of Management personnel was agreed and decided by the Board of Trustees and based on current market rates for charities.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives set out in the governing document

- to help young people advance in life through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Charity activities

We Belong works with and for young migrants, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribute to British society.

EXTERNAL CONTEXT

We Belong remains the only organisation in the migration sector focussing solely on long term young migrants, a group often forgotten due to wrongly held assumptions on young people's status and citizenship despite the length of time spent in the UK. Our issue is extremely niche in comparison to the rest of the sector who focus on refugees and asylum seekers. Post- Windrush Scandal we have been able to capitalise on the opportunity to work alongside policy makers as they change their internal practices and engagement with external stakeholders and communities. In 2022, the government announced a consultation on the Bill of Rights which threatens to dilute the Human Rights Act and the main basis for the residency of our beneficiaries. In addition, the Nationality and Borders Bill 2022 gives the Secretary of State the power to revoke citizenship based on public interest. The hostile environment will continue to impact the lives of our young people and their community due to the discretionary power and the reframing of what it means to really belong in the UK. Lastly, the negative narrative on migration continues with the government presiding over a department which continues to issue harsh legislation to address 'illegal migration' while not

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

appreciating the number of children and young adults who will be caught in the crossfire as they intend to crack down on immigration in the UK.

OUR ISSUES AND APPROACHES

The Challenge

There are over 332,000 children and young people growing up in the UK without any formal immigration status. In 2012, the UK Government introduced the longest route to settlement formally known as the ten-year route; young people are entering adulthood facing prolonged uncertainty on this probationary route. The young migrants We Belong support are often granted a limited form of status over a decade, due to high fees and complex laws. This decade is rife with difficulty and impacts a young adult's interaction with society and services and impacts a young person's identity and sense of belonging.

In June 2022, after four years of campaigning for a shorter more affordable route to settlement, We Belong managed to secure a major win to immigration private life rules. This change means that young migrants who entered the UK as children and were granted status on the basis of private life will now be on a five-year route to settlement as opposed to a ten-year route.

We Belong has taken on the significant task to ensure young people, their families and civil society organisations interacting with young people who have precarious status are aware of their rights and entitlements and can regularise their status as soon as possible. Early intervention is necessary so that young people face fewer years in legal precarity.

The barriers to status still exist with young people unable to afford Limited Leave to Remain but also unable to get out of the loop and secure settled status due to lack of fee waivers for indefinite leave to remain. Sustained advocacy with a strong data focus will enable the organisation to present a compelling case to the Home Office to introduce fee waivers to address this insurmountable barrier. In addition, it is important that the home office sees these long-term young migrants as a special cohort who should not be caught up in the 'unintended consequences' of blanket rules.

Our Ongoing Commitment: Empowering Young Leaders

We Belong has evolved into a respected organisation that empowers young leaders to advocate for change and to raise awareness about the impact of damaging Home Office policies. Our current campaign, "Out of the Loop," urges the Home Office to help young migrants secure their permanent status and draw attention to the spiralling fees that are adding additional financial burden to young people who call the UK home.

Our approach is to provide a safe platform for young people to collaborate, raise their voice, and receive one-on-one advice, training, and opportunities in areas like education, leadership, employability and immigration support.

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WHAT WE OFFER

Immigration Support: Through our Legal Advice Clinic, we provide support to young people with precarious status and help them understand their immigration situation. We also provide interactive training for organisations that work with young migrants (schools, colleges and universities, community centres), as well as information and resources to better support young people with their immigration status.

University Support: We support with university and scholarship applications, student finance cases, as well as workshops on personal statements and career guidance.

Emerging Young Leaders Programme: This six-week CPD-accredited course matches participants with experienced mentors based on their interests, motivations, and aspirations. Through weekly guided sessions, young people develop their leadership style, achieve their goals, and build confidence and resilience.

Co-Producers, Core Group Members, and Volunteers: We provide opportunities for young people to become advocates for young migrants in their community and gain hands-on work experience by assisting our Outreach and Community Engagement Team. We value their time and can accommodate their schedule.

A safe space and community: We are always here to help with guidance, one-on-one support, and opportunities to connect with other young migrants. We host monthly gatherings where young people come together through storytelling, food, and engaging activities.

OUR ANNUAL PLAN AND DATA COLLECTION TO TRACK PROGRESS

We belong has an Annual Plan which is developed by leadership at the organisation in conjunction with staff members and approved by the board annually. The Annual Plan is a comprehensive roadmap articulating our strategic vision and delineating the course of action for the upcoming financial year. It highlights our Theory of Change which has a key focus on lived experience engagement, KPI's and a clear monitoring and evaluation framework to access our activities so that the organisation can create lasting impact.

We have three key outcomes:

1. **WE ENGAGE:** Young people feel connected, informed, and supported; wellbeing is improved.
2. **WE EMPOWER:** Young people are empowered to take action for better outcomes for themselves as individuals, and to take action for systems change.

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3. **WE BUILD:** Policy makers are influenced to remove barriers to equal and fair treatment.

These outcome pillars interact with our organisational goals:

1. **To ensure better opportunities and outcomes for individuals by directly engaging young migrants.**
2. **To remove barriers to equal and fair treatment through systemic change.**

We monitor and evaluate our impact using the following tools for Data Collection:

- **Raw Data** from our CRM System Lamplight which tracks participation, case notes and records of activities. In addition, to Monday.com project management tracker, Eventbrite records of events and activities, media coverage, social media interactions as well as through interviews and creative methods.
- **Judgement:** Qualitative review of casework with our immigration caseworker and research reports.

Opinion: the development of surveys, interviews, observations, feedback forms completed at our events, podcasts, blog posts and video.

OUR IMPACT: YOUNG PEOPLE AS LEADERS

We Belong's work has empowered young migrants to understand their rights and effectively engage with communities, schools, universities, government, and parliament to influence decisions. This has led to real change, such as our successful "Chasing Status" campaign mentioned above, which halved the 10-year route to settlement, securing a 5-year route for these young people who have lived in the UK for most of their lives.

Our values and lived experience are integrated in everything we do and throughout every aspect of the organisation. We continue to be youth-led with many of We Belong's leaders being young people who have experienced the positive impact of the organisation themselves. Some of our original campaigners from 'Let Us Learn' continue to lead alongside our dedicated Board of Trustees, setting goals to benefit the next generation of young activists. We are in an exciting phase of growth, poised to remain a beacon of light for many years to come.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL 1: To ensure better opportunities and outcomes for individuals by directly engaging young migrants.

Our Services: Empowering Young People to Reach Their Full Potential

We Belong has built its services to support and empower young migrants to pursue opportunities and move on with their lives whilst we also assist them with their immigration

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status. We provide a safe environment for young people to build a community, receive leadership training, university and career support, work placements, and opportunities to engage with other young migrants.

1:1 Support

In the past year, We Belong has made significant strides in empowering young migrants. The support network in London and Manchester has been expanded, offering more one-to-one meetings, advice, advocacy, and essential eligibility information, including addressing mental health and well-being. Additionally, the onboarding process for new co-producers has been completed, fostering team cohesion. Four new co-producers joined us in January 2024 and will be working with the team for one year to develop and deliver our projects.

During the reporting period there were **941 sessions attended by 378 individual young people**. The sessions ranged from one-to-one meetings, advice sessions, personal statement development, student finance discussions, to mental health and wellbeing support across both the London and Manchester chapters.

Educational Support

10 students have been supported individually through the year with their scholarship applications, and 14 attended a February scholarship session. Two young people were subsequently awarded a scholarship to attend University.

Gatherings

Every month an average of 10 to 15 young people attend our social group to meet others with similar experiences. Both London and Manchester chapters have had **12 gatherings each over the reporting period with 249 attendees in total**. The average gathering satisfaction rating was 96.5% with 87.5% of respondents saying they would recommend the gathering to others.

As an example, the September 2023 London gathering was held We Belong's London offices. The theme of the gathering was storytelling in the form of a book reading by migrant author and poet, JJ Bola. The gathering was well received with 100% of attendees stating that they would recommend the event to their friends or colleagues.

Legal Advice Clinic

This Project began initially as one that would provide legal advice to young adults seeking Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) under the new private life Immigration Rules and following on from the successful campaigning work of We Belong. This was the first time a legal advice project had been set up as part of We Belong. Since its inception in September 2022, We Belong's legal advice clinic, in collaboration with Coram, has made significant strides in empowering young people in immigration matters. As of March 2024, the legal advice clinic had given advice to **81 young people**

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A recent survey conducted in January 2024 revealed that 93% of respondents felt empowered by the clinic, with over 77% finding the information provided very clear. Testimonials from beneficiaries underscore the tangible impact of the partnership, such as expediting residency processes and enabling pursuit of life aspirations. Overwhelmingly the young people reported feeling comfortable asking questions in the legal advice clinics, and that their individual concerns were addressed. Comments included practical advice on how we can improve (such as more clinics) as well as comments on the impact of the clinic, such as the following:

"I am extremely grateful for the clinics and We Belong's opportunity. You guys (along with the lawyer from Coram) are the reasons why I'm now an indefinite leave holder. You have saved me waiting another 2.5 years, I have a new lease on life and can finally pursue my dreams with my family. Thank you all."

Community Engagement and Partnerships

There has been a focus on community engagement, with partnerships formed with organisations like the youth mental health charity 42nd Street, community organising has been strengthened, and network connections have been expanded with local authorities and grassroots groups. The Immigration Toolkit training sessions have been offered, empowering civil society groups and community centres to understand young people's rights, with significant participation and increased accessibility through online options with 73 registrations for online training sessions and 61 professionals attending our trainings

Educational Outreach

We Belong continues educational outreach cross London and Manchester. This year saw a spurt in activity with the development of our Schools Excellence Programme and increased engagement with Academy chains to raise awareness of barriers to higher education and inspire leadership amongst pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds.

The We Belong School's Excellence Programme has been developed with the clear objective of equipping and developing young changemakers to affect change in society. Schools have a choice of the full programme or a selection of specific sessions which include career exploration, skills assessments, problem solving, goal setting, CV writing or leadership through activism. This year, **the programme was delivered to 496 students** at Ark All Saints Academy year 7 and year 9 students delivered by our Youth Development Lead and three Core Group Members. 71% of the students who completed the Year 7 sessions felt empowered, 49% better equipped to set goals, 20% feeling more confident to work as a team and 23% noting improvements in their problem solving and negotiation skills.

In addition, we engaged students through the following activities:

- Careers Fair: over 1,400 students in attendance across 6 sixth forms and colleges with the We Belong team directly **engaging 265 students**.
- Information Sessions: **38 students receiving information** and guidance on access higher education.
- School Assemblies: **220 students engaged** through schools' assemblies.

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- Work Experience: **4 work experience students** joined the We Belong team across 4 weeks through our ongoing partnership with Inspire who facilitated placements between schools and organisations.

University Staff Training

We deliver staff training to Widening Participation Officers at universities across the UK so that admission staff are better equipped to develop or expand Sanctuary Scholarships and understand and apply student finance rules as it pertains to migrant students with limited or precarious immigration statuses This year **we empowered 57 staff across three universities** which includes Oxford University Somerville College, University of Gloucester and University of Reading.

Migrant Mood Project

Migrant Moods is a podcast produced by We Belong's Core Group, a team made up of lived-experience young migrants who assist our outreach efforts and lead our organisation. The podcast began as an avenue for them to share their personal stories and experiences of growing up as migrants in the UK and has become a great resource for young people who have begun listening in the last year. They also invite guest speakers and other members of the community to discuss issues that affect young migrants in the UK and aim to connect with other young people to share resources and opportunities for education, advocacy, art and creativity, and employment.

Since April 2023, **nine episodes** have been produced on topics such as 'Power of Choice', 'Migration and the Media' and 'Access to Higher Education' with a **total of 355 listeners across Spotify and Youtube.**

To further upskill our team of young changemakers to speak boldly on and offline, our Communications Consultant and Legal Journalist Fiona Bawdon has delivered media training to 14 Core Group members.

Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) Programme

Often young people move from first engaging with We Belong, to attending gatherings and engaging with one-to-one support before embarking on the EYL programme. This 6-week CPD accredited programme was held in February 2023 in Manchester, with 5 young people attending. The depth of impact of this programme is described here by two of the course participants, Isla and Sami (Siblings).

Sami, 20, whose immigration status bars him from working or studying. Before contacting We Belong, Sami spent months barely leaving the house as his friends went off to university or began their careers. We Belong's one-to-one support and Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) programme had been transformative: 'a stepping stone to everything I do today.'

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He says of We Belong: *'They give you an accredited qualification to feel empowered to be able to make the difference you want to make. I struggled with my mental health, anxiety and depression. It was the one-to-one support that made me feel comfortable, that encouraged me to grow and do things I wouldn't have imagined.'*

As well as being part of the Manchester core group, Sami now volunteers at multiple social justice organisations, is a trustee of a charity and Co-chair of the #iwill movement. He fundraises for Safe Passage and writes about his experiences to help other young migrants.

Ilsa, 21, who describes the uncertainty of waiting for the Home Office to resolve her status as 'running on a treadmill with no destination. You are just running and running.' After finding out her unresolved status would prevent her from attending university, Ilsa contacted We Belong during her A-levels. Despite her initial setback, We Belong helped Ilsa find purpose and empowered her to help others through EYL. *'I can do so many things with my life. I can help so many people.'*

As a member of the Emerging Young Leaders cohort of 2023, she delivered an incredible graduation speech that touched the hearts of mentors, participants and staff alike. She is now participating again in EYL in 2024, but this time as a facilitator, empowering and inspiring more young people who were in the same situation as her before.

"This course is truly life-altering. I guarantee it will transform your lives in ways you cannot yet imagine. Embrace the lessons, seize the opportunities, and step into the greatness that awaits you."

GOAL 2: To remove barriers to equal and fair treatment through systemic change

"Out of the Loop" Campaign

In 2017, We Belong launched the **"Chasing Status"** campaign to advocate for a shorter and more equitable path to settlement.

This led to significant a win in 2022 halving the 10-year route to settlement for young migrants who have spent most of their lives in the UK. This concession means this cohort of young migrants can apply for settlement and it removes the barriers to education and employment, allowing them to move on with their lives much sooner. However, We Belong soon noticed that young people were often caught in a loop of high fees and precarious status.

On Wednesday, 19th of April 2023, We Belong publicly launched its campaign called **"Out of the Loop"** calling on the immigration minister to take urgent action to ensure all young migrants can secure their permanent status in the UK. We Belong's primary ask is for the Home Office to introduce a fee waiver scheme for indefinite leave to remain (ILR)

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applications for those qualifying under the new five-year route who cannot afford to secure the settled status they are eligible for.

The landscape shifted on July 13th 2023 with the Government's announcement of plans to increase the immigration health surcharge by a staggering 66% and raise visa application costs by at least 20%. Limited Leave to Remain (LLR) application will surge by an alarming 540% since 2014. Young migrants applying for limited leave to remain will bear the weight of a hefty £3,845 per applicant. Furthermore, the cost of applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain skyrocketed to £3,085, a 20% increase from the previous £2,404. Given the current cost-of-living crisis, these spikes could force many young individuals and families into financial difficulties, potentially being pushed out their lawful status due to unaffordability. In response, in addition to the ILR fee waiver, We Belong expanded the campaign ask to include a comprehensive review of the current Home Office fees, including the impact on the lives of young migrants who have grown up in the UK, to inform a new, fairer route to settlement.

Development of a Policy and Parliamentary Working Group

We Belong has established a working group dedicated to young members of the migrant community, aligning with the organisation's core values of a youth-led approach and ensuring their active involvement in decision-making processes. This group aims to forefront the voices of young migrants in parliamentary and policy discussions, emphasising regular biweekly meetings for ongoing collaboration.

The group currently has 8 members who will play a vital role in supporting preparation for parliamentary events, and additionally, one of its members will actively contribute to quarterly strategy meetings alongside the CEO, communications team, and policy team. This initiative reflects our commitment to empowering young voices and ensuring their integral role in shaping the organisational strategies and direction.

IMPACT

We have received testimonies from young people who benefited from the rule change. Some of them have continued to support We Belong in various capacities, such as Co-Producers, participating in films, mobilising young people for our events, and even attending our gatherings to make placards for our ongoing Out of The Loop Campaign.

'When I found out I could get my indefinite leave five years earlier, I actually cried because it meant I could get on with my life so much sooner. It was a really life-changing moment. Even though I've lived here a long time, limited leave affected everything, from being able to go to university to job offers. I've even been let go from jobs for not having a British passport. Now I can work for companies that I couldn't have before.'

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Dishita, 24; arrived UK age 5; works in operations and project management for tech start-ups.

'It's been a big weight off my shoulders, having indefinite leave to remain. The fact I'll be eligible to apply for citizenship soon as well is massively freeing. It means I will be able to give back to the communities I grew up in. I can now go on a six month secondment abroad for my job, which I couldn't have done before.'

Daniel, 26; law graduate; now trainee solicitor at UK-based large American corporate law firm

'Not having indefinite leave made me very anxious. When I was doing my apprenticeship at a big insurance corporation, they didn't understand my visa, so I had to leave. The same thing happened when I got an internship. I was treated like I was an illegal immigrant. Having settlement takes all that stress and worry away. You can live a normal life, just like everyone else.'

Sherif, 22; arrived UK age 5; studying banking and finance; working part-time; ambition to become football agent.

'I just graduated in 2020, and spending so much money on these renewals while I was at university was really, really hard. Having indefinite leave is just a genuine joy. It confirms what I feel inside. I now don't have to be scared the Home Office will decide they don't want me. The UK is my home. I feel I can really start my life and my future is all set. My husband and I are now saving for a deposit on a house.'

Adeola, 27; arrived UK age 7; actuarial science graduate; now working as investment analyst.

GOAL 3: To build a strong and resilient team and organisation

During the period We Belong has expanded and restructured, including:

- Recruitment of key personnel including a Programme Manager and Communications Officer in London and an Operations in Manchester. We Belong has expanded from 7 to 11 employees (including Interim CEO).
- New senior team members mean supervision can now be distributed amongst a Senior Leadership Team.
- Welcoming new Youth Development Lead and London Community Engagement Officer, enhancing team diversity and expertise.
- CEO Chrisann Jarratt went on Maternity Leave from September 2023, and Interim CEO Raewyn Jones joined the team.

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- Efforts to align strategies between Manchester and London for cohesive growth have been going well and are enhanced with Operations support based there from August 2023.
- **Safeguarding:** We continue to monitor and report on any safeguarding issues, including low level safeguarding concerns, as per our policies. There have been no major safeguarding incidents over the reporting period. We Belong Safeguarding policies and procedures were updated in December 2023 and have been included in a wider Programmes and Safeguarding Handbook.

FUNDING PROCESS

We Belong submits funding applications either by open grant processes or by invitation from Grantmakers. The executive team undertakes a scoping exercise to identify and assess prospective funders ensuring alignment with our work before adding them to our fundraising pipeline. Once a prospective grant is on the fundraising pipeline it is then tracked from submission to assessment and finally through to decision. We Belong has been implementing an 18-month Fundraising Strategy which further documents grants on the organisational radar, potential revenue, expenditure and approximate reserves.

FUNDRAISING

The 2023/24 financial year saw another increase in multi-year grants from trusts and foundations as well as core unrestricted grants enabling the organisation to focus on sustaining projects and staff roles. We raised £641,570 (2023: £470,585) in total income, including a noteworthy unrestricted grant from Sigrid Rausing Trust of £75,000 per year for three years, starting 1 July 2023. This year we saw income from workshops and conferences amounting to £3,770 (2023: £2,373).

The Emergency grant fund has been restructured as a Support fund to respond to the needs of young migrants grappling with the combination of a cost-of-living crisis and the spiralling cost of Home Office fees. Throughout 2023/24 we delivered 35 grants to 18 individuals totalling £6,930 (2023: 22 grants totalling £6,754).

We appreciate all our supporters; without them we would not be able to continue this purpose driven work.

KEY CHALLENGES AND LEARNING

1. **We are seeing an increasingly challenging environment for influencing parliamentarians, particularly with so many changes in senior administration and an increasingly hostile environment for immigration.**

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We believe there is an opportunity to lay the groundwork a possible new incoming government in the next 12 months, gathering information and creating briefing papers and the case studies needed to help civil servants in their role of briefing incoming Ministers.

Recognising the importance of individual voices in driving change, we have developed a user-friendly MP template. This template is designed to assist young people in reaching out to their MP regarding their concerns with the Home Office fee hikes. Through our active engagement in a National Day of Action We Belong took the opportunity to shine a spotlight on our ongoing campaign, urging young people affected by these excessive fees to share their stories with us. Our data collection has strengthened our campaign ask and further elevated the voices of those directly impacted.

Core group and Parliamentary working group members continue to help us shape campaign aims. Each member brings their unique lived experience of immigration and education. We maintain a group of 14 core group members across London and Manchester.

- 2. We are hearing of the impact of the increasingly hostile environment for migrants, including recent fee hikes compounded by the current cost of living crisis. This is having a negative impact on mental health.**

Our case studies illustrate the increasingly harsh environment facing young migrants in the UK. We Belong's response is to remain steadfast in our support to individual Young People, and committed to addressing the broader impact of fee increases and ensuring that financial obstacles do not obstruct young people and children from benefiting from the recent rule change. We Belong has reviewed the Support Fund (formerly referred to the Hardship Fund) policies and processes as we anticipate the need for this funding will increase significantly in future.

Over the year we have increased access to a supportive community that provides knowledge and emotional support to young migrants on their pathway to settlement.

- 3. We have experienced challenges sustaining relationship with the Home Office and Civil Servants.**

Coordinating meetings with the Home Office (HO) civil servants has proven challenging over the reporting period. We initially benefited from the support of a dedicated team established in response to the Wendy Williams Review report, which greatly assisted us in scheduling meetings. Unfortunately, we learned that this team has been disbanded. Anticipating potential difficulties in scheduling meetings with the HO, we maintain optimism that, given the relationships developed over time, we will identify a new contact within the HO team to facilitate and coordinate future meetings.

- 4. We have noticed emerging themes from our Legal Advice Clinic.**

There has been a substantial group of young people who are eligible for early ILR and are confidently applying independently, aligning with the empowering spirit of We Belong.

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Young people have felt empowered to submit their applications without the need for additional legal assistance.

We have noticed a small cohort of young people who have sought our assistance with their Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) applications who have after a year, returned to us for guidance on their citizenship applications. The prohibitive cost of legal consultation and cuts to legal aid have made it difficult for them to seek professional assistance elsewhere. While our advice clinic primarily supports Limited Leave applications and Indefinite Leave to Remain, we have extended our service to offer guidance and support for citizenship application. These individuals approach us with specific questions, already knowledgeable about the necessary steps but seeking reassurance. This has been a rewarding experience as we get to see them at the end of their immigration journey.

GOVERNANCE

In June 2023, the Board confirmed the appointment of Buddika Perera, a qualified accountant with over 15 years' experience, as Treasurer. As part of We Belong's succession planning, Maheraj Lian who had a strong connection with the organisation prior to becoming a Trustee was elected as Vice Chair in September 2023. The Chair, Colin Falconer, resigned at the end of this reporting period, and Maheraj Lian has stepped up as Interim Chair.

The Board also conducted a full skills and experience review in March 2024, and has adopted an updated equality, inclusion, and diversity policy to guide recruitment. The Board has made considerable progress in strengthening governance policies and procedures over the period, with the adoption of an expanded suite of finance policies, updated HR policies, as well as an updated and expanded set of safeguarding and programmes policies. The risk register has been expanded and is reviewed quarterly at quarterly meetings.

In terms of strategy and generative discussion, the Board has had two away days over the period and has reviewed and approved strategic and business/operational plans for the organisation.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

After thoroughly examining various strategic options for the future, the board has endorsed the option of focussing on embedding the recent policy win. This option is seen as the most logical progression for the organisation, offering opportunities for continued impact and engagement. Efforts will be made to communicate the ongoing purpose of the organisation post-policy win and to ensure adequate resources for this continued transition. There is also support for a broader focus on young person lived experience leadership and aligning with the desires of young people. Our team will work towards developing a hyperlocal focus which continues to engage MP's but also extending our networks to local councils, working with local groups to engage young people to ensure early intervention and access of rights

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and entitlements. We also hope to review the development of our Manchester Chapter with the view to embed our services in Greater Manchester.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees reported net incoming resources of £45,034 (2023: £18,408) on all operations for the period under review. The income for the year was £641,570 (2023: £470,585) and expenditure was £596,536 (2023: £452,177). The fund balance at the end of the period of £450,906 (2023: £405,872) comprised unrestricted funds of £449,028 (2023: £344,535) and restricted funds of £1,878 (2023: £61,337). Further details of grant income can be found within note 12 to the accounts. All expenditure supports the key objectives of the charity as described above. As stated within the Reserves Policy below, the nature and quantity of reserves will be reviewed on a regular basis and adjusted to reflect any changes in the Charity's financial position. The trustees and senior staff consider it a priority to secure sufficient income to ensure the long-term future of the Charity.

RESERVES POLICY

A reserves policy has been established to provide guidelines and principles for maintaining an appropriate level of reserves to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of We Belong. The reserves policy is reviewed annually or as required, and compliance with the policy is reviewed on a quarterly basis with the board and finance subcommittee considering the fundraising strategy, risks, and any operational adjustments needed.

Our reserves policy requires We Belong:

- To have sufficient free reserves to cover the budgeted operating costs for a minimum of 4 (minimum) to 6 (maximum) months, as a measure of financial preparedness for unforeseen circumstances and short-term operational challenges.
- To align with the expectations and requirements of potential funders, including grantors and donors, while considering the impact of reserve levels on grant applications.
- To enable and accelerate the delivery of We Belong's three-year strategic plan.

Reserve Calculation Method

Our reserves policy requires that we retain free reserves in unrestricted funds sufficient to cover six months of normal expenditure. The following items should be excluded from reserves:

- Tangible fixed assets used to carry out the charity's activities.
- Program-related investments, held solely to further the charity's purposes.
- Designated funds set aside to meet essential future spending, such as funding a project that could not be met from future income.

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- Commitments that have not been provided for as a liability in the accounts.

The total reserves of the charity at 31 March 2024 were £450,906 (2023: £405,872), of which £1,878 (2023: £61,337) were held in restricted funds. The unrestricted funds totalled £449,028 (2023 £344,535). As per Trustees decision, £150,000 was transferred to a designated fund. The board have approved the creation of an Investment Fund allocating £150,000 from the current free reserves in a fixed term designated fund. This strategic move will sustain the critical support provided by We Belong to young migrants and staff navigating the complexities of the immigration system and enhance our fundraising efforts by demonstrating efficient use of surplus funds. The remaining general free reserves are £299,028.

To ensure financial preparedness for unforeseen circumstances and short-term operational challenges, the charity aims to maintain sufficient free reserves to cover budgeted operating costs for the following financial year a period of 4 (minimum £265,000) to 6 (maximum £400,000) months. Given the anticipated deficit budget and challenges in raising funds, the difference between the maximum reserves and held reserves will be utilised for operational needs.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity on a regular basis, with a risk assessment report available online and highlighted at every Trustee meeting. Financially the Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at adequate levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that the systems in place to mitigate significant risks offers the charity adequate protection.

Risks identified and action taken to mitigate the risk:

Governance risk related to loss of a key board post holder; Immediate action is being taken due to the unexpected resignation of the Chair at the March Meeting. Interim Chair and support person are in place, a recruitment plan has been agreed and is being implemented. Recruitment challenges are apparent, with no expressions of interest to date.

HR risk: risk mitigations in place, new staff have been trained, and an enhanced wellbeing package proposed in the Annual Plan. Wellbeing funding of £6K has been received from two funders to support this area.

HR loss of lived experience: the organisation is conducting a review of this area for consideration by the Board.

Finance and Fundraising Risk as we enter a new budget and planning period. Appointment of Finance Lead to help reduce the risk. Board and senior staff consider long term strategic direction for WB growth, including implications for the reserves policy.

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Reputational damage, negative media risk: we are mitigating risk by reviewing communication channels when campaigning materials are developed.

GOING CONCERN:

The Trustees have examined the operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that confirmed income for the next 12 months together with the reserves in place offer the charity adequate protection to ensure its continuance as a going concern. The Charity has in place a three-year budget to ensure future planning is secure.

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are clear that there are identifiable benefits to the work that we do - some of these are identified below;

- Trustees are clear that these benefits are for a wide cross-section of the public;
- Trustees are clear that those benefits relate to our aims.
- Trustees are clear that those benefits outweigh any potential risks.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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 CIO's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees 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.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge there is no information relevant to the Independent Examination of which the Examiner is unaware. The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant financial information and that this information has been communicated to the Examiner.

The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on Friday 4th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Maheraj Lian, Trustee and Interim Chair
[04/10/2024]

WE BELONG

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of We Belong for the period ended 31 March 2024.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 the ICAEW, 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 CIO 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 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 considered part of an independent examination.
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
London SE7

Date: **7 October 2024**

WE BELONG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	383,713	-	383,713	227,184
Charitable activities	5	3,770	254,087	257,857	243,401
Total Income		387,483	254,087	641,570	470,585
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	282,990	313,546	596,536	452,177
Total Expenditure		282,990	313,546	596,536	452,177
Net Income for the year		104,493	(59,459)	45,034	18,408
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		104,493	(59,459)	45,034	18,408
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		344,535	61,337	405,872	387,464
Funds carried forward	12	449,028	1,878	450,906	405,872

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements.

The notes attached on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	53,953		54,473	
Cash at bank and in hand:		<u>427,063</u>		<u>363,216</u>	
Total current assets		481,016		417,689	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>30,110</u>		<u>11,817</u>	
Net Current assets			<u>450,906</u>		<u>405,872</u>
NET ASSETS TOTALS			<u>450,906</u>	<u>405,872</u>	
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds	12		1,878		61,337
Designated Fund	12		150,000		-
General Funds	12		299,028		344,535
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>450,906</u>		<u>405,872</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on Friday 4th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by **Maheraj Lian, Trustee and Interim Chair**.

Friday 4th October 2024

The notes attached on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

CASH FLOWS AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Cash Flows Statement

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash used by operating activities	A	63,847	(4,566)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year		63,847	(4,566)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		363,216	367,782
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>427,063</u>	<u>363,216</u>

A RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds	46,534	18,408
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	520	(24,904)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	18,293	1,930
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>63,847</u>	<u>(4,566)</u>

B. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	Other Changes £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash and cash equivalents	363,216	63,847	-	427,063
	<u>363,216</u>	<u>63,863</u>	-	<u>427,063</u>

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

Statutory Information

We Belong is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered office and operational address is EC1 Offices, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PY.

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Public benefit entity

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

Going concern

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

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non-exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

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.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated professional services and facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. There were no such donations during the period in question. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of trustees and volunteers is not recognised with any monetary value.

Fund accounting

- 1) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- 2) Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.
- 3) Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. These include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's charitable activities.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

All liabilities are recognised at the end of the financial year.

Financial instruments including cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the period.

Fixed assets

Items costing less than £2,500 are not capitalised.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities

3. Comparison of prior period financial activities

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from :					
Donations and legacies	4	383,713	-	383,713	227,184
Charitable activities	5	3,770	254,087	257,857	243,401
Total Income		387,483	254,087	641,570	470,585
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	282,990	313,546	596,536	452,177
Total Expenditure		282,990	313,546	596,536	452,177
Net Income for the year		104,493	(59,459)	45,034	18,408
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		104,493	(59,459)	45,034	18,408
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		344,535	61,337	405,872	387,464
Funds carried forward	12	449,028	1,878	450,906	405,872

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General donations	14,713	-	14,713	10,984
Grants from trust and foundations				
AB Charitable Trust	-	-	-	30,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	66,000	-	66,000	-
Tudor Trust	63,000	-	63,000	30,000
Anonymous	90,000	-	90,000	50,000
Civic Power Fund	10,000	-	10,000	-
Esmée Fairbairn	65,000	-	65,000	46,200
Sigrid Rausing Trust	75,000	-	75,000	60,000
Total Donations	383,713	-	383,713	227,184

The amount of £227,184 received in 2023 has been recorded entirely under unrestricted funds.

Donations were received from three (2023: two) funders who are known to We Belong but wish to remain anonymous.

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grants from trusts and foundations				
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	23,500	23,500	14,000
Unbound Philanthropy	-	60,000	60,000	61,000
Trust for London	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	75,587	75,587	75,228
John Ellerman Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
Tudor Trust-wellbeing	-	2,000	2,000	-
Blgrave Trust	-	33,000	33,000	30,000
Centre for Youth Impact	-	-	-	800
Workshop & Conference	3,770	-	3,700	2,373
	3,770	254,087	257,857	243,401

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2023 analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	1,000	60,000	61,000
<i>Other grants</i>	-	180,028	180,028
<i>Workshop & Conference</i>	2,373	-	2,373
	3,373	240,028	243,401

6. Charitable expenditure

6a. Direct programme costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff cost (note 7)	69,435	273,551	342,986	245,676
Communications	30,370	429	30,799	31,980
Other programme costs	65,524	4,596	70,120	52,351
Support Fund/Emergency Grants	6,930	-	6,930	6,754
Total direct programme costs	172,259	278,576	450,835	336,761
2023 analysis	156,845	179,916	336,761	

35 Support grants were made to 18 individuals totalling £6,930 (2023: 22 grants totalling £6,754).

6b. Supports costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Training, recruitment and HR cost	20,341	4,188	24,529	15,904
Office rent	47,983	21,270	69,253	55,887
Insurance	1,102	-	1,102	1,009
Telephone & internet	2,463	-	2,463	1,298
Printing, postage & stationery	1,571	-	1,571	1,934
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	5,866	9,327	15,193	11,519

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

IT support and software	1,747	42	1,789	2,093
Accounting service fee	11,340	-	11,340	10,440
Equipment costs	4,504	58	4,562	1,563
Other expenses	12,193	85	12,278	11,319
Total support costs	109,110	34,970	144,080	112,966

<i>2023 analysis</i>	69,332	43,634	112,966
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6c. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Meeting expenses	667	-	667	450
Independent examiner's fee	954	-	954	2,000
Total governance costs	1,621	-	1,621	2,450

<i>2023 analysis</i>	2,450	-	2,450
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Total Charitable expenditure	282,990	313,546	596,536	452,177
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<i>2023 analysis</i>	228,627	223,550	452,177
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7. Staff costs and emoluments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	306,453	221,409
Social security costs	27,237	17,716
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	9,296	6,551
	342,986	245,676
The average number of headcount of staff	7	5

The total remuneration to the key management personnel, including employers NI and pension, was £182,469 (2023: £245,676).

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. Trustees' remuneration and reimbursed expenses

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration from the charity or any related entity. One trustee was reimbursed £245 for travel expenses related to attendance at Board meetings in 2024 (2023: Nil).

9. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,431	4,051
Accrued grant income	37,793	37,614
Prepayments	13,729	12,808
	<u>53,953</u>	<u>54,473</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	4,860	3,200
Deferred income	13,000	-
Pension payable	2,463	1,223
Trade creditors	22	1,276
Tax and Social security	9,764	6,118
	<u>30,110</u>	<u>11,817</u>

11. Net assets by funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	479,138	1,878	481,016
Current liabilities	30,110	-	30,110
	<u>449,028</u>	<u>1,878</u>	<u>450,906</u>

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £
At 31 March 2023			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	356,352	61,337	417,689
Current liabilities	11,817	-	11,817
Net assets	<u>344,535</u>	<u>61,337</u>	<u>405,872</u>

12. Movement in funds

	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	344,535	387,483	(282,990)	(150,000)	299,028
Designated fund	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>344,535</u>	<u>387,483</u>	<u>(282,990)</u>		<u>449,028</u>
Restricted Funds					
Barrow Cadbury Trust	-	23,500	(23,500)	-	-
Tudor Trust-wellbeing	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Unbound Philanthropy	25,000	60,000	(85,000)	-	-
Trust for London	2,837	30,000	(32,837)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	18,077	75,587	(93,664)	-	-
John Ellerman Foundation	11,164	30,000	(41,164)	-	-
Blagrave Trust	4,259	33,000	(35,381)	-	1,878
Total restricted funds	<u>61,337</u>	<u>254,087</u>	<u>(313,546)</u>	-	<u>1,878</u>
Total funds	<u>405,872</u>	<u>641,570</u>	<u>(596,536)</u>	-	<u>450,906</u>

12. Movement in funds (continued) - purposes of funds

Designated Fund - The board have approved the creation of an Investment Fund allocating £150,000 from the current free reserves to a fixed term designated fund.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

This strategic move will sustain the critical support provided by We Belong to young migrants and staff navigating the complexities of the immigration system and enhance our fundraising efforts by demonstrating efficient use of surplus funds.

Barrow Cadbury Trust – To support We Belong campaigning work on issues relating to immigration; citizenship; higher education and support youth development.

Unbound Philanthropy – Organising and Mobilising Immigrant Youth.

Trust for London – We Belong Chasing Status Project – Pathways to settlement.

National Lottery Community Fund – We Belong Youth Voice Partnerships covering the Manchester Chapter.

John Ellerman Foundation – Funding activities empowering young migrants.

Blagrave Trust – Funding the implementation of the policy win for Chasing Status and the role of Policy and Public Affairs Officer.

Prior year movement in funds

	Balance 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£		£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	342,605	230,557	(228,627)	-	344,535
Total unrestricted funds	<u>342,605</u>	<u>230,557</u>	<u>(228,627)</u>	-	<u>344,535</u>
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	14,000	(14,000)	-	-
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation</i>	9,142	-	(9,142)	-	-
<i>Fund of Tides Foundation</i>					
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	25,000	60,000	(60,000)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	30,000	(27,163)	-	2,837
<i>National Lottery</i>					18,077
<i>Community Fund</i>	717	75,228	(57,868)		
<i>John Ellerman Foundation</i>	10,000	30,000	(28,836)		11,164
<i>Blagrave Trust</i>	-	30,000	(25,741)	-	4,259
<i>Youth Impact</i>	-	800	(800)		-
Total restricted funds	<u>44,859</u>	<u>240,028</u>	<u>(223,550)</u>	-	<u>61,337</u>
Total funds	<u>387,464</u>	<u>470,585</u>	<u>(452,177)</u>	-	<u>405,872</u>

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. Related party transactions

In 2023 one trustee received £126 for working on the Emerging Young Leaders Alumni programme (2024: nil).

No trustees made donations to the charity (2023: One trustee donated a total of £248). There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2024 or 2023.

WE BELONG

England & Wales - Charity number 1184348

Accounts

Company number: CE018159
Charity registration number: 1184348

WE BELONG

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

WE BELONG

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WE BELONG

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Colin Falconer - Chair Jocelyn James - Treasurer (resigned 16th November 2022) Omolade Adedapo Sufina Ahmad Mariam Ajibola (resigned 1st December 2022) Muhammed Arkam Babar (resigned 1st December 2022) Jamilla Hinds-Brough Joel Carter Maheraj Ahmed Lian (appointed 30th June 2022) Buddika Perera- Treasurer (appointed 22nd March 2023) Stewart MacLachlan (appointed 22nd September 2022) Keshon Devonte Smith (appointed 2nd March 2023)
Chief Executive	Chrisann Jarrett MBE
Charity registered number	1184348
Registered office and operational address	EC 1 Offices 338 City Road London EC1V 2PY
Banker	Metro Bank One Southampton Row London WC1B 5HA
Accountants	Charity Accounting Services Ltd Spaces 6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton London SM1 4FS
Independent Examiner	Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA 55 Canberra Road London SE7 8PF

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We Belong registered with the Charity Commission on 10 July 2019, becoming a new stand-alone organisation. We Belong builds on a project called Let Us Learn, which was previously hosted by Just for Kids Law. The project expanded beyond its initial remit of campaigning for equal access to higher education to fighting for the rights of young migrants in the UK, including higher education and tackling systemic barriers that prevent young migrants from living a fulfilled life.

We Belong works for the fair treatment of young migrants in the UK and for the removal of barriers preventing their full integration. Our three key objectives are to foster relationships with decision-makers and advocate for young migrants; to raise awareness of the hostile environment and issues around access to higher education; and to empower young migrants to become change agents.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the charity trustees and are recruited with regard to their knowledge skills and experience. Trustees are appointed to a fixed 2 year term. Trustees may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There is a comprehensive pre-appointment briefing and a trustee induction process for new Trustees. Training is made available to Trustees as required.

Management and administration

We Belong is administered by the Chief Executive based on the strategic direction set by the trustees. The board of trustees meets four times a year, and has four sub-committees and working groups including the Risk sub-committee, the Safeguarding sub-committee, the HR working group and the Finance committee. The committees each have Terms of Reference approved by the board of trustees and meet quarterly or as required to support the CEO. The board Chair also meets regularly with the CEO to support delivery of the charity strategy and outcomes. Charity Accounting Services provide book-keeping and accounting services to the charity.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives set out in the governing document

- ❑ to help young people advance in life through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- ❑ to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Charity activities

We Belong works with and for young migrants, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribute to British society.

EXTERNAL CONTEXT

We Belong remains the only organisation in the migration sector focussing solely on long term young migrants, a group often forgotten due to wrongly held assumptions on young people's status and citizenship despite the length of time spent in the UK. Our issue is extremely niche in comparison to the rest of the sector who focus on refugees and asylum seekers. Post- Windrush Scandal we have been able to capitalise on the opportunity to work alongside policy makers as they change their internal practices and engagement with external stakeholders and communities. In 2022, the government announced a consultation on the Bill of Rights which threatens to dilute the Human Rights Act and the main basis for the residency of our beneficiaries. In addition, the Nationality and Borders Bill 2022 gives the Secretary of State the power to revoke citizenship based on public interest. The hostile environment will continue to impact the lives of our young people and their community due to the discretionary power and the reframing of what it means to really belong in the UK. Lastly, the negative narrative on migration continues with the government presiding over a department which continues to issue harsh legislation to address 'illegal migration' while not appreciating the number of children and young adults who will be caught in the crossfire as they intend to crack down on immigration in the UK.

OUR ISSUES AND APPROACHES

Advocacy

The Challenge

There are over 332,000 children and young people growing up in the UK without any formal immigration status. In 2012, the UK Government introduced the longest route to settlement formally known as the ten-year route; young people are entering adulthood facing prolonged uncertainty on this probationary route. The young migrants We Belong support are often granted a limited form of status over a decade, due to high fees and complex laws. This decade is rife with difficulty and impacts a young adult's interaction with society and services, and impacts a young person's identity and sense of belonging.

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In June 2022, after four years of campaigning for a shorter more affordable route to settlement, We Belong managed to secure a major win to immigration private life rules. This change means that young migrants who entered the UK as children and were granted status on the basis of private life will now be on a five year route to settlement as opposed to a ten year route.

We Belong has a great task ahead to ensure young people, their families and civil society organisations interacting with young people who have precarious status are aware of their rights and entitlements and can regularise their status as soon as possible. Early intervention is necessary so that young people face fewer years in legal precarity.

The barriers to status still exist with young people unable to afford Limited Leave to Remain but also unable to get out of the loop and secure settled status due to lack of fee waivers for indefinite leave to remain. Sustained advocacy with a strong data focus will enable the organisation to present a compelling case to the Home Office to introduce fee waivers to address this insurmountable barrier. In addition, it is important that the home office sees these long term young migrants as a special cohort who should not be caught up in the 'unintended consequences' of blanket rules.

Our approach:

As well as fighting to get the most secure status possible for young people to allow them to remain and contribute to British society we work with young people to help advocate their concerns to policy makers at the heart of parliament.

Recognising that young people in difficulty face significant barriers to personal development, we seek to remove those barriers and support them in accessing their rights and advocating for change. This empowers each young person to become independent, confident, and able to reach their full potential. Our advocacy work has the following aims:

- **To foster relationships with parliamentarians and home office civil servants** to aid our campaign goals calling on the government to introduce a shorter and more affordable routes to settlement;
- **To raise awareness** of how the current immigration system affects the life chances of young migrants, as well as their ability to secure and maintain their status;
- **To work with young people** on a one-to-one basis and equip them with the tools necessary to change the status quo. Providing opportunities for young migrants to interact with the decision-makers. We do so by employing the story of self organising tool empowering people to develop their narrative and humanise the debate around immigration in the UK;
- **Integrated Communications** to gather case studies of the real impact of UK immigration policies on young people and build a case for support for our campaigns and wider advocacy;
- **Collaboration and Partnership to advance strategic policy aims:** We work with and alongside civil society organisations to prevent duplication of work, this includes writing joint policy papers to parliamentary enquiries, research and reports as well as focussing on strategic litigation opportunities to accelerate the pace of change.

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Student Finance: **The Challenge:**

Seven years after the landmark Supreme Court judgement in the case of *R v Tigere*, we have tracked many young people who as a result of the intervention are successfully securing their student loans on the basis of long residence. However, we continue to support a large number of young people who are wrongfully denied student loans. Through fact finding and interacting with Student Finance England these errors are attributed to general lack of awareness of advisors on the rules of eligibility and resistance to approving student loans for young people with a limited form of immigration status. Advisors' reluctance comes from the fact that they act as gatekeeper simply 'safeguarding public funds' from those whose immigration status is questioned. This leads to young migrants being discriminated against at the assessment stage when engaging with the Student Loans Company (SLC). In addition, we continue to see SLC demand evidence that young people with limited leave will not be able to provide for example, bank statements and in some cases evidence of presence in the UK post 18 where a young person is going through the process of regularising their status.

Our approach:

Our Communities: We raise awareness of student finance rules in schools and communities, ensuring that students, teachers and parents we come in contact with understand the stakes and begin to work towards gathering evidence and preparing themselves for what can be a trying period should the application to student finance not go according to plan.

Collaboration: We work alongside other organisations within the sector such as Access to Higher Education Working Group and Student Finance Vulnerable Stakeholder Group on finding solutions to the policy issues.

Student Loans Company: We established a relationship with Student Loans Company (SLC), through their Funding Information Partners Manager, who is willing to assist the young people we work with who have struggled to access student finance despite being eligible. We have quarterly meetings with members of the SLC team ranging from customer services to senior management in our quest to provide training to advisors and simplify communications so that young people are clear on evidence criteria. In addition, we progress with escalations to SLC where migrant students are facing extended administrative or evidential delays.

Training to University Widening Participation Staff: we provide training to widening participation staff at universities so that staff are able to understand the types of status students may have; tuition fee eligibility; pre-uni interventions and post-uni support systems so that students with limited leave to remain are provided ongoing mental health and wellbeing assistance.

Case Study of a young person who has received support from We Belong with student finance:

We supported a student originally from India, who migrated to the UK as a child aged 3 with her parents. The student had been formatively educated in the UK and achieved highly, receiving offers from Russell Group Universities to study Human Social and Political Science for the 2022 academic year.

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Despite the student beginning her 10 year route to settlement in 2017, she experienced issues accessing student finance pertaining to evidence documents, which were the result of Home Office delays. The student expressed feeling overwhelmed and stressed by the inability to continue her education like her peers and found solace in the support We Belong provided.

The support consisted of advocating for her with The Student Loans Company and her chosen universities on her behalf. We Belong existing strong connections with the Student Loan Company staff, meant her case escalation time was faster than the normal processes. It further highlighted key learning for the SLC to take into consideration and was inputted as a case study into the training We Belong is yet to deliver to SLC staff.

The student was eventually granted her funding in October 2022, however due to the strain on her mental wellbeing, she decided to take a year's break from education. Upon re-applying for student finance for the 2023 academic year, unfortunately the student is now experiencing the same issue as before. Nevertheless there is a great difference in her confidence to resolve the situation and be awarded funding as both the student and her guardian have expressed the gratitude and feelings of reassurance that We Belong can support her again with positive results.

Organisational Activities:

- **Providing Information to Individual Young Migrants:** We maintain a nationwide information line for young people on matters concerning student finance, scholarship and where necessary refer young people to relevant organisations for additional support;
- **Gatherings:** Every month an average of 20 young people attend our social group to meet others with similar experiences;
- **Individuals:** We build individual relationships, foster a sense of belonging and identify motivations through one-to-one meetings with young people;
- **Community Outreach and Immigration Training:** we provide training to local organisations and grassroot groups to disseminate information about the new immigration rules and improve referrals and signposting into our organisation. We hope to extend these trainings to local authorities in Hackney, Southwark, Newham and Barking and Dagenham, these are boroughs in London where we receive the most enquiries;
- **Immigration Advice:** through partnership with Coram We Belong Senior Caseworker: offering legal clinics via drop-ins, check and send services and in some cases representation for young people regularising for the first-time and those who are applying for permanent residence;
- **Maintaining relationships with the Home Office and Civil Servants:** monthly meetings with civil servants on the Appendix FM and simplification committee focussing on deep listening and collating data on young people accessing the 5-year route to settlement;

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- **Schools and University Outreach:** Raising awareness and mobilising children, young people and training educators through training and our Schools Excellence Programme. Our young people visit their own schools and colleges, sharing their experiences through interactive sessions with young people;
- **Upskilling Young Leaders:** this will be done through our 6-week *Schools Empowerment* programme and CPD Accredited Emerging Young Leaders Programme. In addition, within the next two years we will develop a team of 10 Co-producers, young activists embedded in their local community who will assist with community and schools' engagements and deliver our projects.

IMPACT

Impact- Our Influencing Work

Summary of the New Private Life Rules: 5 year route to Settlement introduced 20th June 2022

Those who were either born in the UK or entered as children (below the age of 18), but are now young adults (aged 18 and over)

- *Be aged 18 years and over and has spent least half of his/her life living continuously in the UK (discounting any period of imprisonment);*
- *Have either been born in or entered the UK as a child;*
- *Have held five years limited leave; and*
- *Be eligible for further leave to remain under paragraph 276ADE(iv) of the Immigration Rules and have made an application under those rules.*

To educate our community we worked with our communications consultant and external producers to create two animation videos to ensure information on the new rule changes were accessible. We also published two evaluations on the campaign success and the tactics used over the 4 years of sustained campaigning, inspiring the sector and providing a space for ongoing reflection.

Success stories and quotes from young migrants now securing permanent residence:

Abdul, 26, came to the UK age 10:

"We Belong are fantastic! After years of constant worry and anxiety, I have finally been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). Getting ILR has changed my life in so many ways. Most importantly, I now have some sense of stability and I finally feel like I really do belong. I'm extremely grateful to We Belong for their help and support, and I certainly urge others who are eligible to apply."

Sonia, 31, came to UK age 9:

"Thanks to the wonderful works of We Belong. After 22 years in the United Kingdom, I now have my Indefinite Leave. I would particularly like to say a huge thank you to Tania at the Manchester branch who

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constantly checked in on me during the one year of waiting for the Home Office's decision. It was comforting to have someone I could speak to about the process. It hasn't been an easy journey getting here, but I'm grateful that it's now over. I came to England when I was 9 and I am now 31, it's been a long journey. The previous work of the team under 'Let us Learn' was what made it possible for me to get Student Finance and now thanks to their continuous campaign and advocacy for young migrants, many like myself who are proudly British in culture, in speech and have our feet deeply rooted in the soil of Great Britain; having lived the majority of our lives in the UK, are now a step closer to officially becoming 'Proudly British.'

Hasan, 24, arrived in UK age 8:

Even though I am fully integrated with my life in the UK, I felt that I could not call the UK my home until I was completely classed as settled in the UK. I felt so much pressure in my daily life because of this. We Belong helped me with an early ILR application and now, I can now continue with my life like an ordinary citizen and focus on my university and future, like buying my own house and starting an exciting new chapter of my life. Getting an early ILR has truly been life-changing."

Leah, 24, came to UK age 4:

"Getting my ILR really feels surreal. I cannot believe I have settled status after 14 yrs of living in this country with anxiety & fear every year. I came across We Belong 7yrs ago & I know I wouldn't have gotten to this point (& so soon) without God & their advice & advocacy. Literally means the world to me & my family & friends."

We have committed to the following activities to implement the new immigration rules from June 2022:

1. Toolkit Training:

We Belong has been offering civil society groups and community centres working with young people with precarious status a free toolkit training to help guide them in understanding young people's rights and entitlements in light of the new immigration rules on private life.

*We have provided training to **61 charity and community workers and 36 social workers.***

2. Attended regular meetings with Home Office Civil servants:

We are making sure to use the existing channels of communication so we can keep policy leads informed on how the rules are being implemented and let them know about any barriers that young people are facing when it comes to accessing their entitlements. This has led to successive operational changes being implemented as interventions on specific cases where the rules are being misapplied by case workers.

*We have collated over **30 impact stories and have a database of 68 cases** where young people are facing barriers to their settlement in the UK.*

3. Established a three year partnership with Coram Migrant Children Legal Centre:

This partnership was established in September 2022 to address the high demand for free legal advice and representation for young people seeking to regularise their status this includes those applying for their first leave to remain, subsequent renewals and indefinite leave to remain. Since

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then we have recruited a Senior Case Worker at Coram who provides legal advice, support and guidance to our beneficiaries on the 5 year route to settlement.

In February 2023, we launched the We Belong Advice Clinic offering up to 12 sessions to young migrants three wednesdays per month. **Since then, 24 young people have had expert legal advice to progress their cases and applications.**

4. Online information sessions to explain the rules, this was done in partnership with Islington Law Centre and our Senior Caseworker Smita Balaria at Coram, **206 young people attended these sessions.**

Impact- Student Finance Work

We have worked with **11 schools across London and Manchester** and raised awareness of student finance barriers whilst **engaging with 2,000 young people** through assemblies, career fairs all supported by our Core Group of young activists.

We have also had impact in the following ways:

- **Worked with 11 young people facing barriers to higher education and escalated their cases to SLC**
- **Supported 14 young people with scholarships 11 of whom were successful**
- **Delivered 4 university trainings to 83 widening participation staff members**
- **Submitted a witness statement on the impact of 3c leave delays to young people entering higher education as part of an ongoing Judicial Review case with Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and Ramfel**

Quote from a young people who received a scholarship:

'I am so pleased that I have been awarded a sanctuary scholarship and an unconditional offer for Nursing at King's College London. Thank you so much for all the help and support during this whole process. I am grateful to the organisation and would love to support anyone else applying and assist in any future projects'- young person

Youth Engagement: Our Approach

We believe in providing opportunities for young people to lead and equipping them with the tools to thrive as they engage in activism. We engaged with young people in the following ways:

- 1-1's to develop a relationship, assess support needs, skills and mental wellbeing
- New Client Enquiries- direct information to young people with precarious status
- Work Experience with young people between ages of 16-18 years old
- Co-facilitation where young people in our wider network have the opportunity to deliver our programmes, the introduction of Co-producers as a structured programme is an extension of this
- Monthly gathering to foster a sense of community and a safe space for young migrants to gather
- Core Group engaging with young activists with lived experience who want to participate in our projects and day-to-day decision making

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In March 2023, the Core Group of 12 young migrants from across London and Manchester gathered together over a 3 day strategy Away Weekend to assess We Belong approach to advocacy and shape campaigning plans. The core group then developed a joint approach to implementing the new Out of the Loop Campaign due to launch in April 2023 with each city creating specific regional plans for the first 6 months of the campaign.

Schools Outreach: In August 2022 we created We Belong Schools Excellence Programme which aims to advance three pillars:

1. **Education:** ensuring that young people are aware of changes in the external environment that will impact the migrant and youth community. Due to the nature of our projects our educational material will focus mostly on barriers to higher education and routes to regularisation.
2. **Empowerment:** Investment in platform creation and the mobilising of young people to take the lead and be a part of the change they want to see.
3. **Employment:** ensuring that as young people journey out of education and are free from immigration control, they have viable career options to build economic power. This requires stronger connections post-education options, industry and responding to needs so that young people are able to have access to employment opportunities.

Since the creation of the Schools Excellence programme, We Belong has worked with 2 schools in South London and engaged just over 380 students through the different workshops which focus on values based skills building skills and narrative storytelling. The feedback we have received has been immensely positive, with over 70% of students who have taken part in the sessions expressing the benefits they gained from We Belong support with their learning.

The following quotes are from students have taken part in the programme:

"I learnt from the workshop that there are values I didn't know I possessed and I can achieve what I want by following my values"

"Writing down ambitions and working as a team for the workshop made me think deeply about my goals"

Leadership Programme:

9 young people have graduated from our Emerging Young Leaders programme contributing 144 hours to our CPD accredited course between October 2022-March 2023.

Impact: Youth and Community Engagement Across London and Manchester

- **317 1-1's conducted**
- **166 New Client Enquiries** conducted (including 86 immigration specific enquiries)
- **Enrolled 8 new core group members**
- **3 young people have completed work experience** with We Belong
- **6 personal statement clinics** conducted
- **Over 40 community engagements** raising awareness of We Belong programmes and work

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- Inducted 3 co-producers who have dedicated over 100 hours to We Belong Outreach between September 2022 and March 2023
- 220 young people attending our monthly gatherings over the an 11 month period

Case studies of young people we have worked with in Manchester:

TC

Over the course of the year, our Community engagement officer worked with a particular young person to upskill and empower him. Over the course of the year, he developed in his confidence and knowledge about his own personal circumstances and support available. He committed many hours to volunteering with We Belong, and he successfully co-facilitated training and information sessions. When he first came to We Belong in March 2022, he had never before spoken about his immigration status. As well as signposting him to external opportunities in accordance to his interests, the Community Engagement Officer encouraged him to sign up for the Emerging Young Leaders programme, which he completed remotely. This had a huge impact on his confidence, and he developed a keenness for telling his story of self to others. The young person's diligence and commitment to the EYL programme led to them working with two members of staff to co-deliver the first Manchester EYL programme in early 2023. He inspired the other students, and was a fantastic ambassador for We Belong and the EYL programme. He was also keen to develop his knowledge of the immigration system and empower others. He also co-delivered the toolkit training, both in person and online on multiple occasions. In addition, he volunteered in the Manchester office on a weekly basis from October 2022 onwards, over a period of five months.

FUNDING PROCESS

We Belong submits funding applications either by open grant processes or by invitation from grantmakers. The executive team undertakes a scoping exercise to identify and assess prospective funders ensuring alignment with our work before adding them to our fundraising pipeline. Once a prospective grant is on the Fundraising Pipeline it is then tracked from submission to assessment and finally through to decision. In addition, trustees approved an 18-month Fundraising Strategy which further documents grants on the organisational radar, potential revenue, expenditure and approximate reserves.

FUNDRAISING

Sigrid Rausing Trust: Anna Shea, Senior Programme Manager

The Sigrid Rausing Trust has supported We Belong since 2022. The organisation is remarkable on many levels – not only their relentless pursuit of tangible impact, alongside a vision for longer-term, systemic change, but also their model of thoughtful pastoral care for the young people who are at the heart of the work. They have achieved remarkable successes in a short period of time, but rather than rest on their laurels, they have refocused their energies on ensuring that the legislative changes are both widely

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understood and properly implemented. I am very proud to support We Belong, and have no doubt that they will continue to empower thousands of young people across the UK.

The 2022/23 financial year saw an increase in multi-year grants from trusts and foundations as well as core unrestricted grants enabling the organisation to focus on sustaining projects and staff roles. We raised £470,585 (2022: £372,646) in total income, including a noteworthy grant from the National Lottery Community Fund covering 5-years of organisational expenditure focussing on developing the Manchester Chapter. The flexibility we saw throughout the pandemic continued as our relational funders welcomed changes to restricted submitted budgets enabling us to respond to need and reallocate budget lines. This year we saw income from workshops and conferences amounting to £2,373.

We were able to maintain our Covid-19 Emergency Grants and extend the Hardship fund throughout 2022-2023 making 22 grants for financial support to the amount of £6,754 (2022: 75 grants totalling £14,978). The decrease in grants is attributed to us changing our operations and only receiving grant applications from existing clients once a month, this has enabled the operations team to pace ourselves as we deliver this necessary service with limited resources.

We appreciate all our supporters; without them we would not be able to continue this purpose driven work.

Key Challenges and Learning

- 1. The cost of living imposes additional financial pressures on our beneficiaries which in turn impacts their mental health.**

We have responded to these challenges through our Hardship Fund as well as extended our mental health provision working with a new provider in Manchester and increasing the number of sessions young people have access to in London. We hope to respond to these ongoing pressures by creating designated funds within our Reserves Policy to ring fence these provisions for our beneficiaries, it is clear this is a necessary resource and one which must be sustained as young people face difficulty when going through the immigration system, the lasting impacts also being felt even when young people secure leave to remain, settlement and citizenship.

- 2. Gaps in provision and misinformation amongst service providers working with young people with precarious status.**

One of the key learnings of this year has been regarding the general knowledge of youth workers and practitioners around the immigration system, especially in regards to young people who have precarious status, but who are not asylum seekers. There has been a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the specific demographic that We Belong works with. In community outreach engagements, when first engaging with practitioners, it is often assumed that we work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and there seems to be little knowledge of the challenges facing young people who have lived in the UK since childhood.

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This has demonstrated how vital the immigration toolkit trainings are, in explaining what the specific issues are facing young long-term migrants, and how best to support them. This gap in knowledge has only been exacerbated as rules and policies change at a rapid rate. Our legal advice drop-ins for young people have also been invaluable in filling in gaps in provision.

The training we offer has also benefited the organisation by increasing our visibility in the North West as well as increasing the referral links into the organisations with more practitioners better equipped to identify status issues.

3. Strategic approach to community organising in Manchester by embedding ourselves in existing networks.

We scope and approach organisations and grassroots groups who have specific offers that are of interest to We Belong are asking to access existing networks. This has led to We Belong being an official referral partner of the Migrant Destitution Fund. Not only has this enabled us to make direct referrals for the fund, but we have also been able to access networks within the migrant justice and poverty-action sector in Greater Manchester. Similarly, We Belong is now established as a member of Young Manchester, a network of organisations working with youth across the region. This leads to ongoing communication and access for our young people to receive holistic and diverse support depending on their needs. This will further enable We Belong to support the 'whole journey' of a young person and signpost and refer young people to trusted organisations within our growing web of networks.

Governance

We have strengthened our board of trustees by recruiting two experienced trustees Keshon Smith and Maheraj Lian who have a strong track record in working with the organisation. We also welcomed an experienced Treasurer, Buddika Perera and immigration solicitor and policy expert Steward MacLachlan. In November 2022, we conducted a Governance Review which has led to trustees prioritising the distinction between operational and strategic decision making as well as a refocus on succession planning. The latter focusing on the development of younger trustees, clarity on subcommittees and extended membership as well as the introduction of the role of Vice Chair, a position which will be offered to an existing younger board member.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

Advocacy

Our Advocacy and Campaigning must continue to activate and sustain the June 2022 win and safeguard it from the hostile environment suite of policies. We will continue to listen to our community and collate impact stories to monitor the implementation of these changes to ensure those eligible are able to access their new rights to settlement in the UK under this accelerated pathway.

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The current cost of securing settlement in the UK for the young people we work with is £2,404. Despite the win, many young people will not be able to secure this status without financial assistance or a home office issued fee waiver.

Michaela's Story:

Michaela, 25, arrived in the UK at age 10, with her two siblings, who were then age 8 and 4. All three have all held limited leave for seven years, and are eligible for settlement under the new rules. Between them they have paid nearly £16,000 in Home Office fees. Michaela's parents recently told them they will no longer be able to contribute towards the cost of the three children's Home Office applications, which means Michaela and her middle sister, Olivia, will need to pay not just their own fees but those of their brother, David, who is in his second year at university. Michaela recently completed a master's degree and is doing a minimum wage job while she applies for graduate entry positions; Olivia is also in low-wage employment. If fee waivers remain unavailable for settlement applications, Michaela says she and her siblings will be stuck on the limited leave to remain loop indefinitely, as it will take many years before they can hope to save enough to cover their fees (which, at current rates, would be circa £7,800 for all three of them). The pressure of having to save up such large sums and prospect of making multiple repeat fee waivers and limited leave applications in the meantime is taking its toll on the two older siblings' mental health.

Emmanuel's Story:

Emmanuel, 26, arrived in the UK at age 8. He has already spent eight years on limited leave to remain and is now eligible for settlement under the 2022 rule. He has already paid more than £4,600 in Home Office fees, which he has always previously funded himself, but his financial situation is increasingly tight and he will not be able to apply for indefinite leave without a fee waiver. Emmanuel works a full-time job in the week, plus a separate part-time job at the weekend to stay afloat financially. From his earnings, he contributes towards the cost of his wife's university fees and also his parents' Home Office fees.

In April 2023 we launched our Out of the Loop Campaign to address the lack of fee waiver.

Investment in Organisational Infrastructure

1. We will be recruiting a Programmes Manager; Community Engagement Officer (London) and Operations Coordinator (Manchester). This is an attempt to invest in organisational infrastructure so that our young team benefits from strong managerial support, moving away from our flat structure and securing additional resources to achieve our implementation and outreach goals.

We have plans to reach, engage and support young people. We will collectively be able to continue to build community ties and increase the engagement of young people. In addition to expansion, we also have plans for a potential partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award over a 24 month period. This partnership will enable We Belong to build resilience, teamwork, and a sense of community with up to 15 marginalised young people annually by providing practical opportunities for personal development whilst gaining a nationally recognised achievement.

Over the course of the next year we will embed our networks across Manchester and the north, starting with renting our very own office space so that young people have a designated hub they can work from. Whilst we nurture a strong link with the London office, the Manchester Chapter will need to learn and discover what is needed as there are different

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requirements for the young people depending on location; we have noted that this chapter will need to have its own voice whilst working in cohesion with the London team across campaigns and aligned strategic work plans.

2. We have also recognised the need to reinvest in consultancy support with the reintroduction of our yearly partnership with Principle Consulting advising on all things parliament. In addition, we have recognised the need to create an organisational wide youth organising strategy which focuses on engaging and empowering young people to commit to social change and activism. To do so we will be employing the expertise of a community organiser who will work alongside our Community Engagement Officers across London and Manchester as well as our Co-producers to influence best practice.

Empowering young people to lead

We believe in the benefit of youth organising and centralisation of young people with lived experience. The definition of youth organising we apply at We Belong is the following:

Grounded in racial, gender, and economic justice, youth organising is the process of engaging young people in building power for systemic change. Proximity to the issues is key, so lived experience is essential. There is a focus on the development of individual young people as well as the cohort within the community, which requires an asset-based approach and the building of skills. Youth organising includes the opening of space for those affected by injustice to come together as a community to critically analyse power relations and allocate responsibility. Adults play a role in youth organising by acting as co-facilitators, administrators, or allies. This approach has a 'triple bottom line benefit', positively impacting the community involved, individual leadership development of young activists as well as the issues they are working to change.

We will be employing 10 Co-Producers across London and Manchester

By 2025 we hope to engage over 2,000 young migrants so they can become aware of their immigration status and pathways to settlement. This requires additional capacity, in line with our lived experience activism model as well as partnership working with allies. Thus, we plan to recruit Co-Producers initially in London followed by Manchester. Co-producers will be remunerated to work alongside our Community Engagement Officers. Once inducted we aim to advance these three objectives so that we can reach, engage and empower young people with precarious status:

1. Improve young people's individual outcomes:

- Upskilling and educating them on the inner workings of local authorities, schools and community groups
- Empowering them to speak in public about issues that matter to them
- Developing strategic skills as they collectively create a dissemination plan with a hyperlocal focus

2. Unlock potential so that young migrants can lead, build and sustain movements which will fundamentally change the nature of the migration sector, with:

- Increase in new and existing voices of young people empowered to create change
- Clear pathways for young people to become social change agents and contribute to We Belong activities

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3. Influence systemic change

- Relationships: Our young activists will continue to be trusted partners working with the home office to scrutinise and improve policies, cultures and practices
- Insight: Our community outreach will help us to identify emerging problems and engage with young people and local stakeholders to provide viable solutions

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees reported net incoming resources of £18,408 (2022: £55,526) on all operations for the period under review. The income for the year was £470,585 (2022: £372,646) and expenditure was £452,177 (2022: £317,120). The fund balance at the end of the period of £405,872 (2022: £387,464) comprised unrestricted funds of £344,535 (2022: £342,605) and restricted funds of £61,337 (2022: £44,859).

RESERVES POLICY:

A reserves policy has been established to provide guidelines and principles for maintaining an appropriate level of reserves to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of We Belong. The reserves policy is reviewed annually or as required, and compliance with the policy is reviewed on a quarterly basis with the board and finance subcommittee considering the fundraising strategy, risks, and any operational adjustments needed.

Our reserves policy requires that we retain free reserves in unrestricted funds sufficient to cover six months of normal expenditure. The following items should be excluded from reserves:

- Tangible fixed assets used to carry out the charity's activities.
- Program-related investments, held solely to further the charity's purposes.
- Designated funds set aside to meet essential future spending, such as funding a project that could not be met from future income.
- Commitments that have not been provided for as a liability in the accounts.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity on a regular basis, with a risk assessment report available online and highlighted at every Trustee meeting. Financially the Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at adequate levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that the systems in place to mitigate significant risks offers the charity adequate protection.

GOING CONCERN:

The Trustees believe that by maintaining reserves at the levels required by the reserves policy and by regularly reviewing the charity's key financial systems, they can ensure that sufficient resources are in place to mitigate significant financial risks. The Trustees have examined the operational and business risks faced by the charity, and believe that confirmed income for the next 12 months together with the reserves in place offer the charity adequate protection to ensure its continuance as a going concern. The Charity has in place a three year budget to ensure future planning is secure.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are clear that there are identifiable benefits to the work that we do - some of these are identified below;

- Trustees are clear that these benefits are for a wide cross-section of the public;
- Trustees are clear that those benefits relate to our aims.
- Trustees are clear that those benefits outweigh any potential risks.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 CIO's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge there is no information relevant to the Independent Examination of which the Examiner is unaware. The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant financial information and that this information has been communicated to the Examiner.

The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Colin Falconer
Trustee and Chair
19/10/23

WE BELONG

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of We Belong for the period ended 31 March 2023.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 the ICAEW, 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 CIO 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 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 considered part of an independent examination.
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.



Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
London SE7

Date: 20 October 2023

WE BELONG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from :					
Donations and legacies	4	227,184	-	227,184	194,042
Charitable activities	5	3,373	240,028	243,401	178,604
Total Income		230,557	240,028	470,585	372,646
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	228,627	223,550	452,177	317,120
Total Expenditure		228,627	223,550	452,177	317,120
Net Income for the year		1,930	16,478	18,408	55,526
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		1,930	16,478	18,408	55,526
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		342,605	44,859	387,464	331,938
Funds carried forward	12	344,535	61,337	405,872	387,464

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements.

The notes attached on pages 21 to 30 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	54,473		29,569	
Cash at bank and in hand:		<u>363,216</u>		<u>367,782</u>	
Total current assets		417,689		397,351	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>11,817</u>		<u>9,887</u>	
Net Current assets			<u>405,872</u>		<u>387,464</u>
NET ASSETS TOTALS			<u>405,872</u>		<u>387,464</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds	12		61,337		44,859
Unrestricted Funds	12		344,535		342,605
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>405,872</u>		<u>387,464</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 19 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Colin Falconer
Trustee and Chair
19/10/2023

The notes attached on pages 21 to 30 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting policies

Statutory information

We Belong is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered office and operational address is EC1 Offices, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PY.

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Public benefit entity

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

Going concern

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

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.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non-exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

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.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated professional services and facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. There were no such donations during the period in question. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of trustees and volunteers is not recognised with any monetary value.

Fund accounting

- 1) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- 2) Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.
- 3) Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. These include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's charitable activities.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

All liabilities are recognised at the end of the financial year.

Financial instruments including cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the period.

Fixed assets

Items costing less than £2,500 (previously £1,000) are not capitalised.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Comparison of prior period financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from :					
Donations and legacies	3	178,907	15,135	194,042	230,114
Charitable activities	4	8,025	170,579	178,604	187,475
Total Income		186,932	185,714	372,646	417,589
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	95,433	221,687	317,120	232,927
Total Expenditure		95,433	221,687	317,120	232,927
Net Income for the year		91,499	(35,973)	55,526	184,662
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		91,499	(35,973)	55,526	184,662
Reconciliation of funds: Funds brought forward		251,106	80,832	331,938	147,276
Funds carried forward	12	342,605	44,859	387,464	331,938

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Donations	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General donations	35,984	-	35,984	12,042
Grants from trust and foundations				
<i>AB Charitable Trust</i>	30,000	-	30,000	25,000
<i>Paul Hamlyn Foundation</i>	-	-	-	60,000
<i>Tudor Trust</i>	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
<i>Hollick Family Foundation</i>	-	-	-	10,000
<i>Esmée Fairbairn</i>	46,200	-	46,200	42,000
<i>Sigrid Rausing Trust</i>	60,000	-	60,000	-
<i>Anonymous Charitable Trust</i>	25,000	-	25,000	15,000
Total Donations	227,184	-	227,184	194,042
2022 analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	
<i>General donations</i>	11,907	135	12,042	
<i>Anonymous Family Trust</i>	-	15,000	15,000	
<i>Other grants</i>	167,000	-	167,000	
	178,907	15,135	194,042	
5 Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Grants from trusts and foundations				
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	14,000	14,000	25,000
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	-	-	16,560
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	1,000	60,000	61,000	65,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	30,000	30,000	20,000
<i>National Lottery Community Fund</i>	-	75,228	75,228	19,019
<i>John Ellerman Foundation</i>	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
<i>Blagrove Trust</i>	-	30,000	30,000	-
<i>Centre for Youth Impact</i>	-	800	800	-
Workshop & Conference	2,373	-	2,373	3,025
	3,373	240,028	243,401	178,604

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2022 analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	5,000	60,000	65,000
<i>Other grants</i>	-	110,579	110,579
<i>Workshop & Conference</i>	3,025	-	3,025
	8,025	170,579	178,604

6 Charitable expenditure

6a Direct programme costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff cost (note 7)	73,497	172,179	245,676	173,007
Communications	31,365	615	31,980	26,543
Other programme costs	45,229	7,122	52,351	28,011
Emergency Grants	6,754	-	6,754	14,978
Total direct programme costs	156,845	179,916	336,761	242,539
2022 analysis	53,754	188,785	242,539	

22 Covid grants (2022: 75) were made to individuals to cover emergency livelihood costs.

6b Supports costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Training and recruitment	9,305	6,599	15,904	3,333
Office rent	25,678	30,209	55,887	35,101
Insurance	1,009	-	1,009	958
Telephone & internet	1,298	-	1,298	273
Printing, postage & stationery	1,556	378	1,934	1,496
Travel, accomodation & subsistence	9,677	1,842	11,519	5,182
IT support and software	2,093	-	2,093	4,056
Accounting service fee	10,440	-	10,440	5,526
Equipment costs	1,563	-	1,563	13,381
Other expenses	6,713	4,606	11,319	2,775
Total support costs	69,332	43,634	112,966	72,081
2022 analysis	39,179	32,902	72,081	

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6c Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Meeting expenses	450	-	450	750
Independent examiner fee	2,000	-	2,000	1,750
Total governance costs	2,450	-	2,450	2,500
<i>2022 analysis</i>	<i>2,500</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2,500</i>	
Total Charitable expenditure	228,627	223,550	452,177	317,120
<i>2022 analysis</i>	<i>95,433</i>	<i>221,687</i>	<i>317,120</i>	

7 Staff costs and emoluments

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	221,409	157,468
Social security costs	17,716	10,815
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	6,551	4,724
	245,676	173,007
The average number of headcount of staff	7	5

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

The total remuneration to the key management personnel, including employers NI and pension, was £57,443 (2022:£65,901).

8 Trustees' remuneration and reimbursed expenses

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration from the charity or any related entity. No trustees claimed or received payment for expenses in 2023 (2022: One trustee was paid £89 for travel and meeting expenses).

In 2022 one trustee was awarded a hardship grant of £300 under the same terms and application procedures as other grant recipients. The trustee was not involved in the grant making process. No such grants were awarded to trustees in 2023.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,051	20,895
Accrued grant income	37,614	-
Prepayments	12,808	8,674
	54,473	29,569

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	3,200	4,410
Pension payable	1,223	1,050
Trade creditors	1,276	272
HMRC Tax and NI payable	6,118	4,155
	11,817	9,887

11 Net assets by funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	356,352	61,337	417,689
Current liabilities	11,817	-	11,817
Net assets	344,535	61,337	405,872
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2022			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	388,465	8,886	397,351
Current liabilities	9,887	-	9,887
Net assets	378,578	8,886	387,464

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12 Movement in funds

	Balance 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£		£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	342,605	230,557	(228,627)	-	344,535
Total unrestricted funds	342,605	230,557	(228,627)	-	344,535
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	14,000	(14,000)	-	-
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	9,142	-	(9,142)	-	-
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	25,000	60,000	(60,000)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	30,000	(27,163)	-	2,837
<i>National Lottery Community Fund</i>	717	75,228	(57,868)	-	18,077
<i>John Ellerman Foundation</i>	10,000	30,000	(28,836)	-	11,164
<i>Blagrove Trust</i>	-	30,000	(25,741)	-	4,259
<i>Youth Impact</i>	-	800	(800)	-	-
Total restricted funds	44,859	240,028	(223,550)	-	61,337
Total funds	387,464	470,585	(452,177)	-	405,872

12 Movement in funds (continued) - purposes of restricted funds

Barrow Cadbury Trust- To support We Belong campaigning work on issues relating to immigration; citizenship; higher education and support youth development.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation - Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit.

Unbound Philanthropy- Organising and Mobilising Immigrant Youth

Blagrove Trust- Funding the implementation of the policy win for Chasing Status and the role of Policy and Public Affairs Officer

Trust for London- We Belong Chasing Status Project- Pathways to settlement

National Lottery Community Fund- We Belong Youth Voice Partnerships covering the Manchester Chapter.

John Ellerman Foundation - Funding activities empowering young migrants.

Emergency COVID grants - This is funded through a combination of unrestricted grants.

Youth Impact: The Centre for Youth Impact funded a survey on youth voice.

Anonymous Family Trust - For the delivery of Let Us Learn and Leadership Academy programmes.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Prior year movement in funds

	Balance 1st April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	251,106	186,932	(95,433)	-	342,605
Total unrestricted funds	251,106	186,932	(95,433)	-	342,605
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	(135)	25,135	(25,000)	-	-
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	16,560	(7,418)	-	9,142
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	25,000	60,000	(60,000)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	18,013	20,000	(38,013)	-	-
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	16,440	-	(16,440)	-	-
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	3,987	-	(3,987)	-	-
<i>National Lottery Community Fund</i>	-	19,019	(18,302)	-	717
<i>John Ellerman Foundation</i>	-	30,000	(20,000)	-	10,000
<i>Emergency COVID Grant</i>	17,527	-	(17,527)	-	-
<i>Anonymous Family Trust</i>	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	80,832	185,714	(221,687)	-	44,859
Total funds	331,938	372,646	(317,120)	-	387,464

13. Related party transactions

No trustees received grants from our Hardship Fund. (2022: One received £300).

One trustee received £126 (2022: £563) for working on the Emerging Young Leaders Alumni programme.

One trustee made unrestricted donations to the charity totalling £248 (2022: One trustee donated a total of £240).

There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2023 or 2022.

WE BELONG

England & Wales - Charity number 1184348

Accounts

Company number: CE018159
Charity registration number: 1184348

WE BELONG

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR FROM 1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022
(Unaudited)**

WE BELONG

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WE BELONG

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Colin Falconer - Chair	
Jocelyn James - Treasurer	(resigned 19 October 2022)
Omolade Adedapo	(appointed 13 December 2021)
Sufina Ahmad	
Mariam Ajibola	
Muhammed Arkam Babar	
Jamilla Hinds-Brough	
Joel Carter	
Maheraj Ahmed Lian	(appointed 30 June 2022)
Andrew Noel	(resigned 5 November 2021)
David Wolfe QC	(resigned 9 December 2021)

Chief Executive Chrisann Jarrett MBE

Charity registered number 1184348

Registered office and operational address

EC 1 Offices
338 City Road
London
EC1V 2PY

Banker

Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

Accountants

Charity Accounting Services Ltd
Suite 109 - Spaces
6 Sutton Plaza, Sutton
London
SM1 4FS

Independent Examiner

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
55 Canberra Road
London
SE7 8PF

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2022. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We Belong registered with the Charity Commission on 10 July 2019, becoming a new stand-alone organisation. We Belong builds on a project called Let Us Learn, which was previously hosted by Just for Kids Law. The project expanded beyond its initial remit of campaigning for equal access to higher education to fighting for the rights of young migrants in the UK, including higher education and tackling systemic barriers that prevent young migrants from living a fulfilled life.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019.

Recruit and induction of trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the members or the charity trustees and are recruited with regard to their knowledge skills and experience. Trustees are appointed to a fixed 2 year term. Trustees may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There is a comprehensive pre-appointment briefing and a trustee induction process for new Trustees. Training is made available to Trustees as required.

Management and administration

We Belong is administered by Chief Executive Chrisann Jarrett MBE based on the strategic direction set by the trustees. The board of trustees meets four times a year. The Chair, Treasurer and Safeguarding Lead trustees also provide support to the CEO as and when required. Charity Accounting Services provide book-keeping and accounting services to the charity.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives set out in the governing document

- to help young people advance in life through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
- to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

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Charity activities

We Belong works with and for young migrants, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribute to British society.

EXTERNAL CONTEXT

We Belong remains the only organisation in the migration sector focussing solely on long term young migrants, a group often forgotten due to wrongly held assumptions on young people's status and citizenship despite the length of time spent in the UK. Our issue is extremely niche in comparison to the rest of the sector who focus on refugees and asylum seekers. Post- Windrush Scandal we have been able to capitalise on the opportunity to work alongside policy makers as they change their internal practices and engagement with external stakeholders and communities. The year 2021 marked the ten year anniversary of the introduction of the ten-year route to settlement amidst the ongoing hostile environment. Although we have secured a policy win, our organisation must now be proactive in sustaining this win amidst the legislative backdrop which continues to erode the rights of migrants living in the UK. In 2022, the government announced a consultation on the Bill of Rights which threatens to dilute the Human Rights Act and the main basis for the residency of our beneficiaries. In addition, the Nationality and Borders Bill 2022 gives the Secretary of State the power to revoke citizenship based on public interest. The hostile environment will continue to impact the lives of our young people and their community due to the discretionary power and the reframing of what it means to really belong in the UK.

OUR ISSUES AND APPROACHES

Advocacy

The Challenge

There are over 332,000 children and young people growing up in the UK without any formal immigration status. In 2012, the UK Government introduced the longest route to settlement formally known as the ten-year route; young people are entering adulthood facing prolonged uncertainty on this probationary route. The young migrants We Belong support are often granted a limited form of status over a decade, due to high fees and complex laws. This decade is rife with difficulty and impacts a young adult's interaction with society and services, and impacts a young person's identity and sense of belonging.

In October 2021 after four years of campaigning for a shorter more affordable route to settlement, We Belong managed to secure a major win to immigration private life rules. This change means that young migrants who entered the UK as children and were granted status on the basis of private life will now be on a five year route to settlement as opposed to a ten year route.

We Belong has a great task ahead to ensure young people, their families and civil society organisations interacting with young people who have precarious status are aware of their rights and entitlements and can regularise their status as soon as possible. Early intervention is necessary so that young people face fewer years in legal precarity.

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Our approach:

As well as fighting to get the most secure status possible for young people to allow them to remain and contribute to British society we work with young people to help advocate their concerns to policy makers at the heart of parliament.

Recognising that young people in difficulty face significant barriers to personal development, we seek to remove those barriers and support them in accessing their rights and advocating for change. This empowers each young person to become independent, confident, and able to reach their full potential. Our advocacy work has the following aims:

- **To foster relationships with parliamentarians and home office civil servants** to aid our campaign goals calling on the government to introduce a shorter and more affordable routes to settlement;
- **To raise awareness** of how the current immigration system affects the life chances of young migrants, as well as their ability to secure and maintain their status;
- **To work with young people** on a one-to-one basis and equip them with the tools necessary to change the status quo. Providing opportunities for young migrants to interact with the decision-makers. We do so by employing the story of self organising tool empowering people to develop their narrative and humanise the debate around immigration in the UK;
- **Integrated Communications** to gather case studies of the real impact of UK immigration policies on young people and build a case for support for our campaigns and wider advocacy;
- **Collaboration and Partnership to advance strategic policy aims:** We work with and alongside civil society organisations to prevent duplication of work, this includes writing joint policy papers to parliamentary enquiries, research and reports as well as focussing on strategic litigation opportunities to accelerate the pace of change.

Student Finance:

The Challenge:

Six years after the landmark Supreme Court judgement in the case of *R v Tigere*, we have tracked many young people who as a result of the intervention are successfully securing their student loans on the basis of long residence. However, we continue to support a large number of young people who are wrongfully denied student loans. Through fact finding and interacting with Student Finance England these errors are attributed to general lack of awareness of advisors on the rules of eligibility and resistance to approving student loans for young people with a limited form of immigration status. Advisors' reluctance comes from the fact that they act as gatekeeper simply 'safeguarding public funds' from those whose immigration status is questioned. This leads to young migrants being discriminated against at the assessment stage when engaging with the Student Loans Company (SLC). In addition, we continue to see SLC demand evidence that young people with limited leave will not be able to provide for example, bank statements and in some cases evidence of presence in the UK post 18 where a young person is going through the process of regularising their status.

Our approach:

Our Communities: We raise awareness of student finance rules in schools and communities, ensuring that students, teachers and parents we come in contact with understand the stakes and

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begin to work towards gathering evidence and preparing themselves for what can be a trying period should the application to student finance not go according to plan.

Collaboration: We work alongside other organisations within the sector such as Access to Higher Education Working Group and Student Finance Vulnerable Stakeholder Group on finding solutions to the policy issues.

Student Loans Company: We established a relationship with Student Loans Company (SLC), through their Funding Information Partners Manager, who is willing to assist the young people we work with who have struggled to access student finance despite being eligible. Since making contact, we have successfully intervened in 9 urgent cases. We have quarterly meetings with members of the SLC team ranging from customer services to senior management in our quest to provide training to advisors and simplify communications so that young people are clear on evidence criteria.

Training to University Widening Participation Staff: since June 2021 we have been providing training to widening participation staff at universities so that staff are able to understand the types of status students may have; tuition fee eligibility; pre-uni interventions and post-uni support systems so that students with limited leave to remain are provided ongoing mental health and wellbeing assistance.

Case Study of a young person who has received support from We Belong with student finance:

This young person came to We Belong following one off advice that had been provided to her mother who was seeking student finance support. The Student Loans Company (SLC) had asked the young person to provide further evidence concerning her immigration status in the UK without stating the specificities on what evidence she needed. Our Youth Development Lead spoke to the young person, who at the time had been feeling overwhelmed for months due to constant letters from her university demanding her funding issue to be resolved. She was at risk of being removed from her course and despite sending SLC a myriad of documents to prove her long residence in the UK in the form of school letters, home office documents, her passport, British Residence Permit, SLC still demanded more. We Belong supported the young person by raising an escalation with SLC's Funding Information Partners Managers Team and spoke to SLC advisers on her behalf. The case was resolved and the young person found our intervention in advocating for her very useful as it alleviated the burden of having to deal with the situation by herself.

IMPACT

Impact- Our Influencing Work

We have successfully worked with cross party MP's throughout the year building on the success of our Chasing Status Campaign in 2020-21. This includes working with Dame Meg Hillier MP who secured a debate with the Backbench Business Committee raising awareness across parliament of the issues young people face when on the ten-year route to settlement. We have capitalised on this publicity by continuing our bi-weekly meetings with Home Office Civil Servants and working alongside allies who are members of the Law Commissions Simplification of the Immigration Rules.

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We have done the following to initiate reform to the ten-year route to settlement:

- **Engaged in roundtables** highlighting the impact of the New Plan for Immigration
- **Worked with the Shadow Immigration Minister** to submit an amendment to the new immigration rules. This amendment led to Keven Foster's definitive response that his department will be prioritising changes to the immigration private life rules for young people in the We Belong cohort
- **Hosted a joint parliamentary event** with the Young Europeans Network (YEN) joined by conservative MP's Tim Loughton and former Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes MP as speakers
- **Empowered over 30 young people** to engage with parliamentarians and develop ongoing relationships
- **Launched our Deintegration Generation Report** highlighting the impact of the ten-year route to settlement on young migrants and wider societal impact
- **Submitted evidence in the form of 15 case studies** and a witness statement to Islington Law Centre's challenge to the ten-year route, this strategic litigation contributed to the introduction of the concession rules in October 2021 where young people who have accrued five years on the ten year route were immediately eligible for early indefinite leave to remain

Summary of the New Private Life Rules: Who does this concession apply to?

Those who were either born in the UK or entered as children (below the age of 18), but are now young adults (aged 18 and over)

- *Be aged 18 years and over and has spent least half of his/her life living continuously in the UK (discounting any period of imprisonment);*
- *Have either been born in or entered the UK as a child;*
- *Have held five years limited leave; and*
- *Be eligible for further leave to remain under paragraph 276ADE(iv) of the Immigration Rules and have made an application under those rules.*

- **Worked alongside 5 senior civil servants to widen the eligibility under the concession** to include those over 25 who were granted leave between the ages of 18-24, these cases amount to over 60% of our beneficiaries
- **Conducted an information session attended by 90 young people** to raise awareness of the accelerated route to settlement as a result of our campaign win
- **Conducted 68 New Client Enquiries between October 2021-March 2022** on young people with precarious immigration status
- **Collaborated with Islington Law Centre, escalating over 20 cases** and hosting an advice clinic providing 10 young people free legal advice, since then over 12 young people have secured Indefinite Leave to Remain
- **Engaged 15 young people in a Day of Action** where students went to their schools and asked their peers to complete a survey with exercises on the Life in the UK Test. **Over 400 students and 80 members of the public completed this survey.** This enabled the team to address some assumptions of the UK's immigration rules and what it means to belong.

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- Hosted a Creative day of action - created an 'Our Home' poster as well as storyboards where 15 young people chartered their journey in the UK
- Supported 3 young people in the recording of the BBC Panorama documentary 'Am I British?' This increased interest with the Home Office and assisted with our advocacy narrative.
- Hosted an online learning event titled 'Youth-Led Interventions: Reflections and recommendations on the ten-year route win' attended by 68 civil society organisations and funders interested in our campaign win and systems change
- Submitted a response to the Human Rights Act Reform Consultation in March 2022 highlighting the importance of the principle of proportionality for marginalised groups in society

Case studies and quotes from young people who have received early ILR since October 2021 as a result of our campaign win:

Zara

Zara is 25. She came to the UK when she was 9 years old. In 2014, when she was 17 years old, she was granted LLR under a private life route. Originally, this meant that she could only apply for ILR when she was 27 years old. However, due to the campaign win, Zara applied for ILR early, as she had already clocked up 8 years on the private life route. She was granted ILR.

"Being granted early ILR has been life changing and honestly brings me a sense of security and stability. Not having to worry about the possibility of leaving a country I have called home for 16 years makes me feel happy, accepted and most importantly at peace in my home"

Leah

Leah came to the UK when she was 4 years old. She is now 24, and has had Limited Leave to Remain under private life since 2013. She had spent 9 years on the 10 year route, but under the new rules she has just managed to get ILR.

"Getting my ILR really feels surreal. I cannot believe I have settled status after 14yrs of living in this country with anxiety and fear every year. I came across We Belong 7yrs ago and I know I wouldn't have gotten to this point (and so soon) without God or We Belong's advice and advocacy. Literally means the world to me and my family & friends"

Ahmed

Ahmed came to the UK when he was 9 years old. He is now 24. He got his first Limited Leave to Remain in 2017, which he renewed again in 2019. He has now clocked up over 5 years on the Private Life route, and has just been granted ILR under the new rules.

"Receiving ILR after such a long wait was a life changing moment for me and has finally made me truly feel a sense of belonging to the society. The best thing about this status is that I am relieved of worrying about my stay in the country that I call home and that I'm no longer subject to immigration control.

This status has given me a clear view about my future and certainty of my residence without having to stress about financial aspects.

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I now feel much healthier mentally after a great burden has been lifted off my shoulder. More paths have opened up for me and now I feel like I am in control of my future thanks to the status of ILR.

I cannot wait for the day that I will receive British citizenship and accomplish my dream."

Impact- Student Finance Work

We have worked with **6 schools across London Boroughs** and raised awareness of student finance barriers whilst **engaging with 1,400 young people** through webinars and in person presentations supported by our Core Group of young activists.

We have also had impact in the following ways:

- **Worked with 16 young people facing barriers to higher education with 9 cases resolved** with the Student Loans Company as a result of our intervention
- **Supported 7 young people who successfully went on to secure scholarships**
- **Delivered 3 university trainings to 72 widening participation staff members**

Case study and Quote from a young people who received a scholarship:

Gracie's sister Amanda had been supported by We Belong to attain the same scholarship the year before. Gracie accessed our personal statement clinic, hardship fund for her immigration status regularisation and was supported with her wellbeing through one-to-one meetings.

"Thank you for the preparation you did with me for my interview. I didn't stumble and it really went well. The questions we practised went well and it went smoothly. Also, Thank you to We Belong for the support that they gave me with the Leave to Remain situation and the money they finance me to apply for it, I got it last week."

Leadership Programme

16 young people have graduated from our Emerging Young Leaders programme contributing **207 hours** to our CPD accredited course between **April 2021-May2021**. Since then, we have **enrolled a further 12 young people** onto the course and for the first time we have co-delivered the training with one of our young activists. We continue to focus on intergenerational leadership with senior mentors contributing on average 4 hours of their time to mentees on the course. Senior leaders cut across industries which include tech, journalism, music, enterprise and law.

Summit

Rise to the Challenge 2021 Youth Summit

The 3-day event was delivered with over 108 young people signed up to workshops on the three pillars, Mental Health; Digital Story-telling and Activism. We were supported by 8 young people to co-design and deliver sessions making full use of our new Contribution Policy. The team worked hard to develop a great programme of activity and engaged 60 young activists across the three days. The summit was a crucial part of the launch of We Belong Contribution Policy which enables

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beneficiaries to participate as co-facilitators and be remunerated for their expertise and time in planning and delivering the summit over a three month period.

Youth Engagement: Our Approach

We believe in providing opportunities for young people to lead and equipping them with the tools to thrive as they engage in activism. We engaged with young people in the following ways:

- **1-1's** to develop a relationship, assess support needs, skills and mental wellbeing
- **New Client Enquiries**- direct information to young people with precarious status
- **Core Group** engaging with young activists with lived experience who want to participate in our projects and day-to-day decision making
- **Work Experience** with young people between ages of 16-18 years old
- **Co-facilitation** where young people in our wider network have the opportunity to deliver our programmes, the introduction of Co-producers as a structured programme is an extension of this
- **Monthly gathering** to foster a sense of community and a safe space for young migrants to gather

Impact in London: Youth Engagement

- **178 1-1's conducted** in London boroughs
- **211 New Client Enquiries** conducted
- Enrolled **8 new core group members**
- **3 young people have completed work experience** with We Belong
- **13 workshops** delivered by young activists
- **Engaged 98 young people** through 9 monthly gatherings

Case study of a Core Group Member:

This young person came to We Belong following our advertisement for Core Group Members. As they attended more meetings and engaged with other young people, the young person began to feel more confident and disclosed during one of our one to one meetings, that they were undocumented and facing difficulties with their guardian at home. We Belong were able to assess the young person using our Safeguarding procedures and provide wellbeing support as the young person's mental health had been negatively impacted. We were also able to encourage the school to have discussions with the young person's guardian to ensure more action was being taken to resolve their immigration issues. We Belong supported the young person by helping them to gain access to free legal advice and representation. The young person was offered opportunities to progress their skills through Core Group involvement, whilst we maintained regular contact with their teachers at their school to seek opportunities for them to develop skills over the Summer months.

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Expansion: Manchester Chapter

In November 2021, We Belong opened the Manchester Chapter after conducting a scoping enquiry which evidenced that 62% of our outside London enquiries in the previous financial year were located in Manchester. We have since employed two members of staff, a Youth Engagement Officer and a Community Engagement Officer to develop our work in Manchester and the North.

The new chapter works closely with We Belong colleagues from the London head office and gives the organisation greater reach across the country, ensuring young migrants nationwide are supported and platformed. This new chapter is supported by funding from the John Ellerman Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund.

Impact of our work in Manchester since January 2021 when the team started conducted client enquiries and 1-1's with young people:

- 35 1-1's conducted with young migrants
- 5 University and Careers Events attended reaching over 1,000 students
- 23 young people directly supported with student finance, higher education and widening participation
- Three gatherings held reaching on average 8 young people per month
- 10 Partnership Engagements developing potential collaborations with youth-led groups and community organisations in Manchester
- Ongoing relationships with the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan and the University of Salford

Case studies of young people we have worked with in Manchester:

A

A is a young person who has had contact with We Belong before the Manchester Chapter opened through the London office. She has really thrived since the opening of the Manchester chapter, keen to get the ball rolling with creating a network of young migrants. Following an initial meeting, where our Community Engagement Officer assessed her interests, skills and passion for the arts, we signposted her to a range of opportunities around the city, including a social media course at Manchester International Festival. As someone who is currently without status, and thus unable to work, she has been really keen to get involved with as many other opportunities as possible. A has developed so many skills during this period including public speaking as she told her story of self at the first Manchester youth gathering. She has also joined a migrant arts group that We Belong signposted her to, and has since been appointed a volunteering role. Her confidence has been boosted massively during this time. She has developed her skills, which she has also brought to her volunteering at We Belong. Our Youth Engagement Officer has assisted her with two scholarship applications and we are now awaiting a positive result.

HB

HB is a young person from Birmingham who applied for Asylum when he first contacted We Belong. HB is a very bright young person who is interested in engineering and was very determined to go to

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university. Due to status, HB's only option was to apply for an Article 26 scholarship. Our Youth Engagement Officer supported HB in writing a personal statement that fitted the required criteria, went through interview preparation, completed a mock interview and offered additional support. HB was successful in receiving an Article 26 Scholarship offer from the University of Manchester and will be starting their degree in September 2022.

FUNDING PROCESS

We Belong submits funding applications either by open grant processes or by invitation from grantmakers. The executive team undertakes a scoping exercise to identify and assess prospective funders ensuring alignment with our work before adding them to our fundraising pipeline. Once a prospective grant is on the Fundraising Pipeline it is then tracked from submission to assessment and finally through to decision. In addition, trustees approved an 18-month Fundraising Strategy which further documents grants on the organisational radar, potential revenue, expenditure and approximate reserves.

FUNDRAISING

Barrow Cadbury Trust: Ayesha Saran, Migration Programme Manager

'The Barrow Cadbury Trust has funded We Belong since its establishment and we have been extremely impressed by how quickly it has established itself as an important and powerful voice for change. It has worked tirelessly to both empower and change the lives of thousands of young people facing injustices within the UK's immigration system, its recent contribution to the policy change on the ten year route being an outstanding example of its effectiveness. It also continually strives to ensure that those affected by injustice guide and lead its strategy and campaigning, which undoubtedly increases its impact. Despite the difficult external context, I have no doubt that We Belong will continue to go from strength to strength.'

2021/2022 financial year saw an increase in multi-year grants from trusts and foundations as well as core unrestricted grants enabling the organisation to focus on sustaining projects and staff roles.. **We raised £372,646 in total income, including a noteworthy grant from the National Lottery Community Fund covering 5-years of organisational expenditure focussing on developing the Manchester Chapter.** The flexibility we saw throughout the pandemic continued as our relational funders welcomed changes to restricted submitted budgets enabling us to respond to need and reallocate budget lines. This year we saw income from workshops and conferences amounting to **£3,025.**

We were able to maintain our **Covid-19 Emergency Grants** and extend the Hardship fund throughout 2021 helping an additional **75 young migrants who faced financial difficulties, totalling an amount of £15,184.**

We appreciate all our supporters; without them we would not be able to continue this purpose driven work.

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ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS

Key Learnings and reflections from our advocacy work:

1. **Concessions have to be made in favour of incremental change:** Advocacy is a sustained effort to engage with different stakeholders who have the power to make the change you desire, as highlighted in your campaign. This requires a deep focus on systems and relationships. While the campaign sets the direction of travel, our advocacy strategy needs to be agile, and reactive to external events in the policy world and society. It requires us to be realistic, to make compromises, where needed, and break down our campaign asks into achievable, incremental change.

2. **For policy wins to be sustained they must be activated and monitored:** it is important that we work on a live implementation plan for the next 2 years to ensure we activate the policy win, identifying those who are now eligible for a 5 year route. In addition, we must ensure that we track where and how the policy is not being implemented by the Home Office as intended and maintain dialogue with senior civil servants to escalate and resolve ongoing issues.

3. **We require strategic partnerships, collaborations and increased local presence to disseminate the policy win:** the win was secured through a national framework, we now need to actively seek partnerships with local and grassroots organisers to reach black and ethnic minority groups impacted so they can self-identify status issues and support needs to regularise their status. This may also mean that We Belong will need to broaden the beneficiary group to work with children and the families younger than 16 years old for early intervention.

4. **Lived Experience Activists:** as an organisation should always prioritise the wellbeing of young people with lived experience; this takes primacy over campaigning, and associated project delivery demands. This includes pausing or decreasing engagement in projects so that young people are not pressured or overwhelmed by social change.

Governance

We have strengthened our board of trustees by recruiting another lived experience trustee Omolade Adedapo who has strong expertise working in governance and policy as well as acting as community and welfare officer at her student union. Her expertise and passion will contribute to the decision making of the board across both our Let Us Learn and Chasing Status Projects as we try and improve conditions for young migrants at universities and within wider society. Our commitment to lived experienced leaders has led to senior board members rotating the development needs of younger trustees through shadowing, mentoring and increased dialogue every quarter. This will foster an intergenerational way of working as well as intentionally developing the confidence of younger lived experience trustees to engage in high level decision making in finance, risk and strategic areas.

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Engagement and Relationship Building: Beneficiaries (New Client Enquiries)

There has been a significant rise in our beneficiaries in the last year as our database shows a record of 285 new client enquiries from across the UK. This is an 83% increase from the previous year, meaning an increase in our visibility through our social media channels and referrals. In particular, we saw an increase in calls over the period of October 2021-March 2021 due to the announcement of the campaign win. Overall, we provided information and support on immigration, student finance, scholarships, no recourse to public funds, housing and mental health. For complex cases we worked with external civil society organisations through signposting and referrals keeping a close relationship with these services to track outcomes for our young people.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees reported net incoming resources of £55,526 (2021: £184,662) on all operations for the period under review. The income for the year was £372,646 (2021: £417,589) and expenditure was £317,120 (2021: £232,927). The fund balance at the end of the period of £387,464 (2021: £331,938) comprised unrestricted funds of £342,605 (2021: £251,106) and restricted funds of £44,859 (2021: £80,332).

RESERVES POLICY:

The Trustees aim to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the budgeted operating costs for 3-6 months.

The unrestricted reserve balance at 31 March 2022 was £342,605 (2021: £251,106). Based on the budget for 2022/23 this represents 8 months expenditure and therefore the Trustees consider that the value of the funds at 31 March 2022 meets these objectives. This was due to changes in expenditure as most programmes were delivered online due to the pandemic. In addition, we delayed the recruitment of our Immigration Caseworker until 22/23 financial year. The reserves will be utilised across the upcoming financial years.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity on a regular basis, with a risk assessment report available online and highlighted at every Trustee meeting. Financially the Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at adequate levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that the systems in place to mitigate significant risks offers the Trust adequate protection.

GOING CONCERN:

The Trustees believe that by maintaining reserves at the levels required by the reserves policy and by regularly reviewing the charity's key financial systems, they can ensure that sufficient resources are in place to mitigate significant financial risks. The Trustees have examined the

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operational and business risks faced by the charity, and believe that confirmed income for the next 12 months together with the reserves in place offer the charity adequate protection to ensure its continuance as a going concern. The Charity has in place a three year budget to ensure future planning is secure.

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are clear that there are identifiable benefits to the work that we do - some of these are identified below;

- Trustees are clear that these benefits are for a wide cross-section of the public;
- Trustees are clear that those benefits relate to our aims.
- Trustees are clear that those benefits outweigh any potential risks.

UPDATE ON FUTURE PLANS

Manchester Office :

Throughout this year we have initiated **Phase 1:** Identify young migrants with lived experience and those interested in the work of We Belong. The team have also focussed on networking and developing the We Belong branding and presence in Manchester and formalising a local group of activists and change agents. Over the next 2-4 years we will be committing to the following.

- **Phase 2:** Build community ties, and positively engage with the wider sector through support, social actions and collaboration. Expand We Belong's network through participation and ensure We Belong identity is rooted in Manchester.
- **Phase 3:** Increase engagement of young people and develop regional advocacy for shorter and more affordable routes to settlement. Deliver training on youth organising where young people can become change agents, develop their public speaking proficiency and start an open dialogue with policy makers.

We will continue to monitor and evaluate the progress of the Manchester Office with the view to utilise the learning as we look to expand We Belong Chapters in the next two years into other cities.

The Three Pillars: Education, Empowerment and Employment:

We will be assessing the needs of young people post-pandemic so that as an organisation we can better respond to needs and support young people along the way. We will be strengthening our engagement and offer to young migrants within schools through three key pillars, Education, Empowerment and Employment. In both the empowerment and employment pillars we will be collaborating with external partners to bolster our package of information and opportunities whilst ensuring young people are inspired. This will include sessions facilitated by corporates for students to gain insight and explore potential career and job opportunities, with particular focus on representation of young people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

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Implementation Plan: 19 Co-Producers across London and Manchester

By 2025 we hope to engage over 2,000 young migrants so they can become aware of their immigration status and pathways to settlement. This requires additional capacity, in line with our lived experience activism model as well as partnership working with allies. Thus, we plan to recruit Co-Producers initially in London followed by Manchester. Co-producers will be remunerated to work alongside our Community Engagement Officers. Once inducted we aim to advance these three objectives so that we can reach, engage and empower young people with precarious status:

1. Improve young people's individual outcomes:

- Upskilling and educating them on the inner workings of local authorities, schools and community groups
- Empowering them to speak in public about issues that matter to them
- Developing strategic skills as they collectively create a dissemination plan with a hyperlocal focus

2. Unlock potential so that young migrants can lead, build and sustain movements which will fundamentally change the nature of the migration sector, with:

- Increase in new and existing voices of young people empowered to create change
- Clear pathways for young people to become social change agents and contribute to We Belong activities

3. Influence systemic change

- Relationships: Our young activists will continue to be trusted partners working with the home office to scrutinise and improve policies, cultures and practices
- Insight: Our community outreach will help us to identify emerging problems and engage with young people and local stakeholders to provide viable solutions

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STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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 CIO's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge there is no information relevant to the Independent Examination of which the Examiner is unaware.

The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant financial information and that this information has been communicated to the Examiner.

The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

COLIN FALCONER

Colin Falconer
Trustee and Chair

WE BELONG

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of We Belong for the period ended 31 March 2022.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 the ICAEW, 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 CIO 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 form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give as 'true and fair' view which is not considered part of an independent examination.
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

CAROLINE SHARP

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
London SE7

Date: 7 December 2022

WE BELONG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from :					
Donations and legacies	4	178,907	15,135	194,042	230,114
Charitable activities	5	8,025	170,579	178,604	187,475
Total Income		186,932	185,714	372,646	417,589
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	95,433	221,687	317,120	232,927
Total Expenditure		95,433	221,687	317,120	232,927
Net Income for the year		91,499	(35,973)	55,526	184,662
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		91,499	(35,973)	55,526	184,662
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		251,106	80,832	331,938	147,276
Funds carried forward	12	342,605	44,859	387,464	331,938

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements.

The notes attached on pages 20 to 29 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	29,569		5,200	
Cash at bank and in hand:		<u>367,782</u>		<u>332,115</u>	
Total current assets		397,351		337,315	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>9,887</u>		<u>5,377</u>	
Net Current assets			<u>387,464</u>	<u>331,938</u>	
NET ASSETS TOTALS			<u>387,464</u>	<u>331,938</u>	
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds	12		44,859	80,832	
Unrestricted Funds	12		342,605	251,106	
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>387,464</u>	<u>331,938</u>	

Approved by the board of trustees on 1 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by

COLIN FALCONER

Colin Falconer
Trustee and Chair

The notes attached on pages 20 to 29 form an integral part of these accounts.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. Accounting policies

Statutory information

We Belong is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered office and operational address is EC1 Offices, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PY.

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Public benefit entity

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

Going concern

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

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.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non-exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

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.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated professional services and facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. There were no such donations during the period in question. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of trustees and volunteers is not recognised with any monetary value.

Fund accounting

- 1) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- 2) Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.
- 3) Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. These include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's charitable activities.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

All liabilities are recognised at the end of the financial year.

Financial instruments including cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the period.

Fixed assets

Items costing less than £2,500 (previously £1,000) are not capitalised.

2 Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3 Comparison of prior period financial activities

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from :					
Donations and legacies	4	230,114	-	230,114	120,954
Charitable activities	5	2,575	184,900	187,475	145,043
Total Income		232,689	184,900	417,589	265,997
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
Total Expenditure		74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
Net Income for the year		158,156	26,506	184,662	147,276
Transfer between funds		(5,967)	5,967	-	-
Net Movement in funds		152,189	32,473	184,662	147,276
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		98,917	48,359	147,276	-
Funds carried forward	12	251,106	80,832	331,938	147,276

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

4 Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
General donations	11,907	135	12,042	22,114
Grants from trust and foundations				
<i>AB Charitable Trust</i>	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
<i>Paul Hamlyn Foundation</i>	60,000	-	60,000	77,000
<i>Tudor Trust</i>	30,000	-	30,000	-
<i>Hollick Family Foundation</i>	10,000	-	10,000	-
<i>Esmée Fairbairn</i>	42,000	-	42,000	96,000
<i>Anonymous Family Trust</i>	-	15,000	15,000	-
<i>Anonymous Charitable Trust</i>	-	-	-	10,000
Total Donations	178,907	15,135	194,042	230,114

All donations in 2021 were unrestricted.

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Grants from trusts and foundations				
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	25,000	25,000	44,900
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	16,560	16,560	-
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	5,000	60,000	65,000	60,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	20,000	20,000	40,000
<i>National lottery Community Fund</i>	-	19,019	19,019	-
<i>John Ellerman Foundation</i>	-	30,000	30,000	-
<i>Emergency COVID Grant</i>	-	-	-	40,000
Workshop & Conference	3,025	-	3,025	2,575
	8,025	170,579	178,604	187,475
2021 analysis	2,575	184,900	187,475	

2021 Unrestricted income is from workshops and conferences. All grants were restricted.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6 Charitable expenditure

6a Direct programme costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff cost (note 7)	25,750	147,257	173,007	136,604
Communications	20,328	6,215	26,543	21,874
Other programme costs	7,882	20,129	28,011	3,283
Emergency Grant COVID19	(206)	15,184	14,978	22,473
Total direct programme costs	53,754	188,785	242,539	184,234
<i>2021 analysis</i>	<i>53,815</i>	<i>130,419</i>	<i>184,234</i>	

In 2022 Covid grants were made to 75 (2021: 102) individuals to cover essential needs and application costs.

6b Supports costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Training & recruitment	3,333	-	3,333	2,403
Office rent	12,749	22,352	35,101	28,115
Insurance	-	958	958	915
Telephone & internet	273	-	273	361
Printing, postage & stationery	945	551	1,496	1,429
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	1,346	3,836	5,182	275
IT support and software	2,028	2,028	4,056	2,338
Accounting service fee	5,526	-	5,526	6,374
Equipment costs	11,066	2,315	13,381	2,359
Other expenses	1,913	862	2,775	2,024
Total support costs	39,179	32,902	72,081	46,593
<i>2021 analysis</i>	<i>18,618</i>	<i>27,975</i>	<i>46,593</i>	

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6c Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Trustees' meeting expenses	750	-	750	600
Independent examination	1,750	-	1,750	1,500
Total governance costs	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,100</u>
<i>2021 analysis</i>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,100</u>	
Total Charitable expenditure	<u>95,433</u>	<u>221,687</u>	<u>317,120</u>	<u>232,927</u>
<i>2021 analysis</i>	<u>74,533</u>	<u>158,394</u>	<u>232,927</u>	

7 Staff costs and emoluments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	157,468	125,109
Social security costs	10,815	7,811
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	4,724	3,684
	<u>173,007</u>	<u>136,604</u>
The average number of headcount of staff	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

Up until September 2021 there were two Co-CEOs forming the key management personnel. Dami Makinde Co-CEO resigned from the organisation in September 2021. The total remuneration to the key management personnel, including employers NI and pension, was £65,901 (2021:£79,336).

8 Trustees' remuneration and reimbursed expenses

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration from the charity or any related entity. One trustee was paid £ 89 for travel and meeting expenses in 2022 (2021: Nil).

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

One trustee received a hardship grant to meet essential needs of £300 (2021: One trustee received a grant of £600) under the same terms and application procedures as other grant recipients. The trustee was not involved in the grant making process.

9 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	20,895	-
Prepayments	8,674	5,200
	29,569	5,200

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	4,410	4,180
Pension payable	1,050	772
Trade creditors	272	425
HMRC Tax and NI payable	4,155	-
	9,887	5,377

11 Net assets by funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2022			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	352,492	44,859	397,351
Current liabilities	9,887	-	9,887
Net assets	342,605	44,859	387,464

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2021			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	256,483	80,832	337,315
Current liabilities	5,377	-	5,377
Net assets	251,106	80,832	331,938

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12 Movement in funds

	Balance 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	251,106	186,932	(95,433)	-	342,605
Total unrestricted funds	251,106	186,932	(95,433)	-	342,605
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	(135)	25,135	(25,000)	-	-
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	16,560	(7,418)	-	9,142
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	25,000	60,000	(60,000)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	18,013	20,000	(38,013)	-	-
<i>Nelson Family Foundation</i>	16,440	-	(16,440)	-	-
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	3,987	-	(3,987)	-	-
<i>National Lottery Community Fund</i>	-	19,019	(18,302)	-	717
<i>John Ellerman Foundation</i>	-	30,000	(20,000)	-	10,000
<i>Emergency COVID Grants</i>	17,527	-	(17,527)	-	-
<i>Anonymous Family Trust</i>	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	80,832	185,714	(221,687)	-	44,859
Total funds	331,938	372,646	(317,120)	-	387,464

12 Movement in funds (continued) - purposes of restricted funds

Barrow Cadbury Trust- To support We Belong campaigning work on issues relating to immigration; citizenship; higher education and support youth development.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation - Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit.

Unbound Philanthropy- Organising and Mobilising Immigrant Youth

Trust for London- We Belong Chasing Status Project- Pathways to settlement

Nelson Family Foundation- Allocated to our Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit. Funds have also been allocated to developing our digital capacity.

Lush Charity Pot- We Belong Volunteering costs, funds carried forward from previous financial year.

WE BELONG

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

National Lottery Community Fund- We Belong Youth Voice Partnerships covering the Manchester Chapter.

John Ellerman Foundation - Funding activities empowering young migrants.

Emergency COVID grants - Funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Rayne Foundation to enable us to give support during the COVID crisis. We supported 75 beneficiaries with cash grants during the year, and 102 last year.

Anonymous Family Trust - For the delivery of Let Us Learn and Leadership Academy programmes.

Prior year movement in funds

	Balance 1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2021
	£	£	£		£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	98,917	232,689	(74,533)	(5,967)	251,106
Total unrestricted funds	98,917	232,689	(74,533)	(5,967)	251,106
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	44,900	(45,035)	-	(135)
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	9,287	-	(15,254)	5,967	-
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	2,882	60,000	(37,882)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	15,750	40,000	(37,737)	-	18,013
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	16,440	-	-	-	16,440
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	4,000	-	(13)	-	3,987
<i>Emergency COVID Grants</i>	-	40,000	(22,473)	-	17,527
Total restricted funds	48,359	184,900	(158,394)	5,967	80,832
Total funds	147,276	417,589	(232,927)	-	331,938

13. Related party transactions

One trustee received an emergency grant of £300 (2001: £600) as disclosed in note 8.

One trustee received £563 for working on co-facilitating the Emerging Young Leaders Programme and data transfer prior to starting tenure on our board in June 2022.

One trustee made unrestricted donations to the charity totalling £240. (2021: Two trustees donated a total of £325)

There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2021 or 2022.

WE BELONG

England & Wales - Charity number 1184348

Accounts

Company number: CE018159
Charity registration number: 1184348

WE BELONG

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021
(Unaudited)**

WE BELONG

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WE BELONG

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Colin Falconer - Chair (appointed 7 January 2021)
Claud Williams - Chair (resigned 3 September 2020)
Sufina Ahmad
Jamilla Hinds-Brough (appointed 7 January 2021)
Mariam Ajibola
Muhammed Akram Babar
Joel Carter
Jocelyn James - Treasurer
Andrew Noel (resigned 16 September 2021)
David Wolfe QC

Co - Chief Executives

Chrisann Jarrett
Dami Makinde (last day 30 September 2021)

Charity registered number 1184348

Registered office and operational address

EC1 Offices
338 City Road
London
EC1V 2PY

Banker

Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

Accountants

Charity Accounting Services Ltd
Unit B108, Trident Business Centre
89 Bickersteth Road
London
SW17 9SH

Independent Examiner

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
55 Canberra Road
London
SE7 8PF

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We Belong registered with the Charity Commission on 10 July 2019, becoming a new stand-alone organisation. We Belong builds on a project called Let Us Learn, which was previously hosted by Just for Kids Law. The project expanded beyond its initial remit of campaigning for equal access to higher education to fighting for the rights of young migrants in the UK, including higher education and tackling systemic barriers that prevent young migrants from living a fulfilled life.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation and its governing document is a written constitution dated 10 July 2019.

Recruit and induction of trustees

The Trustees are appointed by the members or the charity trustees and are recruited with regard to their knowledge skills and experience. At each AGM the longest serving one third of trustees must retire and may be reappointed. Trustees may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There is a comprehensive pre-appointment briefing and a trustee induction process for new Trustees. Training is made available to Trustees as required.

Management and administration

During the year We Belong was administered by two Co-Chief Executives, Dami Makinde and Chrisann Jarrett based on the strategic direction set by the trustees. The board of trustees meets four times a year. The chair, treasurer and safeguarding lead trustees also provide support to Co-CEOs as and when required. Charity Accounting Services provide book-keeping and accounting services to the charity.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives set out in the governing document

- to help young people advance in life through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- ❑ to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

Charity activities

We Belong works with and for young migrants, who are subject to a hostile environment in the country we and they call home. We fight to end the hostile environment around immigration, ensuring barriers preventing full integration for migrants are removed so that we can contribute to British society.

OUR ISSUES AND APPROACHES

Advocacy

The Challenge:

There are 332,000 children and young people growing up in the UK without any formal immigration status. The current immigration system is complex and lengthy, and the cost of securing Leave to Remain has increased by 331% since 2014. Young people who are socially integrated are exposed to the UK's hostile immigration environment and left suspended in a protracted legal limbo, limiting their progression in life.

Our approach:

As well as fighting to get the most secure status possible for young people to allow them to remain and contribute to British society; we work with young people to help advocate their concerns to policy makers at the heart of parliament.

Recognising that young people in difficulty face significant barriers to personal development, we seek to remove those barriers and support them in accessing their rights and advocating for change. This empowers each young person to become independent, confident, and able to reach their full potential. Our advocacy work has the following aims:

- **To foster relationships with parliamentarians** to aid our campaign goals calling on the government to introduce a shorter and more affordable routes to settlement;
- **To raise awareness** of how the current immigration system affects the life chances of young migrants, as well as their ability to secure and maintain their status;
- **To work with young people** on a one-to-one basis and equip them with the tools necessary to change the status quo and interact with the government so they are able to initiate conversations with Members of Parliament, using their own stories to humanise the debate around immigration.

WE BELONG

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Strategic litigation:

Our desire for justice led to a collaboration with Islington Law Centre and Garden Court Chambers to produce case studies for a judicial review on the 10-year route. The case studies consisted of young people brought to the UK as children who have limited form of status, who could have been granted settled status should the home office decide to use discretion. We provided a witness statement, hammering home the significant impact of the route and the effects on social integration because of punitive measures.

Permission was granted for a full hearing at the High Court for a future date. We are now in preparation for the full hearing and submitted a further six case studies that are incredibly moving and exceptionally powerful in giving snippets into the lives of young people.

A young person who wishes to remain anonymous stated the following:

'I literally wouldn't wish my life on anyone. I can't tell you of a time that it has been easy for me. Getting friends is not easy 'cos you can't fit in- you can't share any of the experiences. My mum is going through it but still not like me, it is affecting me every single step, going to uni, getting the job I want, I'm always planning ahead but I have to accept these limits every day. I should have finished uni by now - I'm seeing my friends flying with their lives. I am stuck but I still keep trying. I haven't done anything bad in my life to deserve this.'

Student Finance

The Challenge:

The 2015 victory at the Supreme Court against the Business, Innovation and Skills was a step closer to thousands of young people achieving their long-life dream of attending a university and obtaining a degree. Yet, many young people still face consistent challenges with Student Finance England despite meeting the Long Residency Criteria. The barriers we work to challenge is the restrictive criterion that young people with precarious status experience, which penalises students who have resided in the UK since childhood. The Student Loans Company requests extensive documents to prove long residence eligibility despite Home Office eligibility criteria which is granted based on the evidence of continuous stay in the UK. This becomes a difficult process for those who:

- **Received their first and lawful status after leaving sixth form or college.** As they wait for their status to be granted, they are unable to hold a bank account, drive, rent, work and in some cases use the NHS. Therefore, they incur gaps where they are unable to provide legal documents to prove their long residence eligibility.
- **Move houses multiple times in a short time frame** and as a result lose documents along the way. Young people attending university after the age of 18 can have minor gaps in their documentation to prove long residence. In such cases Student Finance England is unable to proceed with individuals' application despite showing other clear evidence of their longevity in the UK.

Our approach:

Our Communities: We raise awareness of student finance rules in schools and communities, ensuring that students, teachers and parents we come in contact with understand the stakes

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and begin to work towards gathering evidence and preparing themselves for what can be a trying period should the application to student finance not go according to plan.

Collaboration: We work alongside other organisations within the sector such as Access to Higher Education Working Group and Student Finance Vulnerable Stakeholder Group on finding solutions to the policy issues.

Student Loans Company: We established a relationship with Student Loans Company (SLC), through their Funding Information Partners Manager, who is willing to assist the young people we work with who struggled to access student finance despite being eligible. Since making contact, we have successfully intervened in 4 urgent cases, with one young person being reinstated back into university after being kicked out because of student finance errors. Building on the fostered relationship with SLC, we've attended several meetings and we are directly influencing policies.

A quote from someone we supported:

"Only God knows what I would be doing right now if I didn't come into contact with you. It's been such a long journey and I couldn't have done it without you. I honestly don't know how to thank you, you've done so much for me over these last few months and I'm so so grateful for everything you've done for me! May God bless you in abundance." - LK, 20 years old

For young people who fall outside of the student finance rules, our support has had a positive impact, with 4 young people receiving scholarships in the last year.

Hamayoon, age 25 says:

"I am forever in your debt for all the help that you provided for me in my educational pursuit. I do not have the words to describe how to thank you. Keep up the good work and I wish you all the best."

IMPACT

Impact- Our Influencing Work

As the Covid-19 pandemic hit we knew that our external campaigning efforts would have to move online so we focused our attention on building connections with parliamentarians digitally by utilising the power of storytelling. We have supported young people to speak out and challenge the government's 10-year route to settlement and campaign for a reform to ensure that our immigration system is fair and respects social integration.

We have empowered over 100 young people to write to their MP's and get them engaged in the democratic process.

The 1-1 relationship building with MPs has led to the concerns about the high cost of fees and **We Belong's aims being raised to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel in parliament.** Since then, we have been in touch with the Home Secretary's department and have held frequent meetings with Senior Civil Servants working on creating a better immigration system for young people that have made the UK their home.

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We also wrote a letter to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighting our concerns about the immigration system which was co-signed by 75 young people with lived experience of the immigration system. Alongside this letter we created an online petition which was aimed at Boris Johnson asking the government to introduce a shorter more affordable route to settlement. This petition was shared alongside a short campaign video where 4 young people spoke about their lives in the UK and the impact of the immigration fees that's pricing them out of status in a country they call home. **The video received over 8,000 views on our social media channels.**

We have gained cross party support for our Chasing Status Campaign. We hosted an event inviting MPs Tim Loughton and Laura Farris from the Home Affairs Select Committee to speak at our **Virtual Parliamentary Event which was led by young migrants who told their story of self to 77 attendees. This led to five of our young people being invited by Tim Loughton to give oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee as part of Parliament Week.** Our questions and concerns were raised to the Immigration Minister Kevin Foster, the next day when he agreed to meet with us to discuss. In that meeting we were able to speak about the barriers young migrants were facing in the UK using our stories of self as the catalyst of change. The Immigration Minister listened to our concerns and has promised to engage further with us. This was the beginning of working alongside policy makers, providing insight into the lives of young people and ensuring systems are in place to address their concerns. **We Belong has also submitted written evidence to the House of Lords Covid-19 Committee as well as providing oral evidence.**

Using the momentum from this we helped **Meg Hillier MP, secure a debate in Parliament on the extortionate cost of visa fees.** We Belong members from across the country sent our briefing to Members of Parliament and urged them to attend the debate and speak out against the injustices they face. **Our briefing was referenced by 5 MPs in the debate and led to the immigration minister speaking out in favour of working with We Belong to address the issues of the 10-year route.**

Leadership Programme

We aim to build generational leaders who can become change agents and lead in their respective fields. We achieve this through our leadership academy, facilitated by the We Belong's CEOs which has been highly recommended to young people who want to:

- Be equipped with tools to enhance their leadership skills;
- Meet new people who have lived experience of the immigration system;
- Gain confidence as leaders and discover more about themselves.

We've conducted two virtual leadership programme leadership programmes in the financial year 2020/2021, and graduated 19 young people, some who have stated the following about the programme:

'I am pleased to have taken part in this course. This course has helped me to identify my strengths and develop them further but also allowed me to accept my weaknesses and embrace them.'

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"I learned that there is power in one's story and one has the right to share it as one wishes and no matter how negative it appears, there is always a sense of positivity attached and one cannot tell who is inspired by it"

To enhance the programme, the emerging young leaders are paired with senior mentors and are given opportunities to ask questions, learn and absorb as much information as possible. The senior mentors often act as connectors for the young cohort and encourage them in their chosen career paths and ambitions.

Sufina Ahmed, a senior leader said this:

"The programme has allowed me to mentor several people at different points in their leadership journeys. Whether they are still studying, finishing their studies, in the early stages of their career, or newly arrived in the UK and building a new life for themselves, they have all been passionate about achieving their dreams. Each has shown resilience and determination in managing the challenges they're facing, and a real optimism in pursuing the opportunities that this programme opens their eyes to. Each has spoken about the sense of community that the programme has provided them with, as well as the importance of having a mentor that they can speak to on a one-to-one basis to explore specific issues and ideas more deeply. The programme has also opened their eyes to a more expansive definition of leadership and shows them that they absolutely have the skills to be leaders in their own lives and careers. I feel utterly privileged to have seen this unfold firsthand within the young people that I have mentored. It has allowed me to think creatively about what leadership means to me and to others, and how we can support others to manifest and achieve their leadership dreams."

Summit

It is our desire to connect young people from across the UK, uplift and amplify their voices as changemakers. Recognising the need for young people to be equipped with tools that aids their progression in the activism field, we hold an annual youth conference to teach, equip and network with young people from across the wider sector. This year's virtual 3 day conference, titled 'Rise to the challenge' focuses on three pillars rooted in our society today and within We Belong. The pillars - **Mental Health, Activism and Digital Storytelling** - engages young people through information sharing, upskilling and the celebration of amazing individuals between 18-25 years of age in the UK today. The pillars expand on the following:

- **Mental Health:** Developing solutions for youth mental health
- **Activism:** Hearing from young campaigners who have influenced positive outcomes for people.
- **Digital Storytelling:** Shifting the narrative and finding a balance to humanise and share stories online.

The event will end with our first We Belong Awards ceremony on the final day of the summit, to recognise the hard work and dedication of our committed volunteers, schools, and parliamentarians.

This year, our core group members, who are committed volunteers are key in the success of the summit as their participation throughout the process has been integral. Together we decided on creation of materials, choice of speakers, content for the various workshops, talks

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and panel discussions taking place. We hope from attending the summit, young people will acquire in-depth knowledge on the 3-pillars, gain confidence and feel empowered to overcome the challenges they face either personally or within their communities.

The backdrop of Covid-19 left a negative impact on many young people's mental health and morale and this summit was our answer to affect positive changes at a time that has been difficult for so many. Moreover, we hope to implement learnings from youth experts in different fields, including our own members during the different sessions held.

Social media and website

One of the key developments in our online communications this year has been hiring a Digital Communications Officer to deliver on the following:

- Increase in the number of young people supported to speak out online about barriers they face because of their immigration status
- More young people are leading campaigns that aim for equal and fair treatment for young migrants.
- We Belong becoming a key player in policy reform to the UK's immigration system.

In addition to this, as an organisation it has been exciting to engage young migrants online, develop the organisation's communications strategy, work on online storytelling and fundraising. Doing so has required various exciting new challenges: planning and creating online content that follows social media trends, designing graphics and animations that inform and educate young migrants and parliamentarians, updating our new website with fresh content and information, and helping to communicate our political campaigns.

Our series of monthly interviews called 'Status Stories' effectively enables young people to speak out online about the impact of the 10-year route and the changes they hope to see within the immigration system. Thus, further engaging and empowering others to speak out about their difficult circumstances.

We use our overall online content to generate individual donors in support of our work. We create and share fundraising-specific content, social media ads and promoted content. With the help of a digital mentor supporting our Digital Communications Officer on fundraising, and the development of our strategy we expect to utilise this capacity to draw on more individual donors. One of our highlights from our focus on general public donations this year has been a generous donation from Reni Eddo-Lodge, the award-winning author of 'Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race'. Reni Eddo-Lodge shared her support for our work on both Instagram and Twitter, which saw our online followers grow.

At the beginning of every month, we review our social media and website and generate a report. For example, between October and June, we have seen a 328% increase in followers on Instagram, and 27% increase in followers on Twitter. The report is used to track our growth, popular online content and our geographical reach. We expect to see this increase in online engagement continue in upcoming months.

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Awards (2021)

Our 2021 awards include the following:

UK Youth Inspiring Hope Award: We were celebrated as an innovative and adaptable organisation, who in response to Covid19 supported our young people and made a real difference in their lives.

Community Campaign of the year - UK Parliament Award: We were celebrated as an organisation that has campaigned for change in our community.

FUNDING PROCESS

We Belong submit funding applications either by open grant processes or by invitation from grantmakers. All fundraising prospects are noted in the Fundraising Pipeline after a scoping exercise to ascertain whether or not We Belong is a fit for the prospective funding priority with reference to the organisation's fundraising strategy which highlights any potential gap in funding for specific projects. Once a prospective grant is on the Fundraising Pipeline it is then tracked from submission to assessment and finally through to decision.

FUNDRAISING

Quote from Catherine Hillis, Esmee Fairbairn – ‘

We are very proud to support We Belong. The impact the organisation has been able to create is testament to what happens when young people have the resource and power to lead change. We have been incredibly impressed by how We Belong have demonstrated the impact immigration issues can have on young people's lives through powerful media and influencing campaigns, cutting through an often extremely challenging context, to expose the injustice of the current system. Its direct delivery and leadership programmes offer much-needed peer support to young people often failed by statutory services. With their connections to other youth-led organisations internationally, they have brought an exciting approach to organising to the UK and we are really excited to see the impact it is going to be able to create in the next few years.’

Quote from a member of the public- *‘I read an article in the Guardian which mentioned the work you do, and I was so moved and inspired that I decided to donate.’*

2020/2021 financial year has been promising for We Belong as we continue to engage a wide range of donor and Grantmaking organisations. The funding received has enabled us to embed our new way of working as we adapt our digital delivery in the midst of the global pandemic. **We raised £417,589 a 57% increase from 2019/2020 revenue income.** We continue to develop our fundraising strategy with an emphasis on individual donors. **Online donations from the public in this last year exceeded our target as we were able to generate unrestricted income of £22,114 via CHUFFED and CAF Donate.**

Though the pandemic has created new hurdles which required us to shift priorities or delay the delivery of some of our programmes and activities, we were reassured and encouraged by the support of our funders who responded with increased flexibility through a range of

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unrestricted grants and top-up grants to support organisational development and digital infrastructure.

For the first time, we were supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Rayne Foundation and a number of anonymous donors to provide sub-grants to young migrants to alleviate the financial insecurity caused by the pandemic through our Hardship Grants. We were able to meet young people at the point of need and provide a safety net to fill the gap left by other services. We approved 102 grants, totalling an amount of £22,473.

We appreciate all our supporters; without them we would not be able to continue this purpose driven work.

ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS

Advocacy and Campaigning

We are working ever more closely with young people with lived experience to fight and dismantle the Hostile Environment and to secure a fair, progressive immigration system that works for all of us. We continue to work with parliamentarians across the political-spectrum raising our concerns about the issues faced by young migrants.

Over the past year we have learned the following:

1. **There is no substitute for lived experience:** it is important that young people are included in strategy and policy conversations from an early stage so that they are invested in the process. Telling one's story might just be one tactic of raising awareness but it is not to be underestimated in a world where civil servants and ministers often operate on assumptions of 'how the system is working'. The lived experience of the young people debunks these assumptions and replaces it with the 'truth'.
2. **We must lead with values:** conversations around immigration in the UK are already polarising, our advocacy must therefore appeal to values of fairness, justice and social integration. By leading with these values and engaging with MP's by sharing the journeys of young people we have been able to build trust, find commonality and work closely with MP's and civil servants.
3. **Strategic alliances:** it matters who speaks about the issues in which we are campaigning, it is key to have members from across the political spectrum to speak about and endorse our calls for reform. The voices must be balanced so as not to make our recommendations a part political issue to which there will be a lot of opposition.

Comms and Narrative

We Belong have a long history of integrating communications support in all our advocacy and campaigns to amplify our work and to raise awareness amongst the public.

We have provided strategic comms training to members of our core group and invested in our key messages. Our comms has been carefully curated to ensure we rightfully expose the problems of the current immigration system whilst also offering solutions and extend a

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friendly offer to work alongside the government to implement these changes. We were featured in the BBC Panorama programme 'Am I British?' where three of our young people shared their experiences of our broken immigration system. This enabled us to start new conversation with MP's and it also provided the momentum to move static conversations along. [CJ3]

We have recognised that there is still a long way to go but we have managed to win the hearts of members of the public through our external campaigning whilst also maintaining good and helpful relationships with senior civil servants.

Governance

We have strengthened our board of trustees by recruiting a new Chairman, Colin Falconer and an additional trustee, Jamilla Hinds-Brough. Both bring strong expertise working within the charitable sector. Colin Falconer in particular worked with the Foyer Federation and developed the concept of 'Advantaged thinking' which asks organisations working with young people to see them as having positive assets. Jamilla has experience working in regional government and public affairs, her expertise crucial as We Belong develops its advocacy.

We value lived experience and meaningful engagement of our three younger trustees. To that end we conducted an internal skills audit of our current board members and created a development programme for younger trustees to shadow and work alongside the more experienced trustees. Development areas include, communication, governance, and financial literacy, all contributing to the future aim of our board being fully representative of the organisation and the young people we work with.

Engagement and Relationship Building

Beneficiaries (New Client Enquires)

There has been a significant rise in our beneficiaries in the last year as our database shows a record of 156 new client enquiries from 45 geographical locations across the UK. This is a 155% increase from the previous year, meaning an increase in our visibility through our outreach and social media work. We provide information, and invite young people on our journey to become active participants and change makers. This includes several 1-2-1 meetings, writing to their MPs, attending our gatherings, becoming members of our core group and completing our leadership academy.

Core Group Members

The pandemic exacerbated the difficult situations our core group members were in. With some furloughed and unable to work, and others at university struggling to settle into a new normal, our engagement with our core group took a hit as many lost the motivation to stay and keep fighting for the injustice we all faced. **Determined not to give up, we held several meetings, engaged strategically on re-gaining the momentum and understood the importance of transforming the cohort by revamping the team and ensuring face to face meetings can still occur.**

Despite the inconsistency with the core team, we've worked alongside five core group members, by co-designing and facilitating information sessions, raising awareness on the

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barriers to accessing higher education for young migrants in schools and colleges. This has been beneficial to the target audiences and has resulted in positive feedback.

Institutions (Universities, Schools and Colleges)

We increased our engagement with universities by training staff who work with students with complex status. Our two-hour training session is adaptable and supports staff to engage in group discussions, where common issues and best practice examples can be identified. Our aim is for all young people with precarious status at universities to easily access accurate information and receive guidance on any issues they may face throughout the duration of their course. We have since trained 3 universities, benefiting over 50 staff members. The training provides We Belong with further unrestricted income that supports our overall work. Furthermore, we hope to establish at least 10 more scholarships across UK universities and will continue to work alongside faculties in achieving this aim.

We recently contributed towards a report for the Centre for Education and Youth, calling for a change among decision makers within higher education situations and policy makers for students with precarious status and long term residents to be considered as home fees students. As part of a working group with the Universities of Sanctuary, we are seeking opportunities for further developments in our collaboration.

We have developed strong relationships with over 21 schools and colleges, 15 of them agreeing to become part of We Belong's network, and we continue to work hard to increase this. Over 300 young people in schools have attended our information sessions, with school teachers trained to identify problems relating to young migrants. Although we were physically unable to attend schools during the pandemic, we were able to continue our work each month, and communicate to students through a series of online workshops.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees report net income of £184,662 (2020: £147,276) for the period under review. The income for the year was £417,589 (2020: £265,997) and expenditure was £232,927 (2020: £118,721). The fund balance at the end of the period of £331,938 (2020: £147,276) comprised unrestricted funds of £251,106 (2020: £98,917) and restricted funds of £80,832 (2020: £48,359).

RESERVE POLICY: The Trustees aim to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover the budgeted operating costs for 3-6 months.

The unrestricted reserve balance at 31 March 2021 was £251,106 (2020: £98,917). Based on the budget for 2021/22 this represents 8 months expenditure and therefore the Trustees consider that the value of the funds at 31 March 2021 meets these objectives.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

The Trustees actively review the major risks which face the charity on a regular basis, with a risk assessment report available online and highlighted at every Trustee meeting. Financially the Trustees believe that maintaining reserves at adequate levels, combined

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with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and believe that the systems in place to mitigate significant risks offers the Trust adequate protection.

GOING CONCERN:

The Trustees believe that by maintaining reserves at the levels required by the reserves policy and by regularly reviewing the charity's key financial systems, they can ensure that sufficient resources are in place to mitigate significant financial risks. The Trustees have examined the operational and business risks faced by the charity, particularly the challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and believe that confirmed income for the next 12 months together with the reserves in place offer the charity adequate protection to ensure its continuance as a going concern.

PUBLIC BENEFIT:

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are clear that there are identifiable benefits to the work that we do - some of these are identified below;

- Trustees are clear that these benefits are for a wide cross-section of the public;
- Trustees are clear that those benefits relate to our aims.
- Trustees are clear that those benefits outweigh any potential risks.

UPDATE ON FUTURE PLANS

We Belong is expanding its office outside of London to reach more young people around the UK. Our data shows over 65% of our young cohort are London based whilst 35% of them are from elsewhere in the UK. For those outside London, our new client inquiry confirms 62% are from Manchester, solidifying the city as our second most young migrant populated place in the UK.

We recognise the importance of engaging those who contact us and the need to foster a community through gatherings and meet ups in safe spaces alongside our online work. Thus, we're lifting the restrictive face-to-face outreach and community work to include other cities, starting with Manchester. We aim to do the following:

- **Offer tailored support to young migrants** who otherwise would be harder to reach because of lack of provision in their community;
- **Reduce isolation** through engagement and movement building and;
- **Extend our organisation's network** for possible collaborations in bringing about justice to migrant youths.

We're working in partnership with Manchester University on the creation of a We Belong Society; a volunteer led programme with the focus of attending local schools to raise awareness on student finance and promote scholarships. In addition, we are hiring an Outreach Officer who will engage and upskill other young migrants, collaborate and work in

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partnerships with surrounding organisations and support the continuation of We Belong's movement building. We've set out three phases for our work in Manchester over the next 5 years.

- **Phase 1:** Identify young migrants with lived experience and those interested in the work of We Belong. Conduct multiple 1-2-1's focusing on relevant issues and train young migrants within the pre-existing structures and networks in Manchester with a view to develop core members.
- **Phase 2:** Build community ties, and positively engage with the wider sector through support, social actions and collaboration. Expand We Belong's network through participation and ensure We Belong's identity is rooted in Manchester.
- **Phase 3:** Increase engagement of young people and develop regional advocacy for shorter and more affordable routes to settlement. Deliver training on youth organising where young people can become change agents, develop their public speaking proficiency and start an open dialogue with policy makers.

Like this year's Summit title, We Belong has continued to 'rise to the challenge' with secure foundations for its future impact.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the CIO for the year. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge there is no information relevant to the Independent Examination of which the Examiner is unaware.

The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant financial information and that this information has been communicated to the Examiner.

The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 03 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Jocelyn James
Trustee and Treasurer

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of We Belong for the year ended 31 March 2021.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 the ICAEW, 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 CIO 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 form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give as 'true and fair' view which is not considered part of an independent examination.
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Caroline Sharp FCA, DChA
London SE7

Date: 9 November 2021

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	230,114	-	230,114	120,954
Charitable activities	5	2,575	184,900	187,475	145,043
Total Income		232,689	184,900	417,589	265,997
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
Total Expenditure		74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
Net Income for the year		158,156	26,506	184,662	147,276
Transfer between funds		(5,967)	5,967	-	-
Net Movement in funds		152,189	32,473	184,662	147,276
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds brought forward		98,917	48,359	147,276	-
Funds carried forward	12	251,106	80,832	331,938	147,276

All activities derive from continuing operations. There are no other recognised gains and losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements.

The notes attached on pages 19 to 29 form an integral part of these accounts.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

		2021	2021	2020	2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	5,200		3,097	
Cash at bank and in hand:		<u>332,115</u>		<u>150,759</u>	
Total current assets		337,315		153,856	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>5,377</u>		<u>6,580</u>	
Net Current assets			<u>331,938</u>		<u>147,276</u>
NET ASSETS TOTALS	11		<u>331,938</u>		<u>147,276</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds	12		80,832		48,359
Unrestricted Funds	12		251,106		98,917
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>331,938</u>		<u>147,276</u>

Approved by the board of trustees on 3 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Jocelyn James
Trustee and Treasurer

The notes attached on pages 19 to 29 form an integral part of these accounts.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting policies

Statutory information

We Belong is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The registered office and operational address is EC1 Offices, 338 City Road, London EC1V 2PY.

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) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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 Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

Public benefit entity

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

Going concern

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

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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.

Income recognition

Income, whether from exchange or non-exchange transactions, is recognised in the statement of financial activities (SOFA) on a receivable basis, when a transaction or other event results in an increase in the charity's assets or a reduction in its liabilities and only when the charity has legal entitlement, the income is probable and can be measured reliably.

Income subject to terms and conditions which must be met before the charity is entitled to the resources is not recognised until the conditions have been met.

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.

All income is accounted for gross, before deducting any related fees or costs.

Accounting for deferred income and income received in advance

Where terms and conditions relating to income have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet any terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is not recognised but is deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms or conditions imposed can be met.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Donated professional services and facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. There were no such donations during the period in question. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of trustees and volunteers is not recognised with any monetary value.

Fund accounting

- 1) Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.
- 2) Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.
- 3) Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Recognition of liabilities and expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Allocating costs to activities

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. These include office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's charitable activities.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts at the balance sheet date.

Creditors and provisions

All liabilities are recognised as at the end of the financial year.

Financial instruments including cash and bank balances

Cash held by the charity is included at the amount actually held and counted at the year end. Bank balances, whether in credit or overdrawn, are shown at the amounts properly reconciled to the bank statements.

Pension

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the period.

Fixed assets

Items costing less than £1,000 are not capitalised.

2. Liability to taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3. Comparison of prior period financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	4	120,954	-	120,954
Charitable activities	5	7,609	137,434	145,043
Total Income		128,563	137,434	265,997
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	29,646	89,075	118,721
Total Expenditure		29,646	89,075	118,721
Net Income for the year		98,917	48,359	147,276
Transfer between funds		-	-	-
Net Movement in funds		98,917	48,359	147,276
Reconciliation of funds:				
Funds brought forward		-	-	-
Funds carried forward	12	98,917	48,359	147,276

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
General donations	22,114	-	22,114	9,174
Grants from trust and foundations				
<i>AB Charitable Trust</i>	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
<i>Paul Hamlyn Foundation</i>	77,000	-	77,000	60,000
<i>OAK Foundation</i>	-	-	-	7,800
<i>Just for Kids Law</i>	-	-	-	18,980
<i>Esmée Fairbairn</i>	96,000	-	96,000	-
<i>Bernard Lewis Family Charitable trust</i>	10,000	-	10,000	-
Total Donations	230,114	-	230,114	120,954

All donations in 2020 were unrestricted. Donations from Just for Kids law represented the net income received for the Let Us Learn project prior to We belong registering as a separate entity and taking over the project.

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
Grants from trusts and foundations				
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	44,900	44,900	12,500
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	-	-	24,000
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	-	60,000	60,000	60,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	40,000	40,000	20,000
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	-	-	-	4,000
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	-	-	-	16,440
<i>PH Emergency COVID Grant</i>	-	40,000	40,000	-
Workshop & Conference	2,575	-	2,575	8,103
	2,575	184,900	187,475	145,043
2020 analysis	7,609	137,434	145,043	

2020 unrestricted income comes from Workshops and Conferences. All grants are restricted.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. Charitable expenditure

6a. Direct programme costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
Staff cost (note 7)	32,809	103,795	136,604	72,763
Communications	19,606	2,268	21,874	11,748
Other programme costs	1,400	1,883	3,283	6,573
Emergency Grant COVID19	-	22,473	22,473	-
Total direct programme costs	53,815	130,419	184,234	91,084
<i>2020 analysis</i>	4,963	86,121	91,084	

Covid grants were made to 102 individuals to cover emergency livelihood costs.

6b. Supports costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020 £
Staff training and recruitment	975	1,428	2,403	3,300
Office rent	4,436	23,679	28,115	9,828
Insurance	915	-	915	856
Telephone & internet bill	361	-	361	323
Printing, postage & stationery	243	1,186	1,429	468
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	262	13	275	2,293
IT support and software	1,527	811	2,338	-
Accounting service fee	6,374	-	6,374	3,792
Equipment costs	2,359	-	2,359	1,058
Other expenses	1,166	858	2,024	235
Total support costs	18,618	27,975	46,593	22,153
<i>2020 analysis</i>	19,199	2,954	22,153	

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6c. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 9 months period ended 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Trustees' meeting costs and expenses	600	-	600	91
Independent examiner fee	1,500	-	1,500	3,000
Initial start-up cost	-	-	-	2,393
Total governance costs	2,100	-	2,100	5,484
<i>2020 analysis</i>	5,484		5,484	
Total Charitable expenditure	74,533	158,394	232,927	118,721
<i>2020 analysis</i>	29,646	89,075	118,721	

7. Staff costs and emoluments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	125,109	67,607
Social security costs	7,811	3,651
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	3,684	1,505
	136,604	72,763
The average number of headcount of staff	4.5	3

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the period.

The Co-CEOs form the key management personnel. The total remuneration to the key management personnel, including employers NI and pension, was £79,336.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8. Trustees' remuneration and reimbursed expenses

	2021	2020
	£	£
Travel expenses reimbursed to four trustees for attendance at meetings	-	91
	<u>-</u>	<u>91</u>

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration from the charity or any related entity.

One trustee received a hardship grant to meet essential needs of £600 under the same terms and application procedures as other grant recipients. The trustee was not involved in the grant making process.

9. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	497
Prepayments	5,200	2,600
	<u>5,200</u>	<u>3,097</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals	4,180	5,857
Pension payable	772	723
Trade creditors	425	-
	<u>5,377</u>	<u>6,580</u>

11. Net assets by funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2021			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	256,483	80,832	337,315
Current liabilities	5,377	-	5,377
	<u>251,106</u>	<u>80,832</u>	<u>331,938</u>

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. Net assets by funds (prior year)

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
At 31 March 2020			
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	105,497	48,359	153,856
Current liabilities	6,580	-	6,580
Net assets	98,917	48,359	147,276

12. Movement in funds

	Balance 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	98,917	232,689	(74,533)	(5,967)	251,106
Total unrestricted funds	98,917	232,689	(74,533)	(5,967)	251,106
Restricted Funds					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	44,900	(45,035)	-	(135)
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	9,287	-	(15,254)	5,967	-
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	2,882	60,000	(37,882)	-	25,000
<i>Trust for London</i>	15,750	40,000	(37,737)	-	18,013
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	16,440	-	-	-	16,440
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	4,000	-	(13)	-	3,987
<i>Emergency COVID Grant</i>	-	40,000	(22,473)	-	17,527
Total restricted funds	48,359	184,900	(158,394)	5,967	80,832
Total funds	147,276	417,589	(232,927)	-	331,938

All funds held at the end of the year are carried forward for use on the purposes stated below in the next accounting period.

12. Movement in funds (continued) - purposes of funds

Barrow Cadbury Trust - To support We Belong campaigning work on issues relating to immigration; citizenship; higher education and support youth development. Further funds will be received in 2022 covering the overspend in 2021.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation - Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit. The transfer to restricted funds relates to expenditure incurred in the prior period which had not been allocated to the fund.

Unbound Philanthropy - Organising and Mobilising Immigrant Youth.

Trust for London - We Belong Chasing Status Project- Pathways to settlement.

Nelson Family Foundation - Leadership Academy which includes Leadership programme and Youth Summit.

Lush Charity Pot - We Belong Volunteering costs.

Emergency COVID - Funded mainly by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and The Rayne Foundation to provide support during the COVID crisis. The fund supported 102 beneficiaries with cash grants during the year. The balance held as at 31 March 2021 will be used to make further grants in the next accounting period.

Prior year movement in funds

	Balance 10 July 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Funds transfer	Balance 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	-	128,563	(29,646)	-	98,917
Total unrestricted funds	-	128,563	(29,646)	-	98,917
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
<i>Barrow Cadbury Trust</i>	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
<i>Ben & Jerry's Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation</i>	-	24,494	(15,207)	-	9,287
<i>Unbound Philanthropy</i>	-	60,000	(57,118)	-	2,882
<i>Trust for London</i>	-	20,000	(4,250)	-	15,750
<i>Nelson Foundation</i>	-	16,440	-	-	16,440
<i>Lush Charity Pot</i>	-	4,000	-	-	4,000
Total restricted funds	-	137,434	(89,075)	-	48,359
Total funds	-	265,997	(118,721)	-	147,276

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. Related party transactions

As detailed in the Trustees' report, We Belong started as a project within Just for Kids Law ('JFKL'). £18,980 was paid over from JFKL representing unspent funds as at 30 June 2019 from the Let Us Learn project. The work of this project will be continued and completed by We Belong.

After We Belong was established as a separate entity, staff continued to be paid through the JFKL payroll until September 2019. Some other costs were also incurred by JFKL on behalf of We Belong during the period July to September 2019. These costs have been recharged to We Belong and are included as expenditure in these accounts (2020).

Total costs recharged from JFKL to We Belong in the period to 31 March 2020 were £39,840 comprising staff, set-up, and direct programme costs.

Sufina Ahmad is a trustee for both We Belong and Just for Kids Law but was not appointed until January 2020.

One trustee received an emergency grant as disclosed in note 8.

Two trustees made unrestricted donations to the charity totalling £325. (2000: £125)

There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2021 or 2020.