



Trustees' Annual Report

Financial Year Ending March 2024

## Introduction

United Kingdom Bengali Convention (UKBC) is a non-profit charity registered in the UK, with a view to organise the largest convention for the Bengali diaspora based in the UK.

UKBC has had support from up to 60 organisations in the UK with a view to celebrate this unique annual celebration.

## Our Aim

1. To advance the education of the public in the subject of Bengali culture by any means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine.
2. The promotion of racial harmony for the public benefit by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding between different racial groups and advancing education and raising awareness about different racial groups to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.
3. The promotion of social inclusion among elderly persons who are excluded from society because they are house-bound and of Bengali ethnicity (irrespective of religions) with limited opportunity to interact with outer society, by the provision of: social trips to cultural and recreational programmes depicting Bengali culture and arts (including transport to and from home).

## Report for the year ending March 2024

The UK Bengali Convention (UKBC) 2023, held on the 9th and 10th of September at the JFS School in Kingsbury, London, marked another milestone in the celebration of Bengali culture in the UK. This annual event brought together over 1,000 visitors across two vibrant days, reaffirming its status as a cornerstone of the Bengali diaspora's cultural calendar.

The event was headlined by two renowned artists: Rupankar Bagchi from Kolkata and Rezwana Choudhury Bonnya from Bangladesh. Their spellbinding performances captivated the audience, spanning a spectrum of genres, from soulful Rabindra Sangeet to contemporary and traditional Bengali melodies. These stellar acts were the highlight of the event, drawing audiences from all corners of the UK to witness their artistry.

Like previous years, UKBC 2023 offered a rich and diverse program that catered to attendees of all ages and interests. The convention featured multiple tracks running simultaneously, including:

- **Musical Performances:** Vocal and instrumental acts showcasing the depth and diversity of Bengali music, blending classical, folk, and modern styles.
- **Dance Performances:** Stunning displays of traditional Bengali dance forms infused with innovative contemporary choreography.
- **Theatre and Storytelling:** Dramatic interpretations of Bengali literature and folklore, offering a vibrant and immersive cultural experience.
- **Art Exhibitions:** Showcases of Bengali visual art that celebrated the creativity of artists from the community.

The convention also served as a platform for meaningful discussions. Panel sessions tackled critical issues such as cultural preservation, the challenges faced by the diaspora, and the vital role of the younger generation in maintaining and advancing Bengali traditions. These discussions fostered intellectual exchange and highlighted the community's shared values and aspirations.

A major attraction was the bustling marketplace, which featured an array of stalls offering traditional Bengali delicacies, handmade crafts, textiles, and artisanal goods. This marketplace not only provided attendees with a taste of Bengal but also supported local entrepreneurs and small businesses within the community.

UKBC 2023 would not have been possible without the collaboration and support of over 70 organizations from across the UK. Their collective efforts in planning, funding, and promoting the event ensured its continued success.

In its second consecutive year as a physical, face-to-face gathering post-pandemic, UKBC 2023 was a true celebration of Bengali heritage, art, and community spirit. Beyond the entertainment, it served as a platform to strengthen community bonds, celebrate artistic excellence, and inspire the next generation. The event was a resounding success, leaving attendees with cherished memories and a renewed appreciation for the richness of Bengali culture.

## Statement of Income and Expenses for the Year ending March 2024

Month	Opening Balance	Money In	Money Out	Closing Balance
<b>Apr-23</b>	£ 1,017.21	£ 503.00		£ 1,520.21
<b>May-23</b>	£ 1,520.21	£ 2,106.00		£ 3,626.21
<b>Jun-23</b>	£ 3,626.21	£ 652.00		£ 4,278.21
<b>Jul-23</b>	£ 4,278.21	£ 4,406.79		£ 8,685.00
<b>Aug-23</b>	£ 8,685.00	£ 6,462.54	£ 485.00	£ 14,662.54
<b>Sep-23</b>	£ 14,662.54	£ 11,678.55	£ 14,650.57	£ 11,690.52
<b>Oct-23</b>	£ 11,690.52	£ 1,000.00	£ 11,644.89	£ 1,045.63
<b>Nov-23</b>	£ 1,045.63		£ 500.00	£ 545.63
<b>Dec-23</b>	£ 545.63			£ 545.63
<b>Jan-24</b>	£ 545.63			£ 545.63
<b>Feb-24</b>	£ 545.63	£ 677.62		£ 1,223.25
<b>Mar-24</b>	£ 1,223.25	£ 50.00	£ 320.00	£ 953.25
<b>Total Income</b>		£		27,536.50
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		£		27,600.46