

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 12365154 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1191462

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
FOR
THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)



THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 11
Independent Examiner's Report	12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14 to 15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 to 23
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	24 to 25

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Objectives and Activities

Charitable objects

Our charitable objects, as set out in our Articles of Association and as amended by resolution on 17th August 2020, are:

- The relief of poverty and financial hardship among migrants denied recourse to public funds, in particular but not exclusively, by providing advice, support and assistance to such migrants in making applications for recourse to public funds.
- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by working towards the elimination of discrimination, as it is experienced by migrants denied access to public funds (for example on the grounds of race, gender and disability).

What we do and why

We exist to support people who are facing poverty and homelessness as a result of their immigration status. Specifically, we assist **people with 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF)**, who cannot otherwise access support such as government childcare schemes, Child Benefit or Disability Living Allowance.

We are the **only organisation in the UK** that specifically assists with the complex immigration application, known as the 'change of conditions' application, that people with NRPF are required to make in order to access this support. We also offer applicants opportunities, support and resources to **learn how to make their own immigration applications**, and many choose to volunteer with us to support others facing similar situations once their own application is completed.

The people we assist are building lives in the UK, often raising young families as well as working, but living without access to the welfare safety net. The cost-of-living and the gig economy contribute towards people struggling to make ends meet without support, particularly parents and those with serious health conditions. Without recourse to public funds, there is no protection from further crises such as redundancy, worsening health, relationship breakdown, or indeed a global pandemic. This means that many families with NRPF are **homeless and living in severe poverty**.

Access to public funds provides a basic safety net, enabling people to care for themselves and their families.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The wider context

- Recent estimates say that at least **1.4 million people** in the UK have NRPF.
- Our published research found that over 90% of people affected were women and children from BAME communities. In 2022, around half of the applications that we submitted were on the behalf of applicants or families with disabilities. In 2022 we were also contacted by an increased number of older people, as well as families with children who were only avoiding street homeless due to emergency accommodation provided temporarily by their local authority.
- In the last 5 years, over **25,000 people** have applied to have the NRPF condition removed from their visa. This is a huge number but still represents **less than 2%** of the estimated total number of people with NRPF. Without support, **over a third of these applications are initially refused.**
- There is a severe lack of legal advice in relation to the application to remove the NRPF condition, with independent research frequently highlighting this gap.
 - We have been asked to provide training and consultancy to dozens of organisations, including caseworkers for Members of Parliament and welfare rights providers, such as Citizens Advice.
 - We provide advice and support to individuals from other parts of the UK, including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, despite being based in London.
 - In 2022, despite the majority of people referring themselves directly to us, we were contacted by over 100 referring organisations or individuals. We have noted a stark increase in referrals from health and educational professionals (such as teachers, GPs, midwives and oncology teams).

Public benefit

We have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit - including 'Public benefit: the public benefit requirement (PB1)' and 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)' - when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our current and future activities. The achievements and activities outlined in this report demonstrate the public benefit arising from the charity's activities.

Achievements and Performance

Casework

We make complex immigration applications with, and for, people who are facing poverty and homelessness, so that they can access the welfare safety net. We offer everyone who approaches us the opportunity, support and resources to learn how to make their own immigration applications, as well as offering support from our volunteer team at our weekly casework sessions. Through this work, we also identify trends and strategic opportunities to effect positive change to the policies and processes that affect people in this situation.

What's happened?

In 2022, we supported over 150 applications for recourse to public funds.

100% of our applications were ultimately successful.

These successes did not come easily.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- In over a third of cases, despite copious detail within initial submissions, the Home Office requests further evidence to supplement the application, and so we responded to over 60 such requests for further information in 2022 (in many cases having to reiterate that our previous submissions were already sufficient).
- The national success rate of less than 70% is sadly much lower than the success rate of our casework. We encountered 24 initial refusals in relation to applications submitted in 2022, but these initial decisions were overturned.
 - In eight cases, these related to applications that we had submitted on behalf of an applicant. The rest related to applications submitted by applicants directly - in several cases, applicants contacted us for support after receiving a refusal.
 - In every case, we assisted applicants to make a request for administrative review which ultimately led to decisions being overturned. In one case, the applicant was only granted recourse to public funds after we also supported them to bring their case to the High Court - their case also led to the Home Office NRPF policy being ruled unlawful for the fifth time (see below).
- The time taken by the Home Office to make a decision on Change of Conditions applications lengthened by over a week in 2022, to almost 50 days on average. We submit a pre-action letter (PAP) to ask for a quicker decision where there are delays and - with the incredible support of immigration, asylum and public law solicitor Sonia Lenegan - submitted over 35 PAPs in 2022. This is double the amount compared to 2021, and we are therefore looking to increase capacity in this area.
- Our only criteria for referral is immigration status, so we take on a number of very complex cases.

Around half of applicants decide to submit their own applications, with our practical and emotional support.

A large part of our work is relational and founded on demonstrating care and building trust over time.

"Definitely you have done great things to us. The way you speak to clients I can feel the empathy. I never afraid to speak out about our situation - I found a family that I can call anytime of trouble. The Unity Project are working very hard, they're dedicated and supportive all the way. They have a great compassion with their clients."

- We support applicants from beginning to end of the process and have developed various resources to assist with this, including a YouTube channel.

We also provide substantive advice to allow people to consider other options.

- Many people who contact us are not eligible to make a CoC because they do not have an immigration status that would allow this. We signpost these people for further immigration advice in every case.
- Domestic abuse
 - We noted in last year's annual report that we had sadly witnessed an increase in the number of people who were living in abusive relationships during the pandemic. The number has continued to rise.
 - In 15 such cases in 2022, we gave initial advice about the possibility of making an immigration application on the basis of the breakdown of an abusive relationship (SET(DV)).
 - In response to the clear increase in such cases noted last year, we have been extremely grateful for the partnership we've developed with legal firm Sutovic and Hartigan, Nafsika Vasileiadou in particular, and thereby referred the 11 people who wanted to go ahead for support with the application - so far four have been granted settlement, with the remainder still pending.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- Bereavement
 - Prior to the pandemic, it was relatively rare for us to see cases where the applicant was in financial hardship after being bereaved.
 - In 2022, however, this happened relatively frequently, and we have been very grateful for RAMFEL's support in assisting a number of eligible applicants to apply for settlement.
 - We also contributed casework data and insights in support of RAMFEL's ongoing litigation on this policy area.

Our priority in every case is to find a way for everyone who approaches us to access public funds as quickly and easily as possible.

We also look for opportunities to make systemic changes, by exploring new approaches to the application process.

In 2022, for example, we pushed for systemic changes in the following areas:

- In an effort to reduce the administrative burden on applicants and Home Office caseworkers, we submitted 16 successful applications without using the online form and only requiring minimal evidence, including for applicants who had been granted leave to remain within three months of contacting us; for applicants who had already made submissions about the need for support in pending immigration applications; and for applicants supported by their local authority (in line with our aim as stated in last year's Annual Report).
- We continue to make applications for people on the 5-year route, following the policy change on this in 2021 which allowed people on this route to access public funds (see last year's Annual Report for details), and continue to track outcomes.
- We submitted 15 applications for people who had renewal applications pending, who might otherwise be waiting for several months (and often over a year) for an outcome. This is a complex process which we began in 2021 and have developed in 2022.
- We made some applications for people who have more complex immigration statuses, including refugee family members. We are seeing a recent increase in referrals from families of refugees, possibly in response to changes in legislation, and have begun developing processes and partnerships to cope with this.
- In general, we are able to submit applications much quicker than previously due to changes in policy following our litigation which allow for less evidence in some cases. In over 40 cases, we were able to complete the application in a single casework session.

What's changed?

Where applications are successful, people can access the support that they need. We remain in touch with many people after they are granted recourse to public funds who are able to move to more adequate accommodation and afford living essentials. Systemic change is harder to achieve and is something we continue to strive for, as outlined below.

Litigation: NRPF policy ruled unlawful, again

What's happened?

Since we launched five years ago, we have supported five high profile court challenges in partnership with well-regarded expert public law lawyers.

In every single one of these challenges, the NRPF policy has been declared unlawful.

In 2022, as in every previous year since our formation, our strategic input, casework, research and evidence meant we could take the government to court with public law firm Deighton Pierce Glynn (DPG).

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

In 2022, as in every previous year, the NRPF policy was declared unlawful, this time for the way it breaches disability discrimination laws. Sky News covered the case at the time. The coverage of the litigation followed a separate news bulletin from Sky earlier in the year, which featured TUP alongside someone that we had supported with an application.

This follows the cases we brought in previous years, including a case in 2019, which led the government to review the NRPF policy; a case in 2020, which led to the policy being changed to allow people who are likely to become destitute to apply to remove the NRPF condition; and a case in 2021, which confirmed the Home Office's duty to take into account the welfare of children.

We have also worked with DPG to start successful legal action for individual claimants in almost 100 cases on several legal grounds and continue to work together closely.

What's changed?

As a result of these challenges, law and policy relating to NRPF has been reformed and rewritten to allow more people to apply for access to public funds, for example:

- The relevant Immigration Rules have been rewritten to make clear that:
 - recourse to public funds should be granted on account of financial issues connected to children's welfare and disabilities, even where the applicant is not destitute;
 - people can make an application in advance of becoming destitute. For example, people can now technically apply before they are homeless, if an eviction is imminent.
- People on the so-called '5-year route to settlement' can now apply for recourse to public funds without being penalised by being moved on to the 10-year route.
- The policy guidance relating to the imposition/removal of NRPF has been rewritten substantially, and doubled in length, to provide more comprehensive guidance on some key issues.
- The Home Office has redrafted its Policy Equality Statement on the NRPF policy.

The NRPF policy has received a lot of negative publicity. The challenges add to a large and growing body of evidence that shows the policy to be cruel and untenable, as well as providing precedents for further legal action and incentive for Home Office reform.

Another indirect impact of the litigation is that we received an increase in referrals following the media coverage of the case.

We are of course aware and concerned that, despite this, Home Office decision making continues to be poor, and that this government continues to be determined to deny access to public funds.

We acknowledge and often reflect on the limitations of litigation, which has greater impact as part of wider campaigning and influencing work, and if understood by those it impacts and by decision-makers.

Training and capacity-building

In 2020, we became aware of a huge demand for training on the NRPF policy and the Change of Conditions application and over 70 MP caseworkers attended our first public training session in December 2020. Since then, we have identified a growing demand from people and organisations for trustworthy and relevant information on NRPF and the Change of Conditions application and have developed Information Sessions in response to this need.

What's happened?

We had extra staff capacity to expand this work in 2022, with the employment of an additional part-time staff member.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

In last year's Annual Report, we explained that we were preparing advanced training sessions which focus on complex and specific issues relating to NRPF and the Change of Conditions application and were in touch with several organisations about reaching more applicants and advisors through tailored information sessions and training programmes. We were excited to be working alongside organisations such as (but not limited to) Citizens Advice, Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB), Maternity Action and Shelter to create collaborative sessions across 2022.

"Lovely trainer who made the session feel comfortable and relaxed."

"The speaker was wonderful, very clear, concise, welcoming of questions and opinions and enthusiastic."

"So great at presenting, so clear and knowledgeable. You always receive the comments and questions in such an approachable and encouraging way which I appreciate as it is not always so easy to contribute."

In 2022, we delivered bespoke training sessions to organisations including Citizens Advice and Shelter, as well as workshops for applicants themselves in collaboration with the trade union IWGB. We collaborated with organisations such as Maternity Action to provide training on NRPF alongside related issues such as access to healthcare.

"Please keep doing what you are doing. I feel a lot more comfortable with NRPF now and will feel more confident in how I can support people in this situation."

"It was so informative and it will help me in my role and I can share with colleagues."

"The speaker was also incredibly warm and engaged very well with the audience."

What's changed?

With rising fears and fallacies around NRPF and Change of Conditions applications, we are proud to have developed sessions which provide clear, relevant and trustworthy information that people can rely on and share with confidence. We were able to invite everyone who expressed an interest in attending training to a session in 2022.

Influencing and advocacy work

What's happened?

- We continue to raise our concerns and experience within the Home Office's quarterly NRPF 'stakeholder forum', and with the heads of the NRPF policy team.
- Thanks to concerted pressure over previous years, the Home Office now publishes data about those who make Change of Conditions applications, including success rates and details of age, gender and nationality. We carry out analysis of the Home Office's quarterly data releases and share these with others in the sector.
- Our 2019 research report continues to be used in media, parliament, the courts and other research and more recently we contributed to influential research by Runnymede, LSE, IPPR and Citizens Advice, and are part of the Professionals' Advisory Group for research by The University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), to be published in 2023.
- NRPF has been raised as an issue hundreds of times this year, with MPs joining our calls to scrap the policy.
- We have provided numerous briefings to parliament and gave written and oral expert evidence to the Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into NRPF, whose report was published in early 2022. The government responded to the report 2 months later to assert that they 'are keen to continue to improve the service we offer applicants and input to this from external stakeholders is gratefully received and will be given full consideration.' They also concretely rejected most of the report's modest cross-party recommendations.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

- Through our work we meet hundreds of people who are personally impacted by the NRPF condition, and many want to campaign to change the policy. In 2021, we employed a Community Organiser to bring together a group of campaigners with lived experience of the policy. We went through a long process of reflecting and evaluating this work and concluded that it would be best for our organisations to be distinct. The group that emerged, Together in Unity (TiU), now meets regularly, and is looking to continue its campaign work independently and alongside other established campaign groups (such as the NRPF Action Group and United Impact) - we continue to collaborate closely with them and other campaign groups.
- We continue to administer the NRPF Google Group and collaborate readily with partner organisations.

What's changed?

We are encouraged by the increased capacity and expertise of partner organisations to focus on the issue of NRPF, particularly in respect of public and parliamentary campaign work, and in respect of local government. These organisations include campaign groups such as Together in Unity, United Impact and the NRPF Action Group, and the charities that support them.

The NRPF Google Group has grown to over 150 members in the last 2 years, which also reflects growing interest and potential for collaboration and movement-building in this area.

There is now a considerable amount of research available to the public and to decision-makers in relation to the NRPF policy, which the Home Office has acknowledged in its own reviews albeit to a limited extent.

In light of the above, we focused in 2022 in leading on areas where we can clearly bring unique and new insight and expertise based on the foundation of our casework, namely strategic casework, strategic litigation, data analysis and discussion with Home Office NRPF policy and technical leads.

Who Are We

Staff

We have a small and dedicated staff team. Our staff are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide immigration advice and are supervised in doing so by our supervising lawyer and TUP co-founder, Rahath Abdar.

- Alice started volunteering at The Unity Project in 2019 and became a caseworker in 2020. An Italian and French native-speaker, Alice also speaks some Spanish. Outside of TUP, Alice is part of a collective curating projects on gender and representation in football and sports.
- Caz co-founded The Unity Project in 2017 and has coordinated the project since, including supervising hundreds of Change of Conditions applications. She has volunteered in various immigration advice organisations and community groups since moving to London in 2015.
- Tina and Mary both moved on from TUP in 2022 - they made hugely important contributions to our work and our organisation, not least in our capacity-building and community organising work.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Volunteers

We are a community of, and for, people with NRPF and are proud of our incredible volunteers.

- We have a committed volunteer team that travels in from far and wide, meeting on a weekly basis.
- In the past year we have recruited and trained over a dozen casework volunteers, many of whom have lived experience of NRPF and the immigration system.
- 16 of our volunteers have now successfully gained immigration qualifications at OISC level 1 or above, through a training programme provided in partnership with Refugee Action.
- Three of our volunteers have been with us for over two years. In 2022, six volunteers left to start working in other migrant and refugee support organisations (including for other charities such as Project 17, RAMFEL and We Belong) and others left to pursue studies, including in the legal field.
- We are also extremely grateful for the sustained expert support of lawyers Sonia Lenegan and Nafsika Vasileiadou.

Trustees

Our board of trustees currently consists of three members: Abi Brunswick, Rupinder Parhar and Zaki Shah. Between them, the current board brings expertise and professional experience in the founding and running of small charities, policy work and parliamentary influencing on migration, charity finance and fundraising amongst other relevant areas.

Chai Patel, a founding trustee of the charity, left the board in 2022. We are incredibly grateful for his guidance and support during the early development of TUP as an independent charity.

We are committed to building a board of trustees who can successfully oversee the charity and ensure it not only delivers on its charitable objectives and purposes but does so in line with its values, including being representative of and accountable to people who have navigated the systems and structures that it is advocating to change. We know this is particularly important as the charity restructures and grows (see below). We are therefore currently in the process of expanding our board and intend to appoint at least one new member in 2023.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our Financial position

These accounts cover our third full year as an independent registered charity and reflect our financial performance in the context of an increasingly difficult economic climate for small charities. In addition to external factors such as inflationary pressures, 2022 also saw changes in our internal structure which will continue into 2023 with the appointment of a dedicated charity director to head up our staff team.

As in previous years, we continue to be grateful for the ongoing support of the charitable trusts who have funded us since our establishment and, in particular, thank the funders who have been able to provide us with multi-year funding. We are also especially appreciative of the generosity of the individuals and small charitable funds who chose to support us.

Our income for the period totalled £212,203 (2021: £142,884) against expenditure of £149,294 (2021: £129,700). This amounts to a net surplus of £62,909 (2021: £13,184). Total funds carried forward amount to £210,327 (2021: £147,418), of which £55,427 (2021: £44,142) is restricted and £154,900 (2021: £103,276) is unrestricted.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Changes to our staff team in 2022, which saw headcount decrease from 4 to 2 (not including our freelance supervising lawyer), led to less expenditure and a higher net surplus than budgeted. However, we anticipate that in 2023, with organisational changes such as the appointment of a director, our expenditure will once again increase. We therefore consider that our 2022 surplus will ensure that we are able to absorb increased expenditure in 2023 and beyond.

We are also conscious that the broader economic climate remains volatile and that the ongoing cost of living crisis will continue to affect both the need for our services and our access to funding. We will continue to carefully evaluate our budget and funding targets throughout the year and seek to establish sustainability for the charity through securing new multi-year grants.

Reserves policy and the amount held

As with many other charities of its size and activities, TUP is largely reliant on grant funding in order to cover its operating costs. We consider that we undertake our activities to the standard expected by current funders and are also hopeful that we will continue to be able to secure new sources of funding.

However, we are also aware that we cannot rely on funding streams to be renewed indefinitely and that while we prioritise sustainable funding sources, such as multi-year grants, not all our funders are able to offer repeat funding.

We therefore consider it prudent to maintain unrestricted reserves equating to at least 6 months of our operating budget. This would ensure, in the event of a funding shortfall or unexpected expenditure, the continued activity of the charity. Our free reserves (unrestricted funds less fixed assets) as at 31 December 2022 equated to £154,295. Given projected annual expenditure of £173,871 for the 2023 financial year this amounts to 10.6 months of unrestricted reserves. The Trustees are therefore satisfied that sufficient reserves are available for the stable continuance of our charitable activities and also anticipate that current levels of free reserves will decrease over 2023 and 2024 with increased expenditure.

THE FUTURE

Political context

As we wrote last year's Annual Report, we were seeing the passage of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NBA) and the rising cost of living.

The NBA has now come into force. As we write, the Illegal Migration Bill is in the headlines. This legislation will increase the number of people impacted by NRPF, which can now include recognised refugees and their families. It will also have indirect impacts, such as increased pressure on Home Office casework capacity.

The legislation is accompanied by flagrant dismissals of the discriminatory impact of the hostile environment.

This speaks volumes about the context we are working in and the attitude of the current government. As outlined above, there is a growing movement to counter this.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Organisational restructure

We are a young and small charity; we launched in 2017 and became a registered charity in 2020. We currently have 2 staff members and a group of volunteers. To date, the organisation has been coordinated by its founder, whose role has grown over time to encompass providing strategic direction to the organisation and operational and management support to other staff, as well as supervising and carrying out casework and leading our influencing work. The current scope of the role renders it unsustainable.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the organisation and allow for future growth, we have decided to recruit our first director to take over responsibility for overall organisational strategic direction, as well as operational and management support.

Aims for 2023

We continue to be the only organisation that focuses exclusively on providing specialist support for people with NRPF with applications to remove the NRPF condition. We want to continue to make these applications expertly, strategically and compassionately, and to increase awareness of the application among those who have NRPF and those who support them.

Through doing this, we can continue to contribute evidence and ideas to litigation and coordinated campaigns to end the policy. We will continue to work with and develop our team of volunteers and staff, all of whom bring different and valuable lived and technical expertise.

More specifically, we will focus on at least the following:

- Given increasing decision timeframes, we will work to increase our capacity to submit pre-action letters to improve wait times for those in need of public funds.
- We will continue to work to influence the Home Office to remove or at least simplify the onerous Change of Conditions application process for everyone, and in particular those:
 - Who are receiving Local Authority support or asylum support;
 - With recognised disabilities, as well as carers;
 - With other protected characteristics, including maternity and pregnancy;
 - Who have been granted a fee waiver, or previously had recourse to public funds, or made clear the need for this in their renewal application.
- We will advocate for people on other visas impacted by NRPF so that they might also have the possibility to apply for a Change of Conditions without the current repercussions for their immigration status.
- We will correspond and meet with technical caseworkers at the Home Office, as well as Home Office policy leads, insofar as this improves our mutual understanding and navigation of the Change of Conditions application process and policy, in the hope that changes in law and policy can have a direct and practical impact on decision-making.
- We plan to improve joint working with NRPF Forum members, and improve the representation of those with lived experience, if appropriate.
- We hope to collaborate with specialist partner organisations to create timely briefings related to specific areas of our casework, which can be used as the basis for litigation and other influencing work.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

12365154 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1191462

Registered office

New Unity
277a Upper Street
London
N1 2TZ

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

C Patel (resigned on 28.07.2022)
A Brunswick
Z Shah
R Parhar

The trustees who were appointed after the year end are as follows:

S Edgar (appointed 21.07.2023)

Independent Examiner

Sedulo Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
62-66 Deansgate
Manchester
M3 2EN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 8 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Z Shah - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Unity Project (TUP) ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
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 (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Daniel Wilson FCCA

Sedulo Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
62-66 Deansgate
Manchester
M3 2EN

Date: 11 September 2023

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		73,785	135,500	209,285	142,840
Charitable activities					
Legal support and advocacy		2,800	-	2,800	-
Investment income	2	<u>118</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>44</u>
Total		<u>76,703</u>	<u>135,500</u>	<u>212,203</u>	<u>142,884</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		2,545	-	2,545	3,065
Charitable activities					
Legal support and advocacy		<u>40,667</u>	<u>106,082</u>	<u>146,749</u>	<u>126,635</u>
Total		<u>43,212</u>	<u>106,082</u>	<u>149,294</u>	<u>129,700</u>
NET INCOME					
Transfers between funds	10	<u>33,491</u> <u>18,133</u>	<u>29,418</u> <u>(18,133)</u>	<u>62,909</u> <u>-</u>	<u>13,184</u> <u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		51,624	11,285	62,909	13,184
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>103,276</u>	<u>44,142</u>	<u>147,418</u>	<u>134,234</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>154,900</u>	<u>55,427</u>	<u>210,327</u>	<u>147,418</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	605	-	605	641
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	4,623	21,000	25,623	601
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>152,832</u>	<u>34,820</u>	<u>187,652</u>	<u>159,536</u>
		157,455	55,820	213,275	160,137
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(3,160)	(393)	(3,553)	(13,360)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>154,295</u>	<u>55,427</u>	<u>209,722</u>	<u>146,777</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>154,900</u>	<u>55,427</u>	<u>210,327</u>	<u>147,418</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>154,900</u>	<u>55,427</u>	<u>210,327</u>	<u>147,418</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				154,900	103,276
Restricted funds				<u>55,427</u>	<u>44,142</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>210,327</u>	<u>147,418</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 DECEMBER 2022

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8 September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Z Shah - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements and having a due regard to the impact of the economic climate, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the Trustees continue to adopt the Going Concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 25% Straight line on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>118</u>	<u>44</u>

3. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>191</u>	<u>38</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2022 nor for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There was 1 trustee reimbursed for expenses totalling £175 for the year ended 31 December 2022. No expenses were paid for the year ended 31 December 2021.

5. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	100,414	93,292
Social security costs	5,271	2,900
Other pension costs	<u>6,410</u>	<u>4,390</u>
	<u>112,095</u>	<u>100,582</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2022	2021
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

The key management personnel of the charity comprise of the Board of Trustees.

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	75,901	66,939	142,840
Investment income	<u>44</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>
Total	<u>75,945</u>	<u>66,939</u>	<u>142,884</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	3,065	-	3,065
Charitable activities			
Legal services	<u>46,117</u>	<u>80,518</u>	<u>126,635</u>
Total	<u>49,182</u>	<u>80,518</u>	<u>129,700</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	26,763	(13,579)	13,184
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>76,513</u>	<u>57,721</u>	<u>134,234</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>103,276</u>	<u>44,142</u>	<u>147,418</u>

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Computer equipment £
COST		
At 1 January 2022		679
Additions		<u>155</u>
At 31 December 2022		<u>834</u>
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 January 2022		38
Charge for year		<u>191</u>
At 31 December 2022		<u>229</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December 2022		<u>605</u>
At 31 December 2021		<u>641</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,400	-
Donations receivable	95	41
Other debtors	2,774	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>21,354</u>	<u>560</u>
	<u>25,623</u>	<u>601</u>

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	292	114
Social security and other taxes	-	8,333
Other creditors	551	783
Accruals and deferred income	<u>2,710</u>	<u>4,130</u>
	<u>3,553</u>	<u>13,360</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22	Net movement	Transfers between funds	At 31.12.22
	£	in funds	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	103,276	33,491	18,133	154,900
Restricted funds				
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	18,374	(1,247)	-	17,127
Trust for London	-	11,105	-	11,105
CrowdJustice	18,133	-	(18,133)	-
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	7,635	12,834	-	20,469
The Migration Foundation	<u>-</u>	<u>6,726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,726</u>
	<u>44,142</u>	<u>29,418</u>	<u>(18,133)</u>	<u>55,427</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>147,418</u>	<u>62,909</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,327</u>

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	76,703	(43,212)	33,491
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	35,000	(36,247)	(1,247)
Trust for London	42,000	(30,895)	11,105
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	38,500	(25,666)	12,834
The Migration Foundation	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(13,274)</u>	<u>6,726</u>
	<u>135,500</u>	<u>(106,082)</u>	<u>29,418</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>212,203</u>	<u>(149,294)</u>	<u>62,909</u>

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	76,513	26,763	103,276
Restricted funds			
London Borough of Islington (LIF)	499	(499)	-
Open Society Foundation London	23,504	(23,504)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	5,940	12,434	18,374
St Martin Ideas	3,190	(3,190)	-
Trust for London	16,028	(16,028)	-
Therium Access	560	(560)	-
MSN	8,000	(8,000)	-
CrowdJustice	-	18,133	18,133
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	-	7,635	7,635
	<u>57,721</u>	<u>(13,579)</u>	<u>44,142</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>134,234</u>	<u>13,184</u>	<u>147,418</u>

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,945	(49,182)	26,763
Restricted funds			
London Borough of Islington (LIF)	-	(499)	(499)
Open Society Foundation London	-	(23,504)	(23,504)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	35,000	(22,566)	12,434
St Martin Ideas	-	(3,190)	(3,190)
Trust for London	-	(16,028)	(16,028)
Therium Access	-	(560)	(560)
MSN	-	(8,000)	(8,000)
CrowdJustice	19,439	(1,306)	18,133
Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Foundation	<u>12,500</u>	<u>(4,865)</u>	<u>7,635</u>
	<u>66,939</u>	<u>(80,518)</u>	<u>(13,579)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>142,884</u>	<u>(129,700)</u>	<u>13,184</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2022 (2021: £Nil).

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	7,785	35,340
Grants	<u>201,500</u>	<u>107,500</u>
	209,285	142,840
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	118	44
Charitable activities		
Training sessions	<u>2,800</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources	212,203	142,884
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Wages	2,545	3,065
Charitable activities		
Wages	97,869	90,227
Social security	5,271	2,900
Pensions	6,410	4,390
Casework costs	2,625	2,167
Lawyer costs	12,411	7,725
Interpreter costs	1,439	456
Travel and subsistence	475	-
Other activity costs	2,127	250
Volunteer and staff costs	5,000	3,189
Allocation of support costs	<u>13,122</u>	<u>15,331</u>
	146,749	126,635

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE UNITY PROJECT (TUP)

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	139	1,497
Allocation of support costs	<u>(139)</u>	<u>(1,497)</u>
	-	-
Other		
Rent	8,205	6,289
Insurance	737	635
Office and administrative	116	138
Computer costs	768	675
Consultancy	1,000	4,619
Computer equipment	190	38
Allocation of support costs	<u>(11,016)</u>	<u>(12,394)</u>
	-	-
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,950	1,440
Meeting costs	17	-
Allocation of support costs	<u>(1,967)</u>	<u>(1,440)</u>
	-	-
Total resources expended	<u>149,294</u>	<u>129,700</u>
Net income	<u>62,909</u>	<u>13,184</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements