Right to Remain Ltd.

Account and Annual Report
Year to 31 March 2024

Company No.: 04026564

Charity No.: 1192934

Right to Remain Annual Report 2023/24

Trustees

Pinar Aksu (co-chair) (resigned on 23 August 2023)
Simon Cox (appointed on 25 September 2024)
Maria Dardagan (appointed on 25 September 2024)
Elizabeth Dresner (resigned on 23 August 2023)
Thomas Gee (resigned on 23 November 2024)
Laura Gibbons (resigned on 23 August 2023)
Melanie Griffiths (appointed on 25 September 2024)
Stephanie Habib (appointed on 24 February 2024, resigned on 17 October 2024)
Zainabb Hull (appointed on 24 February 2024, resigned on 17 October 2024)
Catherine Hurley (resigned on 23 November 2024)
Callum Lynch (appointed on 24 February 2024)
Holli Spencer-Boulton (resigned on 23 August 2023)
Felicity Wilcox (appointed on 18 October 2023, resigned on 17 October 2024)
Hyab Yohannes (resigned on 16 April 2024)

Registered Address

Right to Remain, c/o Common Knowledge, St Margarets House, 21 Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL

Charity Number

1192934

Company Number

04026564

Independent Examiner

Shireen Rubens

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ending 31 March 2024

The Trustees of Right to Remain present their report and independently-examined financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The company's Articles of Association is its governing document. The company was registered on 29 December 2020 as a charity in England and Wales. The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

The charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire. At each annual general meeting one-third of the Trustees or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one-third, must retire from office.

Objectives and activities

Right to Remain works with communities, groups and organisations across the UK. We provide information, resources, training and assistance to help people to establish their right to remain.

The organisation's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

4.1
The relief of persons who are refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers and immigrants, including those at risk of deportation, who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress including but not limited to the provision of information, advice and support;

4.2
To advance the education of refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers and immigrants and to advance education and raise awareness about the status, rights and needs of refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers and immigrants including by training and capacity building local groups and communities to provide information, advice and support;

4.3
To promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998) by all or any of the following means:

4.3.1 monitoring abuses of human rights;

4.3.2 obtaining redress for victims of human rights abuse, relieving needs among the victims of human rights abuse;

4.3.3 research into human rights issues;

4.3.4 educating the public about human rights;

4.3.5 contributing to the sound administration of human rights law;

4.3.6 raising awareness of human rights issues;

4.3.7 promoting public support for human rights;

4.3.8 promoting respect for human rights among individuals and organisations;

4.3.9 eliminating infringements of human rights.

Achievements and performance

Introduction

Right to Remain is a national migration justice organisation, working with hundreds of communities and groups across the UK. As a key anchor organisation within the migration justice movement, we uniquely combine public legal education that democratises knowledge, facilitates strategic convenings that harness radical solidarity with campaigning and community organising that builds power, further empowering people to establish their right to remain and collectively challenge injustices of the immigration and asylum system. Our vision is a world where everyone can exercise their right to remain where they need to be with dignity and humanity. Our values are agency, people power, mutual aid, solidarity, anti-racism and foregrounding people with lived experience.

The organisation was founded in 1995 as the National Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns, a coalition of grassroots groups fighting against the deportation of their friends, family members, neighbours and co-workers across the UK. Our name changed in 2014 to reflect the expanded scope of the organisation's work, in response to our community's changing needs. As the landscape of asylum and migration law, policies and practices grew harsher, it became essential that our community understood the asylum and immigration system better from the very beginning of their journey through the process. There are three reasons for this: in order to support one another to secure immigration status and the right to remain in the UK, to proactively protect the community from the risk of the violence and trauma of detention and deportation and, most importantly, to challenge injustice and human rights abuses. We became a registered charity (1192934) in December 2020.

Since then, the main resource of our public legal education work about the asylum and immigration system, our Right to Remain Toolkit, has become the critical infrastructure for the entire asylum and migration field and beyond. It is the lifeline for many who are stuck in a Kafkaesque system: in 2023/24, it was used by an average of 64,1414 unique users online every month. People use the Toolkit to practise for their asylum interviews, gather their own evidence, prepare for their own appeals when they cannot find a lawyer to represent them, and exercise agency by equipping themselves with the knowledge of what could happen to them and the options they have. Many groups, large and small, use it for their staff and volunteer training and for their work at large. Lawyers and students use it as a reference point and other professionals such as youth workers, ESOL teachers, and doctors use it to support people going through the system.

This popularity is due to the fact that our resources, workshops and outreach are accessible, practical and empowering. They are accessible because they are designed specifically for both non-specialists and people going through the system, based on feedback from our community collected over the years. They are practical because they include information about possible steps people can take to improve their chance of securing immigration status and their right to remain in the UK, also based on the tips contributed by our community. And they are empowering because they help people understand what might happen to them at each stage of the process, and how to help prepare for any given scenario, enabling them to take better control of their lives with or without the help of legal advisors and solicitors.

We also demystify legal support. We explain clearly how allies and supporters who are not accredited to give legal advice and who, for this reason, are afraid to help others can still safely provide vital support in our community. While quality legal advice remains scarce, it is vital to scale up the amount of legal support available. This both alleviates the pressure faced by the struggling legal advice sector, and connects people in the system with their supporters, equipping them with knowledge and confidence to fight for the right to remain together, and seek ways to survive the system within their local community. This knowledge of the system will always remain central to our movement.

In fact, our legal education work goes beyond a simple gesture of information provision. Our work is relational. We carefully and consciously do this in a way that calls for solidarity to bring more people and groups into the movement, focussing on building power in our community. The Toolkit and our workshops act as a portal through which people can enter the shared struggle for migration justice and start taking collective action to change the system – because you need to understand the system to fight it, just as our community said when we developed the Toolkit over ten years ago. The Toolkit and our public legal education work is therefore the basis of our strategic convening and campaigning, including our experience-led community organising work, These Walls Must Fall. Our refreshed Theory of Change that connects our work building knowledge (public legal education), building radical solidarity (strategic convening) and building power (campaigning and organising) encapsulates the process through which we strive to achieve our vision with our communities.

Our operating environment in 2023/24

In 2023/24, the hostile environment for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum became even harsher due to two draconian laws, the Nationality and Borders Act and the Illegal Migration Act. These laws poised to cancel the asylum system as we know it, condemning an untold number of undocumented migrants to permanent limbo, at risk of detention, destitution and exploitation. Coupled with the collapse of the legal advice sector that is now a permanent feature of our field, these changes further exacerbated people's struggle to regularise their immigration status and to secure their safety, let alone survival.

At the same time, the migration justice sector has been on its back-foot for decades, exhausted by an endless series of attacks on our migrant and refugee communities implemented through hostile policies and practices. Our community infrastructure has been hollowed out by austerity measures, testing our ability to respond to increasing needs and emerging crises. But polling shows that immigration is not people's top concern in the UK, even if it is manufactured to be a 'problem' by politicians, the media and other power-holders who want to divert attention away from the real problems within our society. More people are waking up to the reality that the immigration system is inherently racist and must be dismantled. Appalled by the inhumanity against migrants, wider communities are more ready to take solidarity action with us as they see a parallel hostile condition in their own creeping material deprivation and curtailment of rights.

It is in this context that Right to Remain spent much of 2023/24 developing our new strategy for 2024-29, building on our track record and insights, and seizing this opportunity to mainstream migration justice, in order to strengthen our migration justice movement that catalyses a systemic change.

Financial review and organisational development

Since 2022, Right to Remain's organisational structure, office processes and methodology have been transformed to amplify our impact and improve our monitoring, evaluation and planning. Our organisational review in 2022 showed that a chronic shortage of funding for our vital work as an anchor organisation supporting hundreds of other organisations and thousands of individuals was a major risk to Right to Remain, to the sector as a whole and to our communities. In 2023/24, we continued to take steps towards adapting a full-cost recovery principle in every aspect of our planning, budgeting and fundraising, to develop our organisation further. There was also an urgent need for a clearer longer-term plan that guides our work, and we spent 2023/24 developing a new strategy which is explained in the next section.

Our total income for 2023/24 was £392,019, 7% less than 2022/23 (£419,804) when our income was unusually high due to a much-welcomed, unexpected large one-off strategic grant. We rely largely on grants from charitable foundations, which made up 88% of our income in 2023/24. We are grateful for their support as well as the generosity of many individuals who make one-off and monthly donations to support our work. We increased our expenditure significantly by nearly a third, from £283,744 in 2022/23 to £376,992 in 2023/24, in order to boost our outputs and outcomes, to be ready for the implementation of the new strategy. 84% of all our spending in 2023/24 was for staff costs.

Many charities are struggling in a very competitive fundraising environment and are confronted by increasing costs in all areas of operation. The majority of refugee, asylum and migration charities are small to medium sized organisations whose income fall well below £1 million. Like us, they are without dedicated fundraisers or communications/marketing personnel and face an additional hurdle in attracting donations because our cause is generally unpopular and find it hard to reach new donors and supporters. In order to implement our ambitious new strategy from 2024/25, we expect to spend increasing funds year on year to create new posts for the organisation, to strengthen our ability to sustain ourselves and to increase our reach and activities. For these reasons, our policy is to try to secure a reserves level of at least six-months' operating costs of the following year's budget. Accordingly, at the end of 2023/24, we aimed to secure around £250,000 of reserves.

We ended the year with a high balance of £385,602, with a total reserves level of £307,108. Two unexpected grants towards the end of the year and the doubled amount of donations we achieved due to our 10-year anniversary fundraising events increased our income beyond our estimate. We were planning to create a new finance and administration officer post during the year who would be responsible for overall office management, but this was delayed, decreasing our expenditure. Creating this post is one of our priorities for 2024/25 as it should strengthen our organisation's foundation and free up existing staff members' capacity to focus on strategy implementation, organisational development, campaigning and fundraising.

Looking ahead, these reserves provide some financial cushioning for 2024/25. Our two largest multi-year grants supporting the work of These Walls Must Fall and another supporting our legal education work will come to an end in 2024/25. The reserves mitigate the risk to our work while we seek further funding.

In terms of our operation in 2023/24, we began to benefit from the impact of the generous, one-off strategic grants secured in summer 2022 on our organisation's structure. We were able to create the new post of Engagement Officer (from February 2023) which greatly enhanced our capacity to reach and (re)connect with many grassroots groups, and a new second Legal Education Officer post (from December 2022), with a focus on non-asylum matters, which enabled us to expand our public legal education to cover the areas of great need outside the scope of legal aid. They joined the existing staff team of Director, Coordinator, two Organisers and Senior Legal Education Officer.

As a result, our staff team size grew from 5 (4.6 FTE) at the start of 2022/23 to 8 (7.2 FTE) at the start of 2023/24, averaging at 7 staff members during 2023/24. In 2023/24, we also benefited from additional help from our first-ever Communications and Campaigns Intern (paid). We ended the 2023/24 with 6 staff members (6 FTE) after a staff departure in August 2023 and the end of the trial internship programme in December 2023. In addition, staff sick leave and maternity leave during the year created a challenging situation, but the staff team continued to strive to meet the needs of our communities as described in this report.

With this new team structure, new office processes and procedures introduced in the previous year, such as standarised line management forms, weekly team meetings and data management and security systems, aimed at improving teamwork and coordination, began to be established in 2023/24. We were able to significantly increase the scale, reach and depth of our work to strengthen our presence as the anchor organisation for the migration justice movement. Our renewed focus on relationship-building and our strategic convenings such as Toolkit Festivals, Illegal Migration Act workshops and Solidarity Sessions energised and equipped our communities to face new challenges in 2023/24 and helped us to forge many new connections with people and groups across the UK. For example, the number of events and workshops we organised increased from 24 in 2022/23 to 37 in 2023/24, connecting directly with approximately 1100 people from 660 organisations from all over the UK. (Please note that these figures are not unique user figures and include some instances where the same people and groups are counted more than once.)

We refreshed the membership of the Management Committee in summer 2023, to ensure that the committee was more able to meet the requirements of a registered charity. After our staff and Management Committee away day in November 2023 and having updated our risk register in December 2023, we recruited three new members in early 2024 to strengthen the governance. After further refresh, three new members with relevant skills and experience to support the new strategy were recruited in summer 2024, improving accountability and responsiveness required at this pivotal juncture for Right to Remain.

Strategy 2024–29: building knowledge, building radical solidarity and building power

Right to Remain staff team continued our 'thinking with our community' exercise in 2023/24 which began in the previous year, speaking with groups across the UK to understand their most pressing needs and the changing nature of our working environment. The insight we gained shaped our context analysis, which led to the development of our new strategy for 2024-29.

The centrepiece of the new Right to Remain strategy is our refreshed Theory of Change, made up of three interconnected stages which build upon each other: building knowledge, building radical solidarity and building power. These stages re-articulate the work Right to Remain has been doing for years - public legal education, strategic convening and campaigning/community organisation. We have also designed our output/outcome/impact framework that ties in with this refreshed Theory of Change, in order to be more strategic about our work planning and boost our overall impact.

In this refreshed Theory of Change, the connections between these stages and their interdependence are made clearer, assisting our own and our stakeholders' understanding of the iterative and process-oriented nature of our work. It also illustrates the importance of effective team work planning and coordination and avoiding silos within the team - each element of our work needs to be leading to and amplifying the others' work. Each stage acts as a connective tissue to the other two - and we need all of them to galvanise the migration justice movement. Right to Remain began consciously deploying this framework to organise our work in the latter part of 2023/24, to be ready for its full implementation for 2024/25 onwards. It has already brought clearer focus and a stronger sense of purpose, as well as dynamism, to our work.

Our key achievements in 2023/24

Building knowledge - public legal education work

Our public legal education work increased our communities' legal knowledge, capacity and confidence to navigate the asylum and immigration system and empowered them to exercise their rights and access justice. This developed a shared understanding of the asylum and immigration system within our communities, creating an optimal environment for building solidarity and challenging the injustice of the system.

With the second legal education officer post that we created at the end of 2022/23, whose remit focused specifically on immigration matters outside asylum, we significantly increase our public legal education outputs in 2023/24, addressing the emerging legal information needs of our refugee and migrant communities and their supporters with agility. In particular, we responded to anticipated challenges posed by the Illegal Migration Act, which created a great deal of anxiety and panic in the sector, with a focus on destitution, detention and migrant exploitation.

Through legal research, working with other specialist organisations and engaging actively with a number of practitioners' fora, we:

- Maintained and updated our open-source Toolkit on asylum and immigration law, which was used by an average of 64,141 unique users every month in 2023/24. (In 2022/23, the monthly average was 34,888, but part of this increase could be attributed to a change in the analytics system which was introduced in June 2024.) We updated 16 sections of the Toolkit and added six brand-new sections, including 'Applying for work permission (asylum)', '10 year route to indefinite leave to remain', 'Work exploitation and migrant workers' rights (guide)', 'Modern slavery and human trafficking (guide)', 'destitution and housing (guide)' and 'Migrants affected by domestic abuse (guide)'.

- Produced a total of 36 legal updates covering the latest developments in law and policy, doubling the number of 2022/23.

- Delivered interactive training sessions on relevant Toolkit topics to ensure groups supporting asylum seekers and migrants utilise legal support effectively and safely. We consistently receive very positive feedback from the participants. We ran a total of four flagship Knowledge is Power sessions during the year (24 April 2023, 25 July 2023, 11 January 2024 and 4 March 2024), increasing the knowledge of 113 individuals from 62 organisations about the stages of the asylum system and the difference between legal support and legal advice. In addition, we ran workshops for a variety of groups including Alliance for Better GP Federation (Surrey/Sussex), Union Chapel Church (London), Swansea Asylum Seekers Support, Refugees at Home, Portland Global Friendship Group, Napier Friends, Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group/AVID, Unity Sisters, Scottish Detainee Visitors, Sharpen Her, Community Info Source, Scottish Refugee Council and Herts Welcome Refugees.

Other activities include the following.

- We updated and relaunched our Young Asylum Guide in September 2023. This online resource is designed specifically for young unaccompanied children going through the asylum system and those who work with them. The relaunch event was attended by a wide range of practitioners all working with young people going through the asylum system.

- We piloted our brand new 'Lawyers and evidence' workshop in February 2024. The workshop is designed to increase people's understanding of how to work effectively with their lawyers regarding their asylum and immigration cases. We repeated a mini-version of the workshop at our Annual Gathering in March 2024 too.

Based on the monitoring information and feedback received, these activities achieved the following outcomes:

- More people understand the asylum and immigration system better, with increased knowledge of the system and confidence to take an appropriate steps for themselves;

- More people are able to provide legal support safely and with more confidence.

The feedback also indicated that the clarity and strength of our guidance and messaging, and our ability to hold space for reflection and planning amidst the chaos stabilises our communities to move beyond the panic phase and start facing challenges with more confidence. We capitalised on this to create stronger relationships and connections with more groups.

Other feedback received includes the following:

'The (asylum) process is very long as the number of applicants is higher. The most reliable and official information are available on gov.uk but to find more details and explanation, the Toolkit is the best. In the beginning, I was afraid of the interview and anxious about what can happen during the whole asylum process. After using Toolkit I felt confident as the videos explained exactly what is going to happen and clarify all my rights. After my interview, I have confirmed that Toolkit information are correct and genuine. The preparation and the clarification provided by Toolkit further with the explanation of (my case worker) helped me a lot to be more confident and to prepare my next step. Thank you so much for lighting my path.' – A person using the Toolkit.

'I was confused before. After using the Toolkit I felt confident. After using the Toolkit, I came to know about the process.' – A person using the Toolkit.

'This has been the most helpful training I have been on for years. Thank you for the way you have facilitated the session and made a very complex subject understandable.' – A bespoke workshop participant.

'I've been on a steep learning curve, and the workshop this morning was so helpful to me in understanding more about what we can do and what we shouldnt do. (Up until now I've been avoiding talking to people about a lot of things because I didn't know the difference between 'advice' and 'support'). I will share the resources with our volunteers and my colleagues, and I hope that we'll approach things a bit more confidently now, even more so that I know about all of the resources in the Toolkit too.' – Knowledge is Power workshop participant.

'I'm a caseworker at an immigration support charity in London. I just wanted to reach out and say; thank you. I've been following your work in my private life for a while now and I've always had massive admiration for what you do. In my line of work, I visit your website every single day. You provide reliable, jargon free, well structured information. I signpost clients to your site for legal information every single day. I realised today, I actually don't know what i'd do without Right to Remain. Your work empowers me to support clients. I think sometimes in our line of work, we can feel overwhelmed with the HUGE task of fighting the hostile environment. This is why it is EXTRA important to support each other, praise each other and thank each other. Keep doing what you are doing. Your work is an ESSENTIAL service. The more migrants know about their rights, their

entitlements, UK systems and processes, the safer they feel. Knowledge is power. Thank you for everything. All the best!' – Unsolicited feedback we received about our work.

To investigate the impact of the Toolkit, we also conducted a reflection exercise between May and July 2023. We consulted a small number of trusted colleagues and organisations whom we know are regular users of the Toolkit to get a deeper understanding of how they are using the Toolkit.

They shared their current thoughts about the asylum sections of the Toolkit in four key areas:

1. Their experience of navigating the (online) Toolkit
2. Their habits when using and sharing the Toolkit
3. The positive impact that the Toolkit has had upon their work and/or community
4. How they think we can do better.

The groups identified the following as the positive impact of the Toolkit:

- The Toolkit boosts knowledge and level of understanding in their staff and volunteers – both within their organisations and across the wider sector – supporting our field's capacity to create impact.

- The Toolkit directly assists the groups' work, including their interaction with people going through the system.

- The Toolkit leads to positive and valued activities and experiences for the groups through interactions with Right to Remain. How Right to Remain works via the Toolkit is critical in equipping and galvanising our colleagues to build more solidarity in and out of our community. Our work is relational and people and groups who come into direct contact with us recognise its power.

- The Toolkit acts as a general educational tool, particularly for people who haveless experience in the migration justice sector when they begin to understand the restrictiveness of the asylum system, and the impact this has on people seeking safety. This demonstrates that the Toolkit is functioning as intended: a portal to bring more people who are unfamiliar with the issue into our migration justice movement.

Here is another piece of feedback from one of our users.

'I wanted to say when the Reflection Report on the Toolkit came into my inbox, I had someone beside me who has been in the asylum and related process for over nine years long now. She's found the Toolkit amazing. Barely a day when she hasn't checked it for something or confirmed what something meant. So THANK YOU! It truly is invaluable.'

<u>Building radical solidarity – strategic convening and engagement work</u>

We designed and delivered a strategic convening on the critical themes impacting our communities to strengthen our connections with each other and across social justice spheres and to produce coordinated collective responses to the challenges of the asylum and migration system. In doing so, we mainstreamed the migration justice movement in order to bring in new people, new groups and new voices into the movement. This work is dynamic, often incorporating all elements of our organisation's work. It also provides opportunities to understand the challenges our communities are facing and how they are responding to them, enabling us to adjust and refine our work to ensure we are meeting their needs.

The new post of Engagement Officer added much needed logistical support to the organisation to facilitate more events and workshops. As a result, we were more effective in forging new relationships with groups unfamiliar with Right to Remain and reconnecting with long-term allies. In 2023/24, we organised a total of 37 events, compared to 24 events in 2022/23 reaching 1,160 people from 660 groups in 2023/24 (please note that these figures are not unique user figures and include some instances whereby the same people and groups are counted more than once).

Our key highlights include the following.

- In September 2023, we concluded our Toolkit Festivals which began in February 2023. Through the Festivals, we reintroduced our Toolkit, our new team and our work to many new and old users, after a relatively quiet period until spring 2022. All the festivals were co-organised with local groups to maximise our reach to small grassroots groups and non-specialist groups that we are unaware of, who also support people seeking asylum and migrants. Through the festivals, we worked with 306 people from 177 organisations, increasing their understanding of how to use the Toolkit, and the difference between legal advice and legal support, as well as co-learning about local challenges and exploring possible solutions.

- Between September 2023 to February 2024, we held several workshops on 'Preparing our community for the impact of the Illegal Migration Act'. We ran in-person sessions in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Leeds and three online sessions, connecting with over 200 individuals, targeting groups already working with people seeking asylum and migrants, and groups who provide support that ensures survival of our communities such as those focused on healthcare, housing, food distribution and many others. We broke down the Act in simple language, focusing on its key aspects and how they might impact our communities. We also held space for the participants to share their concerns and discuss actions we can take.

- We launched quarterly Radical Solidarity Hub online meetings for Toolkit users and our allies. These meetings are our response to the overwhelming feedback we receive from our convenings: that the participants want to regularly receive the latest updates on the asylum and immigration system and they value the energy and solidarity they get from sharing experiences, especially when our operating environment is hostile and exhausting. We use the meetings to update the participants on what Right to Remain is working on and give a platform to small groups and thematic experts to encourage co-learning and foster solidarity.

Based on the monitoring information and feedback received, these activities achieved the following outcomes:

- More people are more willing and energised to support themselves and others to navigate the asylum and immigration system

- More individuals and groups communicate with each other to protect our communities form the harm of the asylum and immigration system

- A wider variety of individuals and groups in more geographical areas are working together for the migration justice movement.

In February 2024, we launched our Directory which lists the groups across the UK who use the Toolkit and/or have attended Right to Remain events and workshops. This was in response to requests from some of our users who wished to connect with like-minded groups in the same

geographical area to deepen local collaboration and also others in other geographical areas when the individuals they are working with have moved to a new location and want to contact local groups.

In March 2024, we hosted our Annual Gathering which was put on hold since 2017. Our staff team and a group of These Walls Must Fall campaigners brought together over 65 people from over 50 organisations across the UK, for a day of connecting, learning, sharing best practices and to think ahead. Our aim was to provide a physical experience of radical solidarity, and for this feeling to influence thinking and actions. We wanted to demonstrate and invite others to understand what lies beyond our public legal education work: to create an environment that encouraged radical action taking and movement building. The event was enthusiastically received by the participants and strengthened our connections with each other. Some of the feedback we received is as follows:

'So this is to THANK YOU for a wonderful gathering, such good interconnections, such fine, inspiring, informative sessions. It was beautifully organised and facilitated - thank you for the committed effort and work behind it, and the different zones of energy - physical, emotional and political - that you are so clearly infused into it all. It is all so CRUCIAL. So much to be addressed. So much hangs on persistent and well-informed engagement. And Right to Remain is right at the key crossroad of insight, vision, creativity and the passion needed to enable the challenges, information, support and power contestations in and around the asylum and refugee systems. THANK YOU! I was very moved to be there, meet people...digest so many things - and bring insights and ideas back to our network here. ONWARDS! love to you all.'

'We just wanted to say a big thank you to you and the team for the excellent event yesterday. Everything was so well organised and we are very grateful for all the effort that went into making the day so successful. Not only was it a great chance to network and meet many people striving for the same goals, we found ourselves challenged and inspired in many ways. Our thinking about the development of our own services and organisation has been greatly enriched.'

'Thank you so much for having me at the gathering. It was inspiring and wonderful to be there. For me, it was so useful to be able to situate the work that we're doing at xxxxx in a wider context of resistance to the border regime. We are restricted in what we can openly campaign about, but when we can feed into the work of others, it helps to make our work more transformative. It was great to see lots of people that I know from other organising spaces and some overlap with other grassroots networks such as xxxxx as well. Thanks for all your great work - we'd love to keep collaborating at xxxxx and we will keep bringing the toolkit into the work we're doing. The directory is also super helpful in signposting people when they're moving on.'

Building power – campaigning and organising via These Walls Must Fall

In 2023/24, under These Walls Must Fall, we continued to support people with lived experience of the asylum and immigration system to raise their voices and campaign together and with allies in Liverpool, Manchester, Halifax, Sheffield and their surrounding areas. Our campaigners stood against harsh policies and practices of the Hostile Environment, while widening a circle of groups and people who are prepared to stand in solidarity and campaign with them. The number of lived-experience campaigners we worked with fluctuated throughout the year, between 20 and 40, who met regularly in person and online to support and learn from each other and plan their action.

In the year marked by the threats of the Rwanda deportation plan, the Illegal Migration Act, the asylum barge (the Bibby Stockholm) and many other frightening developments, These Walls Must Fall campaigners led and/or participated in 15 campaigning events and workshops in the year, including the following:

In April 2023, we organised a public solidarity event against the Illegal Migration Act in Halifax, involving 8 campaigners. The event attracted over 100 participants from 10 local groups, including local councillors, providing opportunities for information sharing and relationship building. In August 2023, we participated in Manchester Pride, taking centre stage during the vigil to share our stories of persecution and survival in front of thousands of people. This increased the audience's understanding of the human impact of the hostile asylum and immigration policies, many of whom are unfamiliar with the reality of what seeking asylum means for LGBTQI+ people. 10 These Walls Must Fall campaigners performed as part of the vigil.

Between December 2023 and February 2024, we ran Solidarity Sessions in Manchester and Liverpool to bring local allies together through public legal education work and community discussions that encourage joint action. Our lived-experience campaigners were involved in the delivery of the sessions on the day, so that they could practise their leadership skills. The sessions allowed us to strengthen our presence in the area, to provide much-needed space for campaigners and groups to share challenges and seek solutions and maintain our working relationships with other groups in the area.

During the year, we also increased joint working across the organisation to generate impact in a way that coherently utilises our unique strengths, such as the Solidarity Sessions mentioned above. After the Organiser for the North East (Halifax and Sheffield) left the organisation, we carried out more engagement activities in the North East, such as the Illegal Migration Act workshops in Newcastle (December 2023) and Leeds (February 2024). While the Organiser for the North West was on maternity leave until July 2023, our Communications and Campaign Intern (paid) also worked with our lived-experience campaigners, helping them to get to grips with how to use the social media for influencing, capturing their voices and stories for our blogs and assisted them with their joint work with Migrants in Culture, producing artwork which can be used to promote their campaigning.

Our relationship building work in Greater Manchester progressed well, through the Organiser and our lived-experience campaigners' outreach work to a number of organisations. A stand-out activity that deserves special mention is the local event organised by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Step Change Consortium in November 2023, bringing together organisations and groups working with people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants across the Greater Manchester area. Our Organiser co-chaired the event and our lived-experience were invited to participate in a session run by Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) and Asylum Matters.

Communications

Right to Remain regularly produces newsletters, publishes blogs on our website and shares news on our social media platforms to disseminate our legal education information, promote our strategic engagement work and communicate and influence our external audience on key critical issues around the asylum and immigration system and its impact on our communities.

With our expanded team, we increased the overall volume of our communications in all areas. With each staff member producing blogs to share our work with our audience, we published a total of 130 blogs in 2023/24, a huge increase from 58 in 2022/23. Our blogs cover a wide range of topics that are relevant to our users, educating the readers and attracting many participants to our events and workshops. Our newsletter subscriber numbers also grew from 4,633 at the start of 2023/24 to 5,933 at the end of the year, indicating our wider reach.

From December 2022 to December 2023, we hosted our first paid intern as Communications and Campaign Assistant, providing the intern an opportunity to experience and learn what it is like to work in a small charity. The paid internship also added huge value to our work, assisting our efforts

to promote our activities and grassroots organisations whom we work with more widely. We plan to create a dedicated communications officer post in the future.

The Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required under the constitution of the charity to prepare financial statements for each financial year to reflect the state of affairs of the charity and of its results for that period.

ln preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
c) prepare the financial statement on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

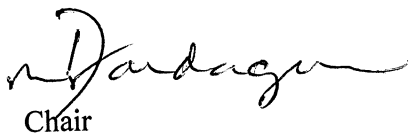
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Public Benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Independent Examiner
Shireen Rubens was appointed to carry out an independent examination.

Declarations

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Chair

Maria Dardagan

11 December 2024

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Right to Remain Ltd		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1192934
Set out on pages			

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2024**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIPFA.

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

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

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

Signed:	S Rubens	**Date:**	8/12/24
Name:	S. Rubens		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	CIPFA		

Address:	35 N134SH

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Right To Remain Ltd

Company no. 04026564
Charity no. 1192934

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

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £
Income from:							
Donations		41,870	-	**41,870**	21,765	1,462	23,227
Grants		146,666	197,761	**344,427**	93,800	300,966	394,766
Investment Income		5,722	-	**5,722**	1,811	-	1,811
Total income		194,258	197,761	**392,019**	117,376	302,428	419,804
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Staff costs (Note 3)		57,049	261,440	**318,489**	49,439	175,349	224,788
Staff training and development		2,132	1,358	**3,490**	-	1,958	1,958
Staff tavel and subsistence		3,203	5,769	**8,972**	-	6,499	6,499
Project costs		11,238	5,116	**16,354**	-	26,095	26,095
Overheads							
Stationary and printing		1,136	2,367	**3,503**	-	3,093	3,093
Accountancy, bank charges and insurance		4,825	1,756	**6,581**	-	4,656	4,656
Sundry expenses		31	64	**95**	-	55	55
Depreciation		37	-	**37**	1,760	-	1,760
Rent		1,630	6,922	**8,552**	-	6,855	6,855
Equipment		1,050	284	**1,334**	-	2,058	2,058
IT and Communications Costs		3,794	1,135	**4,929**	-	3,921	3,921
Governance costs		13	4,643	**4,656**	-	2,006	2,006
Total expenditure		86,138	290,854	**376,992**	51,199	232,545	283,744
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	2	108,120	(93,093)	**15,027**	66,177	69,883	136,060
Transfers between funds		33	(33)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	10	108,153	(93,126)	**15,027**	66,177	69,883	136,060
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		198,955	169,620	**368,575**	132,778	99,737	232,515
Total funds carried forward		307,108	76,494	**383,602**	198,955	169,620	368,575

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 10 to the financial statements.

Right To Remain Ltd

Company no. 04026564
Charity no. 1192934

Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	7		1,312		-
			1,312		-
Current assets:					
Cash at bank and in hand		393,579		374,889	
		393,579		374,889	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	11,288		6,314	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			382,291		368,575
Total assets less current liabilities			383,603		368,575
Total net assets / (liabilities)	9		383,603		368,575
The funds of the charity:	10				
Restricted income funds			76,495		169,620
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds		307,108		198,955	
Total unrestricted funds			307,108		198,955
Total charity funds			383,603		368,575

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 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.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

Approved by the Trustees on 11/12/2024 and signed on their behalf by

.....
Trustee

Name MARIA DARDAGAN

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

b) Public benefit entity

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

c) Going concern

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

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

d) Key source of estimation, uncertainty and judgement

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting practice requires trustees to make estimates and judgements that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as well as the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. There is estimation uncertainty in calculating depreciation. A review of fixed assets is carried out by the trustees regularly. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that the depreciation policy is as accurate as possible, there remains a risk that the policy does not match the useful life of the assets.

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.

f) 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.

g) Fund accounting

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

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

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

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies (continued)

h) **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 charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of provision of space and services undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

i) **Operating leases**
Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j) **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 value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

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

- Equipment — Over 3 years

k) **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.

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

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

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

n) **Pensions**
Employer contributions to employees defined contribution pension schemes are charged to Statement of Financial Activities during the year.

2 Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging / crediting:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	37	1,760

3 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	279,205	198,227
Social security costs	25,177	16,485
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	14,107	10,076
	318,489	224,788

One employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023: nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £134,451.(2023:109,124)

The charity Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

Four Trustees received payments totalling £265 for reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs relating to attendance at meetings of the trustees (2023: nil).

4 Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	7.0	5.3
	7.0	5.3

5 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2024 (2023: none).

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

6 Taxation

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

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the year	7,342	7,342
Additions in year	1,349	1,349
At the end of the year	8,691	8,691
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	7,342	7,342
Charge for the year	37	37
At the end of the year	7,379	7,379
Net book value		
At the end of the year	1,312	1,312
At the start of the year	–	–

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Taxation and social security	8,309	4,732
Other creditors	1,757	1,582
Accruals	1,222	–
	11,288	6,314

9 Analysis of net assets between funds at the end of year

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,312	–	–	1,312
Net current assets	305,796	–	76,495	382,291
Net assets at the end of the year	307,108	–	76,495	383,603

Analysis of net assets between funds at the start of year

	General unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	–	–	–	–
Net current assets	198,955	–	169,620	368,575
Net assets at the end of the year	198,955	–	169,620	368,575

10 Movements in funds

During the year	At the start of the year £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Legal Education Foundation	7,634	29,061	(24,695)	–	**12,000**
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	27,324	27,000	(54,324)	–	**–**
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	40,033	71,500	(91,354)	–	**20,179**
TWMF donation	32	–	–	(32)	**–**
PHF – Voice	7,500	–	(7,499)	(1)	**–**
Society of Holy Child Jesus	–	15,000	(14,533)		**467**
Esmee Fairbairn Funder Plus	–	5,200	(5,200)		**–**
Blue Thread	87,097	50,000	(93,248)		43,849
Total restricted funds	169,620	197,761	(290,853)	(33)	76,495
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	198,955	194,258	(86,138)	33	**307,108**
Total unrestricted funds	198,955	194,258	(86,138)	33	**307,108**
Total funds	368,575	392,019	(376,991)	–	**383,603**

10 Movements in funds

During previous year	At the start of the year £	Income & gains £	Expenditure & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Legal Education Foundation	4,857	22,219	(19,442)	–	**7,634**
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	16,029	63,450	(53,265)	1,110	**27,324**
JRCT – legal	1,110	–	–	(1,110)	**–**
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	64,613	72,480	(97,060)	–	**40,033**
TWMF donation	3,128	1,032	(1,000)	(3,128)	**32**
Evan Cornish Foundation	10,000	–	(13,128)	3,128	**–**
PHF – Voice	–	15,000	(7,500)	–	**7,500**
Society of Holy Child Jesus	–	19,000	(19,000)	–	**–**
Blue Thread	–	109,247	(22,150)	–	**87,097**
Total restricted funds	99,737	302,428	(232,545)	–	**169,620**
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	132,778	117,376	(51,199)	–	**198,955**
Total unrestricted funds	132,778	117,376	(51,199)	–	**198,955**
Total funds	232,515	419,804	(283,744)	–	**368,575**

Within unrestricted funds income, in 2023/24, £64,000 was received from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, £30,000 from the Treebeard Trust, £22,000 from the A B Charitable Trust and £30,666 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust .

Purposes of restricted funds

Legal Education Foundation - to fund legal education and community outreach work.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust - to fund legal education and community outreach work.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation - to fund These Walls Must Fall work.

PHF - Voice - to fund legal education work.

Society of Holy Child Jesus - to fund legal education work.

Esmée Fairbairn Funder Plus - to support governance development.

Blue Thread - to fund legal education and community outreach work.

11 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.