

Santa Marta Group

Registered Charity No: 1194231

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2025**

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

CHARITY DETAILS

The Santa Marta Group CIO (Charity Number 1194231) (the Charity) was established on 26 April 2021. This report and accounts are for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Reference and administrative information

Trustees

Trustees who served during the period are listed below.

His Eminence, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster (Chair)

Bishop William Kenney CP

Mrs Donna Edwards (resigned 15 April 2025)

Sir Iain Livingstone

Ms Yasmin Waljee OBE (resigned 10 December 2024)

Mr Adrian Radford (appointed 10 December 2024)

Key Staff

Director

Dr David Ryall (resigned 30 April 2025)

Director of Strategy

Mr Kevin Hyland OBE (resigned 31 March 2026)

Director of Communications

Mr Alexander Desforges (resigned 8 April 2026)

Registered Office

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Bankers

NatWest: 1 High Street, Croydon, CR9 1PD

Independent Examiners

Azets Audit Services, 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London EC4R 9AN

Santa Marta Group

We are a catalyst to bring systemic change to end human trafficking. We create a network of relationships, bringing together leaders from civil society, law enforcement, criminal justice, government, business, faith and communities.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 June 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for The Santa Marta Group (SMG) CIO for the year ended 30 June 2025 and confirm that the financial statements are compliant with statutory requirements, the Constitution dated 26th April 2021 and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Santa Marta Group CIO is registered in the United Kingdom as a Charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Registration Number 1194231. The Charity is governed by its constitution dated 26 April 2021.

There are up to 12 trustees, appointed by resolution of the trustees. Each trustee is appointed for a term of three years, which may be renewed at the end of each three-year appointment. At 30th June 2025, there were four trustees. During the period under review, two trustees resigned. The Board has expressed its thanks to Mrs Edwards and Ms Waljee for their valuable contributions as trustees.

New trustees are sought as and when necessary to ensure the skills and experience identified as being required by the Charity are adequately represented. Induction courses are offered to new trustees and refresher courses are provided to all trustees as and when it is considered appropriate.

The Board meets regularly and as required to set the overall policies and strategy of the Charity and to provide advice and guidance to staff. It reviews the ongoing activities of the Charity and considers reports and recommendations from staff.

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Charity was delegated by the Board to the Director.

Remuneration of the Director and other staff was reviewed by the Chair and trustees each year in conjunction with the annual performance review, which takes into account the performance of the Charity against its aims and objectives.

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Fundraising

The Charity does not actively seek donations from the general public and is not registered with the Fundraising regulator, but it is, however, very grateful for donations received.

Risk Statement

The trustees have adopted a risk assessment policy which is monitored and reviewed annually by the Board.

Critical risks identified relate to generating funds for the long-term sustainability of the Charity and ensuring the Charity employs the best people for the role it undertakes in the UK and international anti-slavery and trafficking environment.

Public Benefit

Trustees have reviewed the activities of the Charity in respect of public benefit as set out in the Charity Commission's guidance to report on public benefit and are satisfied that the work to reduce modern slavery and trafficking provides tangible public benefit to the community. Therefore, they are satisfied that the Charity meets the definition of a charity as defined by the Charity Commission.

Further details are given in the following sections.

Annual Report 2025

Summary

In the last three years, the support provided by the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation (AGCF) has meant that the Santa Marta Group (SMG) has been able to make a significant difference in England, Wales and Ireland to increase awareness and improve responses and policy for those vulnerable to human trafficking and modern slavery. Santa Marta Group has strengthened the emphasis that police forces place on tackling modern slavery and enabled communities to become more aware of and resilient to trafficking. Prevention has been a core feature of the Santa Marta Group approach.

Political and Police leaders recognise the Santa Marta Group's work and how it has been central in placing anti-trafficking as an agenda priority, by raising awareness of the scale of the crime, its social and economic costs, and the strategies needed to end it. One of Santa Marta Group's greatest strengths has been in recognising that by mobilising the shared resources of faith, it is possible to build trust between those at risk of exploitation and the agencies meant to protect them.

The AGCF's support has enabled the Santa Marta Group to develop community engagement and partnerships with local and national authorities. Santa Marta Group has provided vital evidence to convict traffickers, influenced national legislation and developed cross agency leadership so statutory and non-government organisations work together in a common fight to stop modern slavery.

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The Context

“The indispensable service of the Santa Marta Group will be able to free the victims of the new forms of slavery...” Pope Francis

This report outlines some selective areas of work the Santa Marta Group has conducted in its mission, from 2022 to date. Our projects shown in England, Wales, and Ireland are funded thanks to the invaluable support of the AGCF. The AGCF’s critical funding has allowed us to engage strongly to reach vulnerable communities and begin to mobilise the Church’s potential in stopping modern slavery and human trafficking within Britain and Ireland.

To give a broader picture and to show the interconnected nature of modern slavery and human trafficking we have also included examples of work conducted outside of this area, which is resourced separately by other funding, income generation, or different organisations.

SMG's mission in bringing local, national and international efforts together, is unique. The network of leaders created by SMG is extensive and crosses many different organisations, agencies, communities, and religions. No other organisation brings a network of politicians, justice actors, Church leaders, faith groups, businesses, and governments together to build trust and effective responses.

Without SMG, many positive developments and much-needed collaboration would not have developed in the fight against modern slavery. This report will demonstrate the importance of this work continuing and evolving.

Key Performance Indicators

	OUTPUT HEADING	TARGET TOTAL	TOTAL TO DATE	TOTAL ANTICIPATED BY THE END OF THE FUNDING PERIOD
1	Number of Catholic Dioceses actively engaged	48	42	As scheduled
2	Number of new strategic partnerships developed	9	10	“ “
3	Specific learning and communication materials produced	11	13 (incl new resources)	“ “
4	Number of training courses run	18	?	“ “

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5	Number of people attending training courses	450	?	“ “
6	Public engagement e.g. press articles and radio/TV appearances	75	63 + social media mentions	“ “
7	Number of national anti-trafficking fora established	3	4	“ “
8	Number of campaigns supported	6	7	“ “
9	Legislation engaged with	6	8	“ “
10	Number of research projects undertaken by universities	4	4	“ “
11	Number of UK registered online/internet companies Santa Marta Group is engaging to help protect vulnerable communities from trafficking online exploitation and promote demand reduction	6	7	“ “

Santa Marta Group Selective Activities Report

Guidance and Awareness Programme – England, Wales and Ireland

Our diocesan awareness programme has focused not just on awareness but on activism. We want people to leave awareness sessions with tangible next steps for action. This looks different for each individual, and we feel it's important to facilitate individual as well as collective responses. For this reason, we always ensure there is space at the end of a session to reflect on how the attendees want to respond to what they've learnt. Responses vary: from letter writing to committee starting, prayer mornings to fundraising campaigns. We do emphasise the necessity of structural change if we are to make progress on this agenda, and this means that attendees are animated and supported to drive forward political action (e.g. by using our template letters to make freedom of information requests). But we have ensured that a diversity of approaches is both welcomed and nourished throughout – ultimately, more people caring about human trafficking, in whatever way that they demonstrate that care, is impactful evidence of culture change.

This diversity in approach is reflected in the diversity of materials we have produced in support of our awareness work. The first handbook is an in-depth document, accompanying the awareness video used in many of our sessions. It offers insight into some of the common forms of trafficking found in the UK, and how they relate to broader systems of exploitation. It presents legal context, emphasising the status of human trafficking and modern slavery as both an internationally and a nationally defined crime. It addresses approaches to prevention and

accountability, and it offers template letters for use in contacting elected representatives. It emphasises human trafficking and modern slavery as a systemic issue which transcends borders, and the need to lobby all those with power for systemic change, in order to fight it.

This booklet had a positive response, but we it became clear that not every parishioner would have the time nor capacity to take in all of this information. We therefore developed a follow-up handbook, meant to provide an ‘at a glance’ look at human trafficking and modern slavery. Again, crucially, the emphasis is on how parishioners respond. The handbook answers not only the questions ‘what is human trafficking?’ and ‘how can we identify it?’, but ‘what can we do about it?’. Having met with thousands of parishioners around the England, Wales and Ireland this is the most common question. Now they know about the horror of this crime, they want to know what they can do about it. The ‘Practical Guide for Churches and Communities’ answers this question succinctly, giving ideas for further action which can be explored further through their Church leadership, local NGOs, community collaboration, or resources we have referenced therein.

A further booklet developed this year offers a different perspective altogether: one of spiritual enrichment. The Way of the Cross (Human Trafficking) resource offers a devotional guide to be used through Lent, which pays tribute to those affected by and still in situations of human trafficking. This we feel is essential in engaging those in the communities we reach who are disenchanted by politics. Devotional materials can offer access to Church communities via members of the clergy who do not otherwise engage. The same has been seen with the St Bakhita Prayer Cards – these are overwhelmingly popular and always in high demand. Something people can carry with them, easily offer to friends, and which has a spiritual as well as a practical grounding, is valued.

These are only some of the resources we have produced to promote anti-trafficking work in communities around England, Wales and Ireland. All resources are available for free download from our website, and we have on occasion posted printed copies out to parishes without the capacity to print for themselves.

Diocesan Engagement 2025

We have contacted all 21 Dioceses in England and Wales, targeting initially bishops, and subsequently social action leads (e.g. representing Caritas, Justice & Peace, and other social action groups). There are huge variations in funding to and priorities of these groups across Dioceses, but we are reaching out to all Dioceses, and giving special attention to building capacity in smaller Dioceses with less funding. In 16 out of the 21 Dioceses in England and Wales, we have a point of contact with whom we liaise around awareness-raising activities. We have completed events in 13 Dioceses, as well as in some national network settings (Justice and Peace Network, National Board of Catholic Women, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Migration Alliance). In three Dioceses (Lancaster, Plymouth and East Anglia), we have not presented because there is regional work already existing, which we have been able to support and inform without needing to travel and present directly.

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In the interest of establishing a lasting relationship with each Diocese, which will result in long-term, meaningful impact, it has been important for us to be sensitive to the competing priorities of their social action calendars.

We have also offered Dioceses support incorporating human trafficking and modern slavery awareness-raising into existing work they are doing on other topics such as poverty alleviation, refugee support, or homelessness. In Middlesbrough for example, we joined their existing work on poverty and violence against women and girls. It is crucial that activists view human trafficking and modern slavery in the context of other social risks (e.g. poverty, homelessness, insecure immigration status), and not in a vacuum; these are factors which hugely impact trafficking rates. Therefore, incorporating anti-trafficking work into existing work on any social disadvantage is logical not only for resource-efficiency, but equally for a more thorough and meaningful understanding of all the topics in question.

Working via connections with bishops or social action leads ensures that they can continue the spread of our materials and the anti-trafficking agenda beyond our capacity to do so: in multiple parishes across each Diocese. They can act as a central point of contact through whom we can reach many more parishioners than if, for example, just liaising with a single enthusiastic individual. This system has taken more groundwork to establish but will be markedly more impactful and, importantly, lasting.

This year, the dissemination of our resources for the Feast Day of St Bakhita (February 8th) to all bishops and social action leads in England and Wales resulted in renewed engagement with the Dioceses, and more awareness events scheduled in the following months. We saw many bishops include a section on St Bakhita in their newsletters to priests meaning that many more parishes who would not otherwise have heard of us were taught about the Feast of St Bakhita and all she represents. Additionally, a speaking slot at the National Justice and Peace Network webinar was a valuable opportunity to reach new audiences. Following this event, we had individualised reach out wanting to run their own awareness events (e.g. in Bromsgrove). We were able to support this to happen with the use of our resources and without us having to travel there. We supported not only with those resources available on the website, but also with a workshop-hosting guide anticipating questions that would be likely to come up, and equipping the host with answers and useful statistics. Allies in the leadership teams of the National Justice and Peace Network and the National Board of Catholic Women, among other bodies, have helped form inroads to get anti-trafficking work onto agenda of national-level Catholic meetings, which then percolates down through communities.

The infrastructure of the Church differs in Ireland, allowing us to have direct contact channels with the parish priests. The approach here has been multi-pronged, contacting bishops, parish priests, and communications leads for each Diocese. Materials have been adapted to include the correct contact numbers for Irish support services and to suit the Irish context. Meetings are being held with the communications lead from each Diocese, and by June, we will also have communications and meetings with over 750 parish priests from across Ireland. We have so far delivered sessions in 5 and have meetings booked in all others. We have contributed to

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training materials for the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI) and Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT) which have been distributed to over 20 schools.

Ireland

Diocese of Galway

SMG engaged at a community event hosted by Croi Nua (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart) within the Catholic Diocese in Galway City. Attendees in 2022 included 25 clergy, religious sisters and members of the local community. A further event is to take place on 20th February 2025. This 2022 event followed a previous event hosted by SMG pre COVID. These events resulted in identifying high risks of trafficking at the Galway Races, an event that attracts attendees from across the world. This became part of the discussion with local politicians and has since featured and shaped operational planning for major events in Ireland including other sports and the National Ploughing Competition. The Galway event featured on local West of Ireland radio. In April 2023 An Garda Síochána conducted an operation into human trafficking in Galway. Also, in 2023 a hotel business in Galway encountered what they believed to be human trafficking. They contacted An Garda Síochána and the suspect was arrested and the victims supported. Santa Marta Group provided expert evidence to the police for the case to be heard at the Central Criminal Court in Dublin resulting in a successful conviction. The increased awareness and activity in the West of Ireland is not coincidental; as this case demonstrates SMG have been involved in all elements from raising awareness to the prosecutorial stage.

Diocese of Cork & Ross

Santa Marta Group brought police forces across the UK and Ireland to a leadership summit in Cork. This provided an opportunity for leaders across forces to meet amidst changing legislative landscapes, share best practices, and make plans for the future. Cork saw the first all-Ireland summit with a specific focus on trafficking. Leaders committed to an ongoing partnership on this issue, and to prioritising the fight against trafficking in their collaborative work. Speaking slots were divided among law enforcement, civil society, faith leaders and government. This cross-sector collaboration is at the heart of what we do. In feedback, delegates reported being impacted by the keynote addresses by Cardinal Nichols (SMG President) who stressed the moral imperative to combat trafficking, and the importance of the defence of human dignity, and by an individual who shared their experience of trafficking:

“There was a lived experience input which was one of the most powerful presentations that I have ever observed that left a lasting impression on me to continue the work we are doing in that space.”

Practical outcomes include An Garda Síochána and SMG working to establish best practice in the victim's referral pathway and to review the training available through the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) .

The event in Cork built on previous work SMG conducted with senior leaders in Gartcosh Crime Campus in 2023: representatives from the Catholic Church, Muslim and Jewish

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Communities, Church of Scotland and ecumenical partners gathered with some of the UK and Ireland's most senior police officers. This included the Chief Constable of Scotland and his command team, the Commissioner of Ireland's An Garda Síochána, the National Police Chief Councils (NPCC) Chief Officer for England and Wales, the Director of the UK National Crime Agency (NCA), the NPCC Lead for Human Trafficking and operational team leaders from across the UK, US and EU. Also present were NGOs and senior politicians, including the Solicitor General and the Lord Advocate, Scottish Cabinet Secretary and the Rt. Hon Gordon Brown.

A series of presentations and workshops identified how more victims could be identified, the need for collaboration between civil society and the statutory agencies, and the necessity of an increase in the measures available through the UK's three different human trafficking legislative instruments. Other practical outcomes included:

- Leaders made pledges to increase anti-modern slavery efforts
- Agreed maintaining high priority status
- Planned to reconvene in 2024 in Cork
- Agreed to collaborate on the work to involve greater partnership with embassies
- The NCA committed to place a firewall between migration and human trafficking, not allowing vulnerability to be ignored or missed due to new UK legislation regarding asylum seekers.

Diocese of Limerick

Santa Marta Group chaired an event organised by the US Embassy to Ireland in Limerick City, where presentations were given by the US Ambassador, the Irish police, healthcare experts, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). There were 45 attendees, comprising of local politicians, business leaders, the CEO of Shannon Airport, the operations director of the Irish Prison Service, the Limerick Prison governor, academics, and 3 local clergy including the prison chaplain. As a result of the meeting, the Irish Prison Service agreed to develop a policy on the non-punishment principle of the EU directive on human trafficking. The prison chaplain used his position to inform other chaplains of the extent of human trafficking and the importance of understanding this in the context of the non-punishment principle (NPP). This issue was raised with political leaders and Ireland now has a policy with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), but SMG is still working to strengthen this by the following:

- Introducing the NPP into An Garda Síochána Policy
- Placing a requirement on the DPP to report all considerations for DPP to the Irish Rapporteur for Human Trafficking for publication in their annual report
- Prisons becoming a statutory referral provider (outside of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) due to the inherent inability to offer NRM)

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- The Irish Government to review all historic cases where erroneous convictions were identified (such as a Vietnamese woman in County Clare and a man in County Meath)

Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin - St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, Ireland

Santa Marta Group partnered with the Institute for Social Concerns (University of Notre Dame, USA), and St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth (Ireland), to host a full-day conference on Human Trafficking: Justice and Faith Perspectives. There were 70 delegates, bringing together various actors to share and collaborate: academics, clergy (six, including the Apostolic Nuncio), diplomats, law enforcement, religious and NGOs, including the Nigerian Ambassador to Ireland, the Apostolic Nuncio, and the lead for the Institute for Social Concerns in the US. Frances Fitzgerald, former Irish and European parliamentarian presented on the European context, with a focus on justice for women and girls. Our relationship with Ms Fitzgerald was developed through the conference held in Cork earlier in 2024, and we now consider her a key ally, particularly on legislative advances to protect women and girls in Ireland. Sr Abby Avelino, International Coordinator of Talitha Kum spoke on their network of religious sisters covering 107 countries (including the UK and Ireland) and providing front-line care and support. The Head of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau presented on the force's work investigating cases around Ireland. He stressed the reality that this is an Irish problem at a local level – happening even in small towns like Maynooth – but equally, it is often a transnational crime and therefore requires collaboration internationally. SMG's Kevin Hyland presented on the global context, Santa Marta Group's 6-point strategic plan for meaningful, long-lasting change, and on influencing the G20 summit in Brazil 2024. Theologian Sr Dr Ethna Regan grounded the discussion with an unprecedented explanation of Catholic Social Teaching as it relates to human trafficking, drawing on the words of Pope Francis which compel us to take action. As well as enabling debate and learning on human trafficking and modern slavery, this event was a networking opportunity for Santa Marta Group, meeting and consolidating connections with key actors in the Irish sphere. Following Santa Marta Group's criticism, a review is now underway of the Irish NRM policy assisted by the former Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister. This is a key objective of SMG: to provide more effective and humane responses to victims. Currently Ireland hosts victims in accommodation for asylum seekers known as Direct Provision. In addition, we are engaging with the Irish Bishops' Conference to encourage greater involvement and leadership in the movement against human trafficking. The Nuncio invited SMG to contact his office to plan a meeting and greater engagement of diplomatic missions in Ireland.

SMG had chaired and commenced the Island of Ireland report prior to funding support offered by AGCF. This report is now used by the government as the template for intelligence and typology of human trafficking in Ireland. SMG has used this evidence-based document more recently to demonstrate the serious effects human trafficking has on individuals and communities. This work is now the basis of the development of Irish NRM policy and the procedures for deciding whether someone is a victim of trafficking. SMG is continuing to be part of that conversation and has met with officials from the Government and the Justice Minister to ensure the measures needed are implemented for victim care. Currently, SMG does not believe the levels of support offered meet the need or what has been agreed in international

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law. SMG is working with Colin Smith SC, a specialist barrister to prepare the case of how Ireland may fall short of its international duties and be in conflict with four decisions by the European Courts of Human Rights under Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Educating and encouraging decision makers on the standards required for implementation remains a focal point of SMG's work in Ireland.

The conference in Maynooth will be covered in a special edition of The Furrow, one of the leading pastoral theological publications read by clergy and religious across Ireland and internationally, anticipated in February 2025 .

The Oireachtas (Irish Parliament)

Santa Marta Group presented to the Oireachtas with an audience of members of Dáil Éireann (TDs/MPs) and the Seanad (Senators in the Upper House), NGOs, and businesses. The aim was to highlight shortcomings of the proposed legislation in relation to victims' identification, forced criminality and the statutory defence. This resulted in a change to the statutory defence with a strengthened policy within the DPP decision making. SMG are still not satisfied that this is sufficient. A policy recommendation document was provided to politicians outlining the shortcomings and has been used in shaping the new Irish Action Plan. This action plan is still deficient on the necessary measures, particularly supply chain accountability. SMG has participated in a podcast with Fine Gail MEP Maria Walsh (former winner of the Rose of Tralee) to highlight the need for Ireland to enhance its legislative framework on human trafficking and the supply chains. Ireland has legislation known as the 'Nordic model' which provides additional protection for women in prostitution. It also has legislation prohibiting the advertisement of sexual services. Neither piece of legislation has been properly or effectively implemented yet provide significant prevention from human trafficking and exploitation. In November 2024 SMG presented at a meeting hosted by the UK and Irish Governments and made the case for the importance of these legislative frameworks. SMG has since provided the Irish Government with material on how the advertising ban could be better enforced - especially when its domain is outside the state - and how a proactive operation across Ireland could reinforce the Nordic model and stem the criminal activity of buying sexual services from exploited women. The model proposed by SMG will be discussed further in early 2025 and it is anticipated that an operational deployment will take place before March. SMG will work with religious sisters to secure accommodation and services should any victims of trafficking be identified during the operation so that immediate accommodation can be provided. Once trialled, this methodology will be encouraged and led by SMG as this was extremely successful with both Rahab and Women at the Well in the UK.

Conclusion

Summary

Over the last three years, the support provided by the Albert Gubay Charitable Fund (AGCF) has enabled the Santa Marta Group (SMG) to make a significant contribution to increasing awareness of human trafficking and improving responses and policy across England, Wales and Ireland. Our purpose has been to serve those vulnerable to human trafficking and modern

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slavery by helping communities become more aware of this crime, more attentive to its victims, and more resilient through effective measures of prevention.

Political and police leaders have recognised this work and how it has helped to place anti trafficking more centrally as a policy priority, in recognition of the scale of this crime and its social and economic impact. Our work has underlined the importance of building effective trust between the agencies active in this field and the resources of faith communities. With the significant help of the AGCF, we have been able to develop community engagement and partnerships with local and national authorities, strengthening joint work in the common fight to stop modern slavery.

This report outlines key areas of the SMG's work from 2022 to date. The funding provided by the AGCF has enabled us to reach a range of vulnerable communities. This report does not cover the international work of the SMG, although that work is intrinsically connected with the presence and exploitation of victims of modern slavery in these countries. To our knowledge, no other organisation has been able to convene such a network—bringing together politicians, justice actors, Church leaders, faith groups, businesses and charitable agencies—to build trust and foster more effective responses.

With the ending of funding from the AGCF, the SMG has arranged a systematic handover of this work in England and Wales to the Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN), which will continue to develop the initiatives now in place. Agreements are being reached for the intellectual property related to this part of the SMG's work to be transferred to CSAN, in the firm belief that the work will continue and that the generous investment made by the AGCF will go on bearing fruit.

Conclusion

On 15 December 2025, the Trustees of the Santa Marta Group Charity issued the following statement:

“In 2014, at the personal initiative of Pope Francis, the formation of the Santa Marta Group marked a renewed commitment to ending human trafficking and modern day slavery. We recall with gratitude the gentle encouragement of Pope Francis—his words to Cardinal Nichols: ‘Keep this work going!’—which set the course for all that has followed.

Since then, the Santa Marta Group has brought together a wide range of partners, working with dioceses and parishes in England, Wales and Ireland, and building effective coalitions among law enforcement, legislators, the Catholic Church, and many third sector organisations. Our focus was not to provide direct frontline services, but rather to serve as a catalyst for new partnerships and initiatives. Thanks to this approach, many fruitful collaborations have flourished.

In 2021, the Santa Marta Group became a registered charity, seeking financial independence for its international mission. Despite determined efforts, this proved more challenging than envisaged, particularly in sustaining the crucial work of global partnerships.

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Having considered the circumstances, the Trustees have decided that the Santa Marta Group, as a standalone charity, cannot continue and will be closed in March 2026. This is an undeniably sad development, but it also allows us to honour and give thanks for the lasting contribution the charity has made to combating human trafficking and modern day slavery.

The Trustees and staff are working to ensure that the Group's momentum and learning continue, entrusting, for example, to the Catholic Social Action Network the diocesan and parish work in England and Wales. We are also seeking a new framework for the Group's ongoing international contribution, so that its hard won recognition is not lost.

In gratitude, we wish to thank every person who has shared in the mission and service of the Santa Marta Group over these past eleven years. Together, we have built awareness, challenged indifference and fostered new forms of cooperation in the fight against the evil of human trafficking. These efforts have opened the way for others to act, and their fruits will continue.

As we close one chapter, it is our prayer and hope that this work will continue in new forms, and that the inspiration of Pope Francis and the legacy of Santa Marta will endure.

Trustees

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Bishop William Kenney CP

Sir Iain Livingstone

Mr Adrian Radford

Financial Policy and Review

This annual report and accounts represent the third year the charity has been in existence as an organisation separate from the Catholic Church. Trustees remain most grateful to the Albert Gubay Foundation for a grant over three years, to fund the core costs of the Charity and to enable it to establish an office and take on the necessary staff. These funds are restricted in their use. Funds previously transferred from the CBCEW enabled overseas work and other activities to take place. These funds are unrestricted.

The major sources of income during the year were donations from the Albert Gubay Foundation of £500,000 (2024: £500,000). The overall surplus on unrestricted funds for the year, after administrative costs, totalled £12,196 (2024: deficit £9,339).

The Charity provides contributions to staff stakeholder pensions and hence has no pension liability at the year end. The Charity maintains unrestricted and restricted reserves. For a full explanation, see Note 9.

The Charity has a policy of paying suppliers on receipt of invoices. Therefore, most are paid within one week of receipt or the resolution of any queries. Due to the limited number of staff

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and Trustees, absence of one person can delay a small number of payments to 2-3 weeks, but well within the 30 day generally accepted payment period.

Reserves Policy and Future Plans

The Charity has Unrestricted Reserves of £97,168 (2024: £84,972) and Restricted Reserves of £162,842 (2024: £93,451).

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material
- departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to
- presume 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 and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Charity's Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiners

A resolution for the re-appointment of Azets Audit Services as independent examiners will be proposed to the Board.

Approved by the Trustees on April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Vincent Nichols

Chair

Date 28 April 2026

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Santa Marta Group CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Santa Marta Group CIO (the charity) for the period ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. the financial statements did not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



John Howard FCA

Date 29 April 2026

For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services Ltd
Statutory Auditor
Azets Audit Services
2nd Floor
Regis House
45 King William Street
London
EC4R 9AN

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Income and endowments from:					
Donations	2	30,160	500,000	530,160	536,834
Total		30,160	500,000	530,160	536,834
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		17,964	430,649	448,613	485,192
Total		17,964	430,649	448,613	485,192
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Net income for the period		12,196	69,351	81,547	51,642
Balances at 1 July 2024		84,972	93,491	178,463	126,821
Balances at 30 June 2025		97,168	162,842	260,010	178,463

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing activities.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		262,820	190,820
Debtors and Prepayments	6	8,824	4,005
Total current assets		271,644	194,825
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	7	(11,634)	(16,362)
Net current assets		260,010	178,463
Total assets less current liabilities		260,010	178,463
Net assets		260,010	178,463
Funds	8		
Restricted funds		162,842	93,491
Unrestricted funds		97,168	84,972
		260,010	178,463

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 28 April 2026
and were signed on their behalf by:



Signed: Vincent Nichols (Trustee)



Signed: Adrian Radford (Trustee)

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Cash Flow Statement at 30 June 2025

	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Net income per SOFA		81,547		51,642
Adjustments for:				
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(4,819)		145	
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	<u>(4,728)</u>		<u>(10,477)</u>	
		(9,547)		(10,332)
Net cash from finance activities		72,000		41,310
Cash and cash equivalents at 1st July 2024		190,820		149,510
Cash and cash equivalents at 30th June 2025		<u>262,820</u>		<u>190,820</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in Hand		262,820		190,820
Total cash and cash equivalents		<u>262,820</u>		<u>190,820</u>

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Notes to the Financial Statements

Period Ended 30 June 2025

1. Principal accounting policies

Basis of accounting and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)' (effective 1 January 2019) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements are presented to the nearest £1.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

In 2021, the Santa Marta Group became a registered charity, seeking financial independence for its international mission. Despite determined efforts, this proved more challenging than envisaged, particularly in sustaining the crucial work of global partnerships.

Having considered the circumstances, the Trustees have decided that the Santa Marta Group, as a standalone charity, cannot continue and will be closed in March 2026. This is an undeniably sad development, but it also allows us to honour and give thanks for the lasting contribution the charity has made to combating human trafficking and modern day slavery.

The Trustees and staff are working to ensure that the Group's momentum and learning continue, entrusting, for example, to the Catholic Social Action Network the diocesan and parish work in England and Wales. We are also seeking a new framework for the Group's ongoing international contribution, so that its hard won recognition is not lost.

Scope of the Financial Statements

These financial statements encompass all the activities and assets of the Charity.

Funds

The Charity maintains two types of funds

- Restricted - where the purposes for which the funds may be used have been restricted by donors;
- Unrestricted - where the fund is not restricted as to use.

Income recognition

Income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income; it is probable that the income will be received; and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. Income from financial investments is recognised on receipt.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

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.

Expenditure recognition

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 settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the Charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees together with direct costs of meetings.

Irrecoverable VAT

The Charity is not registered for VAT and therefore, all VAT is irrecoverable and is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (-SOFA"), or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate.

Taxation

The Charity is a Registered Charity, hence is not liable for income tax or corporation tax on income derived from its charitable activities, as it falls within the various exemptions available to Registered Charities.

Pension costs

The Charity makes contributions to stakeholder pension plans of staff members. The cost of these contributions is charged to the SOFA as incurred.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include 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.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

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.

Operating leases

Rental charges under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred under the term of the lease.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

**Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 30 June 2025**

2. Donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	30,160	36,834
Albert Gubay Foundation	500,000	500,000
	<u>530,160</u>	<u>536,834</u>

3. Analysis of charitable expenditure

The breakdown of overhead and support costs and how these were allocated between unrestricted and restricted activities is shown in the table below

Cost Type	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted
	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 5)	359,350	-	359,350
Office costs	50,863	1,590	49,273
Meeting, conference and project costs	30,588	16,374	14,214
Governance costs	7,812	-	7,812
Total	<u>448,613</u>	<u>17,964</u>	<u>430,649</u>

4. Analysis of governance costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accountancy fees	5,412	-
Independent Examiner fees	2,400	2,400
	<u>7,812</u>	<u>2,400</u>

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

5. Analysis of staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	298,182	291,167
Employer's National Insurance	27,591	29,950
Pension contributions	29,210	31,289
Life assurance	4,567	2,797
	<u>359,350</u>	<u>355,203</u>

Three employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the period. The average number of employees during the period was 5. The highest paid employee was the Strategy Director with a total employment cost of £113,507.

£70,001-£80,000	1	-
£80,001-£90,000	1	-
£90,001-£100,000	1	2
£100,001-£110,000	-	1

The charity makes contributions to personal pension plans and therefore has no further pension liabilities.

The Trustees consider themselves and the Director as comprising the key management personnel of the Charity, in charge of directing and controlling the Santa Marta Group.

During the year, the Trustees did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind. In the year, the Santa Marta Group reimbursed £Nil for travel (2024: £572). In addition, £Nil was paid for travel on behalf of Trustees (2024: £4,853).

Following the decision by the Trustee to close the charity down notice was given to staff to terminate their employment in accordance with the provisions in their contracts and statutory regulations.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

6. Debtors and Prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	8,824	4,005
	<u>8,824</u>	<u>4,005</u>

7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals	11,634	16,362
	<u>11,634</u>	<u>16,362</u>

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund balances at 30 June 2025 are represented by:			
Current assets	97,168	174,476	271,644
Creditors falling due within one year	-	(11,634)	(11,634)
	<u>97,168</u>	<u>162,842</u>	<u>260,010</u>

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP CIO (Charity No. 1194231)

Movement of funds 2024-25

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
Restricted funds	93,491	500,000	(430,649)		162,842
Unrestricted funds	84,972	30,160	(17,964)		97,168
Total	178,463	530,160	(448,613)	-	260,010

Movement of funds 2023-24

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
Restricted funds	32,450	500,000	(433,959)	(5,000)	93,491
Unrestricted funds	94,371	36,834	(51,233)	5,000	84,972
Total	126,821	536,834	(485,192)	-	178,463