

FENCES & FRONTIERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1194720

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-06-08

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THOSE PERSONS SEEKING ASYLUM AND THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS LIVING (TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY) IN LONDON.

Activities: Fences & Frontiers aims to make the UK a welcoming, supportive, and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers to live and settle. We run cultural, recreational and educational activities for refugees, asylum seekers and the wider community - bringing people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£24,871	£29,153	-	-
2024-01-31	£17,095	£9,055	-	-
2023-01-31	£17,180	£4,806	-	-
2022-01-31	£1,710	£2,013	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Arta Shiroka	Chair	2022-05-25
Bethan Illman		2017-01-01
Cristel Sainz		2017-01-01
Dr Benjamin Taylor		2018-01-01
Kobra Haghdoost		2022-05-25
Louise Coady		2016-06-25
Neil McGarrigle		2016-06-25
Ruki Hashi		2024-04-17

FENCES & FRONTIERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1194720

Accounts

Fences & Frontiers

Registered charity number: 1194720

Fences &
Frontiers

Annual Report 2024/25



February 2024 – January 2025

CEO's Introduction

It is my privilege to share the 2024/25 Annual Report for Fences & Frontiers. This year has been one of transformation and growth for our organisation. We have strengthened our ties with key partners, starting delivering on our largest grant to date, and laid the groundwork for the future by developing a 10-year plan for sustainable growth. We have also experienced real internal transition, with some long-standing team members stepping back, and new voices and ideas coming in.

Our community has blossomed this year, expanding in size and diversity. In 2024 we directly supported over 100 refugees and asylum seekers through our core activities, with participants joining us from countries such as El Salvador, Iran, Afghanistan, Colombia, South Sudan, and more.

More than ever, we've seen the immense value of partnerships. As a grassroots charity, we rely heavily on these relationships to amplify our impact. Collaborating with organisations EFHT, SLBI, London Zoo, Kew Gardens, The Urban Tree Festival, and a range of artists and mindfulness practitioners has enabled us to deliver creative and therapeutic activities that would otherwise be out of reach for a charity of our size.

One partnership of particular note is with HF Holidays, which has provided participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beauty of the British countryside. These experiences offer profound connections with nature and moments of respite and reflection. In 2024, we ran three holidays together and are now planning next year's trips.

We would also like to highlight our work with Stanley Arts who we worked with on a series of creative sessions over the colder months - enabling us to provide a range of new experiences from photography workshops to gingerbread making.

We've also worked closely with artists, writers, and practitioners to deliver creative and therapeutic activities. These programs provide participants with new ways to connect with their surroundings and each other while offering tools for artistic self-expression, whether through poetry or painting. We are especially grateful to renowned children's authors Laura Henry-Allain MBE and Nathan Bryon for donating signed books to our families—a gesture that has brought huge joy.

On top of this, we have continued to build and nurture relationships with museums and other cultural institutions, as well as refugee and community sector and therapeutic practitioners. This has enabled us to deliver a fascinating range of activities from film screenings to seed planting, guided walks to exhibitions.

In May 2024 we adopted a 10-year vision. We have committed to becoming a user-led organisation, with a goal of having 50% of our board composed of individuals with refugee backgrounds within five years. We've made significant progress, reaching 37.5% representation this year, and we're proud to have Arta Shiroka, a former participant, serving as our Chair. We have also shifted to becoming an employer. Recognising the increasing demands on our volunteers, we

began funding a part-time CEO role in September 2024. Securing funding for this position, alongside other core costs, is critical to our long-term sustainability. However, change has not come without challenges. The departure of founding volunteers has placed strain on our capacity. While their contributions are missed, this has created opportunities for fresh perspectives and new approaches that we believe will strengthen us for the future.

We recognise the value of media and our media presence has grown in 2024, helping amplify the voices and stories of our participants. In 2024, our work was covered by outlets such as the London Review of Books, Alliance Magazine, the Evening Standard, and Third Sector, enhancing our profile and reach.

Of course, our work is shaped by the wider political and social context. The racist riots of summer 2024 affected many of our participants directly. We were proud to provide solidarity and support during this difficult time, while also working with trusted journalists to ensure their voices were heard. Yet, the mental health impacts of such events remain, once again underscoring the need for organisations such as Fences & Frontiers.

As we look ahead, we are cautiously optimistic. Signs of progress, such as the closure of the Bibby Stockholm barge, the end of the Rwanda plan, and fairer timelines for transitioning out of asylum accommodation, offer hope. However, the persistence of mianti-migrant rhetoric, both in Westminster and on our streets, reminds us of the ongoing challenges we face.

Despite these uncertainties, we're excited about the year ahead. Activities already on the horizon include a photography workshop with Stanley Arts, trips to the Science Museum and Kew Gardens, and two holidays to the South Downs and the Lake District.

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our funders. I want to express my deepest gratitude to WCGL/TFL, Localgiving, the Mayor of London, Patagonia, individual philanthropists, and everyone who has donated and supported us.

Together, we are building a more welcoming, supportive, and inspiring future for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Lewis Garland, CEO

Mission statement

Fences & Frontiers exists to make the UK a more welcoming, supportive and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers.

We do this by running cultural, and nature-based activities that bring people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity.

Our activities offer people the chance to explore beautiful parts of the countryside and

cultural spaces. However, more than that, we provide opportunities for people to build friendships and gain a sense of community, practise their language skills, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

We hereby confirm that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.



Achievements and Performance

Operational activities

We run cultural, physical, recreational and educational activities for refugees, asylum seekers and the wider community - bringing people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity.

Our current projects include:

- Never Walk Alone / Stepping Forward
- London, Museums, and Me
- HF Holidays - Countryside holidays Partnership

These benefit the physical and mental health of those who attended, and helped to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into society more widely.

Across our projects we had an increase of 7.6% in attendance in 2024/5.

Our estimated cost-per-beneficiary (the cost of enabling one person to go on a trip) across both projects was £36.86 in 2024/25.



Never Walk Alone

Never Walk Alone is our walking project. We've been running these walks since March 2018 in London and the surrounding countryside.

Our walks include urban and rural trails, giving walkers the opportunity to take in spectacular views and explore places of historical and cultural interest they may never have realised were on their doorstep.

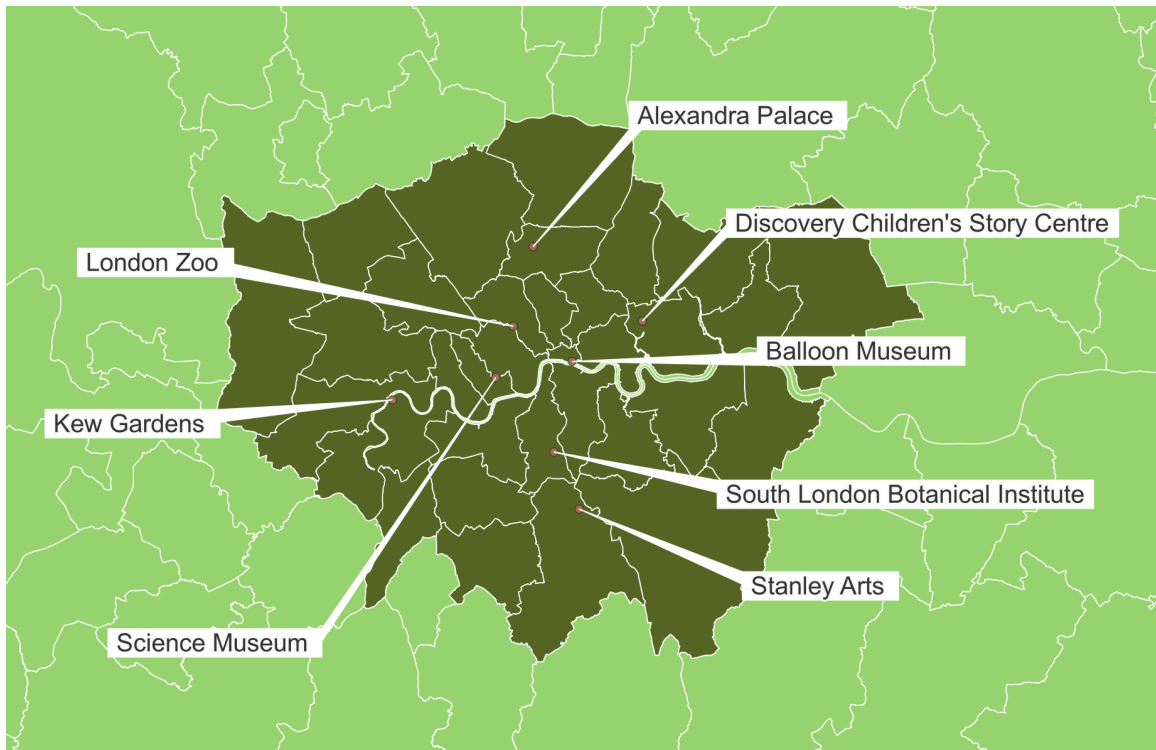
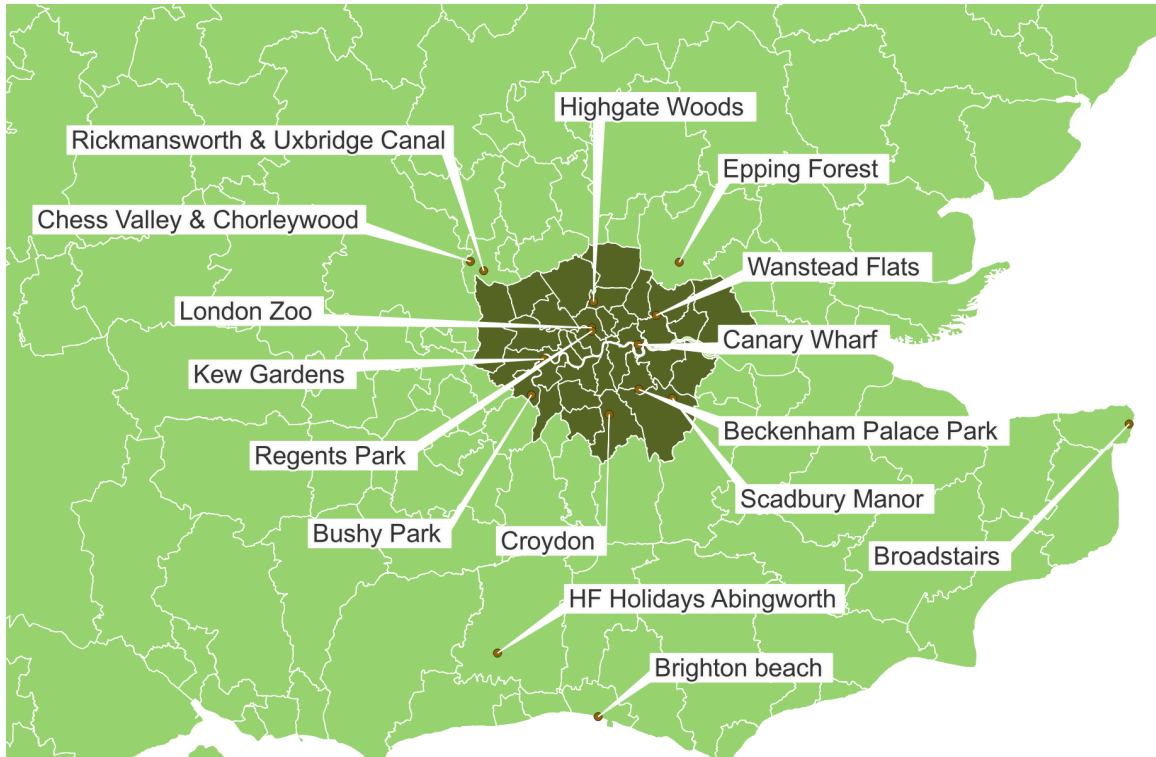
These walks provide an opportunity to get to know people from different areas of London and backgrounds and help to foster lasting friendships that outlive the project. All walkers (from refugee and new community backgrounds) have their transport costs covered. Refreshments are also provided.

In 2024/5:

- **We ran 15 walks** in and around London and the South East of England.
- **We filled 206 places on our walks** with refugees and asylum seekers
- **We walked over 1,250 miles** in total



Never Walk Alone - Walk destinations, February 2024 - January 2025



London, Museums and Me - Trip destinations, February 2024 - January 2025 (some destinations visited more than once)

London, Museums & Me

Our trips give children from refugee backgrounds, and their families, the chance to explore London's museums and cultural attractions. We run them on a monthly basis, and cover all transport costs for participants, as well as providing refreshments.

In 2024/5:

- **We ran 13 museum trips** around London
- **Over 196 places** were filled by refugees and asylum seeker families over the year.

HF Holidays

Thanks to our partnership with sustainable holiday specialists, HF Holidays, we have been able to provide annual holidays in beautiful UK countryside locations, offering participants meaningful opportunities for immersion in nature—far beyond what day trips can offer.

In 2024, we organised three holidays: two in the Peak District and one in the South Downs, benefiting 30 refugees and asylum seekers. These holidays have been a huge success, and we are already planning two more for April 2025.

“Such a wonderful holiday. The week has been spectacular from the start, we have met some very nice and kind people.

We have visited beautiful places such as the River Dove, the village of Thorpe, the village of Ilam, the Carsington nature reserve.

The kids had a great time, made friends and played a lot, as well as seeing nature and animals”

L, El Salvador

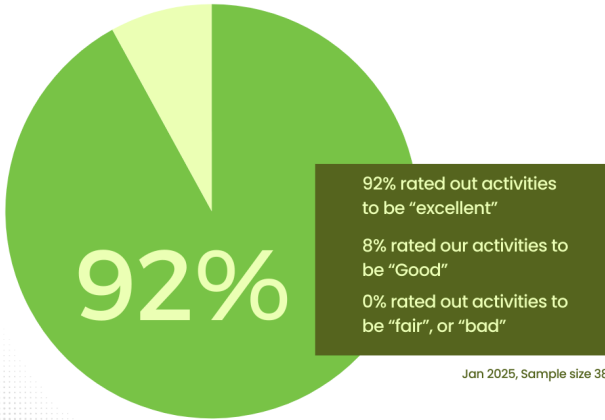


Participant feedback

Participant input is key to our success. This year we have gathered input through various methods including surveys, in-person and digital polls, open discussion and informal interviews.

The data below has been categorised to align with the key barriers we help our participants overcome.

1. Isolation and Mental Health - We address isolation and promote mental wellbeing by creating meaningful connections within a supportive community. Our programs provide the therapeutic benefits of nature, physical activity, and mental stimulation, instilling hope and reducing feelings of loneliness.



92% of respondents in our May 2024 Survey said our activities helped them ‘make friends and feel part of a community’

One participant from El Salvador shared: *“The walks have saved my life, and that of my husband - they helped us get out of depression”.*

Another told us: *“At first the outings were an escape from hotel life as an asylum seeker... Now it is a reunion with friends, filled with the positive energy of nature and coexistence.”*

In our general survey (Jan 2025) one participant said: *“Being closer to nature is a therapy that reduces stress and helps our mental and physical health.”*

2. Lack of Financial Resources - Our activities are entirely free and accessible by covering costs for travel, food, and admission. This financial support removes barriers for participants living on as little as £8.86 per week, enabling them to engage in activities they otherwise couldn’t afford.

As one participant from Iran highlighted: *“Most importantly, it is affordable for us refugees. The walks help us become more familiar with the culture of the English people.”*

3. Sense of Belonging - From cultural trips to museum workshops and our end-of-year “Festive Fiesta” participants bond over shared experiences and build lasting relationships.

Data Sources:

The quantitative data is taken from three surveys, all of which took place between May 2024 and Jan 2025

- General Survey May 2024: Responses 12
- General Survey Jan 2025: Responses 38
- Hands-up Survey (WCGL grant feedback Sep 2024): Responses 20

The qualitative feedback is from the above surveys and individual interviews carried out in this period.

In our general survey (May 2024) 83% of participants said our activities made them "more optimistic about their future." Participant feedback consistently emphasises the importance of being part of a welcoming community:

"The walkers are of all ages and nationalities. It is a very safe and happy environment." – Participant from Iran.

4. Cultural Knowledge and Integration - We help provide our participants with the cultural knowledge and skills they need to live in the UK.

In a participant survey (Jan 2025) 82% of respondents said our walks helped them "improve their knowledge about life in the UK" and 74% reported improving their English language skills.

One participant told us: "We have learned about the environment and nature and the walks help us become more familiar with the culture of the English people."

Languages:
Wherever possible, we provide feedback opportunities in languages that are relevant and accessible to our community. Our general feedback form has four language options (representing the main languages spoken by our participants at present): Spanish, English, Farsi French. Where people need support, we try to find volunteers with relevant language skills to support participants.

Another said: "(We) get to know new places, learn about their history, and visit places of cultural and scientific interest. It's great to share with different cultures".

5. Physical health - Many of our participants have limited opportunities for physical exercise, particularly in a supportive group setting.

In a post-walk survey (Sept 2024) 100% of participants said they "walked more regularly" as a result of our Never Walk Alone project and in our general survey (Jan 2025) 83% of respondents told us they feel more "physically healthy" as a result of our activities.

One participant (Jan 2025) told us: "I enjoy nature, I feel happy walking and exercising. It helps me feel better both physically and mentally".

Recommendations - We ask participants ways we can improve our offer. The main points brought up in our Jan 2025 survey are listed below. Where possible, we will look to embed these ideas into our work:

- A strong demand for more, and more frequent activities.
- Interest in more trips outside London, particularly to forests, coastal locations and historical sites (such as castles).
- Some suggest finding ways to break down language barriers and encourage people to connect across language groups (through non verbal games etc).
- Ensure we maintain a transparent and fair sign-up process at all times.
- Some walkers would like shorter walks to accommodate people with different needs.
- Enthusiasm for exploring overnight experiences/ multi-day experiences such as camping.

Partnerships and engagement

Partnerships are central to Fences & Frontiers, allowing us to better serve our community and host diverse activities, from guided walking holidays to photography workshops.

We collaborate closely with trusted refugee sector partners, including Babylon Migrants Project, The Refugee Council, Hope for the young, Women for Refugee Women, and Hestia, fostering mutually beneficial relationships that enhance participant support and signposting.

Our delivery partners are equally important. A standout partnership with HF Holidays, sustainable holiday specialists, has evolved into one of our three core projects.

Our relationships with Stanley Arts enabled us to deliver a series of creative sessions over the winter months - ranging from photography workshops to theatre.

Other collaborators include creative hubs like Discover Children’s Story Centre, museums like the Science Museum, and conservation-focused organisations such as Epping Forest Heritage Trust, Kew Gardens, London Zoo, South London Botanical Institute, CPRE, and London Wildlife Trust. We also engage artists, writers and therapeutic practitioners to equip participants with tools to express themselves and connect with nature and each other.

Support from Patagonia has provided B-stock for walkers and contributed to travel costs. Additionally, we are active in national campaigns and coalitions advocating for refugee rights, including Citizens UK’s free bus travel campaign for asylum seekers in London and the Together with Refugees alliance. Through the All the Elements network, we strengthen ties with groups championing equity and access to the outdoors.



Taran Khan, author and workshop practitioner: “I was struck by the diversity and enthusiasm of the participants, who took pains to make me feel welcome. I was also really touched by the energy and dedication of the volunteers. I've worked with refugees and asylum seekers in a range of settings, and was impressed by Fences & Frontiers' commitment to the wellbeing of the people it works with, and the clarity with which they demonstrate what a society that welcomes refugees would look like.”

Never Walk Alone
Never Walk Alone is a walking group for refugees and asylum seekers

Explore the beautiful countryside around London - from coastal paths to woodland trails.

Meet new people and make lasting friendships

All transport costs are covered & lunch is provided.

Get in contact to find out more:
fencesandfrontiers@gmail.com

Fences & Frontiers

[@fencesfrontiers](https://www.fencesandfrontiers.org) [fencesandfrontiers.org](https://www.fencesandfrontiers.org)

Anneka Gonzalez, Learning & Engagement Heritage Officer, Stanley Arts:



“In our recent photography workshops, Fences & Frontiers group brought a wonderful atmosphere of curiosity and playfulness. I felt extremely privileged to be involved in this project and learn from the participants, it was magical to see them share their dancing, culture, jokes and stories over food”.

Press and Media

We had a strong year for media engagement in 2024. This enabled us to increase our profile as an organisation and ensure the voices and experiences of our participants were heard by a wider audience. Articles included:

- Taran N Khan, [‘After the Riots’](#), [London Review of Books](#), 11 September 2024
- [Analysis: ‘We need a stronger message’ – how can charities respond to weeks of racist violence?](#), [ThirdSector](#)
- Lewis Garland, [Why small charities need philanthropists to realise their big ambitions](#), [Alliance Magazine](#), 3 June 2024
- [Fences and Frontiers - 2024, A Year of Events, Community and Change - Community Spotlight!. All the Elements](#), 19 December 2024

Social Media and Communication

Our social accounts continue to get a strong engagement. Social media remains an effective tool for fundraising and relationship building. With much of the UK charity sector we are in the process of transitioning to Bluesky from X as it is a more supportive environment for refugee organisations.

We have 1,900 followers on X.

We have 922 followers on Instagram which is now our most active channel.

Our quarterly newsletter remains powerful for fundraising and communicating with our more engaged supporters.



Financial Review

Income and expenditure

During the period in question (1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024), the charity raised £24,871 (of which £13,785 was in-kind contributions) and spent £29,153 (of which 13,785 was in-kind contributions). The charity ended with a final cash balance of £25,455.

As expected we had a large increase in expenditure in 2024, as we sought to increase the number of trips we ran, and introduced one part-time paid staff role.

Reserves

With the employment of our part-time staff member, and by agreement of the board of trustees, we have increased our reserves policy from three months ordinary expenditure to six.

Six months cash expenditure is anticipated to amount to £10,100 in 2024/25, so our current reserve is set to this amount. The end of year unrestricted reserves were £22,425. However, we expect to continue steadily decreasing our reserves to the target amount over 2025/26 and 2026/27.

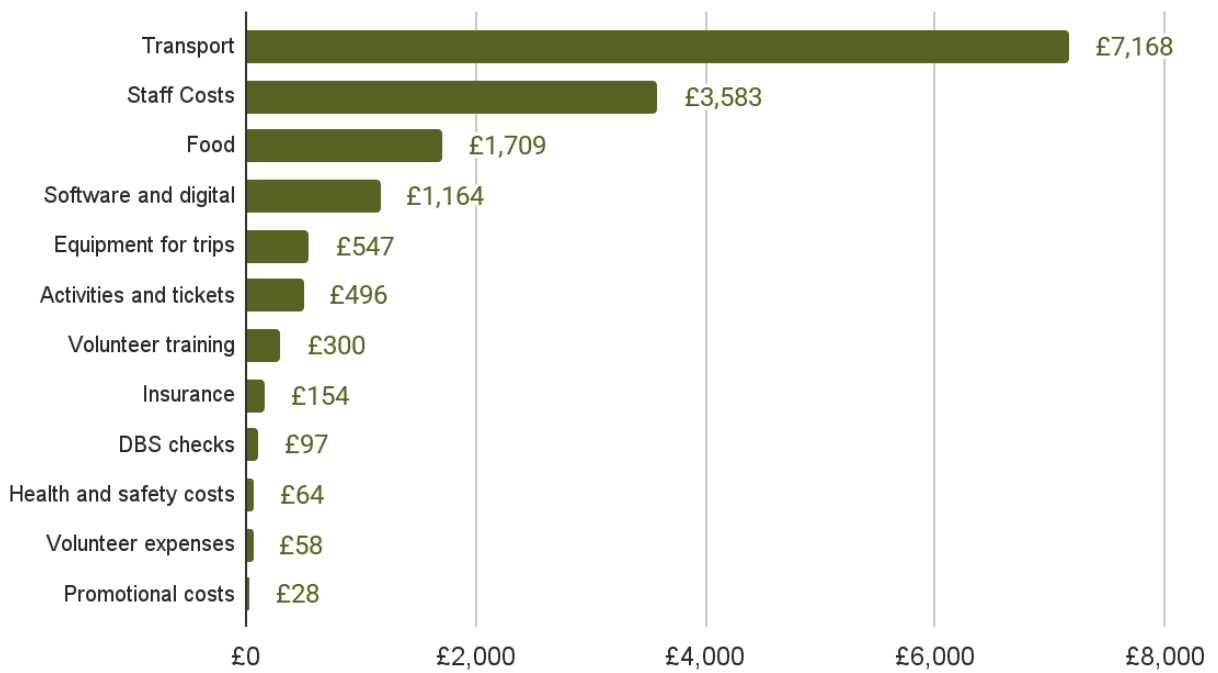
Principal sources of funding

The charity's principal sources of funding in 2024/25 continued to be a mixture of grants, partnerships and small donors, and we have continued to increase and diversify our funding over the last year. In particular, this year we received funds from:

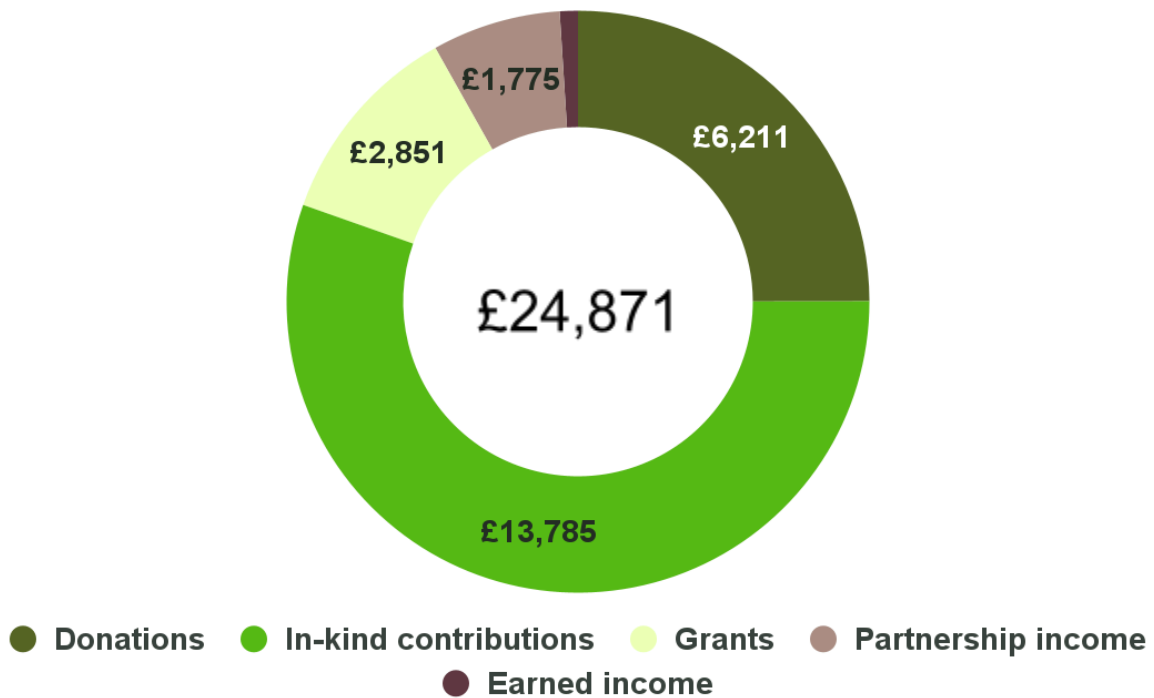
- Transport for London, via its Walking and Cycling Grants London (WCGL) scheme
- Patagonia
- The Campaign for Rural England, London
- National Lottery Heritage fund via our work with Stanley Arts
- The South London Botanical Institute
- Donations from individual philanthropists
- Small monthly and one-time donations

We have improved our accounting systems to ensure in-kind contributions are more accurately reflected in our annual accounts. We received significant in-kind contributions of holiday places from HF Holidays, estimated to be worth £11,818, along with smaller contributions, in the form of free tickets, from London Zoo, the Discovery Children's Story Centre, the Science Museum and the Balloon Museum.

Main costs in 2024/25



Principle sources of funding in 2024/25



Structure, Governance and Management

Fences & Frontiers is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and governed by a constitution.

This year, Fences & Frontiers has had a series of significant governance and structural changes:

Adoption of a 10-Year Plan

Following the delivery of our visioning document in Summer 2024, we have adopted a comprehensive 10-year strategy to enable sustainable growth and provide more tailored support to our participants.

Enhancing Organisational Capacity

To address our capacity gap and strengthen long-term sustainability, we have appointed a part-time CEO (0.2 FTE). This role is key to driving our strategic objectives and building organisational resilience.

Strengthening Board Representation and Expertise

We have expanded lived experience representation on our board, with the appointment of Ruki Hashi, who also brings invaluable HR expertise from the charity sector.

Never Walk Alone leadership transition

Our founding Never Walk Alone project manager has stepped back into a board role. A successor has been recruited and will officially begin in January 2025. This process led to significant capacity restraints throughout Autumn 2024 but has also brought in fresh ideas and energy.

We have also continued to refine our internal systems and processes. Notably, we launched a pilot feedback form to ensure our work is increasingly shaped by user experiences and needs.

Membership of the board of trustees

Our approach to selecting and appointing members to our board of trustees is as follows:

- (1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
- (2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.
- (3) We prioritise trustees who have lived experience of the UK asylum system.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name Fences & Frontiers

Registered charity number 1194720

Charity's principal address 62B Hackford Road
London
SW9 0RG

Email Address fencesandfrontiers@gmail.com

Website www.fencesandfrontiers.org

Charity Trustees

Arta Shiroka Chair

Cristel Sainz

Ben Taylor Treasurer

Louise Coady

Neil McGarrigle

Bethan Illman

Kobra Haghdoost

Ruki Hashi

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Arta Shiroka, Chair



Ben Taylor, Treasurer

Accounts (Receipts and Payments Format)

Fences & Frontiers

For the year ended 31 January 2025

Cash Basis

Receipts and Payments account

Account	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Last year	Notes
Receipts					
Donations	4,211	2,000	6,211	10,515	
Grants	0	2,851	2,851	6,580	
Miscellaneous Income	250	0	250	0	
In-kind donations	0	13,785	13,785	0	Note: 1
Partnership income	1,040	735	1,775	0	Note: 2
Total Receipts	5,501	19,371	24,871	17,095	
Payments					
Activities and Ticket Costs	496	13,785	14,281	343	
Beneficiary Equipment and Supplies	106	441	547	429	
Transport	1,702	5,465	7,168	5,868	
Food and Other Consumables	553	1,156	1,709	1,169	
Health and Safety Costs	64	0	64	0	
Insurance	74	80	154	148	
Merchandise and Promotional Materials	28	0	28	0	
DBS Checks	61	36	97	0	
Software and Digital Platform Subscriptions	1,027	137	1,164	1,098	
Volunteer Training (Programme Specific)	0	300	300	0	
Volunteer expenses	0	58	58	0	
Gross Wages	0	3,583	3,583	0	Note: 3
Total Payments	4,112	25,041	29,153	9,055	
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,389	(5,671)	(4,282)	8,040	
End of year					
Retained Earnings	21,036	8,558	29,594	21,554	
Current Year Earnings	1,389	(5,671)	(4,282)	8,040	
Cash funds this year end	22,425	2,887	25,312	29,594	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Account	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Last year	Notes
Assets and liabilities					
Monetary Assets					
Cash at Bank and in Hand					
Current Account - Lloyds Business Bank	20,042	3,030	23,072	28,743	
Petty Cash - Soldo	2,383	0	2,383	851	
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand	22,425	3,030	25,455	29,594	
Total Monetary Assets	22,425	3,030	25,455	29,594	
Liabilities					
PAYE Payable	0	(143)	(143)	0	
Total Liabilities	0	(143)	(143)	0	
Total Assets and liabilities	22,425	2,887	25,312	29,594	

Footnotes

1. In-kind donations: The significant increase in in-kind donations this year reflects two factors: 1) a change in our accounting practices, as in previous years in-kind donations were received but not formally recorded in our financial statements, and 2) a genuine increase in the volume of donated services compared to prior periods, though not to the extent suggested by the year-on-year comparison. We have implemented a more comprehensive accounting approach this year to better reflect the true value of all contributions to the charity. This change provides greater transparency and a more accurate representation of the total resources supporting our charitable activities.

2. Partnership income: Partnership income represents income from strategic partnerships with corporate and organisational supporters. In previous years, similar partnership income was received but was classified under 'grants' and/or 'donations' categories. This year, we have created a separate classification to better reflect the growing significance of this source of funding to the charity and to provide greater transparency in our funding sources.

3. Gross wages: This financial year marks the introduction of salary costs following the appointment of our first employee on a part-time basis. This new expenditure category represents gross salary, employer's National Insurance and pension contributions.

General notes to the accounts

1. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis.
2. The CIO has several funds: an unrestricted General fund and a projects-specific restricted funds, here collated for simplicity under 'restricted'. The latter goes towards covering the costs of the charity's specific activities, namely a walking group, a museum visits group, and, in previous years, care packages for refugees and asylum seekers.
3. The CIO had no outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.
4. No remuneration was paid to any trustee, nor were any personal expenses (e.g. train tickets for trustees) covered for their services as trustees during this period.

FENCES & FRONTIERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1194720

Accounts

Fences & Frontiers

Registered charity number: 1194720

Fences &
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Annual Report 2023/24



February 2023 – January 2024

CEO's Introduction

I'm pleased to present the annual report for Fences & Frontiers for the year 2023/24.

2023 has been an exciting year for Fences & Frontiers. We have built and delivered new projects, forged new partnerships, and strengthened our organisational structure and governance.

Our community has grown in both size and diversity – with regular participants from El Salvador, Iran, Cameroon, Turkey, Honduras, Sudan, and many more countries.

Partnership working has always been key to Fences & Frontiers – enabling us to reach new communities and host more enriching activities and events.

Our new partnership with HF Holidays has been particularly fruitful. Working alongside HF Holidays, we are now able to provide annual holidays to beautiful parts of the UK countryside for our participants. After the huge success of our pilot holiday in the South Downs, we are now working on two further holidays in 2024.

We have also partnered with a number of artists and writers to deliver a series of creative walks. These give our walkers new ways to relate to their surroundings and to each other, and the tools to express themselves artistically – through poetry or painting.

On top of this, we have continued to build and nurture relationships with museums and other cultural attractions, as well as refugee

and community sector partners across London and beyond. This has enabled us to deliver a fascinating range of activities from film screenings to seed planting, guided walks to exhibitions.

Over the last year we have also begun a process of professionalisation, responding and preparing for the new challenges we are facing as a result of our growth as an organisation.

We have made significant changes to our governance and organisational structure. This has included making a clearer separation between board and operations roles, ensuring we have sizable lived experience representation on our board, and creating new roles in our core team for onboarding and managing volunteers and participants.

As part of these changes, we are delighted that Arta Shiroka has taken on the role of Chair of the board. Arta's experience as a long-term participant of our London, Museums and Me project, coupled with her personal experience of the asylum system will be a huge benefit to us – helping us better shape our projects around the needs and interests of our participants.

We have also improved our internal systems and processes, embedding new accounting and event management tools. While fully aware that our processes and structures will need to continue evolving, we're confident we're now in a strong position for our next chapter as an organisation.

We fully recognise the importance of an active media and social media presence to our growth and profile. Coverage in the Evening Standard, Reader's Digest, and on the Runnymede Trust blog have helped us reach new volunteers and supporters this year.

In September we were shortlisted for the Head Outside Change Maker Award– an award that celebrates organisations that create meaningful change to the way we support people with their mental health through outside activities. For a volunteer-led charity, being recognised in this way was a huge achievement. Our projects simply would not exist without the energy, ideas, knowledge and dedication of our incredible volunteers and I want to take this opportunity to thank them all.

I also want to express my huge gratitude to our funders, including The Network for Social Change, Localgiving, TFL, Mayor of London, the People's Postcode Lottery, Patagonia, and individual philanthropists, and all who have donated and helped us raise the funds we need to keep going and keep innovating.

In what has been a year of real progress for us as an organisation, we have

simultaneously seen a ratcheting up of anti-migrant rhetoric and policy. As we approach the General Election, we know this “debate” is likely to take centre stage and that this will pose fresh challenges. While working in a hostile operating environment may have challenges for Fences & Frontiers as an organisation, we are particularly concerned about the impact this will have on the health and wellbeing of our participants.

This said, there is a huge amount to look forward to in the new year: We have trips to the Science Museum, Discover Childrens' Story Centre, London Zoo and Kew already in the calendar; plans for holidays in the South Downs and the Lake District are well underway; and we're launching a new TFL funded walking group!

Together, we can make the UK a more welcoming, supportive and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers.

Lewis Garland

**CEO and Founder
Fences & Frontiers**

Mission statement

Fences & Frontiers exists to make the UK a more welcoming, supportive and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers.

We do this by running cultural, and nature-based activities that bring people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity.

Our activities offer people the chance to explore beautiful parts of the countryside and cultural spaces. However, more than that, we provide opportunities for people to build friendships and gain a sense of community, practise their language skills, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

We hereby confirm that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.



Achievements and Performance

Operational activities

We run cultural, physical, recreational and educational activities for refugees, asylum seekers and the wider community - bringing people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity. Our current projects include:

- Never Walk Alone / Stepping Forward
- London, Museums, and Me
- HF Holidays (Partnership)

These benefit the physical and mental health of those who attended, and helped to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into society more widely.

Both Never Walk Alone and London, Museums and Me - have gone from strength to strength. We doubled the walks we put on in summer 2023, have introduced a series of practitioner led walks including artists, writers and more.

Our estimated cost-per-beneficiary (the cost of enabling one person to go on a trip) across both projects was £23 in 2023/24 - a 20% increase on the previous year.

Never Walk Alone

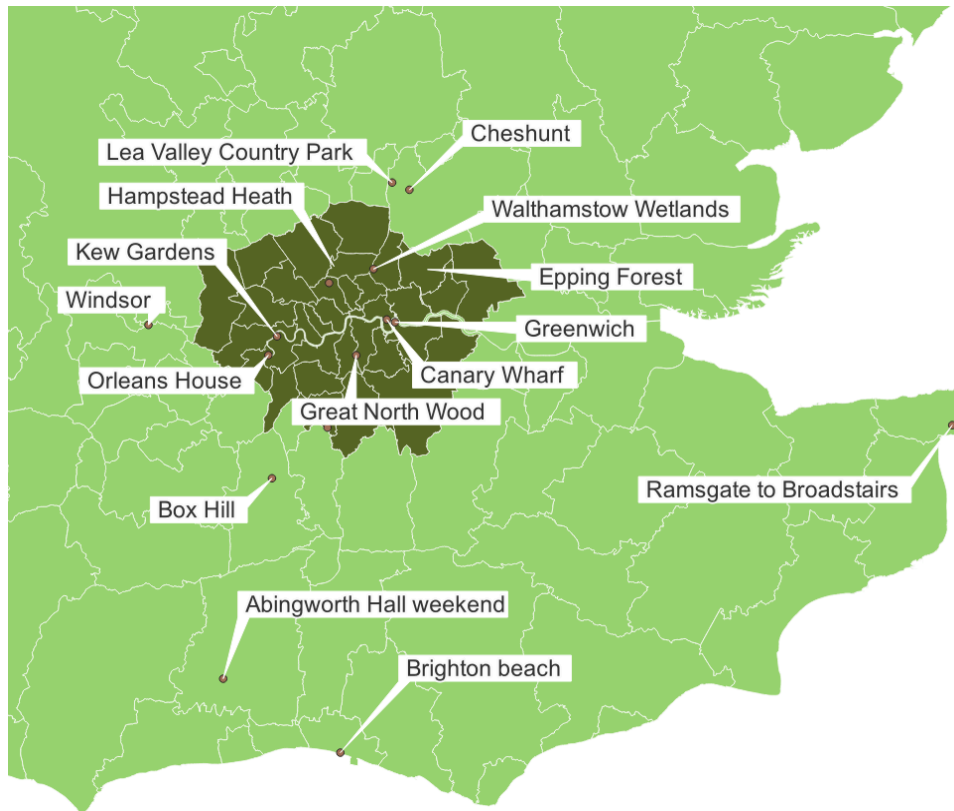
Never Walk Alone is our walking project. We've been running these walks since March 2018 in London and the surrounding countryside.

Our walks include urban and rural trails, giving walkers the opportunity to take in spectacular views and explore places of historical and cultural interest they may never have realised were on their doorstep.

These walks provide an opportunity to get to know people from different areas of London and backgrounds and help to foster lasting friendships that outlive the project. All walkers (from refugee and new community backgrounds) have their transport costs covered. Refreshments are also provided.

In 2023/4:

- **We ran 15 walks** in and around London and the South East of England, including one three-day trip in partnership with HF Holidays - a 50% on the previous year
- **236 places were filled** by refugees and asylum seekers over the year
- **Over 1,400 miles were walked** collectively by the group over the course of the year

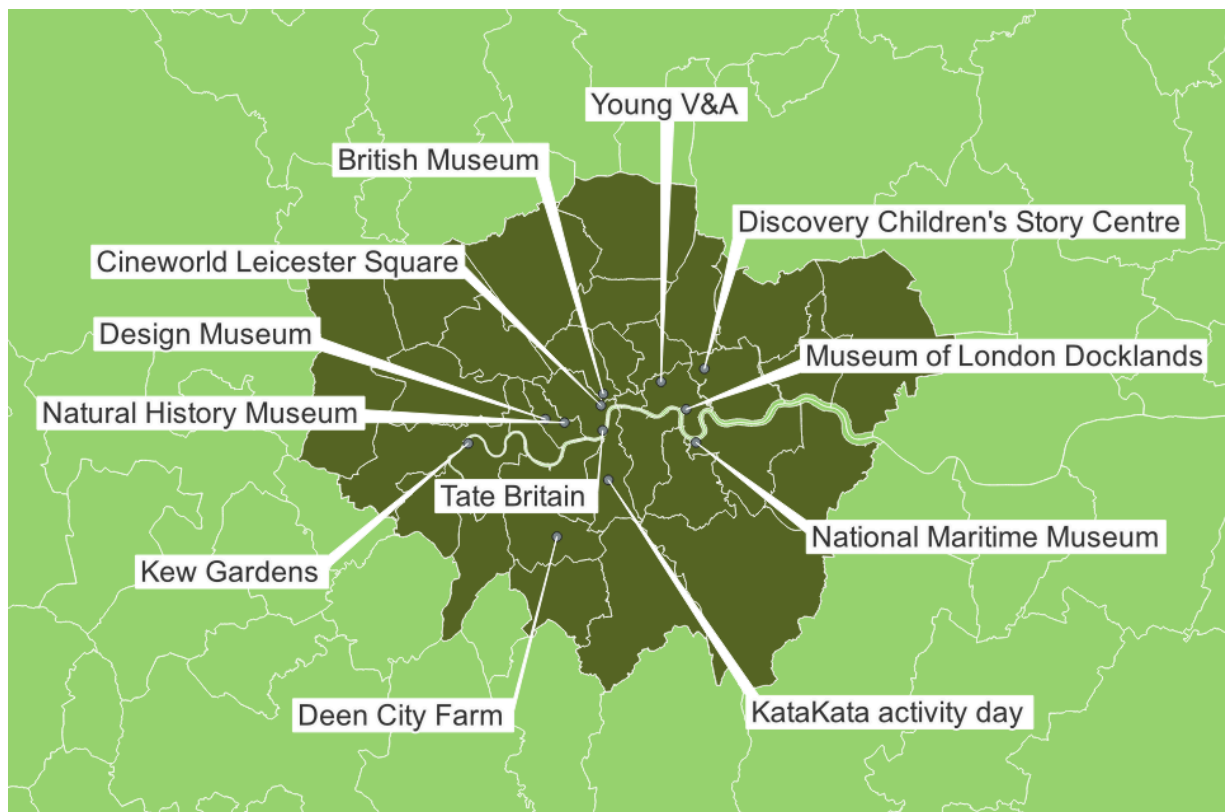


London, Museums & Me

Our trips give children from refugee backgrounds, and their families, the chance to explore London's museums and cultural attractions. We run them on a monthly basis, and cover all transport costs for participants, as well as providing refreshments.

In 2022/3:

- **We ran 13 museum trips around London** - a 44% increase on the previous year
- **Over 150 places were filled** by refugees and asylum seekers over the year



New activities

Over the last year we developed and piloted a number of new projects and partnerships, aimed at opening our activities to more people and offering a more diverse range of experiences. These included:

- A partnership with walking holiday specialist, HF Holidays.

In August 2023 we ran a four-day trip for 12 participants and 2 volunteers to the South Downs. After the huge success of this pilot we are now developing annual holidays with HF Holidays for both of our core groups.

- A programme of artist/writer- led walks – starting in summer 2023.

The aim of the project is to inspire our participants to engage with their experiences creatively, helping foster a deeper connection with the places we visit.

Our season of artist-led walks included activities run by nature/travel-writers Taran Khan, Jini Reddy and multi-disciplinary artist Bryony Bengel-Abbott.

- In the coming year (2024/25) we will be launching a sub-walking project “Stepping Forward” funded by TFL/ Groundworks. This project will help improve the mental and physical wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers through a series of walks in Greater London.



Partnerships and engagement

Partnership working has always been key to Fences & Frontiers – helping us reach new communities and host more activities. The in-kind support we receive through partnerships is worth easily as much as the amount we receive in grant money.

Our partnership with HF Holidays has been particularly fruitful. Working alongside HF Holidays has enabled us to provide annual holidays to beautiful parts of the UK countryside for our participants. After the success of our pilot holiday in the South Downs last year, we are now organising two more trips – one for our adult group and one for our families.



We have also developed and strengthened partnerships with organisations such as London Wildlife Trust, The Science Museum, Kew Gardens, The Winch, CPRE, SLBI and Babylon Project – enabling us to offer an even wider range of nature based and cultural activities to our participants.

Our relationship with Patagonia has provided us with B-stock for our walkers and contributed to travel costs for our partnership with HF Holidays.

We have also partnered with a number of artists and writers (Such as Taran Khan and Bryony-Abbot) to deliver a series of creative walks. These give our walkers new ways to relate to their surroundings and to each other, and the tools to express themselves artistically.

We are also part of various national campaigns and coalitions in support of the rights and wellbeing of refugees including the Together with refugees alliance and Lift the Ban.

Our relationships with the *All the Elements network* – provides opportunities and helps strengthen relationships between groups trying to democratise access to nature in the UK.

Press and Media

In the last year our work has been covered (both print and online) in the Evening Standard (circ 310,000):

[‘I just dreamt of a better life in a big country’ | Evening Standard](#)

As well as having a piece on the Runnymede Trust: [Putting down roots | The Runnymede Trust](#)

Head Outside Award

In September 2023 we were shortlisted for the Head Outside Change Maker Award– an award that celebrates organisations that create meaningful change to the way we support people with their mental health through outside activities.

Social Media and Communication

Our social accounts continue to get a strong engagement. We have (1,800 followers on X, and 755 on Instagram. However, the latter) is now our most active channel.

Our quarterly newsletter remains powerful for fundraising asks and communicating with our more engaged supporters.



Financial Review

Income and expenditure

During the period in question (1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023), the charity raised £17,095, spent £9,055, and ended with a final balance of £29,594.

The disparity between income and expenditure in this time was planned for in order to give the financial stability to enable us to make significant project and structural changes in the coming year.

We expect a large increase in expenditure over 2024, as we seek to double the number of trips we run, cover volunteer expenses on trips, and shift to paid part-time hours for staff.

Reserves

Three months expenditure is expected to soon amount to approximately £4,500, so we aim to hold at least this in reserve. The end of year unrestricted balance exceeded this goal, at £21,036.

We expect reserves to decrease rapidly in line with the target amount as we increase the scale and range of our activities over the

course of 2023/24 and shift towards employing a part-time staff member for the first time.

Principal sources of funding

The charity’s principal source of funding in 2023/24 is donations from small donors, though we have continued to increase and diversify our funding over the last year. This has included a mix of grants, Philanthropic support, and fundraising. In particular, this year we received funds from:

- Our Camino de Santiago fundraiser
- Patagonia
- The Campaign for Rural England, London
- The Magic Little Grants fund, via Localgiving and the People’s Postcode Lottery
- The South London Botanical Institute
- Donations from individual philanthropists
- Small monthly and one-time donations

In November 2023 we brought in the biggest single funding pot to date through TFL – which is £9,000 over three years for our internal London walks under the sub-project “Stepping Forward”.

Structure, Governance and Management

Fences & Frontiers is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and governed by a constitution.

We have made significant changes to our governance and organisational structure over the last year. This has included making a clearer separation between board and operations roles, ensuring we have sizable lived experience representation on our board, and creating new roles in our core team for onboarding and managing volunteers and participants.

As part of these changes, Arta Shiroka has been voted as our new Chair. Arta's experience as a long-term participant of our London, Museums and Me project, coupled with her personal experience of the asylum system will be a huge benefit to us – helping us better shape our projects around the needs and interests of our participants.

We've made huge strides in terms of professionalising, responding and preparing for the new challenges as we've grown.

On top of our governance changes, we've improved our internal systems and processes, embedding new accounting and event management tools – these are making a huge difference to the running of our activities and staying on top of accounts day to day.

We are currently building a participant feedback form. This will help us both provide data and testimonials to funders and make necessary changes to improve our own services.

We are exploring a 0.2 FTE CEO role for 2024/5 to address our capacity gap and enhance organisational sustainability.

Membership of the board of trustees

Our approach to selecting and appointing members to our board of trustees is as follows:

- (1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
- (2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.



Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Fences & Frontiers
Registered charity number	1194720
Charity's principal address	62B Hackford Road London SW9 0RG
Email Address	fencesandfrontiers@gmail.com
Website	www.fencesandfrontiers.org

Charity Trustees

Arta Shiroka	Chair
Cristel Sainz	Secretary
Ben Taylor	Treasurer
Louise Coady	
Neil McGarrigle	
Bethan Illman	
Kobri Haghdoost	

Accounts (Receipts and Payments Format)

Fences & Frontiers

For the year ended 31 January 2024

Cash Basis

Receipts and Payments account

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
Receipts				
Donations	6,515	4,000	10,515	10,011
Grants	-	6,580	6,580	7,954
Total Receipts	6,515	10,580	17,095	17,965
Payments				
Activities and Ticket Costs	200	143	343	509
Beneficiary Equipment and Supplies	429	-	429	-
Transport	1,506	4,361	5,868	3,503
Food and Other Consumables	337	831	1,169	637
Insurance	-	148	148	127
Merchandise and Promotional Materials	-	-	-	99
Software and Digital Platform Subscriptions	118	980	1,098	636
Total Payments	2,590	6,465	9,055	5,511
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,925	4,115	8,040	12,454
	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
End of year				
Retained Earnings	17,111	4,443	21,554	9,100
Current Year Earnings	3,925	4,115	8,040	12,454
Cash funds this year end	21,036	8,558	29,594	21,554

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
Assets and liabilities				
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand				
Current Account - Lloyds Business Bank	20,185	8,558	28,743	20,542
Petty Cash - Soldo	851	-	851	1,012
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand	21,036	8,558	29,594	21,554
Total Monetary Assets	21,036	8,558	29,594	21,554
Total Assets and liabilities	21,036	8,558	29,594	21,554

Notes to the accounts

1. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis.
2. The CIO has several funds: an unrestricted General fund and projects-specific restricted funds, here collated for simplicity under 'restricted'. The latter goes towards covering the costs of the charity's specific activities, namely a walking group, a museum visits group, and, in previous years, care packages for refugees and asylum seekers.
3. The CIO had no outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.
4. No remuneration was paid to any trustee, nor were any personal expenses (e.g. train tickets for volunteers or trustees) covered during this period.

FENCES & FRONTIERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1194720

Accounts

Fences & Frontiers

Registered charity number: 1194720



Annual Report & Accounts 2022/23



February 2022 – January 2023

Chair's Introduction

I'm delighted to present the annual report for Fences & Frontiers for the year 2022/23.

Fences & Frontiers aims to make the UK a more welcoming, supportive and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers.

We achieve this through running cultural, and nature-based activities that bring people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity. Our activities offer people the chance to explore beautiful parts of the countryside and cultural spaces. However, more than that, we provide opportunities for people to build friendships and gain a sense of community, practise their language skills, and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

We are proud to have opened up more spaces on our trips than ever. Over 250 places have been offered on our walks and cultural activities throughout the year. Our community has grown in both size and diversity – with regular participants from El Salvador, Iran, Cameroon, Turkey, Honduras, Sudan, and many more countries.

Partnership working is essential to Fences & Frontiers. We have been particularly successful in forging new partnerships and strengthening existing ones over the last year. Our continued work with CPRE London, various museum community teams, and our refugee sector partners has helped us deliver a fascinating range of activities. We've also developed important new relationships with Patagonia, HF Holidays, and All the Elements - partnerships that will help us make an even greater impact in future.

We fully recognise the importance of an active media and social media presence to our growth and profile. Coverage in outlets like the Evening Standard and Readers Digest has been instrumental in reaching new volunteers and supporters.

We have made significant improvements in the planning and delivery of our services. This progress has been facilitated by implementing new systems and processes, including accounting tools, event management tools, and enhanced internal management structures

Our trips are consistently oversubscribed, reflecting the great need for our services. Responding to this, we have plans in place to vastly increase the number of activities we are offering in the coming year. We are also in the process of developing and piloting a number of new projects and partnerships, all aimed at opening our activities to more people and offering a more diverse range of experiences. These include piloting an annual UK walking holiday, running a series of artist/writer-led walks aimed at inspiring participants to engage with their experiences creatively and foster a deeper connection with the places we visit, and developing a new project focused helping participants attend live performances, such as theatre, music, dance, and more.

As we grow we're eager to ensure refugees and asylum seekers are better represented on our board and are more involved in decision making for the organisation. We are delighted to have brought two new trustees onto our board from within our participant

community – Marjan and Arta. Their experience of our projects as users, coupled with their experience as refugees are already playing an important role in helping shape the direction of the organisation.

At present, Fences & Frontiers remains an entirely volunteer-led charity. Our projects only exist thanks to the energy and time given by our volunteers. I therefore want to thank the Fences & Frontiers team for their incredible passion and dedication.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our funders, including The Network for Social Change, Localgiving, the People's Postcode

Lottery, individual philanthropists, and all who have donated and helped us raise funds. Your support and generosity make all of this possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Lewis Garland".

Lewis Garland

Chair and Founder
Fences & Frontiers

Objectives and Activities

Aims

Fences & Frontiers aims to make London a welcoming, supportive and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers to live in and settle.

To achieve these aims *Fences & Frontiers* runs cultural, physical, recreational and educational activities for refugees and asylum seekers.

Participants are (non exclusively) given opportunities to:

- build friendships and gain a sense of community
- practice language skills in a natural, relaxed environment
- visit places of natural beauty and of historic and/or cultural significance in and around London

We hereby confirm that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Operational activities

We run cultural, physical, recreational and educational activities for refugees, asylum seekers and the wider community -bringing people together in the spirit of friendship and solidarity. Our current projects include:

- Never Walk Alone
- London, Museums, and Me

These benefit the physical and mental health of those who attended, and helped to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into British society more widely.

Our current estimated cost-per-beneficiary (the cost of enabling one person to go on a trip) across both projects is £19.22

Never Walk Alone

Never Walk Alone is our walking project. We've been running these walks since March

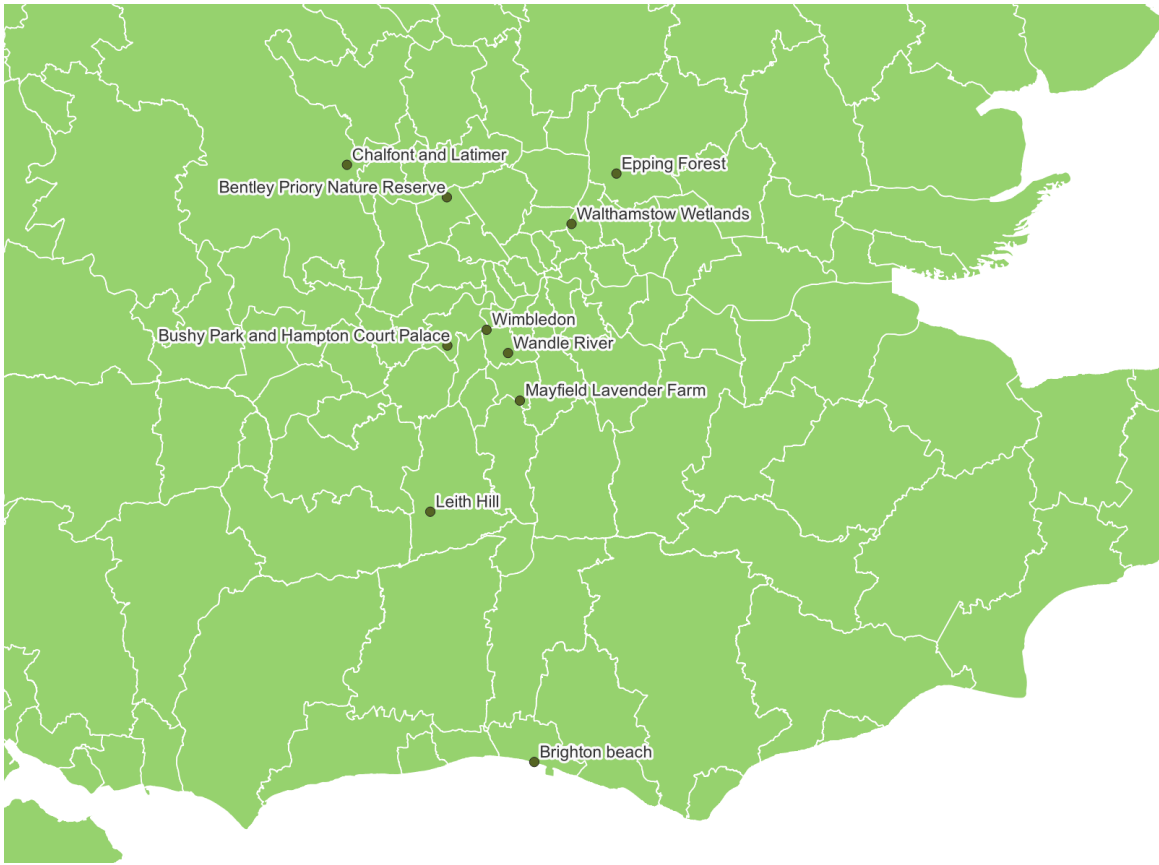
2018 in London and in the surrounding countryside, and made over 400 places available to refugees and asylum seekers over that period.

Our walks include urban and rural trails, giving walkers the opportunity to take in spectacular views and explore places of historical and cultural interest they may never have realised were on their doorstep.

These walks provide an opportunity to get to know people from different areas of London and backgrounds and help to foster lasting friendships that outlive the project. All walkers (from refugee and new community backgrounds) have their transport costs covered. Refreshments are also provided by Fences & Frontiers.

In 2022/3:

- We ran 10 walks in and around London
- 150 refugee and asylum seekers in total attended
- 820 miles were walked collectively by the group



London, Museums & Me

Our trips give children from refugee backgrounds, and their families, the chance to explore London's museums and cultural attractions. We run them on a monthly basis, and cover all transport costs for participants, as well as providing refreshments.

In 2022/3:

- We ran 9 museum trips around London
- Over 100 refugees and asylum seekers in total attended





New activities

We are currently in the process of developing and piloting a number of new projects and partnerships, aimed at opening our activities to more people and offering a more diverse range of experiences. These include:

- A partnership with walking holiday specialist, HF holidays – this will be piloted in August 2023 with a 4 day trip for 12 participants and 2 volunteers to the South Downs. This is with a view to delivering an annual walking holiday for our participants.
- A programme of artist/writer- led walks – starting in summer 2023. These will be part of our Never Walk Alone project. The aim of the project

is to inspire our participants to engage with their experiences creatively, helping foster a deeper connection with the places we visit. These walks will also help build our national profile and reach new audiences. This includes activities run by nature/travel-writers Taran Khan, Jini Reddy and the artist Bryony Bengel-Abbott.

- A new focus on providing participants with opportunities to attend and participate in live performances, including theatre, music, dance and other arts. In addition to attending events, this project will encourage attendees to reflect on their experiences and offer opportunities

for artistic cultural exchange. We are aiming to launch this in the third quarter of 2023, after successful pilots in 2022.

- A short film about our work, aimed at engaging supporters, funders and

volunteers in our work. By combining outdoor exploration, artistic expression, and cultural experiences we hope to provide transformative experiences to our participants – as well as reaching new supporters, funders and volunteers.

Partnerships and engagement

We have developed and strengthened partnerships with organisations such as CPRE, London Wildlife Trust, The Science Museum, Kew Gardens, The Winch and Babylon Project – enabling us to offer an even wider range of nature based and cultural activities to our participants.

We have developed a relationship with outdoor clothing company, Patagonia, who are providing us with B-stock for our walkers and are contributing to travel costs for our partnership with HF Holidays.

As aforementioned, we are putting together a programme of walks / trips led by high profile artists and writers interested in supporting refugees. This is aimed at inspiring our participants to engage with their experiences creatively and to help build our national profile.

We are also part of various national campaigns and coalitions in support of the rights and wellbeing of refugees including the Together with refugees alliance and Lift the Ban.

We have also joined the All the Elements network – this provides opportunities and helps strengthen relationships between groups trying to democratise access to nature in the UK.

Press coverage

In the last year our work has been covered

(both print and online) in the Evening Standard (circ 310,000) and Readers Digest: [What's it really like to arrive in London looking for safety? | Evening Standard](#)

levels and continues to put our asylum system under incredible pressure. Staff at Manston have worked tirelessly to ensure people's needs are met and the site's facilities have been improved. It remains well-resourced to cope with future challenges. We are working to speed up the processing of asylum applications, having increased the number of caseworkers by 80 per cent to more than 1,000, as well as digitising the process to make sure decision-making is faster and simpler.'

The UN Refugee Agency defines an asylum seeker as someone who has applied for shelter and protection in another country, while a refugee is a person who has fled conflict or persecution in their own country. The legal rights of refugees are protected by international law. However, it is up to host countries to decide whether an asylum seeker is granted refugee status. In the year to June 2022, the UK received 63,089 asylum applications, the highest number for nearly 20 years. Of these, almost 16,000 people and their dependants were granted some form of protection.

'Yes, there has been a significant increase in people seeking asylum globally, but it's important to keep it in perspective,' says Kama Petruczenko, senior policy analyst at the Refugee Council. 'Germany gets double the amount of claims we're getting and the UK actually has one of the lowest rates of claims in Europe by population size, so this narrative of "invasion" is just not correct. What we need is a national strategy for integration, a minister for refugees sitting in the cabinet and a well thought-out, durable response to this global rise in forced migration.'

According to the Home Office, there are currently more than 37,000 asylum-seekers in UK hotels, costing the taxpayer £5.6m a day. Petruczenko says that the Government could reduce these costs by working with local councils to find more appropriate accommodation, providing more resources to allow claims to be processed more efficiently, and allowing asylum-seekers to work while waiting for confirmation of their status.

'We need to live in reality — people are not going to stop coming here seeking our protection,' she says. 'Instead of penalising them, we need to treat them with humanity and we need to clear the huge backlog in claims by focusing on training and retaining staff so that they can make sound judgements more quickly. Home Office caseworkers are having to make life-or-death decisions within a system that is broken and underfunded.'

Jennine Walker is an immigration and asylum lawyer and head of legal for the charity Safe Passage. She is currently helping unaccompanied children apply to reach family in the UK. 'Before Brexit we were part of the European system for giving minors leave to remain in any country they have family in, but

that's all changed,' she says. 'The Nationality and Borders Bill [passed in April] and the Rwanda policy have been the biggest — and worst — changes we've ever seen and they are absolutely unprecedented.' Walker says that when she started doing this work 14 years ago, cases would typically be decided within two months. Now the average time is at least six months, and cases are more often refused, which means they have to appeal, adding even more time to the process.

'And for all that time there are these vulnerable children, often living alone in shelters, waiting to be with their families,' she says. 'I am working on one case at the moment where parents had to be evacuated from Afghanistan during the chaos of the Taliban takeover, and they are still waiting to be reunited with their two-year-old child.' Walker says that the Government needs more settlement schemes, like the one set up for Ukrainians in March, so that people can apply to come to the UK safely and legally.

Back in Bushy Park, a few of us stop for selfies in front of a herd of small brown deer. The wind is bitter today and Jimi, 35, is dressed in just a black fleece and a beanie, but he tells me he doesn't mind the cold. Since arriving from El Salvador five months ago with his wife, Brenda, he has been housed in a chain hotel in Feltham, surviving on the £8.24 a week he gets from the Government. He is a trained software engineer, but because he is seeking asylum, he is not able to work. 'We spend most of our time in our room watching TV or going online, sometimes we go to visit a food bank,' he says. 'One day we got the bus to see Big Ben and The London Eye and take some pictures and that was good. But it feels like life is on hold.'

As we walk, Jimi tells me in a soft voice about his life back in El Salvador, where gangs control everything — even the police — and children as young as six are forced to become part of gang life. It's a humbling contrast to the playground full of squealing kids that we walk past. Jimi says he misses the food at home the most, enthusiastically telling me about pupusas, a cornmeal flatbread stuffed with beans, cheese and herbs. 'At our hotel we are given only curry to eat,' he tells me. 'We don't like curry.'

Following an impromptu leaf fight and a heron spotting — 'Is it a fisher king?' asks Haghdoost, mistaking it for a kingfisher — exchanged. Haghdoost asks Garland when the next walk will be. After 15 months of waiting, Haghdoost had her claim for asylum approved last year, an experience she describes as 'life-changing'. She is now living in East Acton with her husband and two children. 'Sometimes in London, I feel much scared,' she says, linking her arm through mine. 'Of my neighbour, my landlord, people I pass on the street. When I come on these walks it's the only time I truly feel safe.'



"IT'S ABOUT GIVING PEOPLE A BIT OF ESCAPE, HOPE OR EXCITEMENT ABOUT LIVING IN LONDON"

Financial Review

Income and expenditure

During the period in question (1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023), the charity raised £17,965, spent £5,511, and ended with a final balance of £12,454.

The disparity between income and expenditure in this time was planned for in order to give the financial stability to enable us to make significant project and structural changes in the coming year.

We expect a large increase in expenditure over 2023, as we seek to double the number of trips we run, cover volunteer expenses on trips for the first time, and consider a shift to paid part-time hours for staff.

Reserves

Three months expenditure is expected to soon amount to approximately £4,500, so we aim to hold at least this in reserve. The

end of year unrestricted balance exceeded this goal, at £14,518.

We expect reserves to decrease in line with the target amount as we increase the scale and range of our activities over the course of 2023/24.

Principal sources of funding

The charity's principal source of funding is donations from small donors, though we have continued to increase and diversify our funding over the last year. This has included a mix of grants, Philanthropic support, and fundraising. In particular, this year we received funds from:

- Our Ben Nevis hike fundraiser
- The Network for Social Change
- The Magic Little Grants fund, via Localgiving and the People's Postcode Lottery
- Donations from individual philanthropists
- Small monthly and one-time donations



Structure, Governance and Management

Fences & Frontiers is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and governed by a constitution.

Membership of the board of trustees

Our approach to selecting and appointing members to our board of trustees is as follows:

(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every

trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

(2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

As we grow we are putting a particular focus on bringing refugees and asylum seekers onto the board, and involving them in decision making for the organisation. We currently have two trustees who have lived experience as asylum seekers within the UK, both former participants of Fences & Frontiers projects.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name Fences & Frontiers

Registered charity number 1194720

Charity's principal address 59A Bunyan Road,
London,
E17 6EY

Email Address fencesandfrontiers@gmail.com

Website www.fencesandfrontiers.org

Charity Trustees

Lewis Garland Chairman

Mylene Secretary

Ben Taylor Treasurer

Arta Shiroka

Cristel Sainz

Louise Coady

Neil McGarrigle

Bethan Illman

Kobri Haghdoost

Accounts (Receipts and Payments Format)

Fences & Frontiers

For the year ended 31 January 2023

Cash Basis

Receipts and Payments account

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
Receipts				
Donations	8,011	2,000	10,011	2,960
Grants	-	7,954	7,954	750
Total Receipts	8,011	9,954	17,965	3,710
Payments				
Activities and Ticket Costs	-	509	509	355
Beneficiary Equipment and Supplies	-	-	-	251
Transport	-	3,503	3,503	1,589
Equipment for Trips	-	-	-	12
Food and Other Consumables	-	637	637	227
Health and Safety Costs	-	-	-	40
Insurance	-	127	127	138
Merchandise and Promotional Materials	-	99	99	228
DBS Checks	-	-	-	23
Software and Digital Platform Subscriptions	-	636	636	279
Total Payments	-	5,511	5,511	3,142
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,011	4,443	12,454	568
	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
End of year				
Retained Earnings	9,100	-	9,100	8,532
Current Year Earnings	8,011	4,443	12,454	568
Cash funds this year end	17,111	4,443	21,554	9,100

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
Assets and liabilities				
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand				
Current Account - Lloyds Business Bank	16,099	4,443	20,542	9,100
Petty Cash - Soldo	1,012	-	1,012	-
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand	17,111	4,443	21,554	9,100
Total Monetary Assets	17,111	4,443	21,554	9,100
Total Assets and liabilities	17,111	4,443	21,554	9,100

Notes to the accounts

1. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis.
2. The CIO has several funds: an unrestricted General fund and project-specific restricted funds, here collated for simplicity under 'restricted'. The latter goes towards covering the costs of the charity's specific activities, namely a walking group, a museum visits group, and, in previous years, care packages for refugees and asylum seekers.
3. The CIO had no outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.
4. No remuneration was paid to any trustee, nor were any personal expenses (e.g. train tickets for volunteers or trustees) covered during this period.

FENCES & FRONTIERS

England & Wales - Charity number 1194720

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From period start date: 08/06/2021

To period end date: 31/01/2022

Charity name: Fences & Frontiers

Charity registration number: 1194720

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Fences & Frontiers aims to make London a welcoming, supportive and inspiring place for refugees and asylum seekers to live in and settle.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	To achieve these aims Fences & Frontiers runs cultural, physical, recreational and educational activities for refugees and asylum seekers. Participants are (non exclusively) given opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build friendships and gain a sense of community • practice language skills in a natural, relaxed environment • visit places of natural beauty and of historic and/or cultural significance in and around London
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We hereby confirm that the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Over the period in question, Fences & Frontiers ran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 walks in and around London, which 73 refugee and asylum seekers in total attended. • 5 Museum trips around London, which 48 refugees and asylum seekers in total attended. <p>This benefited the physical and mental health of those who attended, and helped to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into British society more widely.</p>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	During the period in question, the charity raised £1,710, spent £2,013, and ended with a final balance of £9,100.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	An equivalent of approximately three months normal expenditure shall be kept in reserve at any time, unless an exception is agreed by a majority of trustees.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Three months expenditure are expected to soon amount to approximately £2,500, so the target reserve is accordingly set at this amount. The actual reserves held at the end of the financial year were £9,100, largely due to a decrease in expenditure during the COVID-19 pandemic, as normal activities were paused for safety reasons. We expect reserves to decrease in line with the target amount as an increasing number of activities are funded in 2022 and 2023.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity's principal source of funding is donations from small donors, and grants from The People's Postcode Trust and the Campaign for Rural England, London.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. (2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Fences & Frontiers
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1194720
Charity's principal address	59A Bunyan Road, London, E17 6EY

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lewis Garland	Chair		
2	Benjamin Taylor	Treasurer		
3	Cristel Sainz	Secretary		
4	Bethan Illman	Trustee		
5	Louise Coady	Trustee		
6	Neil McGarrigle	Trustee		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
NA		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
NA		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details



N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Lewis Garland	Ben Taylor
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Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	Treasurer
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Date

01/10/22

Accounts (Receipts and Payments Format)

Fences & Frontiers

For the year ended 31 January 2022

Cash Basis

Receipts and Payments account

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
Receipts				
Donations	2,960	-	2,960	4,176
Grants	-	750	750	2,685
Total Receipts	2,960	750	3,710	6,860
Payments				
Activities and Ticket Costs	-	355	355	-
Beneficiary Equipment and Supplies	-	251	251	1,079
Transport	257	1,332	1,589	109
Equipment for Trips	-	12	12	-
Food and Other Consumables	159	68	227	29
Health and Safety Costs	-	40	40	38
Insurance	-	138	138	-
Merchandise and Promotional Materials	139	89	228	40
Translation Services	-	-	-	30
DBS Checks	-	23	23	-
Software and Digital Platform Subscriptions	279	-	279	362
Total Payments	834	2,308	3,142	1,687
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,126	(1,558)	568	5,174
	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
End of year				
Retained Earnings	6,974	1,558	8,532	3,358
Current Year Earnings	2,126	(1,558)	568	5,174
Cash funds this year end	9,100	-	9,100	8,532

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	LAST YEAR
Assets and liabilities				
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank and in Hand				
Current Account - Lloyds Business Bank	9,100	-	9,100	8,532
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand	9,100	-	9,100	8,532
Total Monetary Assets	9,100	-	9,100	8,532
Total Assets and liabilities	9,100	-	9,100	8,532

Notes to the accounts

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3. The CIO had no outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.
4. No remuneration was paid to any trustee, nor were any personal expenses (e.g. train tickets for volunteers or trustees) covered during this period.

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval