

TZELEM: THE RABBINIC AND CANTORIAL CALL FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1195204

Details

Other names TZELEM

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-07-19

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

Contact

Address C/O North Western Reform Synagogue
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London
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Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PART OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF BEING A MEMBER OF A SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED COMMUNITY.

Activities: Tzelem educates and trains Rabbis and Cantors who wish to be involved in understanding and acting to further social inclusion.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£244	£711	-	-
2024-03-31	£108	£646	-	-
2023-03-31	£13,130	£11,381	-	-
2022-03-31	£5,200	£5,050	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rabbi Dr Margaret Sarah Jacobi	Chair	2021-07-19
Rabbi Dr Elliott David Karstadt		2021-07-19
Rabbi Dr. Barbara Borts		2023-10-23

Accounts

Tzelem Annual Report to AGM 19th January 2026
For the year ending 31st March

In February, the trustees met for a strategic planning day. We reviewed our policy and agreed that we would continue to work on a cross-communal basis within the Jewish community as far as possible. As the two Progressive movements (Liberal Judaism and Movement for Reform Judaism) come together from 2026, we will monitor our relationship to the new movement and how we can be most effective in our work.

We also decided that we would maintain our focus on one or two issues over a year and for the time being keep the focus on poverty.

We have welcomed working with Rabbis Helen Freeman and DY Stern on a resource pack about poverty, with information about poverty in the UK and Jewish sources. We also presented an online session about disability benefits, looking at the current situation and the proposed changes to the system, and made the information available to rabbis. We are working with Rabbi Anthony Magrill Lazarus on a forthcoming study day.

Rabbi Lee Wax is stepping down as a trustee at the AGM. Her expertise in the charity sector and her wisdom have been invaluable. We are delighted that Rabbi Nathan Godleman will join us as a trustee this year. However, we continue to struggle in terms of capacity and would welcome anyone who would like to get involved in any way.

In both 2024 and 2025, we had a presence at Limmud festival, the major Jewish event of the year, with presentations about poverty and Judaism.

We continue to work in partnership with other organisations, particularly Rene Cassin and JW3.

Rabbi Dr. Margaret Jacobi, Chair

Tzelem Accounts, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

		Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	2023-2024 Diff. +/-%	
Income	Donations	-	64	64	0	
	Membership	-	180	180	108	67%
	Total Income	£0	£244	£244	£108	126%
Outgoing	Insurance	-	520	520	508	2%
	IT	-	111	111	66	69%
	Living Wage	-	79	79	72	10%
	Total Outgoing	£0	£711	£711	£646	10%
Profit/Loss		£0	-£467	-£467	-£538	
Funds brought forward		£0	£5,861	£5,861		
Funds carried forward		0	£5,394	£5,394		

Represented by

Held in Current Account

£5,307

Owed to Tzelem

£87

Accounts

Tzelem Annual Report to AGM 13th January 2025 For the year ending 31st March

Over the past year, Tzelem has focused on poverty as an issue of socio-economic justice. We have worked with the Trussell Trust and begun to work with other organisations, as detailed below.

Rabbi Lee Wax and Rabbi Dr. Barbara Borts were elected as Trustees at the last AGM and they have both brought valuable experience working with other Jewish and charitable organisations. Rabbi Dr. Elliott Karstadt has again been a reliable Treasurer. I am grateful for the support and expertise of all the trustees and also Rabbi Alex Goldberg whose experience and knowledge are invaluable.

For Purim, we held a talk by Rev. Jessica Foster of the Trussell Trust and launched an accompanying resource with Jewish sources titled: 'Moving from "Gifts to the Poor" to "There shall be no Poor"', which was well received by rabbis.

In January, we met with Rabbis Josh Levy and Charley Baginsky of the Movement for Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism about how we might work within a new single Progressive Jewish movement. After the meeting the Trustees agreed that for the time being we would continue to work across the Jewish community. Although our members are predominantly from the Progressive movement, we do have the involvement of two Orthodox rabbis and Masorti rabbis have sometimes been involved too.

In March we met with Amos Schonfeld of HIAS J-CORE to discuss how we might work together. There are many areas of overlap, particularly in the area of justice for asylum seekers and refugees, and we agreed to look at ways of collaborating.

We continue to struggle in terms of capacity and would welcome anyone who would like to get involved in any way. If we are unable to bring in others to take up some of the workload, Tzelem will struggle to work effectively as a voice for social and economic justice in the future.

We remain committed to exploring ways of working cross-communally and in partnership with other organisations in order to pursue our aim of promoting social inclusion by looking at the causes of social exclusion and how they might be addressed.

Rabbi Dr. Margaret Jacobi, Chair

Tzelem Accounts, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

		Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	2022-2023
Income	Donations	-	-	0	10000
	Fellowship	-	-	0	2500
	Membership	-	108	108	630
Total Income		£0	£108	£108	£13,130
Outgoing	Insurance	-	508	508	512
	IT	-	66	66	66
	Living Wage	-	72	72	-
	Fellowship	-	-	-	10552
	AGM	-	-	-	250
Total Outgoing		£0	£646	£646	£11,380
Profit/Loss		£0	-£538	-£538	£1,750
Funds brought forward		£0	£6,399	£6,399	£4,650
Funds carried forward		0	£5,861	£5,861	£6,399

Accounts

Tzelem Annual Report to AGM 23rd October 2023

At last year's AGM we were privileged to hear a talk by Prof. Sir Michael Marmot. He detailed the devastating impact of inequality on health. He also told us that he saw rabbis and cantors as having an important role to play in educating and campaigning about social justice.

Tzelem's main focus this year has been on training rabbis and cantors in the work of social justice. The training was led by Charlotte Fischer. Eight fellows completed the course, which demanded a considerable commitment from them. They are taking back the skills into their communities and will also continue their work with Tzelem.

As most of the trustees also undertook the training as well as full time congregational work, there was little capacity for additional work. Before Yom Kippur, we organised an online session with Dr. Edie Friedman about food poverty and were glad that rabbis who attended made it the focus of one of their sermons on Yom Kippur.

Sadly, Rabbis Robyn Ashworth Steen and Richard Jacobi have resigned as trustees of Tzelem. Robyn was a founder and Richard joined soon after so both have been involved for several years and we are grateful to them for all the time and inspiration they have given to Tzelem.

We are glad that Rabbi Dr. Barbara Borts has offered to become a trustee and we hope she will be appointed at the AGM. She has a wealth of experience in social justice which she will bring to Tzelem.

We still need other trustees, as well as help in other roles, so please volunteer if you can.

In the coming year, we plan to work with our Fellows on Social justice projects. We will also explore working with other organisations, particularly HIAS-JCORE and René Cassin. We hope to strengthen our voice for social and economic justice in the year to come.

Margaret Jacobi
Interim Chair

Tzelem Accounts, 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total Income
Donations		£10,000	£10,000
Fellowship		£2,500	£2,500
Membership		£630	£630
Total Income	0	£13,130	£13,130
Insurance		£512	£512
IT		£66	£66
Fellowship		£10,552	£10,552
AGM		£250	£250
Total Spending	0	£11,381	£11,381
Profit/loss	£0	£1,749	£1,749
Funds brought forward	0	£4,650	£4,650
Funds carried forward	£0	£6,399	£6,399

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **Period start date 19th July 2021**
To **Period end date: 31st March 2022**

Charity name: Tzelem: The Rabbinic and Cantorial Call for Social and Economic Justice

Charity registration number: 1195204

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purposes of this clause, 'socially excluded' means excluded from society or part of society, as a result of being a member of a socially and economically deprived community.
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	Tzelem has run a fellowship programme for ten rabbis and cantors. This involves training for social justice work. The fellows are currently planning individual projects. This will enable them to address social exclusion in their localities and educate about the issues. During this period we planned our AGM with Sir Michael Marmot as the main speaker. We also created our membership structure so that we could launch membership at the AGM.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We confirm that we have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	n/a

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	n/a
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Tzelem is volunteer-led. The main volunteer activity has been to support the running of the fellowship programme.
Other		

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	Our charity has benefitted our beneficiaries and society by educating and training fellows so that they will be better equipped to initiate work to educate the public about social exclusion. They will focus on issues where greater awareness can help ensure that people who are socially marginalised can be helped to integrate and more fully participate in society.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	We prepared for the launch of the membership scheme to recruit members whose subscriptions will contribute to our finances. We have also benefitted from donations to fully fund the fellowship programme.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	n/a

Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	We are in a stable financial position with a sufficient positive balance to enable us to continue our activities, build up our finances and engage in further fund-raising.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	n/a
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	We have not yet built up a sufficient financial base to have reserves, nor do we have committed expenditures that require reserves.
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 (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Membership and donations
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We are committed to investing in an ethically consistent way, in accordance with our aims.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Our principal risks are financial stability and dependence on volunteers. We are in the process of creating a risk register and the trustees meet regularly to assess our risk.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		n/a
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	See sections 12 and 13 of our constitution

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Tzelem: the Rabbinic and Cantorial Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK
Other name the charity uses	Tzelem
Registered charity number	1195204
Charity's principal address	C/O North Western Reform Synagogue Alyth Gardens LONDON NW11 7EN

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	Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen	Joint Chair		
2	Rabbi Richard Jacobi	Joint Chair		
3	Rabbi Dr. Elliott Karstadt	Treasurer		
4	Rabbi Dr. Margaret Jacobi	Secretary		
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20				

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

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Margaret Jacoby</i>	
Full name(s)	Margaret Sarah Jacobi	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	

Date 23rd January 2023



Charity Name Tzelem: The Rabbinic and Cantorial Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK	No (if any) 1195204	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts		
For the period from	Period start date 01-Apr-21	To
	Period end date 31-Mar-22	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations from organisations	-	-		-	-
Donations from individuals	-	5,000		5,000	-
Fellowship contributions	-	200		200	-
Sub total		5,200	-	5,200	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-			-	-
Sub total				-	-
Total receipts		5,200	-	5,200	-
A3 Payments					
Google Cloud	50	-		50	-
Fellowship Costs	-	5,000		5,000	-
Sub total	50	5,000		5,050	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>[Signature]</i>	ROBYN ELANOR ASHWORTH-STEEN ELLIOTT KARSTADT	17.01.23 17/01/23