15 SQUARE

England & Wales · Charity number 1203284

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2023-05-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	4 Lockwood Road Allestree Derby DE22 2JD
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Website	www.15square.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO CIRCUMCISION, THE FORESKIN AND ITS FUNCTION, INCLUDING THROUGH:A) THE PROVISION OF ACCURATE HEALTH INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO BOTH CIRCUMCISED AND INTACT MEN WHO HAVE FORESKIN ISSUES AND TO PARENTS/CARERS AND THE WIDER PUBLIC;B) THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING CONSERVATIVE TECHNIQUES TO HELP AVOID UNNECESSARY CIRCUMCISION AND ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS;C) THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECTS OF CIRCUMCISION AND HEALTH POLICIES AND LAWS THAT REFLECT INFORMED CONSENT AROUND CIRCUMCISION, THE USEFUL RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Activities: To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision, the foreskin and its function.

Classification

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

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Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£53,764	£81,907	-	-
2024-03-31	£51,426	£76,540	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTHONY PETERS	Chair	2023-11-11
Dr Antony David Lempert		2025-11-15
Dr JOHN PELHAM WARREN		2023-11-11
Dr Peter John Ball DObst RCOG		2023-11-11
Duncan Scott Marshall		2023-11-11
JAMES ROBERT BATTRICK		2023-11-11
Leeanne Morris		2024-07-10
Neil Robert Walbran		2024-07-23
RICHARD NOEL DUNCKER		2023-11-11

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15 SQUARE

England & Wales - Charity number 1203284

Accounts

15 SQUARE

Annual Report 2025

UK Registered Charity No 1072831 / 1203284 (Updated 2023)

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INTRODUCTION TO 15 SQUARE

The Trustees of the Council of 15 Square submit their annual report and financial statements for the year beginning on the 1st April 2024, to the 31st March 2025. 15 Square is a Charitably Incorporated Organisation founded by Dr John Warren in 1995, originally named NORM-UK.

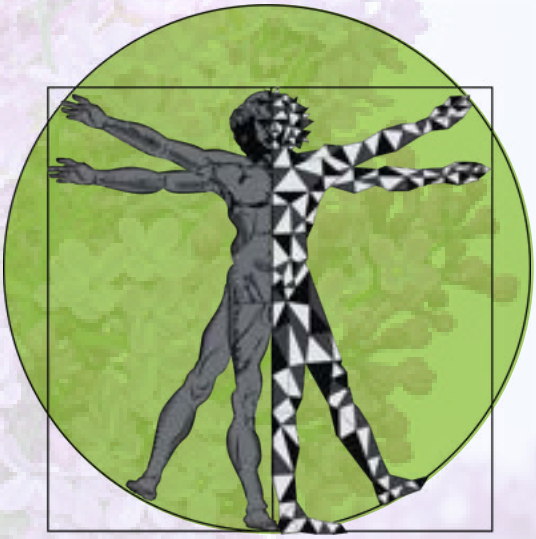
It became a national UK charity in 1998. The objects of the charity are;

To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision, the foreskin and its function, by pursuing:

a) the provision of accurate health information and support to both circumcised and intact men who have foreskin issues and to parents/carers and the wider public;

b) the provision of information regarding conservative techniques to help avoid unnecessary circumcision and assistance to those affected by the issues associated;

c) the promotion of research into the effects of circumcision and health policies and laws that reflect informed consent around circumcision, the useful results of which will be published for the public benefit.



We offer information on care and foreskin preserving treatments for disorders affecting the foreskin. We also offer help and advise to men and teenagers who have been damaged either physically or psychologically by circumcision.

15square.org.uk

15SQUARE

VISION

At 15 Square we work towards better public and professional recognition of the consequences that can result from circumcision. This includes an appreciation of the long term psychological, physical, and sexual impacts that the procedure can cause as well as the functional value of the foreskin.

We want better services for those who have been affected, and to encourage informed consent and ethical appreciation for this practice.
By raising public awareness, we hope that one day unnecessary interventions will be a thing of the past and that everyone who has been negatively affected will have access to support services.

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide information to service users regarding foreskin health conditions and how to resolve them without having to resort to unnecessary and unwanted surgery.

We aim to raise more awareness about the function and value of the foreskin through our website, social media, and awareness projects.

We acknowledge the following side effects that affect some men following circumcision:

- Psychological damage
- Physical problems
- Issues of sexual function resulting from the above
- Personal dissatisfaction

We work to improve professional recognition of these issues whilst helping those affected to receive support for their conditions.

15SQUARE

GOALS

OUR STRATEGY

1. To support men who have been affected physically, sexually, or psychologically following circumcision or male genital surgery, and to help intact men find non-invasive alternatives to circumcision in order to prevent unwanted and unnecessary operations.

2. Signpost service users and collaborate with professionals and advisers that can assist people who have encountered problems.

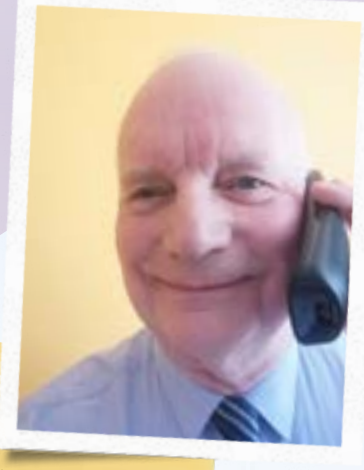
3. To gather evidence of these problems and the impacts of circumcision.

4. To use this evidence to inform health providers & professionals, and improve their understanding, appreciation and practices when interacting with people who have been affected, or when making decisions that will affect men.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This report covers the period from April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

This year has been one of connection, growth, and increasing influence for 15 Square. Our work has reached further into professional settings, legislative conversations, public spaces, and most importantly, the lives of the men and families we support.



TONY PETERS
CHAIRMAN

One of our most meaningful contributions came through consultation with an NHS psychotherapist seeking to better understand circumcision trauma experienced by her client. The positive feedback from both practitioner and patient affirmed the value of our expertise, and it has strengthened our commitment to developing training programmes for clinicians across the country. Internally, we strengthened our team with a co-opted trustee, new volunteers and advisors.

Dan Strandjord and Leif Thompson have taken over our peer-support meetings (now a cornerstone of our community). We also welcomed psychology graduate Michael Drash, whose research into circumcision trauma enriches the charity's professional insight. Our online events continued to thrive. This year we hosted several powerful guest speakers, including Ron Lowe and Andrew Little, whose courageous legal challenge against the hospital that circumcised him sparked profound discussion. Their contributions highlight the systemic barriers facing those seeking justice and the urgent need for change.

Education remains central to our mission, and we were proud to welcome another cohort of students from Keele Medical School. Each year, these placements help shape the understanding of future doctors. (An investment that will ripple forward into clinical practice for decades). Internationally, our presence at the Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy grew stronger, with nine attendees representing 15 Square in Germany.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Our collaboration with allies such as the Darbon Institute continues to open doors for global cooperation and shared advocacy. We also engaged with NHS institutions, including Alder Hey Children's Trust, reviewing their circumcision information resources. While ongoing dialogue proved challenging, we remain encouraged by the research they are undertaking and will continue to promote high-quality, evidence-based healthcare information nationwide.

Our voice was heard in political circles as well. Following the publication of the Board of Deputies' manifesto, we encouraged our community to share diverse perspectives with MPs. We invited our own constituency MP and a local councillor to our offices to discuss oversight, patient experiences, and the need for reform. These conversations have laid important foundations for future policy work.

We further strengthened connections with Healthwatch Manchester, exploring innovative tools to help patients communicate their needs during GP appointments (an initiative we plan to adapt for our own work).

Finally, we were delighted to support A Man and His Circumstance, a new theatre production shining a light on men's intimate health and the lived experiences surrounding circumcision. The play sparked conversations that are long overdue, and we were proud to contribute to its development. In all of these activities, one theme stands out: people are listening. Clinicians, policymakers, students, researchers, and members of the public are increasingly aware of circumcision harm and the need for better support and better information. Our members' courage in sharing their stories continues to guide everything we do.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed this year. Your commitment has moved 15 Square forward in meaningful, lasting ways. Together, we will carry this momentum into the year ahead.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

2025

BY DAVID SMITH
CHIEF OFFICER

GOVERNANCE REPORT

This year, 15 Square has taken meaningful strides to reinforce the expertise of our trustee board. As our work is refined, so too does the complexity of the decisions and compliance we must adhere to. Recognising this, the Board made attracting seasoned professionals a core priority several years ago. The results have exceeded expectations, and we welcome the trustees that were elected last AGM, and have been contributing to our work and to Antony Lempert, our co-opted trustee. We will be continuing to seek out new trustees with relevant expertise in the coming year ahead.

Our core areas of work continue to improve as our trustee board expands. Their collective knowledge has not only elevated strategic discussions but has sharpened our ability to anticipate challenges, assess risks, and has delivered measurable impact. Next year we intend to host a governance and strategy meeting to ensure cohesive understanding of the charity and each individual's contributions towards governance and project delivery.

Understanding the psychological dimensions of our work is essential. Evaluating safeguarding practices, developing frameworks, and delivering projects in line with best-practice mental health frameworks is a high priority for the forthcoming year as we continue to support men and educate professionals.

Strong governance is the backbone of a resilient organisation. 15 Square is now supported by trustees with deep knowledge of regulatory compliance, risk management, and organisational oversight. Their guidance is continuing to strengthen policies, audit readiness, and help us move with confidence through an increasingly demanding regulatory environment. Everything from data protection, safeguarding, signposting, legal or medical advice, stakeholder wellbeing, strategy, and public relations are considerations that 15 Square must be diligently aware of.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

Given the health-related considerations inherent in our work, the presence of medical professionals has been invaluable. Their clinical insight ensures that decisions affecting service delivery are grounded in evidence-based practice, improving both the safety and credibility of our programmes.

The area in which 15 Square have always excelled but continue to ensure we include within our organisations management are those who bring lived experience of the issues 15 Square addresses. Their voices ensure that strategy remains rooted in reality and that our work honours the men and families that we serve.

Looking Ahead...

15 Square enters the coming year with renewed confidence. The Board is not only stronger; it is more aligned, more informed, and more capable of representing our members with key decision makers. We will continue to prioritise recruitment that deepens expertise, broadens perspectives, and strengthens the organisation's long-term resilience. Our management team works hand in hand with our trustees to ensure that the knowledge base is cyclical, and we continue to educate and update each other within our niche.

15SQUARE

EDITORIAL

NEWS REPORT 2025

BY JASON METTERS
DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER

15SQUARE

NEWS REPORT 2025

Whilst we have reason to reflect on successes throughout 2024-25 for the charity, national headlines over the past year have reminded us of the importance of our work and the serious inadequacies in oversight and regulation when it comes to the issue of circumcision. We believe that this has been exacerbated by a lack of historic appetite in pursuing crimes and negligence surrounding circumcision. As society starts to notice these continued failings, we will stand firm in our past convictions; that a free pass for circumcision related negligence or offences is of no benefit to anyone. It unnecessarily endangers the public, and recent case studies in the news demonstrate this.

It is good to see that the recent cases have been given a closer lens of scrutiny than they have historically. We advocate fair application of existing law and standards, appropriate regulation, and better clarity of expectations for practitioners. If these were improved, some of these cases would not have happened.

These cases expose the lack of appropriate oversight with regards to circumcision, as well as criminal negligence as practitioners seek to perform the procedure without giving due attention to the legal requirements. The lax attitude has led to a string of victims. Below are some of the major cases that have been in the headlines during this year;

A Second Offence for Dr. Balvinder Mehat - No Consent Circumcision

> ***"Doctor circumcised second boy without parent's consent"*** - BBC News
>
> In Nottingham, Dr. Balvinder Mehat performed a circumcision on a seven-year-old boy without obtaining consent from both parents, as required by British Medical Association (BMA) guidelines. The boy's mother had taken him for the procedure without informing his father, who discovered the circumcision only after his son experienced severe complications and required emergency surgery.

This incident highlighted serious consent issues and led to renewed scrutiny of Dr. Mehat's practices, emphasising the critical need for proper consent and safeguarding in medical procedures. Frustratingly, 15 Square have written about Dr Mehat in his previous non-consent circumcision. If his first case had been appropriately addressed by the General Medical Council, this second case will not have happened. At the time, the GMC claimed that they were confident that Dr. Mehat had learned his lesson and taken appropriate measures to not repeat his lax approach to consent. Nevertheless, in this recent case he not only failed to obtain consent, but had the wherewithal to try and obtain a signature from the mother indicating that she was a single parent - thus shifting the liability from himself to the mother. When this signature was presented, the GMC dismissed the case. They failed to address his behaviour once more.

It was only after the father pointed out that the consent form and signature had been acquired after the boy had been circumcised that the GMC were forced to readdress Mehat's actions;

In 2019, 15 Square warned of the consequences of a lax attitude towards Dr. Mehat's actions during his initial hearing with the General Medical Council.
We highlighted several requirements expected of doctors;

- Work in partnership with patients.
- Respect patients' right to reach decisions with you about their treatment and care.
- Give patients the information they want or need in a way they can understand.
- Support patients in caring for themselves to improve and maintain their health.
- Never abuse your patients' trust in you or the public's trust in the profession.
  - See: ***Decision Making and Consent (updated 2020)*** - By the General Medical Council

At the time, 15 Square commented:

> *"These requirements make it all the more insulting when they (the GMC) completely undermine their own standards and regulations. With circumcision they have knowingly been doing this for years, and as expected, their weak stance on it has led to a recent scandal. They recently gave a paltry 1 month suspension to a doctor who had circumcised a 3 month old baby without consent from the baby's mother. This seriously undermines the trust in the GMC to treat these cases with fairness and proportion. Nottinghamshire Police force and the Crown Prosecution Service dropped their charges against the Doctor presumably due to the perceived "lack of public interest" in prosecuting a circumcision with no consent.*

The act contravened all of the above requirements and guidelines for practicing doctors. It was left to the General Medical Council to ensure a proportionate consequence. 1 month of suspension does not add up, seriously damaging the reputation of this institution." - 15 Square, 2019: ***No Consent Circumcision: An Institutional Failure.***

We hope that the GMC have learned from yet another oversight, though they have cultivated a poor track record in previous years.

...But it is never too late to be better.

Unauthorised "Circumcision Clinic"

This incident underscores the risks associated with unregulated medical practices and the importance of adhering to legal and safety standards to protect patients:

> ***Southend home used as 'circumcision clinic' facing enforcement action***
>
> In Southend, the owners of a home used as an unauthorised "circumcision clinic" are facing enforcement action from Southend Council. The property, set up to serve primarily the Jewish community, operated without planning permission, with medical equipment and a waiting area installed in a residential home. Despite warnings and opportunities to comply with regulations, the clinic continued operations, prompting the council to authorise enforcement action.

We applaud Southend Council for holding the unauthorised "clinic" accountable - (it was in fact two laminated signs, a lounge filled with surgical devices and medical equipment). The council gave fair treatment by providing clear and unmistakable warnings prior to action. There are numerous cases of individuals taking advantage of the permissive governance direction surrounding circumcision, but it is rare and brazen to see an entire unregistered premises operating in a residential area. The fact that the council were ignored is concerning, as it demonstrates that the operators were cutting corners in order to continue their business. This venue also provided non-therapeutic practices for the Nigerian and Muslim community.

The Labour Councillor for the ward in question said; *"It is fair to everyone if people do things in the correct process."*

Double Amputation From 'Experienced' Doctor in Australia

> ***"Top circumcision doctor is banned from performing the operations after amputating two little boys' penises, tribunal hears"***
>
> In Melbourne, a leading circumcision doctor, Dr. Hershel Goldman, has been banned from performing the procedure after mistakenly amputating the penises of two young boys. The Medical Board of Australia restricted his licence following these incidents, where one child required a blood transfusion and the other faced potential lifelong disfigurement. Despite performing over 20,000 circumcisions in his career, these serious errors led to his ban, which he is currently appealing. This case highlights the severe consequences that can arise from circumcision and underscores the need for stringent medical oversight and the protection of bodily autonomy

The above case shows that even "trusted and highly experienced" practitioners are at risk of making major life threatening and life changing mistakes. We reiterate that every circumcision holds risks, meaning that informed consent is a must. Many parents are completely unaware of the pain, trauma, or general dissatisfaction caused to an unknown number of individuals who are circumcised, causing untold physical, psychological, and sexual impacts.

Unqualified Mohel Arrested in Ireland

A 47-year-old London rabbi, Jonathan Abraham, has been arrested in Dublin and charged with performing an illegal circumcision on a baby boy. Irish law requires a registered medical practitioner, rather than a religious practitioner from a different country. Abraham is a member of the Initiation Society, which has authority in the UK to govern circumcision practices and complaints completely internally, without oversight or regulation from the state. Whilst this allows religious practitioners to perform circumcisions in the UK, Ireland is known for having greater oversight and regulation of this surgical practice. The Initiation Societies training and certification do not carry any legal weight in Ireland.

A similar scenario would be using a driving license from another country that has lax driving standards, and presuming that it qualifies the driver to operate a car world wide.

Under Ireland's Medical Practitioners Act 2007, any surgical procedure (including circumcision) must be carried out by someone who is registered as a medical practitioner in Ireland. As an oddity in the UK, those that are not medically qualified are under no obligation to follow the requirements of the Care Quality Commission or follow medical ethics and take the Hippocratic oath.

We hope that prosecution and pursuit of this case sends a clear message: practitioners must comply with the law of the land in which they are in. The court explicitly noted that Abraham's UK credentials do not exempt him from Irish law and regulation. When Abraham applied for bail, his defence emphasised his deep roots in the UK's religious community. Despite being vouched for by Ireland's Chief Rabbi and his reputation and financial support of his congregation, the law applies to all. The judge eventually granted him €60,000 bail, allowing him to return to London.
Whilst improved clarity and training in the UK may prevent future cases of over-reaching by circumcision practitioners, we would also advocate for improved regulation of circumcision by the state or medical institutions rather than relying on the Initiation Society to self-police this practice within religious communities. There are currently no statistics on the complication rate that have been published by the Initiation Society, and all complaints from within communities are effectively sent into a black box.

This is a clear and explicit reminder that religious practices and secular laws are treated differently in each country, and practitioners should ensure that they comply with regional laws and requirements.

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"I happened to see a text on my mum's phone to her niece whose son had just been circumcised...

The level of ignorance in that exchange was beyond comprehension.

My mother rebranded a shattering trauma as merely 'draining,'

They both spoke as if our suffering was just a transaction that 'pays off' in the end.

It was two 'protectors' using casual lies to ignore the brutal reality of what they allowed to happen."

15SQUARE

YEAR IN REVIEW

2024-2025

BY DAVID SMITH & JASON METTERS

YEAR IN REVIEW

1. **NHS Psychotherapist Consultation**

For several months we were assisting an NHS based psychotherapist. She reached out to us at the request of one of her long-term clients with complex issues, who had recently indicated to her that he had been significantly impacted by circumcision trauma. Whilst we are required to respect confidentiality and specifics, we were familiar with many of the challenges that he faced and we felt confident to consult with the psychotherapist to assist her in better understanding this issue. Verbal feedback from both the psychotherapist and client indicated that they had benefited from our contributions, and upon request of the client, we were also introduced to his mother in order to communicate some of the issues that he presented to us. She was grateful and understanding.

This consultation gave us confidence that as an organisation we can produce educational training programmes and future consultations to support psychotherapists and other professionals that would benefit from training on the impacts of circumcision.

2. **New Volunteers for Successful Projects**

In the financial year 2024-25 we were glad to welcome Dan Strandjord and Leif Thompson to take over the peer support meetings that are hosted on the 15 Square Discord server. We are grateful to Adrian for starting these meetings which have become a cornerstone of the charity's offerings, and we continue to attract new members who feel that they would benefit from the supportive environment that is cultivated by our members and contributors.
We also welcomed Michael Drash as an advisor to 15 Square. Michael has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology, and his dissertation explored trauma caused by circumcision. Furthermore, Michael has had an insight into this issue for several years, and we welcome his expertise to compliment our current team.

3. **Guest Speakers and Online Presentations**

One of the most common requests made by members of our online meetings is to invite guest speakers from our wider community of individuals working to raise awareness of circumcision harm. We have hosted several guest speakers this year including Ron Low of ***TLCTugger.com*** to discuss practical restoration advice, and Andrew Little, plaintiff against the Canadian healthcare institution responsible for his circumcision. You can find a summary of Andrew's presentation on the next page...

We were glad to hear that our friends at GALDEF (Genital Autonomy Legal Defence and Education Fund) had raised support for Andrew Little, a student of medicine from Canada (currently studying in the UK). Andrew is in the difficult position of taking the hospital that circumcised him to court. Earlier this year we invited Andrew to discuss the details of his case and his battle to fight for recognition of the harm that he feels was caused by a lack of information to legitimately give informed consent.

Andrew talked about how the hospital had responded to the court case by reflexively suing Andrew's mother in response. This tic for tac behaviour shows the injustice prevalent in the healthcare system, whereby larger organisations can economically bully many people out of making a legal stance. We admire Andrew's tenacity and conviction, and his recognition that the institutions have historically pushed circumcision upon parents without informed consent and that they should be held accountable.

His talk discussed the barriers between those seeking legal restitution and achieving a successful outcome, including; statute of limitations periods, finding and funding legal representation, imbalance in counsel, risk, the psychological stress of legal battles, the need for parental participation, the lack of case law, and the lack of public awareness surrounding circumcision harm.

The format has been received well and successfully drove engagement to our online meetings, whilst stimulating discussion afterwards. We look forward to hosting talks by Leeanne Morris, Neil Walbran, and Eric Clopper in the forthcoming year ahead.

4. **Keele Students**

Each year we are proud to host students from Keele Medical School for their second year placements. Last year we hosted 6 in total, however we were asked to host a further 5 first year students for a shorter introduction to 15 Square's work. The induction syllabus that we use has been instrumental in encouraging students to identify their own areas for further research within the medical aspects of circumcision. We continued to use this format this year and welcomed another 3 students. Topics explored include patient information, early interventions, pathologies, patient decision making, anaesthesia, skin treatments, and exploratory case studies.

5. **Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy**

In May 2024 nine members and supporters of 15 Square attended this year's Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy. We were joined by ally and Executive Officer of the Darbon Institute, Tim Arkell. Tim is a human rights lawyer in Australia, and a fervent supporter of our cause, and a member of 15 Square. In addition to the demonstration event, there were outdoor presentations and two networking evenings in which attendees learned of the work from other organisations. We were glad to present, and we have agreed to consider ways in which we can assist the team in Germany (MOGIS E.V) with next years event. The Darbon Institute are well aligned with our organisation, and we continue to have regular meetings and contribute to each other's work, including an awareness campaign, and best practice when working in our sector.

6. **Alder Hey**

Two of our volunteers have taken on a project to improve online information for patients, parents, and professionals. To do this, they have assessed the information provided by Alder Hey Children's Trust. We chose Alder Hey as we believe that they are the leading organisation in the NHS when it comes to accurate information surrounding circumcision and alternative interventions to issues affecting the foreskin. We believed they would be receptive to our input, and we aimed to raise the bar as high as we can in order to use their information as a professional citation for our own publications. One of our members met with professionals on site in Liverpool. Whilst the conversation was cordial, in the end the trust was not receptive to amending their information before their next review. We had also hoped to establish frequent dialogue, however, we believe that they kept us at arms length in order to ensure that their research is unbiased by association as they are currently conducting research into foreskin alternatives.

Regardless of our challenges in this area, we are grateful that the doctors and academics at the trust are taking this issue seriously and asking the right questions. We will still use their circumcision information resource to cite our own similar conclusions, and hopefully raise the bar across other NHS healthcare trusts that do not have high quality information available to the public and in-house professionals.

7. **World Association of Sexual Health Congress**

For the 2024 WAS Conference, Tim Hammond from the USA coordinated a recorded presentation between himself, David, and Alphonso (another US contributor). The presentation was targeted towards the clinicians at the World Association for Sexual Health to help enable them to thoroughly understand foreskin restoration based on Tim Hammond's recent research. This was followed by a live session later on. David presented the lived experiences of men and continued to represent our members qualitative stories that we hear through the services that we provide. We intend to continue presenting at these conferences as the attendees tend to be working professionals and academics who would be in key positions to act on their improved understanding and influence other professionals.

8. **Board of Deputies - Open Letter to Government**

In June 2024, The National Secular Society published an article discussing a manifesto written by the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Within contained the demand for the defence of infant circumcision. Titled 'The Jewish Manifesto 2024', this heavily prescriptive document aimed to act as a united voice of British Jews in order to lobby the political parties of Britain. Whilst we recognise the importance of advocacy, the NSS highlighted the deeply concerning inclusions within their manifesto which affect the work of 15 Square, and continue to imply that all members of the Jewish faith and heritage are in support of infant circumcision. This undermines the efforts of those that critique circumcision and raise ethical and health concerns, both within the Jewish community and outside it.

The manifesto itself encourages British Jews to lobby in favour of protecting ritual circumcision from progressive reform. Many of 15 Square's members come from cultures practising circumcision, so in July of 2024 we encouraged our audience to reach out to their MP's and to give their perspective, to ensure that all voices are accounted for when considering legislation that pertains to circumcision.

> *"Can one really be Jewish and against circumcision? Is a Jewish man really Jewish if he is not circumcised? Are non-circumcision Jews rejecting Judaism? To put it simply—yes, one can be Jewish and against circumcision."* - Lindsey Jackson, PhD
>
> *(Lindsey Jackson is a PhD candidate in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University.)*

In accordance with our own messaging, we invited our constituency MP to our offices in Stone, Staffordshire, to learn about the charity and raise our concerns regarding oversight, record keeping, and the qualitative experiences of the men who feel let down by the status quo. We were grateful that he heard our representations, and we will be relying on his role in future projects when it comes to making improvements to health policy. We also made it clear that the topic of circumcision was *not* an easy way to gain favour with religious communities and that there is a significant cohort of the public that feel strongly about this issue - from within the faith communities, and without. We also welcomed Alec Sandiford, one of our Borough Council representatives who joined us in the office after taking the time to visit us during last year's AGM.

9. **Manchester Healthwatch**

15 Square have taken an interest in the Healthwatch organisations around the UK. Regional Healthwatch organisations have statutory powers to investigate NHS premises and report on healthcare policy and practices from a watchdog and patient advocacy perspective. Last financial year, Neil Walbran, from Healthwatch Manchester interviewed David for a conversation on healthcare reticence in men and to ask about our work.

This year, David went along to one of their meetings in Manchester to learn more about their work. We took interest in one of Healthwatch's trial schemes launched in Essex. Patients were presented with cards to take into their GP appointments. These cards had information for healthcare providers to inform them about barriers and bespoke conditions affecting them, and the best way to support them whilst taking into account their individual challenges. The QR codes allowed patients and healthcare providers to access simple resources. We would like to adapt this successful scheme for future projects, as it was well received by patients and healthcare providers. Furthermore, it adds legitimacy to the patient's challenges and dispels any assumptions that their complaints are isolated or unique incidents - an issue that we hear of all too often.

10. **Awareness and Information Campaign: "A Man and his Circumstance"**

Last AGM we welcomed Tom Cain, Theatre Writer, Director, and Producer from Southport. Tom took an interest in our subject after a conversation with a female housemate:Last AGM we welcomed Tom Cain, Theatre Writer, Director, and Producer from Southport. Tom took an interest in our subject after a conversation with a female housemate:

> *"My housemate told me that she and her female friend had a conversation about the health of their female body parts. This stemmed from one of them worrying about themselves but was reassured after having a conversation with their close friend… When my housemate asked if lads have the same sort of conversations I laughed at the possible idea of it."*

Since that conversation, Tom decided to write a play that lifted the taboo around intimate men's health issues, and the production heavily featured circumcision. Dealing with issues of recovery, aesthetics, relationship pressure, mockery from friends, coping mechanisms, addiction, and other areas of sexual health, the production aimed to normalise these kinds of discussions and encourage men to seek help when needed. The 15 Square team produced information leaflets and QR codes to access online resources for attendees and went along to support Tom's efforts along with some of the members of the charity. Tom even included an additional scene in the play after hearing from 15 Square about the alternatives available to men, and the psychological impacts of the procedure.

"With seven larger than life characters multi-rolled by three actors this new play looks upon an important message on men's physical health, encouraging men to look out for the signs on their 'down-below', in an attempt to dispel the taboo subject on men's genital health issues. Don't worry there is no nudity in this show!"

15SQUARE

FINANCIAL REPORT

2024-2025

BY DUNCAN MARSHALL
HON. TREASURER & TRUSTEE

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Notes on the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

The Accounts for the year to the end of March 2025 were examined by Alison Horton last week and in that year, we successfully raised £31K in donations mainly through the generosity of our supporters. This achievement reflects a wonderful commitment by many and a few. Thank you all.

Cash in the bank has fallen in these figures but has significantly recovered in the last four months. Creditors as always are zero other than the HMRC tax whom we pay every three months.

Members' subscription income remains at a steady level, and the charity are very grateful for this commitment and loyalty.

With only two employees we have not been affected by changes to employers' national insurance.

Insurance increases have been in line with the market in general.
Accountancy costs are no more than the cost of using our Sage Accounting software.

An overdue upgrade to our office computers has increased our efficiency.

We may be looking to move office soon, but we won't be going far.

An excellent management team combined with support and guidance from the Board continues to drive our success.

Duncan Marshall.
Trustee and Hon. Treasurer. November 2025.

I have prepared the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2024. This can be found in the Appendix on the accompanying document.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

CHARITY COMMISSION REG. NO: 1072831 / 1203284 (Updated 2023)

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS:

First Floor, 69a High Street
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 8AD 15square.org.uk

GOVERNING DOCUMENT: Constitution – Version amended 2023

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY:

To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision and other forms of surgical alteration of the genitals including alternative treatments and offering information, and advice on such matters

---

CHARITY TRUSTEES & OFFICERS:

Chairman	Tony Peters
Vice Chairman	Peter Ball
Secretary	James Battrick
Treasurer	Duncan Marshall
Trustee	Sarah Thirlwall
Trustee	Richard Duncker
Trustee	Neil Walbran
Trustee	Leeanne Morris
Trustee	John Warren
Chief Officer	David Smith
Deputy Chief Officer	Jason Metters

Archivist	John Dalton
Hon Advisors	Gaye Blake Roberts MBE
Ambassador	Lesley Roberts
Patron	Alan Cumming
Past Patrons	Brian Sewell (obit) Professor Jack Cohen (obit) Mary Cronk OBE (obit)

BANKERS:

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Maling, Kent,
ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Alison Horton Orchard
Cottage Bishops Offley
Stafford ST21 6ET

15 SQUARE

A significant portion of 15 Square's funding is received from legacies.

Some of these legacies are from men who have taken their own lives, but all of these men were significantly affected by circumcision.

We work tirelessly to improve recognition and understanding of this issue.

If you would like to donate please visit our website.

15Square.org.uk

Charity Reg No: 1203284

15 SQUARE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO

31ST MARCH 2025

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15 SQUARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

The Charity was registered on 25th May 2023 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), having previously been an unincorporated Charity which was registered on 7th December 1998 under a Trust Deed dated 25th April 1998.

The Charity number is 1203284.

The address of the Charity is: First Floor Offices, 69 High Street, Stone ST15 8AD.

The Trustees as at 31st March 2025 were Mr Tony Peters, Dr John Warren, Dr Peter Ball, Sarah Thirlwall, James Battrick, Richard Duncker, Leeanne Morris, Neil Walbran and Duncan Marshall.

The Charity's activities aim to educate the public on all aspects of male circumcision, the foreskin, and its functions. This includes providing accurate health information and support to both circumcised and intact men facing foreskin-related issues, as well as to parents, caregivers, and the public. The Charity also offers guidance on conservative treatments to help avoid unnecessary circumcisions and supports individuals affected by these issues. Additionally, the Charity promotes research into the effects of circumcision and advocates for health policies and laws that ensure informed consent, with the findings made available for public benefit.

Our financial position remains strong supported by legacies, membership fees, private member's donations and other small income.

15 SQUARE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Accounting Policies:

a) **Basis of Accounting**

The Accounts are presented on a cash, payments and receipts basis rather than accruals. There were no significant transactions outstanding at the year end.

b) **Fund Accounting**

All funds are unrestricted for the use at the discretion of the Charity in the furtherance of its charitable objectives.

c) **Tangible Fixed Assets**

The Charity does not own freehold property. The Charity's office premises are used on a rental basis under an agreement with LM Stone Limited.

d) **Incoming resources**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it received. Membership fees (£40 per annum per member) and donations are subjected to tax recovery (gift aid) where appropriate and are recognised as income when it is received. Legacies are accounted for on receipt and other income also recognised when it is received.

e) **Resources expended**

Salaries and fees are paid monthly and are included with all other expenses in the financial statements for the year in which they are paid.

f) **Taxation**

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to the objects of the Charity.

I have prepared the financial statement on page 4 for the year ended 31st March 2025.

D S Marshall
Treasurer/Trustee

14th November 2025

15 SQUARE

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income	2024	2025	Expenditure	2024	2025
Donations	20,361	30,955	Salaries	36,637	40,136
Gift Aid	16,414	5,634	Professional Fees	23,040	23,220
Memberships	5,304	5,524	Office Rent	9,600	9,600
Keele Interns	3,281	4,875	Electric Heating	2,063	2,453
Rental Income	4,800	4,800	Employers Pens	1,644	1,701
Future Choices	-	1,200	Travel & Accom.	421	1,027
Bank Interest	1,266	776	Office Equipment	280	974
Grants	-	-	Office Software	537	578
Legacies	-	-	Internet	503	548
			Insurance	491	515
			Bank Charges	387	383
			Refreshments	-	353
			Sundry	206	236
			Landline	100	105
			Website Domain	60	60
			Postage	29	18
			Training	196	-
			Repairs & Rnls	128	-
			V'teer Expenses	76	-
Total Income	51,426	53,764	Total Expenditure	76,322	81,907

BALANCE SHEET

	2024	2025
Opening Balances	70168	45712
Expenditure Excess	-24456	-28285
Accruals & Prepayments	-658	1684
Closing Bank Balances	45712	19111

Duncan Marshall - Honorary Treasurer

1st April 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 15 SQUARE
Charity Commission Registration number: 1203284

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of 15 Square for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. The accounting records were not kept in respect of section 130 of the Act, or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records, or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed

Name: Alison Horton FCCA

Address: Orchard Cottage, Bishops Offley, Stafford ST21 6ET.

Charity Reg No: 1203284

15 SQUARE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO

31ST MARCH 2025

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15 SQUARE

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15 SQUARE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

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15 SQUARE

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Signed

Name: Alison Horton FCCA

Address: Orchard Cottage, Bishops Offley, Stafford ST21 6ET.

15 SQUARE

England & Wales - Charity number 1203284

Accounts

15 SQUARE

Annual Report 2024

UK Registered Charity No 1072831 / 1203284 (Updated 2023)

INTRODUCTION TO 15 SQUARE

The Trustees of the Council of 15 Square submit their annual report and financial statements for the year beginning on the 1st April 2023, to the 31st March 2024.

15 Square is an independent charitable trust, founded by Dr John Warren in 1995, originally called NORM-UK to provide information about normal male genitalia. It became a national charity in 1998. The objects of the charity are;

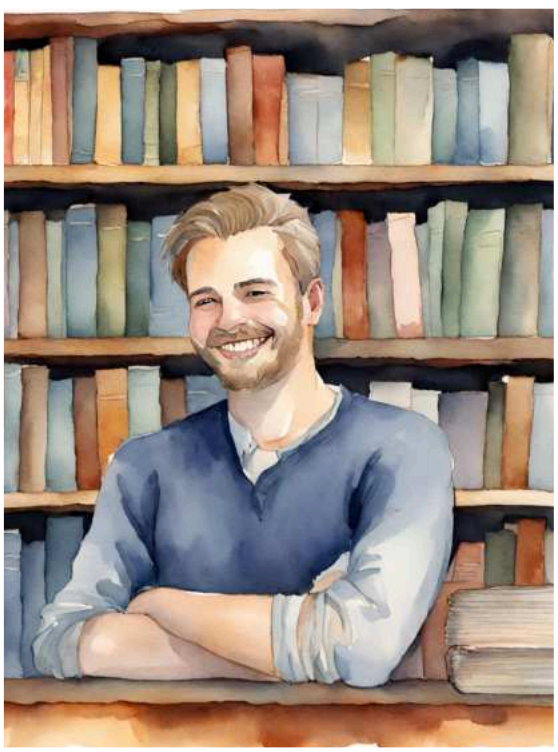
To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision, the foreskin and its function, including through:

a) the provision of accurate health information and advice to both circumcised and intact men who have foreskin issues and to parents/carers and the wider public;

b) the provision of information regarding conservative techniques to help avoid unnecessary circumcision and assistance to those affected by the issues associated with this;

c) the promotion of research into the effects of circumcision and health policies and laws that reflect informed consent around circumcision, the useful results of which will be published for the public benefit."

We offer information on care and foreskin preserving treatments for disorders affecting the foreskin. We also offer help and advise to men and teenagers who have been damaged either physically or psychologically by circumcision.



15SQUARE

VISION

At 15 Square we work towards better public and professional recognition of the consequences that can result from circumcision. This includes an appreciation of the long term psychological, physical, and sexual impacts that the procedure can cause as well as the functional value of the foreskin.

We want better services for those who have been affected, and to encourage informed consent and ethical appreciation for this practice. By raising public awareness, we hope that one day unnecessary interventions will be a thing of the past and that everyone who has been negatively affected will have access to support services.

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide information to service users regarding foreskin health conditions and how to resolve them without having to resort to unnecessary and unwanted surgery.

We aim to raise more awareness about the function and value of the foreskin through our website, social media, and awareness projects.
We acknowledge the following side effects that affect some men following circumcision:

- Psychological damage
- Physical problems
- Issues of sexual function resulting from the above
- Personal dissatisfaction

We work to improve professional recognition of these issues whilst helping those affected to receive support for their conditions.

15SQUARE

GOALS

Our Strategy

1. To support men who have been affected physically, sexually, or psychologically following circumcision or male genital surgery, and to help intact men find non-invasive alternatives to circumcision in order to prevent unwanted and unnecessary operations.

2. Signpost service users and collaborate with professionals and advisers that can assist people who have encountered problems.

3. To gather evidence of these problems and the impacts of circumcision.

4. To use this evidence to inform health providers & professionals, and improve their understanding, appreciation and practices when interacting with people who have been affected, or when making decisions that will affect men.

15SQUARE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This report covers the period from April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

TONY PETERS
CHAIRMAN

It has taken many months of preparation, but I am pleased to report that we finally became a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in May 2023.

Like previous years the last year has been a particularly busy one. During the year we have been exploring opportunities and working on the groundwork to make sure we are working with a firm foundation.

In 2022 Surgeons at Alder Hey Children's NHS Trust, Liverpool, criticised surgeons who offer the operation on medical grounds – suggesting they should be looking for less invasive alternatives.

In an official report, the hospital's leading paediatric surgeon, Professor Simon Kenny, claimed that more than half of the 9,500 circumcisions carried out for medical reasons each year in the UK should never have happened.
The analysis also found up to half of the boys who underwent medical circumcision at some trusts were under five, an age at which doctors agree the procedure is almost always unnecessary.

Following this report Trevor Leckie started work on a detailed independent review of the Alder Hey 4-Skin Health website. This review is aimed primarily at getting the basics right and ensuring consistency across all NHS websites and its associated medical establishments. Trevor presented his findings at our AGM.

In May 2023 David paid his annual visit to Cologne to participate in the Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy. The event was live streamed around the world and is growing in importance. We must ensure we continue to be part of this event in future . David was pleased with his contribution and on our behalf appealed for people to tell their stories. Your voice matters For too long, men who have spoken about circumcision harms have been ignored, dismissed, or even ridiculed. But we hear you.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This past year we have continued working behind the scenes with The Darbon Institute in Australia to develop a new online public education campaign to be launched in 2025 to feature real stories of circumcision harms from real people. Their stories are compelling, and the harms are undeniable.

In October 2023 we joined the National Suicide Prevention Alliance, which has over a thousand groups as members. Our details are now on the first page of the members section of their website. David and Jason attended their annual conference in London in January. It was a well attended event and they made some new contacts.

Our Ambassador Lesley Roberts whose son Alex took his own life at twenty three following a circumcision two years earlier continues to raise awareness. In July 2023 Alex's brother Tom released a fantastic article, which read; 'I suffer from Phimosis. My brother did, went to the doctor, had a circumcision, and ended his life'. Following the publication of this article we gained two new members, one from the United States.

We continue to have a good relationship with Keele Medical School. In 2011 we had our first medical student placements. In the year covered by this report we had six second year students five of them female, who were excellent. I am pleased to report that Shirin, one of the students won the student placement award. She was with us at our AGM talking about her placement. We also had five first year placements for a short time.

I would like to congratulate our trustee James Battrick who has received a national diploma in therapeutic counselling and to thank him for his ongoing contributions towards 15 Square as we move onto the next chapter where we develop our expertise in dealing with the psychological damage suffered by so many of our service users and to thank those members who supported James in his Talking Therapies project.

I also want to thank Leeanne Morris. Leeanne interviewed some of our service-users for her MA and presented her findings at our AGM last year. This work will continue and Leeanne has been invited to join our trustee board and I am pleased to report that she has accepted the invitation.

15SQUARE

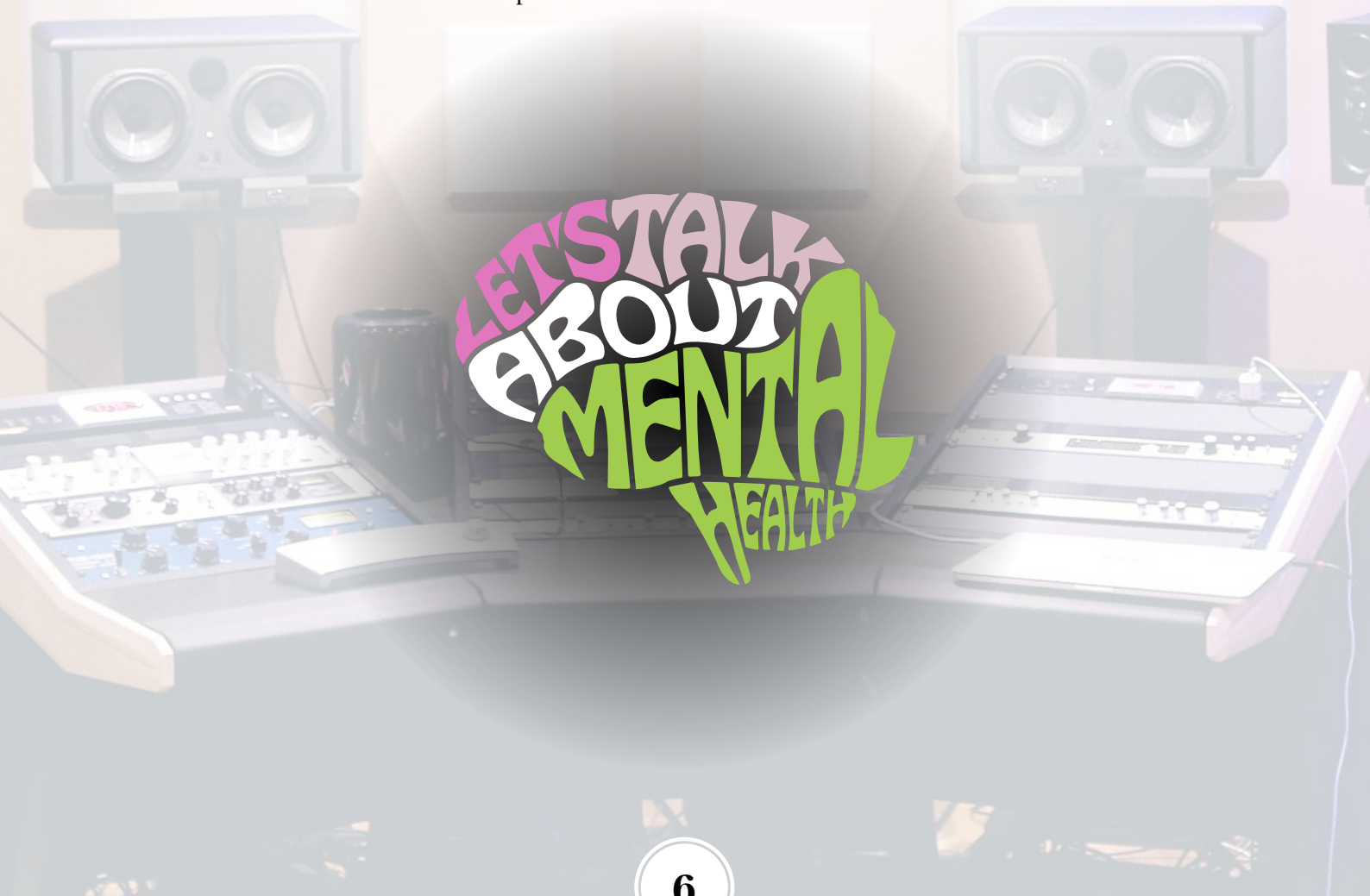
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In July 2023 we were alerted to the case of Andrew Lye who was mayor of Neyland Town Council in Pembrokeshire. Andrew resigned and asked for a formal apology after being called a racist following comments about circumcision. The furore was sparked after he wrote in a blog post that he could not understand why any religion would require the removal of a foreskin, adding:

"If God didn't mean us to have one, he'd have created us without one."

The National Secular Society also reported on the case which to our knowledge is ongoing.

In August 2023 David was interviewed by Neil Walbran from Healthwatch Manchester discussing why men are reluctant to consult doctors. The interview was posted on their website.



15SQUARE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

THANK YOU...

Last year I reported that Jason, our Deputy CEO was studying for his MBA at Keele University, alongside his work with us. The professionalism that he has brought to 15 Square has been invaluable, and I am pleased to report that Jason has passed with flying colours and will graduate in January, 2025.

Louise, our marketing consultant has been doing some wonderful work on our social media. We have had an increase in Twitter followers and their tweets demonstrate their sentiment surrounding the content that we have been putting out; a collection of digital images that say things about the charity's mission that get people talking about the needs of our services. The top tweet spoke of the need for a debate on this issue from a well-known UK radio presenter. There has also been a range of people interacting on Facebook and Instagram. Our content has been improved to answer intact men with problems and issues, saving a visit to our doctor. Our CTR (click-through rate) is currently 9.76% against a minimum 5%. We are constantly improving the website content to equate the 'landing page' to enquirers' searches.

I want to thank Adrian Briscoe for running peer support sessions on our discord channel for some time. Adrian has now handed over the reins to Dan Strandjord and Leif Thompson.

I would like to make a special mention of Tim Hammond from Genital Autonomy Legal Defense & Education Fund based in the USA who are doing some excellent work and Victor Schiering and his team who organise the Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy in Cologne. This is a wonderful networking event and we are pleased to be associated with it and our colleagues at the National Secular Society particularly Alejandro Sanchez.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow trustees and the staff of 15 Square, for their support and dedication during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank the following:

Alison Horton, for her help with overseeing our accounts.
Cameron Atkinson, Lesley Roberts, Tom Hardy, Jonathan Meddings, Tim Arkell, David Harding. Shane Brewster, Dr Antony Lempert and Gaye Blake-Roberts, Keele University and in particular the Keele Medical School.

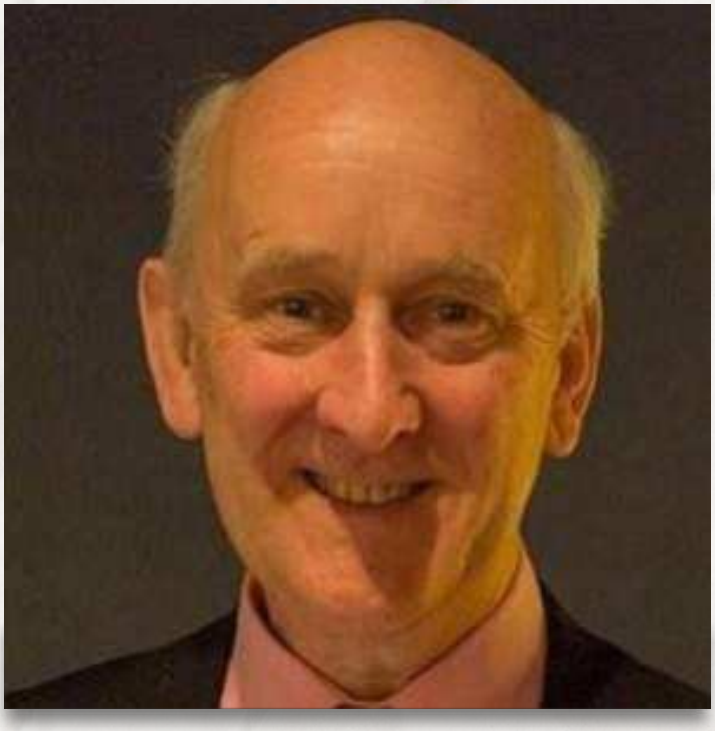
It's great to see our humble charity growing, and it is becoming more and more clear how much our work is needed to work towards a better, more informed future.
Finally, I would like to thank the members of the charity. Without your support we would not exist.

Thank You All

-Tony Peters, Chariman, 15 Square

15SQUARE

CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT & EDITORIAL

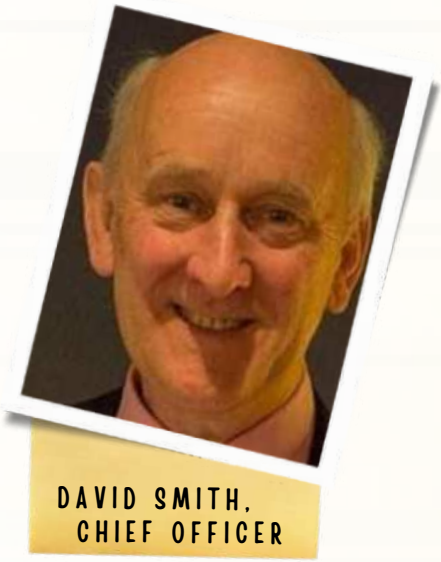


THIRTY YEARS OF 15 SQUARE

BY DAVID SMITH
CHIEF OFFICER

15SQUARE

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT -
30 YEARS OF 15 SQUARE



On 19th October it was the thirtieth anniversary of the first meeting of what was eventually to become first NORM-UK that later became 15 Square. That first meeting was organised by John Warren our founder after he had read a review of a book written by Jim Bigelow called The joy of Uncircumcising.

Despite its intriguing title this was an academic publication exploring the consequences and issues associated with circumcision along with men's stories. John felt that there was a need for an organisation in the UK to tackle this issue. The meeting was held in London and nineteen men met to discuss their issues with circumcision. Up to that point circumcision had been a subject that men were not allowed to talk about and this was the first time that the men in that room had spoken to anyone about their situation.

I was at that first meeting never thinking that I would be standing here today as Chief Officer of the charity.

I want to take you through a brief history of events over the last thirty years. 1994 was the year that Nelson Mandela became President of South Africa, and the channel tunnel opened. Fashion trends included faux fur and platform shoes. It is interesting to remember that 1994 was a momentous year for the tech industry.

It was the year the World Wide Web was born, a.k.a. the Internet as we know it today. There were no smartphones, no iPads, no flat-screen TVs... and, imagine this, no Google, no Netflix, no Dropbox. I will be talking later about the difference the internet has made to our charity and the visibility of our issue.

After that first meeting we struggled to get publicity and when we did there was always a medic to say this was not a problem. In fact the first time we managed to get some publicity on a radio 4 programme a urologist said that if men started to restore their foreskins it would be pandering to a lot of potentially inadequate people, such was the attitude of the medical profession at that time and to a certain extent now.

Shortly after this and following some publicity John was invited to be interviewed on BBC Newsnight. In those days every time we were interviewed there was always a doctor or rabbi interviewed for balance. In this case Jeremy Paxman was the interviewer and I was astonished at his knowledge of the subject. He asked John all the right questions and then turning to the rabbi sitting next to John gave him a really hard time. I will mention Jeremy Paxman later.

Some men blame their doctors but it is difficult to have a rant at an unknown medic who did the deed several years ago. In 1996 a group of 20 NORM-UK members, decided to put the blame in this direction and started the ball rolling by putting their names to a letter to the British Medical Journal.

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

The letter began:

"*Dear Editor,*

We are all adult men who believe that we have been harmed by circumcision carried out in childhood by doctors in Britain. We are concerned about the ethics of this surgery on children and that it is commonly carried our when it is not essential."

The letter was published in the British Medical Journal on 10th February 1996 and that morning the phone went mad as members of the press called for interviews. Unfortunately, the IRA chose that day to plant a bomb in Canary Wharf and once that had happened it rather stole our day.

The first intensive exploration of the unrecognized psychological and social aspects of circumcision was undertaken by Ronald Goldman a psychologist from the USA. He published a book In 1997 entitled

CIRCUMCISION: THE HIDDEN TRAUMA: How an American cultural practice affects infants.

The book has been endorsed by dozens of professionals in psychology, psychiatry, child development, pediatrics, obstetrics, childbirth education, sociology, and anthropology. That really started a ball rolling on the psychological damage caused by circumcision and we hope going forward to keep this ball rolling.

The following year Dr Janet Menage from the UK did some ground-breaking work on this with some of our service users and her research is detailed on our website. I think it would be useful to quote from her article.

Janet begins her article by saying:

"Circumcision is a euphemism for genital reduction surgery or genital mutilation, performed by medically-licensed or unqualified practitioners for various reasons. She says that it is important to define it honestly, for that is how the mind interprets it, with or without superimposed denials, explanations and intellectualisations."

She goes on to say that circumcisions are performed on children, who, by definition are not able to give informed consent of the kind available to adults. They are vulnerable to coercion and manipulation and generally have little say in what happens to their bodies medically & surgically. They are not usually allowed to say no to medical procedures because it is deemed that parents & doctors "know best", but it is unlikely that any child (if asked whether they would like a person to cut off part of their penis) would agree to such an action. That would be a normal psychological reaction to the threat of attack and is overruled at some psychological cost.

How true that is.

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

In 1998 we become a charity. That was a great step forward.

1998 was the year that Peter Ball gave us our first soundbite when he said on a live interview that the foreskin was not something that could be amputated willy nilly. Although accidental, that soundbite gave us more publicity when it was mentioned on Radio 4 News quiz a few months later.

In 1999 we launched a national survey looking into circumcision rates and practices throughout the UK. Our findings suggested that up to 91% of these operations were unnecessary. The results also suggested that circumcision occurred throughout the country in greater numbers than medically necessary with very little regulation and without laboratory confirmation that diagnosis and surgery were appropriate.

John Warren said that "I find these results startling. Here we have a significant operation that has life long effects which could be almost totally avoided. Britain clearly over performs circumcisions. More worryingly there appears to be little or no monitoring of this procedure" That is something we have been trying to address ever since.

Since then we have conducted a number of Freedom of information exercises with similar results. In one hospital in Birmingham, in one year, eleven boys were admitted to intensive care with life threatening injuries following circumcision.

I mentioned Jeremy Paxman earlier, and in 2005 he was invited to present Mans Hour on Radio 4. I will read a report from The Sunday Times.

"The life of everyday public figures is full of surprises, but it was nonetheless surprising to hear about Jeremy Paxman's interest in male circumcision. He was to be in the hot seat at Broadcasting House after the Woman's Hour unit had come up with the wild and zany idea of putting on a Man's Hour programme over the holiday period. Asked what male-centric issues he would like to discuss, Paxo opted for the issue of foreskin abuse.

It proved to be a problem. Although Woman's Hour has reported on female circumcision in the past, this male version was thought to be inappropriate for broadcasting at a time when children might be tuning in. Paxman held his ground and was told that his services were no longer required. In a diary for that house magazine for the huffy middle-aged male, The Spectator, he complained:

"While in the usual way, protesting their liberal credentials, they were worried about making it 'relevant and interesting' to the audience."

David Smith,

Chief Officer - 15 Square

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

These are tricky, sensitive issues. It may well be that the bigwigs of Woman's Hour were right to spare Radio 4 listeners the upsetting image of Paxman moving curiously among the danglers, tapers, cone-wielders and self-restorers. But the row surrounding the decision reflects more than questions of squeamishness and taste. When the women deciding the content and character of Man's Hour opted for Jon Snow as presenter, and when subsequently Paxman went public with the story, they were pointing up a subtle sea-change in the area of masculinity.

Until recently, contemporary males were presented through the media as belonging in one of two categories. They tended to be either traditionalists, backward-looking types who clung to stereotypical views on matters of gender and much else, or they were New Lads, a group which confusingly contained both the blokeishness represented in a programme like They Think It's All Over and the sensitivity of a Nick Hornby novel."

- The Sunday Times

A dated reference, however gender stereotypes of over-sensitive men or traditional blokes still exist. Since then we have downplayed comments about restoration as they tend to detract from our core message about the damage and leave us open to ridicule. I think we also need to be selective in using the term uncircumcised to describe the normal penis.

There is a difference between our approach and protest. The work that 15 Square is not activism focused. We see ourselves as 'pro-informed consent', rather than 'anti-circumcision'. This is part of our organisations ethos of being proactive rather that reactive.

In 2011 we started our collaboration with Keele University and the Keele Medical students placement programme. Later that same year The British Medical association held their annual; representatives meeting in Cardiff. A motion was put forward by Dr Antony Lempert encouraging them to debate the issue of circumcision. Along with several of our colleagues I went to Cardiff to speak to the doctors attending to try to persuade them to vote for the motion. I was astonished at the rudeness of some of the attendees. One doctor told me angrily that he had done hundreds of circumcisions and intended to do hundreds more.
In that same year and after six years of requesting we managed to get an hour long meeting with the General Medical Council Ethics committee. During the meeting it was agreed that we had provided the evidence to prove that they are not up to date with training and that there was a need to get a professional body to produce a leaflet. We stated that complaints are not taken seriously and it was agreed that we would produce a document with some statistical information.

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Finally, it was suggested there was a need for formal registration of the procedure to record who was circumcised, when, where, how and by whom. John Warren added that adequate records needed to be kept and audits carried out. All present agreed that this was essential. I sent them the statistical information they requested and asked for updates. All my emails were ignored and they refused requests for further meetings. Six months later I submitted a Freedom of Information request asking to see copies of their internal correspondence following our meeting. There was none.
In 2017 a national survey of male circumcision incidence and harms was undertaken by a member of the public, using the Freedom of Information Act
The survey reveals a disturbing gap between circumcision reality and rhetoric. Child circumcision harm is widespread, and serious harm may particularly affect those assumed to be the safest target: infants. Yet from thousands of A&E / GP follow ups, to hundreds of revision surgeries, to the deaths (4-5 recorded as linked to circumcision in 65 months), these impacts are going unreported.

The lucrative private circumcision sector is minimally regulated and evidences some dangerous and dishonest practice; even some NHS mass circumcision schemes, which headlined quality assurance, fail to enforce service level agreements and breach guidelines on consent. Long term monitoring of male circumcision impact is absent, and there is no evidence of due diligence into the risk of future litigation or even the cost to the NHS of future treatments for urinary, psychological or sexual issues. Meanwhile, therapeutically-coded child circumcision is still significantly over-referred, bringing unnecessary costs in terms of both surgeries and treatment of complications.

The health of children may not be traded for an illusion of cultural sensitivity nor to maintain a belief in medical infallibility. With non-therapeutic or dubiously-therapeutic circumcision affecting around 40,000 boys each year, it is time for a comprehensive national audit into the incidence and impact of this surgery. Only then can a full national debate begin.

Thirty years ago, John Warren compared attitudes towards circumcision as an ocean liner. It is impossible to stop an ocean liner in a mile, it has to slow to a halt. I think we have spent enough time trying to slow down this particular liner. We need to sink it! I think the time is right to create a virtual iceberg to put in the path of the General Medical Council and British Medical Associations ocean liners and as a relative of the Captain of the Titanic, I know how effective icebergs can be at stopping unsinkable ships!

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Moving on from the medical profession -

Prior to the pandemic we were featured in a number of radio and TV programmes including BBC Inside Out and A Cut too far which was broadcast on BBC 1

I said earlier that I will be talking about the difference the internet has made to our issue and this was particularly evident at the start of the pandemic. Keele University and Santander were our saviours. They introduced a virtual intern scheme where charities could apply for a virtual intern for a hundred hours at no cost and Santander would pay the intern. We applied for the scheme and were lucky to get three interns. One analysed eight years of our enquiries and generated some amazing statistics. Another helped us on psychological damage and our third intern, Louise did such a good job revolutionalising our marketing that she is still with us.

Shortly after the pandemic she emigrated to Australia but this is not a problem thanks to modern technology.

In 2023 a supplement to an abridged manuscript was published by the International Journal of Impotence Research, titled:

"Foreskin Restorers: Insights into Motivations, Successes, Challenges and Experiences with Medical and Mental Health Professionals"
- Hammond et al

Foreskin restoration is a non-surgical procedure using skin stretching techniques. It is a lengthy process. However, it can never replace the nerve endings contained in the original foreskin. This survey featured some interesting survey statistics.

Of those surveyed, only 13% of respondents had sought help from a medical or mental health professional.

50% who sought no help believed that professionals would not be knowledgeable or supportive.

Of those who sought help 25% reported the professional was unsympathetic, dismissive or ridiculing.

69% believed that professionals are insufficiently aware of, or compassionate towards circumcision sufferers.

64% believe that professionals are unaware of foreskin anatomy or circumcision harm,

85% believe that medical and mental health professionals should receive special training on circumcision distress and foreskin restoration.

87% would recommend foreskin restoration.

15SQUARE

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Apart from helping circumcised men we have a lot of enquiries from intact men with tight foreskins. Those come to us because doctors often only advise circumcision which they do not want. They search online and come to us. Dr Peter Ball, our Vice Chairman has answered numerous enquiries. Unfortunately they rarely give us feedback or donations so it is difficult to maintain this service. We do have publications we send to enquirers, detailing the steps they can take themselves to solve their problem without resorting to circumcision.
As I said earlier our biggest obstacle is our subject matter. Compared to our start in 1995 when nobody would give us publicity, things have at least changed in that respect. It is still a difficult and personal subject for men to open up about, and even more difficult to get organisational support.

As a charity dealing with this issue we are aware that there is a difference between the men who recognise that they have been profoundly damaged. How they manifest it can be enlightening. Many seem to fall into two categories, which I think could be described as introverts or extroverts.

The introverts often become loners. They hide their feelings, they would certainly not discuss them. They are ashamed of their damage and will often not enter into relationships and will not use changing rooms anything to avoid anyone seeing their damage. These are the people who are extremely difficult for us to help simply because they won't go public in any way. The introverts are more likely to view our website than to contact us in person.

The extroverts often react with anger and sometimes lash out at members of the medical profession and who can blame them when nobody seems to be listening. Many men seek online groups either through forums such as reddit which currently has six thousand followers on their circumcision grief forum. Others prefer discord servers that are sometimes more militant than the public facing forums. The appeal of these forums and internet spaces is the anonymity provided and the sense of recognition. In public online spaces such as Twitter or X, these men are often targeted by trolls who further ridicule them.

Website Metrics : 2023-24

Website Metrics - November 2023 - 2024

Active Users: 41,000

Top Countries by Active Users:

- United States: 17,000 (42% of total)
- United Kingdom: 5,600 (14%)
- Canada: 3,200 (8%)
- India: 2,400 (6%)
- Australia: 1,800 (4%)

Information the Audience Seek:

- Information for Circumcised Men: 11,267
- Information for Intact Men: 8,198 views
  - (The rest are unknown/other)

15Square.org.uk

15SQUARE

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

Based on our metrics, it is obvious that a vast number of people know about us but they do not contact us. In order to help and support these men further we need to encourage them to become members or at the very least reach out to 15 Square. This helps us to continue our work and develop services.

We need to get people to join or support us if we are to progress. There are many organisations helping men deal with mental health issues. One shining example is Andy's Man Club formed by the mother and brother of a man named Andy, who took his own life. This is a men's suicide prevention charity offering free to attend peer support groups across the United Kingdom and online. They say that they want to end the stigma surrounding men's mental health and help men through the power of conversation. They do this through weekly free to attend peer support groups for men over eighteen. This charity was formed in 2016 and now has groups at over 150 locations across three countries of the UK with 4000 men using their service.

I am aware of multiple suicides relating to *our* issue, five of which have had direct contact with the charity in some capacity at some point in time. Our issue is no less important than any other and we need to work to get the same recognition.

We are recognised for our efforts worldwide. With more support and funding we could do so much more.

SUPPORT

RECORD

RESEARCH

EDUCATE

15 SQUARE

“My earliest recollection of being “different” happened at an early age when I started to notice something was not right.

I started to see other boys had this skin covering the end of their penises, something which I didn’t have. In my innocence I thought that you were born either with or without, and it was the luck of the draw which one you got.

I wasn’t at all happy about this but accepted it and thought how unlucky I was.”

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Accounting Policies:

a) Basis of Accounting
The Accounts are presented on a cash basis rather than accruals. There were no significant transactions outstanding at the year end.

b) Fund Accounting
All funds are unrestricted for the use at the discretion of the Charity in the furtherance of its charitable objectives.

c) Tangible Fixed Assets
The Charity does not own freehold property. The Charity's office premises are used on a rental basis under an agreement with LM Stone Limited.

d) Incoming resources
All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received. Membership fees (£40 per annum per member) and donations are subjected to tax recovery (gift aid) where appropriate and are recognised as income when it is received. Legacies are accounted for on receipt and other income also recognised when it is received.

e) Resources expended
Salaries and fees are paid monthly and are included with all other expenses in the financial statements for the year in which they are paid.

f) Taxation
The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to the objects of the Charity.

I have prepared the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2024. This can be found in the Appendix on the final page of this document.

D S Marshall
Treasurer/Trustee

15 SQUARE

A significant portion of 15 Square's funding is received from legacies.

Some of these legacies are from men who have taken their own lives, but all of these men were significantly affected by circumcision.

We work tirelessly to improve recognition and understanding of this issue.

If you would like to donate please visit our website.

15Square.org.uk

APPENDIX
ACCOUNTS

15 SQUARE
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022, 2023, & 2024

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income	2022	2023	2024
Donations	6,823	59,296	20,361
Gift Aid	1,582	1,837	16,414
Memberships	4,259	4,394	5,304
Rental Income	1,200	4,800	4,800
Keele Interns	5,776	2,627	3,281
Bank Interest	11	320	1,266
Future Choices	819	874	
Grants	1,000		
Legacies	27,517	10,000	
Total Income	48,987	84,148	51,462

Expenditure	2022	2023	2024
Salaries	31,231	31,171	36,637
Professional Fees	24,220	22,560	23,040
Office Rent	5,100	9,600	9,600
Electric Heating	975	1,820	2,063
Employers Pens	1,468	1,494	1,644
Office Software	794	638	537
Internet	515	381	503
Insurance	629	467	491
Travel	-	389	421
Sundry	233	243	206
Bank Charges	289	401	387
Office Equipment	319	-	280
Training	425	196	196
Depreciation	142	142	142
Repairs & Rnls	889	104	128
Landline	95	87	100
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	76
Website Domain	162	61	60
Postage	28	36	29
Stationery	163	278	-
Total Expenditure	67,486	69,754	76,540

BALANCE SHEET

	2022	2023	2024
Opening Balances	74,872	56,182	70,168
Surplus/Exp Excess	-18,690	14,380	-24,456
Accruals & Prepayment	-	-394	-658
Closing Bank Balances	56,182	70,168	45,712

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

CHARITY COMMISSION REG. NO: 1072831 / 1203284 (Updated 2023)

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS:

First Floor, 69a High Street
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 8AD 15square.org.uk

GOVERNING DOCUMENT: Constitution – Version amended 2023

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY:

To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision and other forms of surgical alteration of the genitals including alternative treatments and offering information, and advice on such matters

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CHARITY TRUSTEES & OFFICERS:

Chairman	Tony Peters
Vice Chairman	Dr Peter Ball
Secretary	James Battrick
Treasurer	Duncan Marshall
Trustee	Richard Duncker
Trustee	Sarah Thirlwall
Founder and President	Dr John Warren
Chief Officer	David Smith

Archivist	John Dalton
Hon Advisors	Gaye Blake Roberts MBE
Ambassador	Lesley Roberts
Patron	Alan Cumming
Past Patrons	Brian Sewell (obit) Professor Jack Cohen (obit) Mary Cronk OBE (obit)

BANKERS:

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Maling, Kent,
ME19 4JQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Alison Horton Orchard
Cottage Bishops Offley
Stafford ST21 6ET

Charity Reg No: 1203284

15 SQUARE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO

31ST MARCH 2024

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15 SQUARE

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

The Charity was registered on 25th May 2023 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), having previously been an unincorporated Charity which was registered on 7th December 1998 under a Trust Deed dated 25th April 1998.

The Charity number is 1203284.

The address of the Charity is: First Floor Offices, 69 High Street, Stone ST15 8AD.

The Trustees as at 31st March 2024 were Mr Tony Peters, Dr John Warren, Dr Peter Ball, Mrs Sarah Thirlwall, Mr James Battrick, Mr Richard Duncker and Mr Duncan Marshall.

The Charity's activities aim to educate the public on all aspects of male circumcision, the foreskin, and its functions. This includes providing accurate health information and advice to both circumcised and intact men facing foreskin-related issues, as well as to parents, caregivers, and the public. The Charity also offers guidance on conservative treatments to help avoid unnecessary circumcisions and supports individuals affected by these issues. Additionally, the Charity promotes research into the effects of circumcision and advocates for health policies and laws that ensure informed consent, with the findings made available for public benefit.

Our financial position remains strong supported by legacies, membership fees, private member's donations and other small income.

15 SQUARE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Accounting Policies:

a) **Basis of Accounting**

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b) **Fund Accounting**

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The Charity does not own freehold property. The Charity's office premises are used on a rental basis under an agreement with LM Stone Limited.

d) **Incoming resources**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it received. Membership fees (£40 per annum per member) and donations are subjected to tax recovery (gift aid) where appropriate and are recognised as income when it is received. Legacies are accounted for on receipt and other income also recognised when it is received.

e) **Resources expended**

Salaries and fees are paid monthly and are included with all other expenses in the financial statements for the year in which they are paid.

f) **Taxation**

The Charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to the objects of the Charity.

I have prepared the financial statement on page 4 for the year ended 31st March 2024.

D S Marshall
Treasurer/Trustee

11th October 2024

15 SQUARE

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022, 2023 & 2024

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Income	2022	2023	2024	Expenditure	2022	2023	2024
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				Sundry	233	243	206
				Bank Charges	289	401	387
				Office Equipment	319	-	280
				Training	425	196	196
				Depreciation	142	142	142
				Repairs & Rnls	889	104	128
				Landline	95	87	100
				V'teer Expenses	-	-	76
				Website Domain	162	61	60
				Postage	28	36	29
				Stationery	163	278	-
Total Income	48,987	84,148	51,426	Total Expenditure	67,486	69,754	76,540

BALANCE SHEET

	2022	2023	2024
Opening Balances	74872	56182	70168
Surplus/Exp Excess	-18690	14380	-24456
Accruals & Prepayments	-	-394	-658
Closing Bank Balances	56182	70168	45712

Duncan Marshall - Honorary Treasurer

5th April 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF 15 SQUARE
Charity Commission Registration number: 1203284
Fonner Charity Commission Registration number: 1072831

I report to the Charity's Trustees on my examination of the accounts of 15 Square for the year ended 31•t March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. The accounting records were not kept in respect of section 130 of the Act, or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records, or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed

Name: Alison Horton FCCA

Address: Orchard Cottage, Bishops Offley, Stafford ST21 6ET.