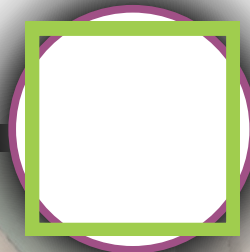


# 15 SQUARE

## 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;

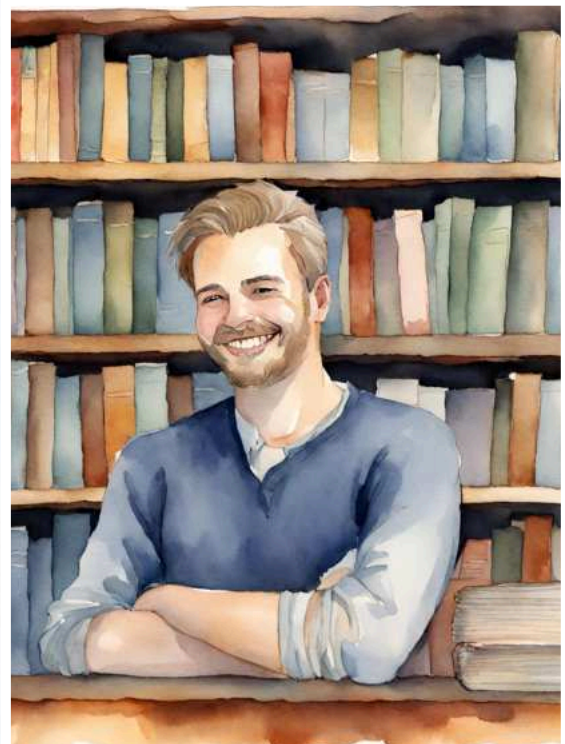
To advance the education of the public in all matters relating to circumcision, the foreskin and its function, including through:

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 advice to men and teenagers who have been damaged either physically or psychologically by circumcision.





## 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.



## 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.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

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.



**TONY PETERS  
CHAIRMAN**



## 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.



## 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.





## 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*



**CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT  
& EDITORIAL**



**THIRTY YEARS OF 15 SQUARE**

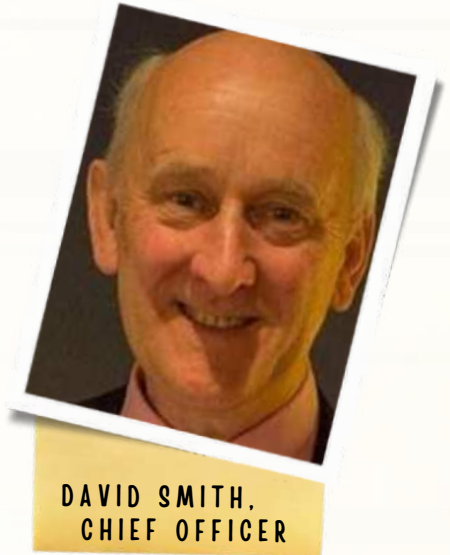
**BY DAVID SMITH  
CHIEF OFFICER**



## 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 out 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 became 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 dangles, 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 than 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 revolutionising 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.**

## 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**



## 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](http://15Square.org.uk)



# APPENDIX

## ACCOUNTS

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

15 SQUARE									
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022, 2023, & 2024									
GENERAL ACCOUNT									
Income	2022	2023	2024	Expenditure	2022	2023	2024		
Donations	6,823	59,296	20,361	Salaries	31,231	31,171	36,637		
Gift Aid	1,582	1,837	16,414	Professional Fees	24,220	22,560	23,040		
Memberships	4,259	4,394	5,304	Office Rent	5,100	9,600	9,600		
Rental Income	1,200	4,800	4,800	Electric Heating	975	1,820	2,063		
Keele Interns	5,776	2,627	3,281	Employers Pens	1,468	1,494	1,644		
Bank Interest	11	320	1,266	Office Software	794	638	537		
Future Choices	819	874		Internet	515	381	503		
Grants	1,000			Insurance	629	467	491		
Legacies	27,517	10,000		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 Income	48,987	84,148	51,462	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

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**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

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Archivist	John Dalton
Hon Advisors	Gaye Blake Roberts MBE
Ambassador	Lesley Roberts

Patron	Alan Cumming
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Past Patrons	Brian Sewell (obit) Professor Jack Cohen (obit) Mary Cronk OBE (obit)
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## 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**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**TO**

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

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## **15 SQUARE**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**The Charity was registered on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), having previously been an unincorporated Charity which was registered on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1998 under a Trust Deed dated 25<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

D S Marshall  
Treasurer/Trustee

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

# 15 SQUARE

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

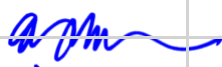
### GENERAL ACCOUNT

<u>Income</u>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Donations	6,823	59,296	20,361	Salaries	31,231	31,171	36,637
Gift Aid	1,582	1,837	16,414	Professional Fees	24,220	22,560	23,040
Memberships	4,259	4,394	5,304	Office Rent	5,100	9,600	9,600
Rental Income	1,200	4,800	4,800	Electric Heating	975	1,820	2,063
Keele Interns	5,776	2,627	3,281	Employers Pens	1,468	1,494	1,644
Bank Interest	11	320	1,266	Office Software	794	638	537
Future Choices	819	874	-	Internet	515	381	503
Grants	1,000	-	-	Insurance	629	467	491
Legacies	27,517	10,000	-	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
				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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
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<sup>st</sup> 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.