

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

England & Wales · Charity number 1206540

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2024-01-15

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

Contact

Address University Of Leeds
School of Philosophy and Religion
Woodhouse Lane
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Phone +4401133433646

Email aasr@a-asr.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION IS:FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, SPECIFICALLY THE PROMOTION OF EXCELLENCE IN THE STUDY OF THE RELIGIONS OF AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA WORLDWIDE AND THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN ALL ASPECTS OF THAT SUBJECT, IN THE UK AND INTERNATIONALLY, BY MEANS OF THE ARRANGEMENT OF CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA AND COLLOQUIA, THE PUBLICATION OF AN ONLINE JOURNAL, AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES.AASR WILL WORK TOWARDS THIS OBJECT IN AFFILIATION WITH, AND AS A REGIONAL MEMBER ASSOCIATION, OF, THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS (IAHR) BUT WILL AT ALL TIMES REMAIN INDEPENDENT.

Activities: The African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) is an academic association that promotes the study of religions in Africa through international collaboration and by means of the arrangement of conferences and symposia, the publication of an academic journal, and other associated activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes

Geography

- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£9,072	£988	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Damaris Seleina Parsitau	Chair	2020-01-01
Dr Abel Friday Ugba		2020-01-01
Dr Adriaan van Klinken		2022-01-01
Dr BENSON IGBOIN		2023-10-01
Dr Megan Robertson		2025-12-01

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1206540

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	15	01	2024		31	12	2024

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name African Association for the Study of Religions

Other names charity is known by AASR

Registered charity number (if any) 1206540

Charity's principal address University of Leeds

School of Philosophy and Religion

Woodhouse lane

LS2 9JT

Leeds

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Damaris Parsitau	President		
2	Abel Ugba	Vice President		
3	Benson Igboin	General Secretary		
4	Adriaan van Klinken	Treasurer		
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Election by membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

For the public benefit the advancement of education, specifically the promotion of excellence in the study of the religions of Africa and its diaspora worldwide and the promotion of research for the public benefit in all aspects of that subject, in the UK and internationally, by means of the arrangement of conferences, symposia and colloquia, the publication of an online journal, and other associated activities.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The main activity during the year reported here (2024), was a joint academic conference held by the Association, together with the Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity, which took place in Abuja, Nigeria, in May 2024, about the theme ""Engaging African Realities: Re-assessing African values, spirituality; religious innovation and competition".

In addition, the Association was involved in organising a writing workshop for Africa-based early career researchers, which took place at the British Institute for Eastern Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2024.

The Association further developed plans (and raised funds) for relaunching its academic journal, in collaboration with University of Johannesburg Press. The journal will formally be relaunched in 2025, under the new name *Utambuzi*.

Finally, the Association organised an online event in December 2024, to present and celebrate major academic publications by its members.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- A successful academic conference
- Advanced planning and fundraising for the launch of the Association's academic journal.
- Support and mentorship of early-career researchers, incl. via a writing workshop.
- Stabilisation of membership
- Increased social media activity and profile
- Planning for the next major conference (to be held in Botswana, July 2026)

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Association holds a biannual conference with a budget of roughly £25,000.
The aim is to have, as a minimum, enough reserves to cover the costs of the next conference, alongside other commitments.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Damaris Parsitau

Adriaan van Klinken

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

President/Chair

Treasurer

Date

10/10/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

African Association for the Study of Religions

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
15/01/2024

To

Period end date
31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Member subscriptions	£2,080.00	-	-	2,080	-
Earmarked donations - bursaries		768	-	768	-
Abuja conference registration		4,950	-	4,950	-
Abuja conference registration	1,274	-	-	1,274	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,354	5,718	-	9,072	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
NA	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,354	5,718	-	9,072	-
A3 Payments					
Contribution to Abuja conference	767	-	-	767	-
Bursaries/awards		-	-	-	-
Website	180	-	-	180	-
Bank charges and financial services	41	-	-	41	-
Other charitable activities		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	988	-	-	988	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	988	-	-	988	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,366	5,718	-	8,084	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,156	-	-	16,156	-
Cash funds this year end	18,522	5,718	-	24,240	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		18,522	5,718	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,522	5,718	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Damaris Parsitau	10-Oct-25
	Adriaan van Klinken	10-Feb-25