



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	15	01	2024	To	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)

--

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.

--

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
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

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