

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI629047
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 105797

Social Change Initiative
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Social Change Initiative

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Social Change Initiative

Charity registration number 105797

Company registration number NI629047

Principal office and registered office 3rd Floor
Wellington Buildings
2-4 Wellington Street
Belfast
BT1 6HT

The trustees

Maggie Beirne	
Christine Bell	(Resigned 13 February 2024)
Michael Posner	
Nicolette Naylor	(Appointed 1 May 2024)
Hanny Megally	(Appointed 1 May 2024)

Company secretary Martin O'Brien

Auditor Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Bankers Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

Solicitors Farrer & Co
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3LH

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Social Change Initiative is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31st October 2017. Its application to be recognised as a charity was accepted by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 30th April 2018. Its registered charity number is: NIC105797.

Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees recruit and select new Trustees as needed. New Trustees are recruited on the relevance of their professional skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the company. As part of the recruitment process they are made aware of their obligations and of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the schedule for meetings and the work plan and financial position of the company.

Relationships with related parties

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the company.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the company are:

- To promote national and international conflict resolution and reconciliation with a view to relieving suffering and distress and building and maintaining social cohesion and trust within and between communities;

- To promote human rights (in particular the human rights of victims of conflict and forced migration) as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations by all or any of the following means:

- (a) research into human rights issues

- (b) raising awareness of human rights issues;

- (c) promoting public support for human rights;

- (d) promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations;

- To promote religious or racial harmony by:

- (a) promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths;

- (b) promoting knowledge and mutual understanding between different racial groups; and

- To advance citizenship or community development by promoting social inclusion.

The strategies employed to achieve the company's aims and objectives are to:

- Convene individuals

- Support research and publish materials

- Award fellowships

- Operate a mentoring scheme

- Provide advice, training and consultancy support

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

The Company has operated successfully for nine years and continues to focus on three thematic areas - Migration, Equality & Human Rights, and Peacebuilding. In the current year it has prioritised two issues in particular – supporting locally and internationally based changemakers and funders and working to ensure the continued protection of human rights and the sustainability of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

A key priority continues to be creating online and in person opportunities for people to come together and learn about important issues and build solidarity and connections across different geographies, groups and themes. SCI believes that people working for social change rarely have sufficient opportunities to take time out to reflect and learn. A core part of the organisation's work is helping change makers and funders to be more effective agents for change.

Central to this work were a large number of in person, online and hybrid events. Participants came from across the UK, Ireland, the rest of Europe, Africa, South America, Asia and the United States. Alongside these events SCI continued to produce a range of educational resource materials and tools to support the work and practice of the communities we serve. We have continued to focus on strengthening the dissemination of these materials via a regular SCI newsletter, social media outreach and the organisation's website. Lessons from peacebuilding work in Northern Ireland continue to be popular among funders and those working in other deeply divided societies around the world. During the year SCI hosted a range of delegations from other conflict situations keen to learn from the NI peace process. Staff have also travelled to share learning in other contexts and continue their own direct involvement locally in a range of activities to sustain and improve community relations and cement the peace in Northern Ireland. This has included initiatives to ensure no diminution in the laws and mechanisms to protect and advance human rights and equality in Northern Ireland.

A key part of the work continues to focus on supporting activism for social change and developing the skills and capacity of a global network of activists. At the heart of our theory of change is a belief that enhancing the skills of people already engaged in working for change yields a significant return on investment. During the year the organisation was pleased to make a new round of fellowship awards to a diverse group of individuals from South Africa, India, Syria, Russia, Palestine, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Tajikistan, Kenya and Greece. The fellowships support their efforts to advance a fairer, more inclusive and peaceful world and focus on enhancing their skills to deliver on their goals and objectives. The fellows join the global network of social change activists which continues to be an ongoing place to share learning, skills, solidarity and practical support. The SCI staff team has continued throughout the year to provide the members of the network with advice, support and to broker relationships and resources for network members.

As with previous years this work with international changemakers has been complemented by an ongoing programme of work with people working in Northern Ireland at the local level to support peace building and the protection of human rights.

In February the organisation hosted a highly successful four-day international global donor conference in Belfast. The event focused on the role that funders can play in tackling violent conflict and the growing problem of polarisation. The event integrated all elements of the company's peace building work – it built on the back of the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, responded directly to what is currently being witnessed in Gaza/Israel, Ukraine and other raging conflicts, profiled the importance of localised peace building and provided space for funders and activists to engage in meaningful discussions and mutual learning.

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Year ended 31 March 2024

The conference secured the participation of leading high-profile figures from the worlds of philanthropy, human rights and peacebuilding. Several hundred people attended and the event served to highlight SCI's work and the need for continuing support for peace building, reconciliation and human rights work in Northern Ireland. Some 70 participants from the main conference signed up for an additional day dedicated to specifically learning about the current situation in Northern Ireland.

As in previous years donors and organisations have continued to approach SCI for strategic advice and consultancy support. This work helps to generate a small amount of income for the company. One element of this work has been to try to apply the lessons from the partnership funding work done by Atlantic Philanthropies and the Northern Ireland government. This has led to several publications and some ongoing dialogue with policy makers about the scope for further philanthropy/government partnership to tackle inequalities and improve public services particularly for disadvantaged communities.

The organisation looks forward to an ongoing programme of productive work in the year ahead.

Financial review

The company's activities continue to be resourced by a range of donors most notably through the generous support provided by Atlantic Philanthropies. The grants provide a mixture of support for core costs and project related costs associated with specific SCI programmes such as its leadership development work and support for activists.

The rate of spend is very similar to the previous year. Annual income is also reduced due to the anticipated closure of Atlantic Philanthropies and the absence of any new grants from that source. The company finishes the year with a healthy balance and reserve to fund ongoing and future activities in the coming years.

Reserves policy and going concern

The company remains committed to building its unrestricted reserve largely by selling some specialist services, to funders and social change organisations. Its goal is to secure between nine to twelve months expenditure in an unrestricted reserve.

The healthy balance sheet and the multi-year funding commitments raise no questions about the company's ability to trade as a going concern.

Plans for future periods

The company has a full programme of events for the year ahead. It will also select a new cohort of SCI fellows and maintain its ongoing support for local and international social change activists. It is continuing its work to disseminate the results of recent significant research into social values. SCI will also continue its support for locally based peacebuilding work in Northern Ireland.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees' annual report was approved on 15 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Beirne', written over a horizontal line.

Maggie Beirne
Trustee