

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI629047  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 105797

**Social Change Initiative**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**Financial Statements**  
**31 March 2025**

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 2025**

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# Social Change Initiative

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

#### Year ended 31 March 2025

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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 2025.

#### Reference and administrative details

**Registered charity name** Social Change Initiative

**Charity registration number** 105797

**Company registration number** NI629047

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

#### The trustees

Hanny Megally	(Appointed 1 May 2024)
Nicolette Naylor	(Appointed 1 May 2024)
Maggie Beirne	
Michael Posner	

**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

# **Social Change Initiative**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **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***

During the year the organisation appointed two new Trustees. 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.

# **Social Change Initiative**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **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



# Social Change Initiative

## Company Limited by Guarantee

### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **Achievements and performance**

The Company has operated successfully for ten years working for fairer, more inclusive and peaceful societies. 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. SCI continues 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 included initiatives to ensure no diminution in the laws and mechanisms to protect and advance human rights and equality in Northern Ireland. Work has also continued to stimulate a broad range of local community-based conversations across Northern Ireland about the results of the World Values Survey which SCI supported alongside Kings College London. Plans are underway for a further roll out of the survey in 2026. We believe these conversations can help stimulate a healthier discussion about the kinds of values which are important to people and should underpin future political arrangements on these islands.

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, Tanzania, Russia, Palestine, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Tajikistan, Kenya, Syria 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.

Given the rise in hate and racist violence SCI was keen to ensure that it focused on these issues. Some new resources were secured to focus more intensively on supporting black activist leadership. A new two-year leadership learning programme has been established and is now well underway with the programme led and shaped by a small core group of black community activists. In a similar vein

# Social Change Initiative

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### Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)*

#### Year ended 31 March 2025

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we were pleased to work in partnership with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Africa House to organise a two-day conference on Building Solidarity to Counter Racism. We were also concerned to do what we could to strengthen independent journalism. In November 2024, we were pleased to approve new fellowship awards for 10 individual journalists/film makers from across Ireland. These fellowships are designed to help broaden the range of issues reported on and to help influence public discourse and awareness. They also allow those involved to take the time to consider issues in depth rather than simply relying on contrasting and opposing extreme views on any particular issue. 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 to support the company's activities. We have also continued to have ongoing dialogue and collaboration with a range of government departments sharing lessons from our own work and from other jurisdictions on the best way to transform the delivery of public services that more effectively meet the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged communities. We've also been providing ongoing advice as government explores how it can build more enduring and systemic partnerships with philanthropy.

A significant part of the work continues to focus on brokering connections and resources for social change activists both locally and internationally. One element of this has been a small amount of regranting of funds to local groups. This is something which we hope to continue to do in the coming period.

SCI looks forward to an ongoing programme of productive work both locally and internationally 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.



# **Social Change Initiative**

## **Company Limited by Guarantee**

### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **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.

#### **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.



## **Social Change Initiative**

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

#### **Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) *(continued)***

**Year ended 31 March 2025**

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##### **Small company provisions**

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

The trustees' annual report was approved on 1 December 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Maggie Byrne  
Trustee