

International Peace Education Resources (IPER)

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Year ended 31st March 2024

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

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	International Peace Education Resources (IPER)
Charity registration number	NI108297
Company registration number	NI667552
Principal office and registered office	91 Clady Road Portglenone BT44 8LB

The trustees

Mr S Fields	(Resigned 7th September 2024)
Mr B Hamber	(Resigned 27th May 2024)
Ms M McLaughlin	(Resigned 10th May 2024)
Mr C Winter	(Resigned 10th May 2024)
Ms S G Gordon	(Appointed 7 th Nov 2024)
Prof D Kew	(Appointed 10 th May 2024)
Ms F A McCartney	(Appointed 10 th May 2024)
Prof R H Mac Ginty	(Appointed 10 th May 2024)
Rev T McRoberts	(Appointed 5 th Sep 2024)
Ms N Walaza	(Appointed 10 th May 2024)

Company secretary Prof Marie Breen-Smyth

Independent examiner Donaldson & Thompson
Chartered Accountants
3 Limavady Road
Londonderry
BT47 6JU

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th February 2020 and registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 17th September 2021 under charity number NIC108297. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

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Year ended 31st March 2024

Objectives and activities

Advance the education about methods of peacebuilding.

Advance education about violence and its consequences.

Promote non-violence, conflict resolution, restorative practices and peaceful methods of managing conflict and differences.

Support positive community leadership in communities and organisations affected by violence.

Build, encourage and support positive relationships between legal authorities and communities and organisations affected by violence.

Provide opportunities for international learning, exchange and dialogue for students and community workers from Northern Ireland, United States, Europe, and other locations.

Promote the value of education about peace and the value of dialogue as a method of community development in the area of benefit in Northern Ireland and beyond:

To encourage collaborative international research, knowledge development and collegiality between international and local participants in the area of benefit:

To afford educational opportunities to a wide range of participants in the area of benefit, particularly in the greater Armagh area and elsewhere in Northern Ireland, including those with limited access to such education and training.

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Year ended 31st March 2024

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

How to achieve objectives

- (I) By providing support at local level for building positive relationships between stakeholders and the authorities;
- (II) By creating opportunities to build new networks of relationships at local and international levels;
- (III) By the provision of training and educational courses and events for local and international participants.
- (IV) By working in partnership and cooperation with educational institutions, community organisations and other relevant bodies to deliver training, courses, and events.
- (V) Bring together in conference representatives of voluntary organisations, Government departments, statutory authorities, and individuals.
- (VI) Co-operate and enter into arrangements with any authorities, national, local, or otherwise.
- (VII) Arrange and provide for, either alone or with others, the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars, or training courses.
- (VIII) Collect and disseminate information on all matters relating to its objects, and to exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (IX) Organise and deliver an annual accredited course in peacebuilding for international students and located in Northern Ireland.

Achievements and performance

After we delivered our summer school on July 8th - 18th 2022, unfortunately we were unable to deliver our summer school in 2023. Following this we reflected in our previous report that we identified some shortcoming in our organisation where by the delivery of our project is spread thinly over the organisation as a whole. Subsequently, our academic partner, University of Massachusetts, Boston announced that it no longer had administrative capacity to organise the summerschool in the future. This coincided with the founding of a new summerschool by one of the IPER directors, Maeve McLaughlin and with a debate now about the future of IPER itself. It was decided that the summerschool dimension should be discontinued, and IPER should shift its focus to more locally based work concentrating on community based learning and intervention. Following this refocusing, a number of new directors were appointed, followed by the stepping down of the directors who had been associated with the summerschool, with the exception of the Chairperson, Stephen Field, who remained for a period of time.

Following meetings of the new directors, both via Zoom and face to face, the Articles of Association were amended to reflect the new, more local focus of the work. The outgoing directors voted to pass the remaining financial assets of the company on to support this new direction of the work. The new directors expressed their gratitude for this generous act.

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

Year ended 31st March 2024

Financial review

The results for the year are contained in the financial statements attached.

Plans for future periods

The new focus of IPER's work was decided to be the work associated with supporting moves away from violence by individuals and groups at community level and the building of relationships of trust and mutual benefit between the authorities and those affected by, or previously involved in, violence. Fund-raising to support this work will be an immediate focus of the work in the next 12 months, as well as assessing the potential for support amongst communities, voluntary organisations, government departments and other authorities.

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 (incorporating the directors' report) was approved on 26th November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Felicity McCartney

Roger Mac Ginty

Ms F A McCartney
Trustee

Prof R H Mac Ginty
Trustee